



Wirral Council
Parks, Countryside, Service

Harrison Park
Management Plan
2022 – 2027



Management plan written by :	Date
David weaver with input from Harrison park friends group	04/02/2022
Management plan authorised by	Date
D, Marquiss	

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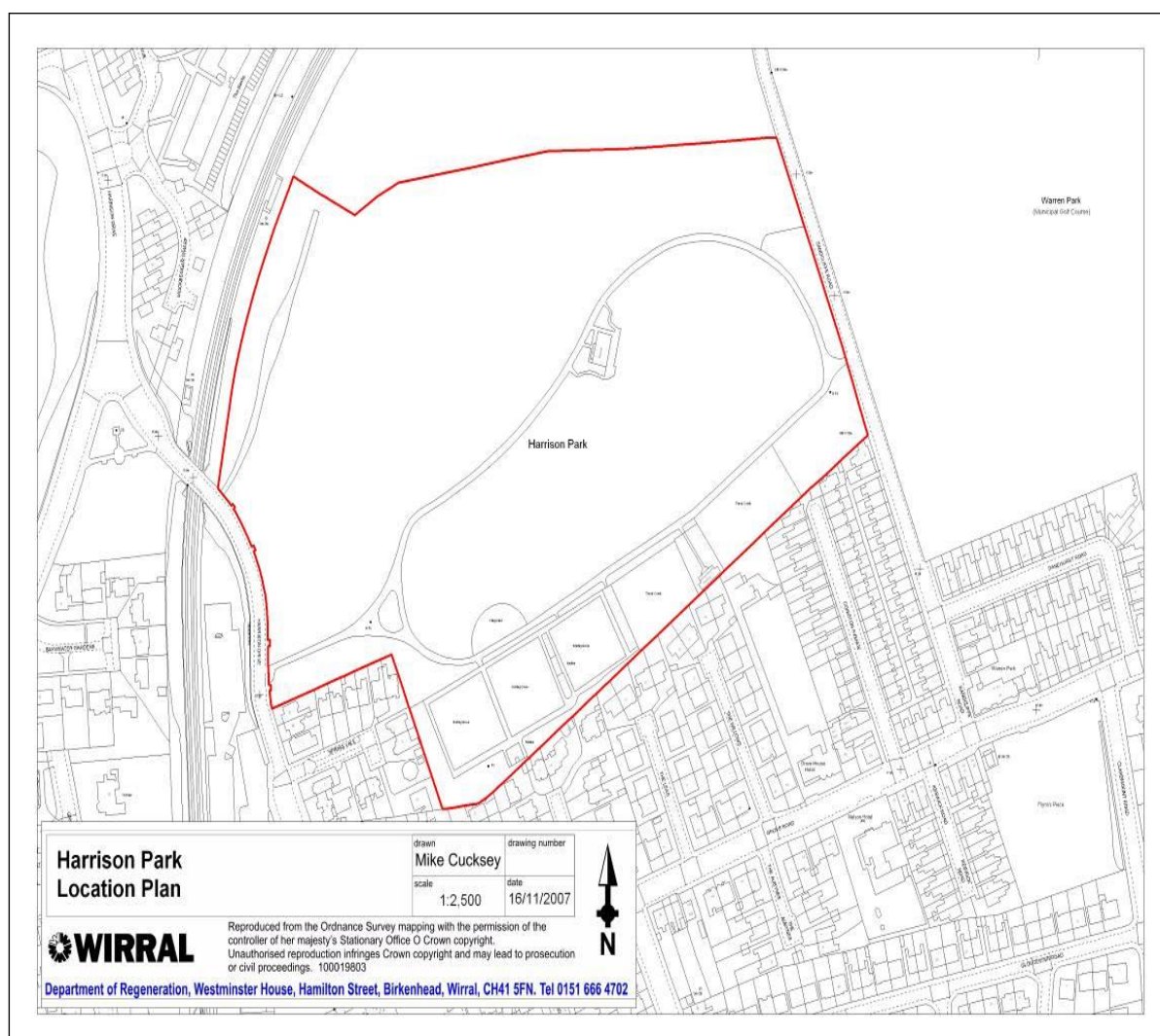
1) Introduction and vision statement

This management plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Harrison Park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, or if you wish to join the Harrison Park Friends Group please contact:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk> <friendsofharrisonpark@gmail.com>

Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED

Site map



Ariel photograph



Harrison Park vision Statement:

This year Harrison park friends group are adopting Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Mission Statement as a positive way forward for the Park:

‘Promoting a healthy, safer lifestyle and improving the quality of life for all’.

Aims:

- *To enable sustainable, economic, social, neighbourhood and environmental regeneration*
- *To improve the health and well-being of Wirral residents*
- *To promote opportunities for personal, community and business development*

2) The wider policy context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbour Services Department of Wirral Council.

The content and structure of the Management Plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004)

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf>

Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016) www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf

2.1 Corporate Objectives

The Council's Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

The Wirral Plan agreed by cabinet in September 2021 sets out a series of pledges which the Council and its partners will work to achieve by 2026 focussing on 5 key themes:

- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter futures
- Active and healthy lives

The Wirral 2021-26 plan is available to download online:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50080601/Appendix%20%20Wirral%20Plan%202021-26.pdf>

2.2 Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and 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 Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service (running from 2014-2024). It is available online at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Leisure%20parks%20and%20events/parks%20and%20open%20spaces/Wirral%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%202014-2024.pdf>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to provide attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to attract and retain investment in the borough. 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.

