

Wirral Council

Parks, Allotments and Countryside Service

Coronation Gardens

Management Plan 2022 – 2027

(Actions updated January 2025)



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Introduction

Wirral Council has produced this document in conjunction with the Friends of Coronation Gardens to provide a comprehensive framework for the future development of the site.

We encourage suggestions from park users and the wider community to this plan.

If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions please contact the Parks and Countryside Service at Wirral Council on 0151 606 2004 or email christinesmyth@wirral.gov.uk or write to:

Wirral Council
Parks, Allotments & Countryside Service
Grand Entrance
Birkenhead Park
Park Road North
Birkenhead
CH41 4HD

The wider policy context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbourhood Services Department of Wirral Council. The content and structure of the management plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

[Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual \(Keep Britain Tidy, 2016\)](#)

Corporate Objectives

Wirral Council's plan is available here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/council-plan>

Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

Environmental Initiatives

Wirral Council is committed to carrying out its work in an environmentally responsible manner.

Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at Council in July 2019 and through this committed to action to address the ecological and climate crisis that we face.

The commitment to action aims to:

- cut climate damaging pollution locally in line with global targets, whilst developing resilience to more extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels that impact Wirral
- protect and enhance biodiversity

As a local authority, we can have a positive influence through:

- how we organise our operations and services
- the regulations and policies we set
- the goods and services we buy
- the investments we make
- the example we set to others.

Tackling the ecological and climate crisis presents major opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, wellbeing and the economy.

More information on the Climate Emergency Declaration maybe found at:

[Climate Emergency Declaration](#)

To deliver against these aims Wirral Has developed 'Cool Wirral'. The Cool Wirral campaign is aimed at encouraging local climate-related action in support of the delivery of the 'Cool 2 Climate Change Strategy for Wirral.

The Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly the Wirral Climate Change Group) co-ordinates local action on climate change. The partnership is supported by Wirral Council and a variety of partnership.

More information on the Cool Wirral Partnership may be found [here](#)

Some key initiatives include:

Designating Pollinators and wildflower sites

A large proportion of pollinators are flies, including more than 250 species of hoverfly. Bees make up about a quarter of the pollinating insects and in the UK alone there are approximately 250 species of bee, 24 species of bumblebee, 225 species of solitary bee and just one species of honeybee. Butterflies and moths are also pollinators as well as bugs and beetles.

In line with the council's Climate Emergency Response, steps are being taken to prioritise pollinators. Dependant on the location of a verge, pollinators are prioritised in various ways, these methods can include:

- planting pollinator friendly plants
- not mowing grass verges when wildflowers of significance are in season
- reduced weed removal in the area of pollinator sights

More information can be found online here: [Pollinators](#)

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the National No Mow May campaign,

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

which is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help bees, butterflies and wildlife.

Trees, hedgerows and woodland

The council have been working with partners and stakeholders to develop a 10-year strategy to consider how we manage and respond to the borough's current trees and the future provision of trees. In the ten-year span of this strategy over 210,000 trees will be planted, at least 21,000 per year. In doing so we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. The trees that are planted will see Wirral's tree canopy cover doubled by the time they are fully grown.

We will adopt the principle of 'the right tree for the right place' to ensure the most resilient tree population possible. We will establish a clear picture of Wirral's tree stock and its benefits. We will work constructively with individuals and groups to deliver this vision.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/trees-hedgerows-and-woodland>