2.3 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:

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

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:-

[View Wirral Council's Cool 2 climate strategy and progress reports](#)

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 maybe found at:

[https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20\(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust)

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

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/pollinators-and-wildflower-sites>

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#), 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>

3) Site information

Name: Harrison Park

Grid Reference: 329232, 393262

Primary classification: Local Park

Ward: Wallasey

Address: Harrison Drive, Wallasey Village, Wirral, Merseyside

The Park is situated within the Wallasey operational area of Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside section, the area base is located in Central Park, Liscard Road, Wallasey tel. No. 652 5608. The Local parks, allotments and countryside Team Leader is responsible for the management of the park.

Size: 9.45 Hectares

Tenure:

The site is owned and managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Department of Regeneration.

Access

The park has three entrance points, which are located on Sandcliffe Road and Harrison Drive respectively. These entrances provide access for wheelchair users. The main vehicle entrance is located on Harrison Drive and accesses a car park adjacent to the Liverpool to New Brighton railway line.

The children's play area is enclosed and has a self-closing gate.

Pathways are a suitable width and gradient for wheelchair use.

A regular bus service operates and a stop is situated on Harrison Drive approximately 500m distance from the park.

Wallasey Grove Road rail station is situated in close proximity to the park's Harrison Drive entrance.

A finger post is situated in Wallasey Village at the junction of Grove Road indicating the direction and distance (150yds) to the park.

Summary of main uses:

The park is used by the local community for a mixture of both passive and active recreational purpose, including:

- Informal use for ball games
- Dog walking
- For unstructured children's play
- An area to sit and relax, read, eat
- As through access to a connecting route
- As a place for young people to meet and gather
- Organised league and competition bowls
- Local league football
- Tennis

Current facilities and features:

- Children's play area
- Six tennis courts
- Three bowling greens and two pavilions
- Two senior size football pitches (one fenced) and changing facilities
- Feature dune mounding with elevated footpath with view points and seating
- Car parking
- Restored ornamental feature drinking fountain
- Bench seating and litter bins
- Border of ornamental bedding
- 'Harrison Park' signs located at the two main entrance points
- Multi-use games area

Partner organisations and stakeholders

The Friends of Harrison Park

Wallasey Village Community Partnership

Wirral Council Community Safety team

Junior and Senior Football Teams - , Rockville (Wallasey), Poulton royal,
Wallasey mens, Wallasey Oval . Peninsula stars U14 ,New Brighton Saints
Bowls Clubs –Harrison park men and ladies, Queens, Parkfield, Perch rock
Dog Walkers

Local Schools ?????

Tennis Players

Parks and Countryside staff and resources

- The park has a dedicated site based Greenkeeper/Gardener
- A playground safety inspection team visits the park weekly to inspect and service the play equipment.

- A tractor visits the park to perform large area grass cutting.
- Grounds maintenance is funded from the annual maintenance revenue budget
- A range of grounds maintenance machinery
- A Big Lottery Grant of £80K was awarded to the park in 2005 for the purpose of providing youth orientated facilities
- Football
- Tennis
- Crown green bowling

4). A Brief History

“Almost an Island” The Story of Wallasey by Noel Smith 1990 states:

“The park was presented to the Town in 1896 by the Harrison family, in memory of their parents”.

The following extract is found in the “Guide to New Brighton” 1913

“The Harrison Park (named after generous donors) consists to a large extent of virgin sand dunes, clothed with Stargrass, Wild Thyme, Hare Bells, the low growing exquisitely scented Burnet Rose, and the sea Buckthorn. Forty years ago the grass of Parnassus used to grow abundantly hereabouts, but the combined effects of a volunteer rifle range and more recently the golfing habit, have effectively stamped out this beautiful little wilding. The sandhills are still the breeding places of many rare beetles, moths and butterflies, but the modern rage for specimens has sadly thinned the list. The Skylark, Linnet, Thrush, Cuckoo and other birds frequent the dunes in large numbers in search of food. On the western boundary of the park a considerable area has been levelled, with the object of making it suitable eventually for Cricket, football etc. Reference is made elsewhere to the two admirable bowling greens, which have been laid out on the southwestern boundary, approached from Harrison Drive. The Poulton tramcar passes the Grove Road end of this drive; a few minutes’ walk from the principal entrance to the park, which is an ideal place for a ramble with children, or a restful lounge for adults, the ozone-laden air being wonderfully restorative”.

The name Harrison is synonymous with Wallasey Village for without it there would be no Harrison Drive, St. Nicholas' Church, Harrison Hall or Harrison Park. The Harrison family, owners of the Harrison Shipping Line, were generous benefactors to the town

The head of the family James Harrison and his wife Jane lived in the Laund

(near to St.Hilary's Church) from 1857 to 1879 since demolished. James died in 1891. His sons Frederick James Harrison and Sir Heath Harrison Bt. offered land to Wallasey Urban District Council for a park as a memorial to their father in 1896. After some initial hesitation (there was a problem as to who would meet the cost of sewage facilities, etc. in what would become Harrison Drive). Eventually this problem was overcome by other parts of the district agreeing to contribute to the overall cost. In 1899 the Council officially accepted the Harrisons' offer. (I'm unsure as to the exact date it was officially opened as a public park) The Harrison sons also erected St.Nicholas' Church together with it's vicarage in memory of their parents. The foundation-stone was laid in 1910 and the church consecrated in 1911. Designed by the well-known Liverpool architect James Francis Doyle in the perpendicular style. At a later date (1932) the elder daughter of Frederick James Harrison , Jennette Harrison had Harrison Hall erected again in memory of her parents. Harrison Drive was opened in 1901 and named after the family. The Old Tudor Tower (1530) at **St. Hilary's Church** was restored as a mortuary chapel in 1901 again as a memorial to James Harrison. Harrison Park Bowling Club is one of the oldest in Wirral celebrating it's centenary in 2009.



5). Green Flag analysis and assessment

The intention is for Harrison Park to gain its first Green Flag in 2016 further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflag.org.co.uk

A. A welcoming park

The main entrance to Harrison Park is signposted from nearby main roads and is suitable for pedestrians, cyclists, disabled access, and authorised vehicles access only.

There is ample public car parking via Sandcliffe rd, also there is an un - adopted area alongside the railway track off Harrison drive. Were cars can

park and gain entrance into Harrison Park via a steep pathway down an embankment not suitable for disabled access
The 2 primary entrances are suitable for disabled access, and have entrance signs.

The pedestrian entrance situated on Harrison Drive – The entrance presents an appealing view of the restored ornamental drinking fountain and adjacent rose bed border viewed from the entrance gate through an avenue of young evergreen oak trees. A large attractive sign is situated at the entrance

Sandcliffe Road entrance – A large attractive sign is in place adjacent to the entrance. Perimeter fencing distinguishes the park's boundary.



All perimeter railings and post and rail fencing all go regular inspections and are in good condition. A new entrance system was fitted at Sandcliffe rd entrance to discourage children and dogs running out in to the road.

Information boards

The two information boards were replaced with two new metal ones in 2020.

B) Healthy, Safe and Secure

Dog Fouling

We know from the evidence produced from the Wirral Parks Survey (2012) that dog fouling and dogs off leads are a major concern for park users in Wirral.

The whole of the Wirral Council area is designated under Dog Control Orders that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. These provide increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order. These are – failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice.

The park has signs at the entrances and other locations indicating it is a 'clean it up' area. 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 in Council litterbins. 'Dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. The park is very popular with dog walkers and most do clean up after their dogs.

Wirral's Community Patrol Officers are authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council operates a 24 hour Community Patrol force, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 666 5265

Parks and Countryside are represented on the Junior Joint Agency Group (JAG), a forum consisting of the following agencies Merseyside Police, Community Safety, Youth and Community. Serious issues regarding security in parks are raised at the meeting with the intention of providing a multi-agency approach to addressing any problems.

Graffiti checks are carried out daily and graffiti is removed immediately by onsite staff.

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

Motor vehicles

Vehicles can park in small unadopted car parking area that runs adjacent to the railway track off Harrison drive, also Sandcliffe rd which is off Grove rd. there is ample parking along the road side.

Pathways, pedestrian routes

Generally in safe condition, the gravel path extending across the mounds has been hard cored and re-laid and the grass/vegetation a metre either side of the path is on the grass mowing schedule. 50% of the main path has been re-tarmacked in January 2015.

Provision for health: children's play area

The children's play area is well used with a good range of equipment; the large pirate ship is a focal point. The play area is fenced off and has a double safety surfaces, play sand and rubber wet pour. There are 3 seats and bins in the play area. The children's play area was refurbished in 2011, funded from the Play builder programme.

The 2011 improvements included new equipment in the existing play area including a Springer, seesaw and an accessible roundabout which is DDA compliant. The existing junior and toddler units were refurbished.

The park has a purpose-built **Multi Use Games Area** installed for a variety of sporting activities which is well used. Equipment for older children was added to the grass area on site.



All play and fitness equipment is inspected weekly by specialist ROSPA qualified staff.

Dog-free and smoke-free play

Wirral council has signed up to a voluntary 'Play Smokefree' code. The aim is to de-normalize smoking so that children are discouraged from taking up the habit in later years.

The 'Play Smokefree' code is being run by the charity 'Heart of Mersey' with Wirral Council and NHS Wirral. Special signage designed by Hayfield School pupils has been installed in the play area asking that children be allowed to 'Play Smokefree'.

The play area is also designated 'dog-free'. This is shown on the play area signage and on the tarmac at the entrance points.



C) Well maintained and clean

Horticulture and trees

There is one site-based member of staff, a mobile swing fitter team and a gardener/tractor driver who undertakes tractor mounted mowing of the larger grass areas.

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency-based work programme allied to the parks service requirement (appendix 1). A work programme is issued to staff on a quarterly basis; these are used for identifying all maintenance operations on the site and the required standards.

A brief survey of the mature tree stock was undertaken in 2014, and there are now plans to make a more detailed survey in 2015 (see tree survey in appendix 8).

Tree Inspections

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

Tree damage is also identified by parks staff as part of daily patrols and reported to the Area Manager, whereupon urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed.

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>

Play

Children's play areas are inspected weekly. During the visit the condition of the equipment is assessed and any repair considered necessary is undertaken or the equipment isolated until a permanent repair can be made.

Hard and soft landscaping inspections

Site based staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. The following items are appraised:

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

Members of the Harrison Park Friends Group also report problems to site based staff on a day to day basis, they provide an ‘eyes and ears’ service which supplements the work of paid staff, and represents a valuable contribution to the running of the park.