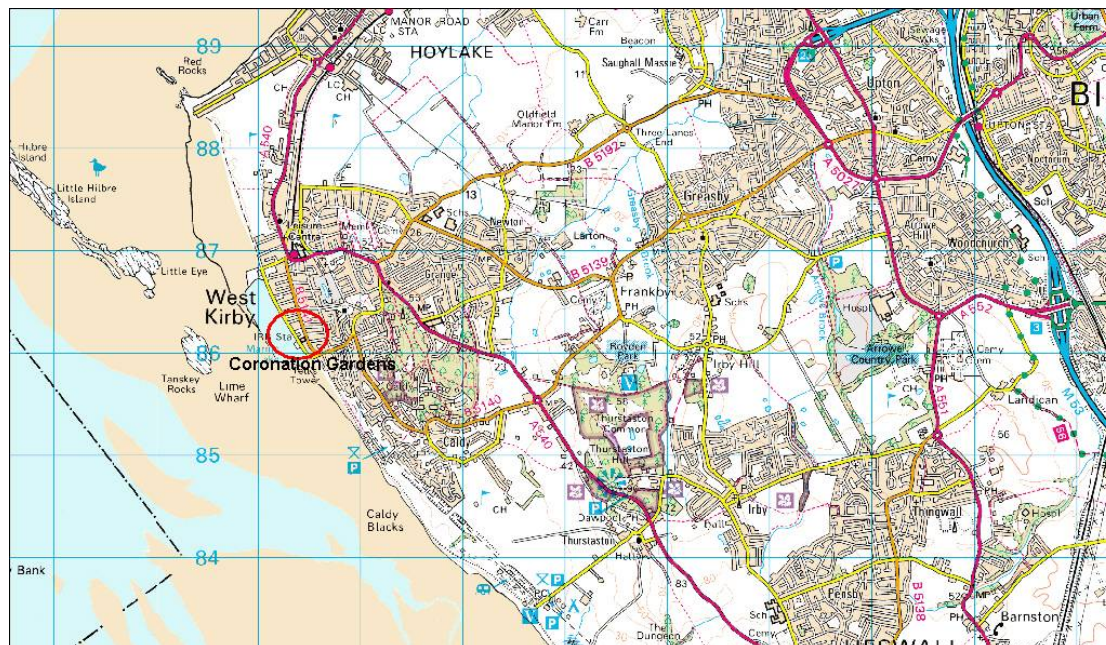
Site information

Name: Coronation Gardens

Typology: Local Park

Primary purpose: Intensively managed park used primarily by local people, providing accessible, high quality opportunities for formal and informal recreation and children's play including community events.

Location plan:



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Official site name: Coronation Gardens

Site address: Banks Road, West Kirby, CH48 3HU

Grid reference: 321433 386182

Ward: West Kirby & Thurstaston

Size: 0.88 ha

Tenure and concession agreements:

Wirral Council owns the site. The café is tenanted.

Brief description:

Coronation Gardens is typical in design of many traditional British seaside gardens. Laid out in the 1930s, the original high maintenance annual bedding was replaced during 2007 with a contemporary central feature incorporating a sculptured wind vane, shrub planting and seating. In addition the cross-park footpath between the promenade and Banks Road was resurfaced and incorporated within the central feature.

A Café selling refreshments occupies the promenade entrance to the Gardens.

Access:

The gardens are a feature of the seaside town of West Kirby and lie between the promenade and Banks Road.

The main entrance is on Banks Road. There are two access points each side of the café on the promenade. Access for wheelchairs at all points.

Good public transport links – short walk from West Kirby Station, and there is a bus stop directly outside the site.

Summary of features:

- Licensed Café
- Flagged footpaths with seating
- Trees
- Established ornamental shrub planting
- Central feature of seating, planting and sculpture sponsored by the Friends of Coronation Gardens



Central landscape feature (2013)

History

The Gardens were constructed on sand dunes that were accessed via a gate from the prestigious Hydro Hotel (apartments now occupy this site). They became a formal public space in the late 1930s with associated tearooms (now Tanskeys café). Opened on 9th April 1938 they were named to mark the coronation of George VI. Following the ceremony Councillor Selwyn Lloyd and guests were served tea in the café.

Although the Hydro Hotel was demolished in the 1960s the gardens continued to be well maintained by the Local Authority. However during the 70s and 80s the annual bedding, feature glass block walling and circular footpaths were removed and the site was allowed to generally decline. More recently the public toilets have been closed on the site.

The Friends of Coronation Gardens have sourced funding to reverse this trend and have funded two schemes to improve the entrance and provide a central feature.



Coronation Gardens shortly after completion in 1938

Green Flag analysis and assessment

The intention is for the park to continue to meet the required standards as defined by the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details concerning the scheme can be found at <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

The following Green Flag assessment criteria will be used as a focus for the development of the park.

- A welcoming park
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and maintained
- Environmental management
- Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management



Banks Road entrance notice board

1. A welcoming place

There are 3 access points, one on Banks Road and two on the promenade.

All three have good access for the mobility impaired, including wheelchairs. This is important as the park is popular with elderly people who either live locally or visit. The area has a high concentration of resident elderly people, and is therefore there is increased risk of social isolation. This well maintained space makes a valuable contribution to the health of local people by providing a place for social activity and a chance to get involved with a local group.

The main entrance on Banks Road has an information board and an attractive entrance sign in the form of a wrought iron arch funded by the Friends.

There is vehicle access at this entrance point controlled by a drop bollard to prevent unauthorised access. The size of the access point does limit the range of machinery that can be used.



The entrances to Coronation Gardens

The two entrances to the site from the promenade one each side of the café were improved in 2010 with the exterior of the Café being refurbished from top to bottom and new community artwork being erected.

The Café was renamed 'Tanskeys' (a Viking derivative meaning toothed rocks) by the new lessee, named after the teeth like rocks that are visible from the Café at low tide.

There is a sign at the Promenade access, funded by the friends, indicating site name and contact numbers.

Events in the park and the presence of the Friends, also contributes to make the park a welcoming place for local people and tourist visitors alike.

2. Healthy, safe and secure

Dog fouling

Signs are provided at entrance points indicating the park is a 'clean it up' area at the entrances. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Dog fouling is classified in law as litter for street cleaning purposes and can be disposed of correctly wrapped in Council litterbins consequently dedicated 'dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. Many dog walkers do use the park's litterbins for the disposal of removed faeces. Bins are 'hooded type' as they are also used for dog waste.

Anti social behaviour

The community are encouraged to report any concern regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. Users are advised to report any problems in the first instance to the police.

The Gardens are covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Wirral Council has an up to date Health and Safety Policy, and risk assessments covering all elements of work undertaken at the park.