Buildings

Wirral Council’s Asset Management team are responsible for maintenance of the buildings onsite, cleaning and light maintenance is carried out by Parks and Countryside staff.

There are a number of buildings within the park ,in 2003 the bowls pavilion was totally rebuilt after a fire destroyed the building also there is a football pavilion that is fronted by protective metal security shutters.

There is an old Tennis pavilion which at the moment is un-used and in dis repair



Bowls Pavilion

D) Sustainability

Energy, water consumption and emissions

Water and energy consumption is monitored and where necessary modification is made to minimise wastage, achieving economies in usage in line with the Council's Environmental Policy (appendix 3).

All vehicles and plant have comprehensive maintenance regimes carried out by operational support services and the parks service workshop technicians.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Chemical use

Chemical storage and usage complies with requirements as defined in the current pesticide handling legislation. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment records of all chemicals are retained at Central Park Depot.

Pesticide use is minimised, and only glyphosate is used to treat weed growth on hard surfaces.

Composting

There is a bay in the bowling green area which is used for the parks green waste which then is transported into Central park depot, at the depot the green waste is turned into compost and reused on the site or elsewhere in the borough.

Tree brash is chipped transported and stored separately in bays in Central Park for reuse in the Wallasey area.



Sustainable transport/cycling project

The park is well served by public transport infrastructure and cycle routes. All paths in the park are shared with cycles.

E) Conservation and heritage

Natural Heritage

Harrison Park is unique in that the sand dunes that form an impressive feature in the centre of the park are original sand dunes that formed part of the coastal defence of Wallasey village before the Wallasey embankment was built in the late 19th century. Some surfaced paths and a few desired lines are mown frequently the rest of the dunes are left unmanaged where there is characteristic sand dune flora there is a detailed list of species at the rear of this management plan.

The Park also provides recreational facilities such as Crown Green Bowling, Football, primarily for the use of the local community. Harrison Park was opened on 24th June 1901 which cost the Council £7,580 to build and takes its name from the family.

Blown sand would often cover the road, indeed sometimes it was so bad that only the upper portion of the lamp-posts could be seen. The surrounding area, down to the promenade, is always referred to as 'Harrison Drive



Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*)

Whilst it is known that there is a population of Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) resident at the sand dunes of North Wirral Coastal Park it was assumed until recently that the cutting off of the dunes at Harrison Park from the wider dune network by the sea defences and railway line had led to the species no longer being present at Harrison Park. However on July 15th 2016, whilst the rangers undertook a wildflower planting session with Wirral Wildlife and St George's Primary School, a single specimen of the species was discovered in the rough grassland adjacent to the railway. This has given hope that there may still be a remnant population of Common Lizard present at Harrison Park, and that this population may still be viable. It would be desirable in 2017 to carry out a reptile survey of the site to gauge numbers of lizards present at Harrison Park to inform future management of the area.

Education

The Wallasey ranger's service has been working with the Friends group delivering a series of educational talks and walks though these were suspended during 2020/21 due to the Pandemic.

The activities included

Walks- talks

Wallasey circular walk - local history/wildlife and fauna

Halloween walk - local ghost stories and myths

Wirral walking festival – weekly walking sessions/fitness

Pirate day – myths/art and crafts

Bulb planting

28,000 daffodils/crocus were planted by members of general public, local primary schools plus a children's day nursery along the Harrison drive entrance under the Green Oak avenue. This was completed in 2016

The aim of the programme is to raise the aspirations and self-esteem of those children taking part, and to encourage their understanding and appreciation of their natural environment.

Built Heritage

There are many features of interest in the park,

The cast iron drinking fountain ornamental feature was restored as previously referred to; this included a new casting of a cherub blowing a horn, which was made to replace the original.



Cherub

The Harrison Park Men's Bowling Club's pavilion has been established in the Park since 1909. The club lobbied for a number of years for funding to replace the dilapidated bowls pavilion eventually finding success in 2003 with the New Wallasey SRB fund.

Harrison parks friends group has a local historian who is compiling Harrison Park history which is being published on The Harrison park [Facebook page](#), contact via [<friendsofharrisonpark@gmail.com>](mailto:friendsofharrisonpark@gmail.com)

The history of sport in the park

Harrison Park was presented to the town in 1896 by the Harrison family, in memory of their parents. Cricket, Bowls and Tennis were frequently played in the summer season and it is a popular place for families.

The Harrison bowling club is the oldest in the Wirral formed in 1909 and had its centenary in 2009

New Brighton were known as "The Rakers" after their ground, Rake Lane but Football League matches were played at the Tower Grounds, home of the former New Brighton Tower: they moved permanently into this ground after the Second World War because Rake Lane had been destroyed by air raids. In 1951 they failed re-election and were replaced by Workington FC. The club returned to the Lancashire Combination until 1965 when they moved to the Cheshire County League. In 1983 they were wound up.

The current New Brighton club was founded in 1997 and plays in the West Cheshire League at Harrison Park in Wallasey Village. Sadly the football club has since folded

"Some aspects of Wallasey growth" – Travers 1924 states:

“Harrison Park, where also bowling greens and hard tennis courts exist, as well as a cricket pitch, with pavilion, was developed a dozen years ago when about £4,000 was spent chiefly in levelling, constructing paths, and soiling loose and shifty sand hills”.

New Brighton Cricket Club played on the park’s cricket square until the 1990’s.



F) Community Involvement

Friends of Harrison Park group (fohp)

1st Meeting of reconvened Friends of Harrison Park – 19th Nov 2014

A Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Facebook Editor,



Logo designer and Fundraiser specialist were elected.

The Harrison Park friends group is a pro-active and vibrant group which meets regularly with park officers and other council officers. It includes representatives from all the park stakeholders and has a significant impact on development and improvement in the park. The partnership development between the Council and Harrison Parks friends will continue for the future particularly linked to Green Flag and its monitoring.

The council's approach is to provide a strategic overview and agree with the local community the Management Plan for Harrison Park. It will ensure Harrison Park is safe and well managed and will carry out all the necessary maintenance requirements. Through the Park and council partnership the Parks Service will continue to support the local community to take an active role in the park's management, creating stronger links with users and the wider local community.

Partnership Activities

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic all activities by the friends during 2020/21 were suspended

Litter Picks – the first Sunday every month throughout 2022/23

The building and planting of 2 wooden planters near the Sandcliffe Rd entrance

Ranger Activities – during the summer of 2021 a new Sign was erected in the park to honour the NHS and all the work they have done in the past two years during the Pandemic



Club; Friends of Wallasey Village library

G) Marketing

Wirral Parks Survey

This was undertaken in 2012 to find out what visitors think about their parks, beaches and countryside, and to inform management of Wirral's Parks. The Wirral Parks Survey Consultation Summary can be viewed here:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5916>

Important general information was learned from the survey including the following:

Peak times for use are afternoons, followed by mornings and evenings. Evening use is greater on weekdays than at weekends. The majority of visits are from half an hour to two hours. Around one in five people visit for more than two hours.

One sixth of Wirral people visit parks, beaches and open spaces for events. A quarter said more events would encourage them to use these places more.

Less dog fouling and more and better toilet provision stand out as the top two things that people say would encourage them to use parks, open spaces and beaches more, with 53.7% and 46.5% of responses respectively.

Almost three quarters of people rate Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces as having a very good or good standard of cleanliness and being maintained in a very good or good condition.

Events

During 2020/21 all planned events were cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic

Example events:2020 (pre-Pandemic)

Friends group made Halloween jars and they had led lights in them.

27th October Halloween Ghost Walk – Paul Sinclair – around 220 people attended



Halloween 2016

Health Walk – Tuesday May 9th To Tuesday Sept 10th – Each Tuesday Health Walk

Summer evening health walk. Met at Grove Road station at 7pm and returned for 8pm. We walk in Harrison Park and around the dips. There were 2 trained walk leaders so one route will be suitable for beginners. Some evenings they went to Community Soul for a drink. The walk was on every week until the end of September. This walk is part of Wirral Walking Festival. More details at www.walkingforhealth.com



Monday 10th August – Wirral Wildlife - Monday 10th August 10-12 - Wirral Wildlife came to Harrison Park – promote children’s interest in nature and the outdoors activities and walk around park uncovering the types of grasses and flowers in the park - FREE ACTIVITIES -



A new pilot scheme by waste management launched in Harrison Park also 3 other parks around Wirral in November 16 the pooh bags that are in the dispenser are biodegradable the scheme will last 3 months then feedback with determine the outcome.

Bulb Planting – Harrison Day Nursery mon, Ellery Park School ,Open Public



Tennis Events in Park
30th July Thorndale Tennis Club – Great British Tennis Weekend

Events planned for 2022

Daffodil re-visit by Greenleas School
Egg rolling event
Wallasey Village Summer Fair
Great British Tennis Weekend
Bark In the Park
Love Parks Week with possible Family Fun Day
Bulb Planting
Halloween
Wallasey Village Christmas Fayre

At the time of release of the Management plan the dates (*unless stated*) haven't been confirmed but will be published on web site and in local press also will be displayed on notice boards

The Litter picks and Health Walks to continue throughout the year
Harrison park friends group have their own website and face book page with information of interest to the wider community.