At present, volunteers are not permitted to use mechanical tools. The Friends group's risk assessments are reviewed annually by the area Ranger.

Infrastructure

Staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. A formal annual site safety inspection is carried out by the Team Leader and General Manager. The following items are appraised:

2. Paths, steps, ramps
3. Walls, fences, gates
4. Buildings
5. Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins etc
6. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
7. Trees

The Council's day-to-day repair system and relevant contractors undertake any repairs requested.

Buildings

With the exception of the café, the council's Asset Management Team are responsible for maintenance and repair of buildings onsite.

Any major repairs or refurbishment can be included or considered as part of the council's planned preventative maintenance programme or included on the Council's capital programme.

Tree Inspections

Vulnerable trees are identified by parks staff as part of patrols or as part of regular inspections by the council's tree officers whereupon urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed. Trees are marked with identification numbers.

Conservation and amenity tree work is carried out where resources allow, by the mobile tree team as part of the winter works programme.

For details on council owned trees near to or overhanging private property, please refer to the council's policy published on the council website available at: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/highway-maintenance/highway-trees>



3. Clean and well maintained

Buildings maintenance

The condition of the built environment has improved greatly over the last five years with the boundary wall to the seaward side receiving a refurbished roof and sections of cracked and missing render with loose or missing roof tiles were repaired or renewed respectively.

More recently the installation of glass walling blocks to allow light from both the Gardens and the promenade, making the wall a real feature. The café has also received a new roof and been extensively refurbished inside by the new lessee.

With the exception of the café, maintenance of the buildings within the gardens is carried out via the Asset Management team's day-to-day repair system.

Horticulture maintenance

Day to day park maintenance is managed by the Local Area Team Leader, with a mobile team based in the park consisting of two grounds maintenance supervisors, three gardeners and one ranger. Horticultural maintenance is carried out according to the 'Coronation Gardens Service Requirement' (Appendix 3).

Shrub beds require remedial pruning of dead, diseased and crossing branches. This work happens annually in winter, with ongoing replacement of shrubs where resources allow.

In 2007 a central feature was constructed with associated seating and planting by the Parks Service. In addition the cross-park footpath between the promenade and Banks Road was resurfaced and incorporated within the central feature.

Re-laying and replacement of individual flagstones has now taken place allowing improved weed eradication. Future work will be needed to relay additional flags.



Repaired flagstone footpaths

Volunteer work parties

The formation of the Friends of Coronation Gardens has assisted maintenance improvements to the site particularly litter collection and footpath edging, which is carried out by the group on numerous weekends through the year. In addition they carry out maintenance of the shrub beds within the central feature.

The Friends assist with litter picking and presentation of the Gardens. Wirral Council allows use of a storage shed within the Gardens for the Friends private tools and equipment to enable these works. The group have support available from the Team Leader and area Ranger as needed.

It is a challenge for the Friends to sustain membership, and many of their members are elderly, so it is a constant job to look for new people who want to be actively involved. The need for new volunteers is advertised wherever possible.

The friends have provided a notice board at the main entrance indicating forthcoming events and the vision for the gardens.



View from
Café over the Gardens

4. Environmental Management

Water and energy consumption at the park is monitored and where necessary modification is made to minimise wastage, thereby achieving economies in usage in line with the Council's Environmental Policy and Carbon Reduction Programme 'Cred'.

Pesticide usage does not take place within the Gardens at present. The Friends are currently investigating other cultural methods of weed control. As part of the council's response to the Climate Emergency, glyphosate is no longer used to control weeds. This does make it more difficult to control weeds on a day to day basis, but it is part of a trade-off against the benefits of reducing potentially hazardous chemical use.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of the chemical based products used within the park together with pesticide records are retained at Ashton Park depot. Chemical storage and usage within the park complies with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation. Pesticides would only be used as a last resort to control invasive weeds such as knotweed or giant hogweed.

Motorised mowing equipment used at the park is checked for emission levels.

Tree brash resulting from tree work is chipped and stored at Arrowe Park depot where it is sold to a renewable energy supplier.

The Garden's bedding plant requirement is produced using 100% peat free compost. The Friends are aware of the Council's aim to reduce and eventually eliminate peat use, however the Friends planting has been a matter of their own choice.

Sustainable materials are utilised in the park as much as possible with the main item being seating.



Informal area to northern boundary

5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Many of the original footpaths and ornamental planting beds within the gardens have now been removed.

One of the most attractive original features of the Gardens was the glass walling blocks set into the promenade boundary wall and reinstatement of these was completed during 2011.

In the following years, Wirral Council continued to work in partnership with the Friends to provide three further glazed bays to the perimeter walling, two to the long side and one to the shorter side.



Glass walling block replacement begun in 2011

Public toilets are no longer open in the Gardens, however, these facilities have been included in the overall Café refurbishment scheme.

Informal management of the tree and shrub areas allows for wildlife diversity. Many birds nest here.

The Friends erected bird boxes in 2010 to selected trees.

The friends carried out bulb planting during 2008 and 2011, to the bank in front of the copse to add spring colour.

Bulb planting using bulbs donated by the Local Rotary Club also took place in 2016.

The creation of a wildflower area on this bank is under consideration.

8. Community involvement

The community of Wirral both in general and in the form of constituted community and voluntary sector organisations are a key partner in relation to Wirral Council's parks service. This is represented in Wirral Council's vision "to provide and maintain high quality parks and open spaces in partnership with the local community".

Partner organisations:

- Friends of Coronation Gardens
- Café proprietor
- Grounds maintenance staff
- Incredible Edible
- RNLI

Coronation Gardens has an active Friends group that has been successful in sourcing grant aid to fund improvements to the site.

The Friends organise regular weekend litter picking sessions throughout the year supported by the Parks and Countryside service.

The Friends have recently funded a hard and soft landscaping scheme as a central feature located on the main footpath that bisects the site. The scheme has also included extending the resurfacing of this footpath from the Banks Road entrance.

Events and fund raising

The Friends group sell commemorative plaques that can be attached to benches, raising funds to be spent in the gardens.

During November of each year the Friends are involved in a seasonal 'Lantern Procession' that begins in the Gardens and proceeds through West Kirby. The event is a celebration of Armistice Day and the feast of St. Martin.

An annual Alzheimer walk, raising funds and awareness of the condition, begins and finishes in the Gardens.

The gardens are part of a summer festival of music, West Kirby Live.

Food for Free

'Incredible Edible' manage a community allotment in the park, where fruit and vegetables are available which can be picked and eaten by members of the public. In 2016 a new picket fence was erected to set off the allotment.

9. Marketing

The Wirral Council web site www.wirral.gov.uk contains some information about Coronation Gardens. The Parks and Countryside Service's homepage now includes links to information about Wirral's Green Flag parks.

The information board at the main entrance to the gardens has current information on local events and management proposals for the Gardens.

The Friends produce a quarterly newsletter keeping the community abreast of their vision for the site and progress to date.



The Mayor attending the raising of the first Green Flag in 2008

10. Management

Resources available for maintenance and management of the park

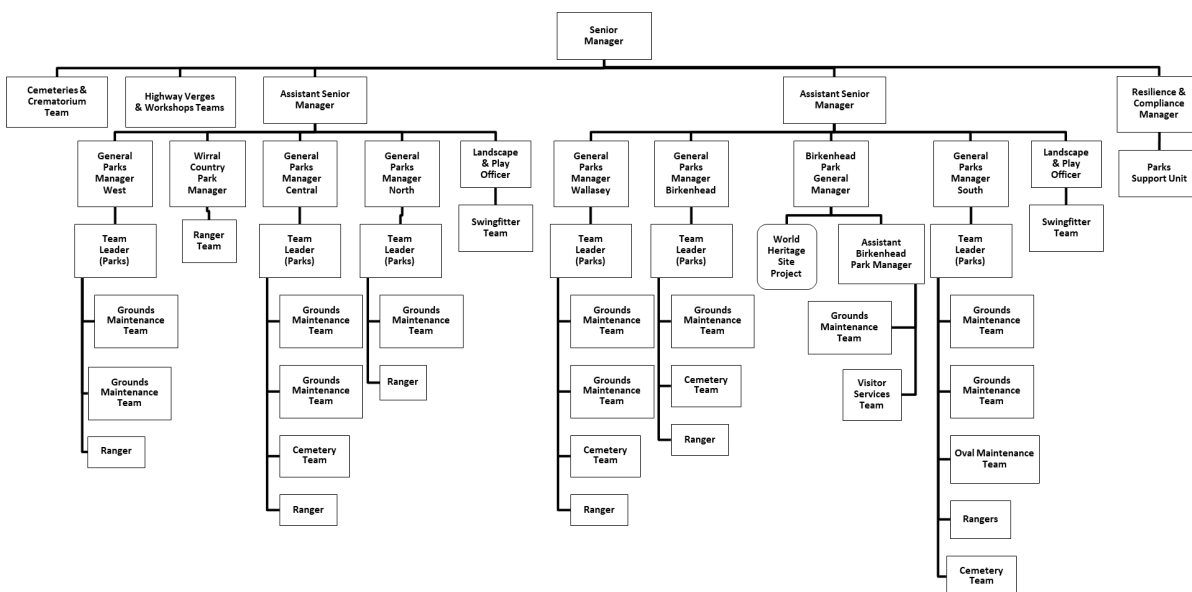
The management of the park is the responsibility of Wirral Council’s Parks, Allotments and Countryside team. Following a major restructure in 2015 the parks service was reorganised on into geographical areas. There was a further reorganisation in 2021 to make budget savings. The local team is managed by the Local Team Leader for West Kirby and Heswall. The Local Team Leader, two Grounds Maintenance Supervisors, a mobile team of 3 Gardeners and one Ranger are based on-site in nearby Ashton park.