<friendsofharrisonpark@gmail.com Friends of Harrison Park facebook page

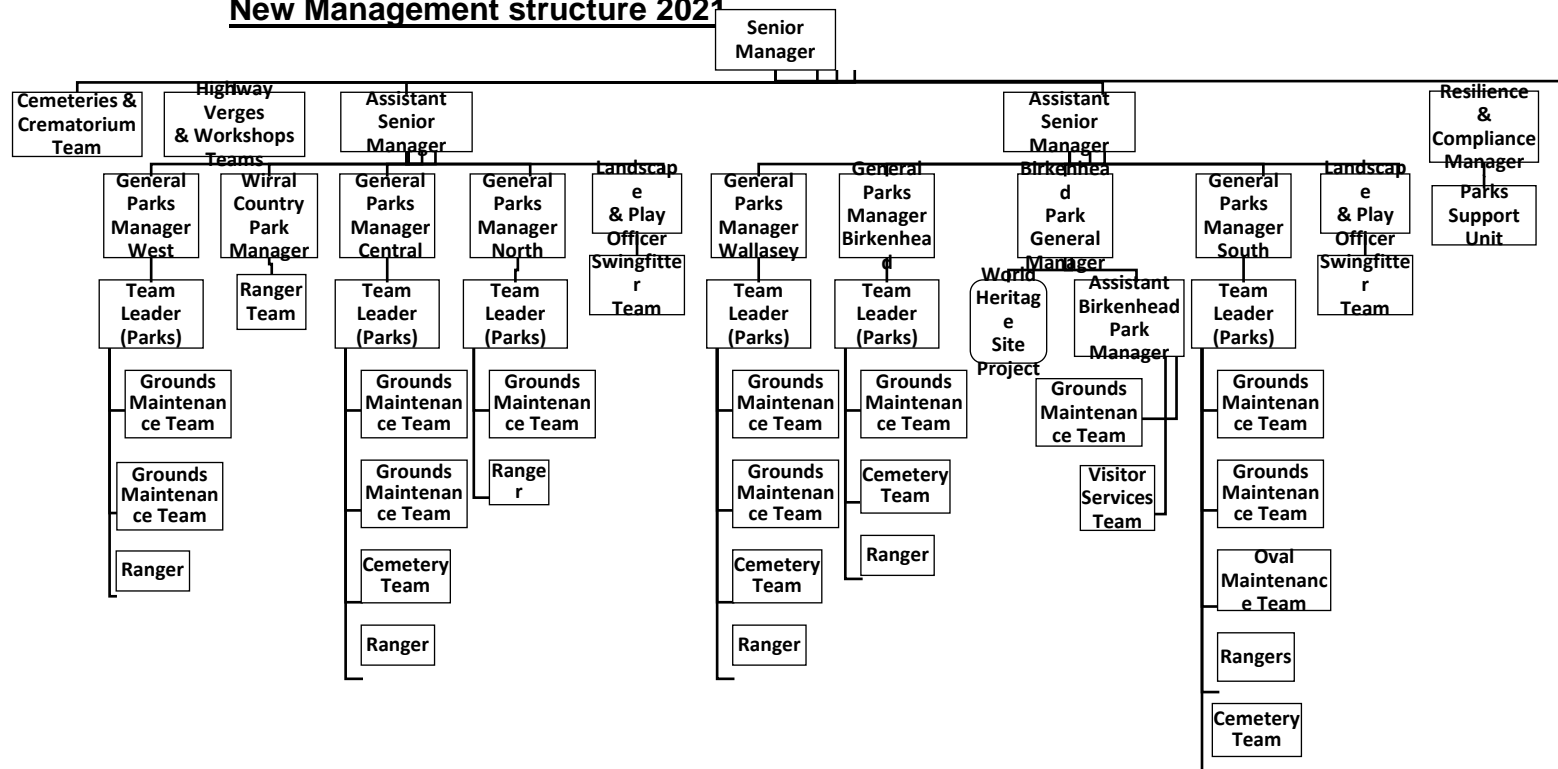
H) Management

The Local Parks, Allotments and Countryside team leader for Wallasey district is responsible for the management of the park, in partnership with the Friends of Harrison Park

This management plan aims to inform staff and members and the public about the aspirations Wirral Council and the Harrison friends group have for the future development and maintenance of the park.

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements. The current operating structure is shown below (change is expected in 2015 to accommodate reorganisation and budget reduction measures).

New Management structure 2021



Parks staff and their functions:

The Wallasey Area Manager is responsible for the maintenance of the park

One permanent gardener to maintain the park, assisted by a gardener/tractor driver using tractor-mounted equipment for mowing of the larger grass areas.

The play area safety inspection team visits the park once per week.

The arboriculture team visits the park as necessary to carry out seasonal specialist tree pruning and felling work.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the Wallasey Area general manager

David Weaver

General Park Manager

Wallasey Parks, Allotments and Countryside

Wirral Council.

T 01516062086 www.davidweaver@wirral.gov.uk

6) Action Plan and Security improvement Action Plan

	Action	Responsibility	When	Financial	complete
A welcoming park					
	To stop mowing schedule adjacent to railway embankment leaving swathes of uncut grass to provide diversity, interest and habitat	Area team leader (ATL)	Winter 2015/16	Within existing resources (WER)	
	Apply 'peat' coloured masonry paint to the exterior rear and side walls of football changing facility. Change flat roof to "regular peaked roof"	ATL	2015/16/17	WER/ Asset management	
	Discuss the removal or enhancement of the steel storage container with New Brighton F.C	APM/New Brighton FC	2015 done	WER	
	Remove poor quality signage and supports from entrance points	APM	2015 done	WER	
	Construct bases for notice boards	Team Leader	2022	Within existing resources	ongoing
Healthy, safe and secure					

	Develop and provide fitness and exercise trail	Landscape team	On going	WER or external	
	Undertake annual 'Site Safety Inspection'	APM	Oct 2016	WER	
	Raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling, staff to hand out leaflets to dog walkers. Replace 'Clean it up' signs as soon as they are defaced; regularly re-stencil signs onto footpath surface.	ATL/Harrison park friends group	08 sept 2015/16	External funding	
	Resurface access ramp from car park with Bitumen Macadam and provide hand rail			Car park is railways land	
	Respond in a reasonable time to all incidents of vandalism, paint-out or arrange removal of graffiti.	APM	2016/17	WER	
	Consider options for the former tennis pavilion	APM /Area Team Leader	On going	RAF £20K	
	Erect 39m of security fencing to match existing between bowls and tennis courts	Area Team Leader	DONE	RAF £4K	
	Install knee rail in car park at the top of the embankment	Area Team Leader		Car park railway land	
	Initiate annual ROSPA safety inspection of play equipment	Area Parks Manager /Team Leader	2013/14/15/16/17	WER	
Clean and well maintained					
	Work in partnership with H.P.F.G.	Area Team Leader/H.P.F.G	19/11/2014 on going	On going	
	Achieve the Green Flag award	ATL/APM		Achieved 2016	
	Improve Football pitch management regime to include regular aeration and surface rolling, assess nutrient requirement and adjust as necessary. Verti-drain pitches at end of season	ATL/APM	3 year prog. At £7,000 per annum	RAF £21K	
	New young staked trees and carryout winter replacement planting	ATL/APM	2016	complete	
	Assess the Park's tree stock and produce tree management programme	ATL/APM	2015/16/17	WER	
	Replace all missing horizontal rails to timber fence between the Park and the golf course. Replace chain link fencing to 5 th tee	ATL/APM	2014 done	WER	