- General Parks Manager
- Local Team Leader for West Kirby and Heswall based nearby in Ashton park
- 2 Grounds Maintenance Supervisors
- 3 Gardeners
- 1 Ranger
- Range of tools and machinery
- 2 flat back vans with trailers
- Further tools, machinery and storage at Arrowe Park depot
- Vehicle repair and maintenance depot in Birkenhead
- Support from the Council’s tree team and tree contractor Mancoed
- Wirral asset management team who maintain buildings
- Volunteers, placement students

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the West Wirral General Parks Manager: christinesmyth@wirral.gov.uk

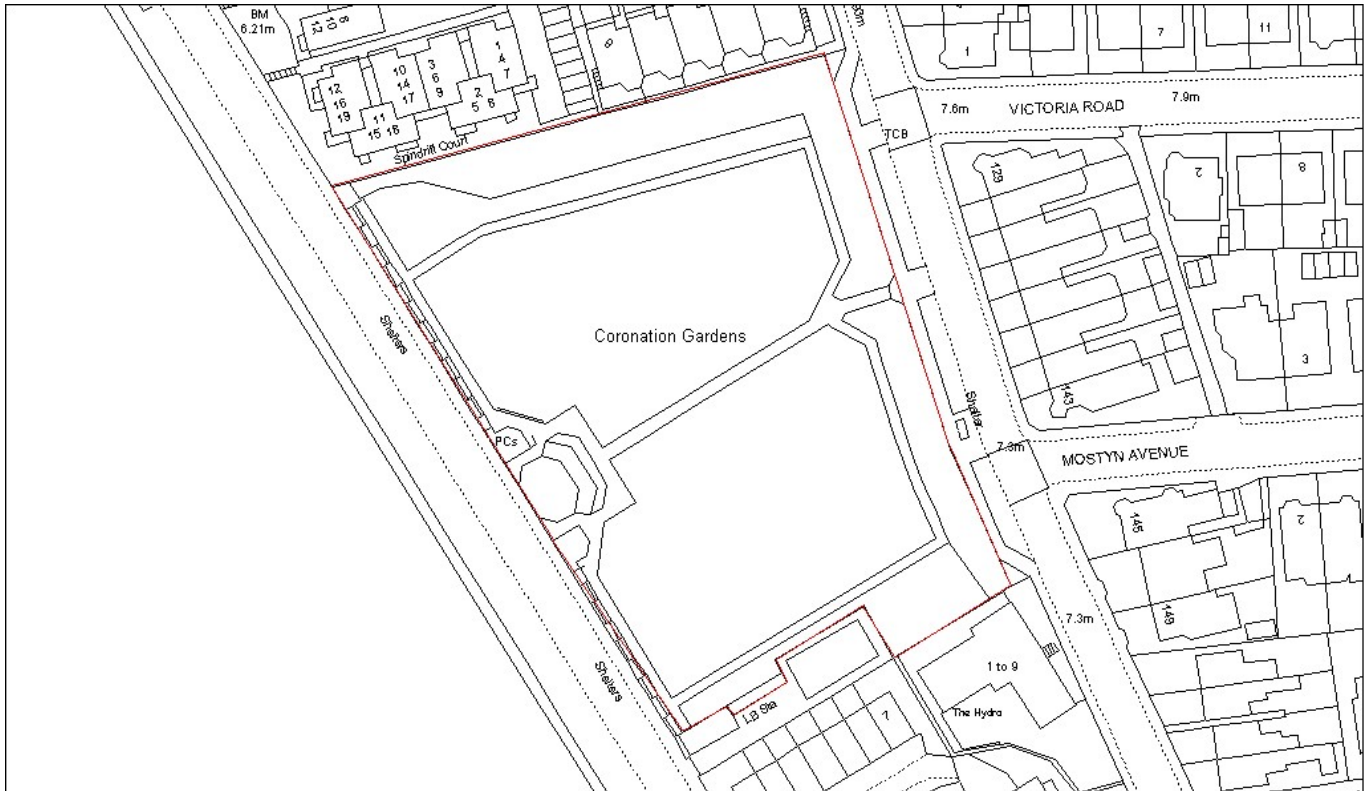
The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements. Increasing emphasis on commercialisation will be a challenge for council staff and voluntary groups alike.

Wirral Parks and Countryside Service organisation chart (2022)



Appendices

Appendix 1: Location Plan



Appendix 2: Aerial Photograph



Appendix 3: Coronation Gardens Service Requirement

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the sites included within the service requirement. In the case of adopted highway verges this responsibility is limited to the occasions immediately prior to grass cutting activities. Government guidance and Regulations for the disposal of noxious or hazardous waste, for example empty chemical containers or 'sharps' shall be followed.

Inspect and empty all litter bins, and dispose of the rubbish, clear all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies and this requires the requisite standards to be maintained by:

- Ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- Programming works effectively
- Applying resources appropriately

Litter control shall conform to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006).

The park shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice Part 1: litter and refuse

- Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

The maximum response time to restore to Grade A standard (no litter or refuse) if it falls below Grade B shall be 1 day; this means by 6pm the following day.

Ensure that all staff uses their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the sites, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

Sweeping and cleansing

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within all sites. The entire surfaces of all tarmac, concrete or paved areas, rubberised surfaces and tiles, including play facilities and safety surfaces and other surface areas including loose surfaces such as bark and shale shall be kept clear in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006) to Grade B standard.

Sweeping, including gutters and drainage channels within the surface areas, shall be carried out by appropriate methods that do not damage or disrupt the surface.

Surfaces shall be washed down whenever necessary in order to maintain a clean and useable area.

All paths and hard surfaces shall be swept at even intervals and be kept cleared of grass cuttings following mowing operations.

All slippery surfaces caused by whatsoever nature, shall be made safe by the removal and / or treatment of the hazard.

All hard surfaces shall be maintained in a substantially weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

Fallen leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- Main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- Visitors' centres and attractions
- Ornamental grass areas
- Soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders
- Surfaces within play areas
- Grass sports pitches and facilities
- All weather sports pitches and facilities

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- In good horticultural condition
- And / or useable for sports play
- And / or with a safe, well drained hard surface

Any leaves that have accumulated into drifts or are unsightly or damaging to plants and bulbs shall be removed as a priority.

The operation shall be carried out frequently throughout the autumn in order to facilitate shrubbery and rose bed cultivation, and to prevent leaves from spreading back onto lawns, paths, hard surfaces, sports and horticultural features. Where necessary, after leaf clearance, beds shall be lightly pricked through to remove footmarks.

The final clearance of all autumn leaves shall be completed by the end of December in each year of the contract period.

Graffiti and fly-tipping

Information on graffiti and fly tipping shall be collected. Data shall provide such data to the Service Manager on a weekly basis as part of his weekly inspection reports.

Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

- Date
- Location
- Surface type
- Paint type
- Description including offensive characteristics

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Service Manager within one hour of identification, to enable this to be removed by the Employer's specialist operator within 24 hours.

Fly tipping shall be defined as any single quantity of tipped material that cannot be lifted by two members of staff and removed from the site. If tipped material can be lifted by two members of staff, it is deemed to be covered by the litter control clauses of this service requirement.

All instances of fly tipping shall be reported to the Service Manager.

Grass maintenance

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

All grass cutting machinery used across the entire range of standards shall be appropriate and fit for the purpose of achieving the specified standard.

On each occasion that grass cutting takes place the following shall be achieved:

- An even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.
- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- Any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected and removed

Should grass exceed the maximum permissible height, the grass shall be brought back into conformance by frequent repeat mowing.

The use of herbicides around obstacles and margins shall not be permitted on ornamental and associated grass areas. The use of appropriate herbicides to kill growth around obstacles and margins in other areas shall be permitted unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan or by instruction from the Service Manager. In such areas, the maximum bandwidth of kill shall not exceed 50mm.

The edges of turf adjacent to hard surfaces, cut backs, planted borders, beds, channels and kerbs shall be kept maintained to a neat even line. On each occasion of re-cutting all finished bed edges shall be sharp, neat and vertical.

In the case of ornamental lawns all cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings, no matter where they fall, shall be removed for recycling or reuse immediately on completion of the operation.

All cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings across the complete spectrum of grass mowing operations which land on hard surfaces, shrub borders or flower beds shall be cleaned up and removed immediately on completion of mowing.

Arisings that fall on general grass/amenity grass, highway urban verges and rural verges shall not normally require removal, unless excessive growth has occurred, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc, shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the third week in May, unless the bulb leaves have died down sooner, at which time the grass and bulb tops shall be cut and removed and the areas brought into conformance with the surrounding areas. Subsequently these areas are to be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the area.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Service Manager, the height of cut shall be adjusted so as not to cause added stress and damage to the sward. If grass growth is at a standstill an obligation remains to control grass and weed flower spikes by cutting.

On resumption of mowing operations after adverse weather conditions have caused them to cease, ensure that a return to the appropriate standard is achieved by increasing the frequency of mowing.

General/amenity grass

All general/amenity grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 25 mm
- Maximum height 60 mm

Hard landscape infrastructure: hard surfaces – roadways, pathways, car parks; parks and green spaces site infrastructure – benches, lighting, fencing, walls (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

Undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of the hard landscape infrastructure of parks, open spaces and other sites.

Hard surfaces weed control

Undertake a programme of effective weed control on all hard surfaces including roads; footpaths, car parks, steps, ramps and bridges Including the bases of all walls and fences where adjoining hard surfaces, along kerbstones and around landscape and park furniture. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance

Hard surface gritting, salting and snow clearance is required to ensure that, where reasonably practicable, safe passage along a road or footpath is not endangered by snow ice.

Although there is no requirement to treat all roads and footpaths there are locations where this is required. The sites and areas to be treated are limited to those where essential only access is required which includes to cemetery chapels, access for planned burials, visitor and community centres and known problem locations and hazardous gradients.

Treatment shall include pre-treating to prevent ice from forming and post treating when ice has formed or snow has accumulated.

Benches and seating

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept clean at all times, and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material.