	Replace all Wybone type litter bins with Black closed top bins	ATL/APM	2014	WER	
	Remove border of annual bedding in the bowls area and soil and seed to reinstate ground	ATL/APM	2013	WER	
	Assess condition of footpath surfacing throughout the park and programme for repair	ATL/APM	Completed all resurfacing 2014	£10 K	
	Remove steel fencing tubing around F/pitch	ATL/APM	2014	WER	
	Plant mixed species hedging along the length of the security fencing to the railway line approx 165m to both soften the appearance and to increase habitat	ATL/APM		RAF £2K	
	Upgrade children's play area to include provision of new play equipment and improved safety surfacing	ATL/APM (south)/ Landscape Team (LT)	2011	RAF £60K	
	Install timber edging restraints to footpath on mound to prevent gravel shedding onto the lower footpath	ATL/APM	2012/13/ 14/15/16	WER HPFG	
	Provide hard surfacing beneath all bench seats to improve appearance	ATL/APM	DONE	RAF £2K	
	Colour spray and remark tennis courts/assess level of demand for tennis	APM	On-going	RAF £3.5K	
	Establish maintenance responsibility of the tubular barrier rail to the football pitch with NBFC consider removal or refurbishment	APM/NBFC	Removed 2014 Uprights removed 2017	NBFC	
	Renovate and purchase new benches for the bowls area		2022	Within existing resources	Ongoing
Sustainability					
	Transport all green waste for composting for reuse at the park	ATL/APM	2012/13/ 14/15/16	WER	
	Carryout environmental Management System Audit of the park and implement findings	Partners		WER	
Conservation and heritage -					
	<i>Area Team Leader to report</i>	ATL/HPFG	12/05/15	WER	
	Soil and re-seed all areas of erosion on dune mounds	ATL/APM	2013/14/ 15/16/17/	WER	

			18/19/20/21		
	Undertake control measures of invasive weed species such as Ragwort and Japanese knotweed	ATL/APM	ongoing	WER	
Community involvement					
	Support user groups with fund raising events Work in conjunction with HPFG to achieve Green Flag award	ATL/HPFG	2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	All fund raising events cancelled 2020/21 due to Covid 19	
	Facilitate and assist the Friends to organise community events within the park.	ATL/APM	19/11/14	May require Rangers dept	
	Communication between Parks dept. and sports clubs about long term sustainability of sporting provisions throughout Wirral due to savings programme	ATL/ all sport facilities users	2015 - 2020		
marketing					
	Improve the Wirral Council Internet web site to include information on the park	APM/HPFG	2014 Impliment ed 16	WER	
	Continue to update information/interpretative material in Harrison park notice board	Rangers/HPF G	2015/16/ 17/18/19/ 20/21		
	To inform interested parties via Harrison Park facebook page	HPFG	2015/16/ 17/18/19. 20		
management					
	Pursue funding sources as available to develop and improve the parks range of quality of facilities in line with the objectives set out in the plan	ATL/APM HPFG	2014/15/ 16/17/18/ 19/20	Funding to be identified	
	Monthly meetings in community café	HPFG/ATL	2014 - 2020		ngoing
	Annual Green Flag and management plan update meeting	HPFG/ATL	2015 – 2020/21	November	

	Action	Responsibility	When	Financial
	Replace all damaged and defaced 'no golf' signs	ATL/APM	Done	WER
	Establish a rapid response to incidents of graffiti and vandalism	ATL/APM	Done	WER
	Paint-out to obliterate all graffiti evident to buildings, seating, bins, play equipment etc	ATL/APM	2015/ on going	WER
	Remove steel storage container	ATL/APM	Done	WER
	Erect 1.8m Steel vertical bar fencing between the bowls area and the tennis courts	APM	Done	WER
	Repair chain link fencing and timber post and rail fencing to the boundary of the golf course	APM	Done	WER
	Paint side and rear elevations of the football changing 'peat' colour	APM	Done	WER
	Regenerate former tennis pavilion and erect 1.8m security fence to the rear boundary of the building	ATL/APM	Under review. Review complete 2021	External funding
	Consider and implement measures in conjunction with Technical Services Department to stop the fly tipping of waste material within the park's car park area	ATL/APM	On going	WER
	Ensure all incidents of anti-social behaviour are reported to Merseyside Police	ATL/APM	On going	WER
	Monitor all incident reports to ensure an adequate level of response	ATL/APM	On going	WER

The costs quoted against the above actions are estimated figures only and will require to be updated at the implementation stage. It will be necessary to source capital funding in order to enable the works to progress.