Fences, railings, walls, gates, handrails, stiles, boardwalks, revetments and bollards

Any minor repairs such as loose bolts, protruding nails and sanding of sharp edges shall be undertaken. All other repairs must be reported to the Service Manager.

Defects, which represent a hazard that cannot be repaired immediately, must be made safe until an effective repair can be undertaken.

Regularly maintain gates, locks and mechanisms to ensure good working condition.

Notice boards and signs

Keep all signs, signposts and notice boards clean at all times and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material of construction.

Shrubs, roses, herbaceous and annual bedding

Maintain shrub beds attractively presented, free of litter, weeds, other unwanted vegetation, and pests and diseases. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Shrubs shall be maintained by pruning and training using the best horticultural practices to allow the development of each shrub in keeping with its habit, location and purpose.

Cultivation work in weather or ground conditions that would be harmful to the soil condition and its structure shall not be undertaken.

Observe that the purpose of pruning is to establish a strong framework of branches, keeping the shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the size, shape and balance, whilst ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood and fruit are produced.

Carry out the pruning of individual shrubs and roses appropriate to the requirements of each species or cultivar.

Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be removed for recycling or reuse.

The base of the hedge shall be left clean, tidy and vegetation free on every occasion the hedge is cut.

Be aware of his obligations when undertaking any work on or near a highway with regard to public safety and traffic regulations.

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

Where requested by the Service Manager proposals for replacement, renewal and new planting of shrubs, roses and hedging shall be submitted.

Trees and woodland

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for tree work'. Be responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations, including Tree Preservation Orders that would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

All persons employed to undertake tree work, shall be suitably trained and qualified and shall be in possession of appropriate certification.

Consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangements to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the Service Manager.

Include for stump removal and subsequent surface reinstatement following tree felling in highways locations. Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all tree work ensure that the work area is thoroughly cleaned and is left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work shall be disposed of. The only exceptions to this shall be at woodland locations where the Service Manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The Service Manager may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching, or creating footpaths or bridleways.

All trees and woodland – emergency and out of hours call out service

Provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year, emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs that have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. A response unit consisting of a minimum of two suitably trained staff with appropriate vehicle and equipment shall be provided within one hour's notice following notification of an event by the Service Manager or emergency services authority. Incidents of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Provide sufficient labour, vehicles and equipment required for emergency tree work operations. Heavy lifting equipment and cranes will need to be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable for special operations.

Trees in parks

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses and all adjacent land and neighbouring properties are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees. As part of the regular site health and safety inspections assess and act on any tree related risks.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management

Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – replacement and renewal

Undertake occasional requests for commemorative and other tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

Vandalism and third party damage (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

Work with community stakeholders and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in sites covered by the service.

Soft landscape

Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

Hard landscape infrastructure

Rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

For more significant incidents of vandalism or third party damage make safe immediately.

Appendix 4: Action Plan

Actions	Lead Officer	Target date	Resource	Completed
Overhaul management plan	General manager/Team leader/Friends	2021	Parks service	√
Annual update to Action Plan	General manager	annual	Parks service	√2022 √2023 √2024 2025 2026
Instigate repairs to damaged walling / roofing due to coastal flooding and renovate external seating	General manager/ coastal engineers	2022 Onward	Coastal flooding	√2023 √2024
Gap up shrubs to central feature	Friends/parks service	As needed	unknown	
Consider creation of wildflower area to bank	Team Leader	2024	unknown	
Complete phase 2 footpath resurfacing	Landscape Architect	2015	Parks service	√
Add 'clean it up' thermoplastic markings to entrances	Landscape Architect	Summer 2019	Parks service	√
Create additional planted areas and renovate existing beds	Team Leader	as resources allow	Friends group achieved 2016 renovation with legacy donation	Ongoing as required
Install four new benches	General manager	Feb 2019	Funding from Friends	√2019
Support relocation of benches from the promenade as part of flood defences project	General manager/ Friends group	January 2023	Funding from flood defence project	√2023 √2024
Install bicycle racks	Team Leader /Transport	2023	Requires Additional Funding £2K	
New 5 year plan to be developed	All	2021	Parks service	√
Retain Green Flag Award	General manager	2021	Parks service	√2022 √2023 2024 2025 2026
Assist Friends with regular work days	Team Leader /Ranger	Ongoing	Parks service	√
Improve Parks website	Service manager	As required	Parks service	
Friends to produce regular newsletter for gardens	Friends	Ongoing	Voluntary and grant funding	
Improve site interpretation in notice board	Friends	2016 initially and	Volunteers	√2022 √2023 √2024 2025

		ongoing annual		2026
To work with Friends to gain external funding	All Parties	Ongoing	Parks service/voluntary	
Actively seek new Friends to help maintain gardens	All Parties	Ongoing	Parks service/voluntary	
Trim Banks Road row of holly trees, and shape	General manager to organise	Tree contract or 2024	Parks service	√2024
Reduce bushes in North shrub areas, to allow simpler maintenance	Team leader to organise	Parks team 2025	Parks service	Jan 2025

Appendix 5: Project bank

PROJECT BANK		
Project	'Ballpark' cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)	Justification, policy fit and evidence of need
Replace flagged paths	?	Medium/long term project requiring capital investment
Replace shrub beds		Medium term
Replant replacement trees to north of the site further away from flats		For discussion with Friends/residents
Repair 'the ovens' to the seaward boundary of the park, following coastal flooding incident	Possibility of funding at the time of flood defence scheme scheduled for summer 2022	Achieved 2023

Appendix 6: Green flag award judges feedback

FEEDBACK REPORT: 2023-24

Name of Site	Coronation Gardens
Managing Organisation	Wirral Council
Date of Assessment	6 June 2023

OVERALL RESULT	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT
<p>Strengths and recommendations are provided for each criteria.</p> <p>Photographs are included, where appropriate, to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>

DESK ASSESSMENT

(Management plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	A good easy to read Management Plan with all the relevant information about Coronation Park that is up to date.	No recommendations regarding the Presentation.
Health, Safety & Security	All the relevant policies for Coronation Park and covered in the plan re Wirral Council.	No recommendations regarding Health Safety and security
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings &	Information on the infrastructure re the park are covered and explained in the plan.	No recommendations regarding maintenance, equipment and Buildings & Landscape


Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Landscape		
Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	Litter and graffiti and well covered in the plan and how this will be carried out. I understand the friends group help and support this service area.	No recommendations regarding Litter Cleanliness and vandalism
Environmental Management		
Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage	Coronation Park has been improved over the years I particularly like the café area which dates to possibly early 1930s	Landscape and Heritage highly commendable
Community Involvement	Friends of Coronation Park are involved on a weekly basis, I understand every Sunday morning.	Excellent friends' group and community involvement
Marketing & Communication	Excellent marketing and communication, newsletters, notice boards at the park. I spoke to some users of the park on my visit who told me the park was well used for events due to publicity especially the café area.	Some of the notices were out of date ideally these could do with removing.
Overall Management	Overall, the Management plan for Coronation Park is very good	

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Yes lovely metal framed arch welcoming users to the park.	
Healthy, Safe & Secure	I felt very safe in Coronation gardens, all the users where pleasant and many spoke to me on my visit.	
Well Maintained & Clean	Coronation Gardens was well maintained and clean, plenty of bins for users to put the rubbish.	
Environmental Management	Environmental management is covered in the plan and is supported by the users and Wirral Council.	
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	This is all covered in the management plan for Coronation Gardens.	

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Community Involvement	Friends of Coronation Park are involved on a weekly basis, I understand every Sunday morning.	
Marketing and Communication	Excellent marketing and communication, newsletters, notice boards at the park. I spoke to some users of the park on my visit who told me the park was well used for events due to publicity especially the café area.	
Management	Overall, the Management for Coronation Park is very good	

Summary and additional comments: (Highlighting the result, and the main areas of strength and recommendation)

			
Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop)			
Name of Site	Coronation Gardens West Kirby	Managing organisation	Wirral Borough Council
Weather Conditions	Dry sunny day		

Date of assessment	Friday 6 September 2024	Time (from – to)	9.15am – 9.45am	
Overall Result	<p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p>			
Result: (✓)	<p>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</p> <p>Green <input type="checkbox"/> Amber <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/></p>			
Grading		Strengths and Recommendations		
<p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red</p> <p>NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p>		<p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>		
A Welcoming Place				
1. Is the site welcoming?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
2. Is the site easy to find?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
3. Is signage in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
				Very flat access throughout
Healthy, Safe and Secure				
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
Well Maintained and Clean				
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
9. Is there a good standard	NG	G	A	R
				Some areas likely to be managed by volunteers

of horticulture maintenance?			✓		other under council responsibility. The Incredible Edible feature was well cared for. Other areas of formal planting looked like they'd not been tended to for quite a while with weeds established ie marestail, bindweed. Appreciate time of year but good to keep on top of such perennial weeds to prevent them becoming a bigger problem. Noted area of grass that had worn or been damaged that needed seeding.
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	
		✓			
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Noted considerable weed growth between the gaps in paving on the path. Need to keep on top of to prevent encroachment. Some benches would benefit from painting/varnishing. Some paint on the ceiling peeling by the seating adjoining the sea front. Noted some minor graffiti.
			✓		
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	
		✓			
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G	A	R	
	✓				
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	
	✓				
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R	Lovely book swap facility and Incredible Edible project.
		✓			
16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G	A	R	
	✓				
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G	A	R	Notice board had lots of community notices & information. The publicity relating to the park was a year out of date. Would benefit from updating.
		✓			
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G	A	R	
		✓			

Overall Result (✓)	Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?					
Final comments The park just showing some signs of neglect in horticultural management. Striking the right balance between nature and good horticultural practice is suggested.	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	<input type="checkbox"/>

Insert photographic evidence below and on subsequent pages

Grassed area requiring seeding



Weeds in pathway & graffiti



Weeds in path





Marestalk / bindweed in feature boarder



Notice board with out of date publicity