7) Monitoring and Review

There will be a precise and clear process for monitoring both maintenance and development.

The Area Team Leader will incorporate progress on Management Plan actions into the monthly management team meetings.

Charge hands will report back on progress or shortfalls to the Area Team Leader after each visit.

The Area Team Leader will carryout random inspections of the site between programmed monitoring visits.

The Area Team Leader will carryout a quarterly inspection of the site with the relevant gardeners to assess maintenance standards and check against the issued work programme and specification.

Area Team Leader will carryout a bi-annual site visit with the Area Parks Manager and Friends representatives to oversee the delivery of the Management Plan. The target dates in the five-year action plan will enable people to see how the partnership is making progress and when that action has been achieved.

8) Appendices

Appendix 1: Parks and Countryside General Service requirement

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the areas included within this plan. 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

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- in good horticultural condition
- 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

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Area Team Leader 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 Area 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 Area Manager. In such areas, the maximum bandwidth of kill shall not exceed 50mm.

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 Area 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 optimum 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. All locations covered by a site management plan at contract commencement shall have been subject to a condition survey within three years of contract commencement. All other locations shall have been subject to a condition survey within five years of contract commencement. Following each site condition survey the prepare an

improvement plan for inclusion in the relevant site management plan and subsequent submission to the Area Manager, or where there is no site management plan for direct submission to the Service Manager.

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 to 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 Area 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 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 Area 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 Area 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.

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.

In the event of severe weather conditions or a major disaster provide additional staff and resources as deemed necessary. At such times maintain radio or telephone contact with the Service Manager's staff so that the staff can be directed to other emergencies as necessary.

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 – arboriculture 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 2: Parks managed asset quantities table
Harrison Park

Item	Quantity	Type
Premium Ornamental Grass	155 m ²	
General Grass	5071 m ²	
Playing Field	3230 m ²	
Soccer Pitch	2 no	senior
Bowling Green	3734 m ²	
Rose Bed	23 m ²	
Shrub bed	53 lin mtrs	
Hard Surface	4040 m ²	
Bitumen Macadam Sports	7 no	Tennis courts
Play area under 8	1 no	
Play area over 8	1 no	
Muga/GoalEnds/Kickabout area	1 no	
Buildings	3 no	Sports pavillions
Boundary railing/fencing/walling	yes	
Tree stock	yes	
Natural area	yes	Sand dunes
Benches and Seats	15	Inc 4 on sand dunes
Picnic tables	3	
Litter Bins	11	Inc 2 in bowls area
Lighting	No	
CCTV	No	
Planters	2	wooden

Appendix 3: Wirral Council environmental policy



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Wirral Council provides essential services to more than 312,000 residents across a number of key areas and recognises that its activities and services have both beneficial and adverse impacts on the environment.

In working toward a more sustainable future we will:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System which satisfies the requirements of the international standard ISO 14001.
- Comply with all applicable legal requirements and with any other requirements which relate to the Council's environmental aspects.
- Continually seek to minimise negative environmental impacts, prevent pollution and reduce waste during delivery of our services.
- Reduce carbon emissions arising from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.
- Increase the proportion of socially responsible goods and services that we procure.
- Increase the amount of waste reused and recycled and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.
- Improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.
- Consider environmental costs, risks and impacts when making planning, contracting, purchasing and operating decisions.
- Regularly monitor and review our environmental performance.
- Ensure that all employees are aware of their environmental responsibilities through communication, training and support.
- Communicate this policy to employees, partners and the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Graham Burgess".

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Appendix 4: Wirral Health and Safety Policy

Wirral Council accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and all subsequent regulations.

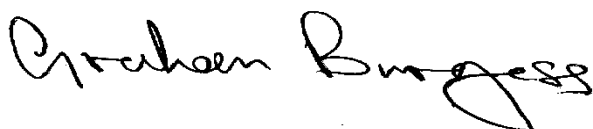
The Council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, visitors, contractors and any other persons affected by its undertaking.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, to ensure that Departments comply with this commitment through the implementation of a robust management system that seeks continual improvement in the health and safety performance of the Council.

The Council's objectives, so far as health and safety is concerned, are to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable:-

- Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe.
- Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety at work.
- A safe place of work with safe access to and egress from it.
- A healthy working environment and adequate welfare facilities.

All staff should be aware of their responsibilities contained within this health and safety policy and report any unsafe acts or situations to an appropriate Officer.



Graham Burgess Chief Executive

"There is nothing so urgent or important that we cannot take time to do it safely"

Appendix 5

In 2021 Wirral Council declared a climate emergency and implemented a climate emergency policy which can be found by following this link

[Environment and Climate Emergency Policy Statement | www.wirral.gov.uk](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environment-and-climate-emergency-policy-statement)

Appendix 6

HARRISON PARK TREE SURVEY 2015/16

AREA NO

TREE SPECIES

A	30	<i>Cm,Ap,Pni,Pr</i>
B	29	<i>Ap,U</i>
C	0	
D	21	<i>Qi</i>
E	0	
F	14	<i>Ap,Pr,Pn,cop-Sf,cop-Sra,Qr,Sn</i>
G	2	<i>Cm</i>
H	6	<i>Pnga,cop-Sxf,cop-Sra,Sn,Mp</i>
I	0	
J	9	<i>U</i>

Total tree stock = 111

Harrison Park Tree stock

The Parks Tree species

1. Pinus nigra	<i>Pnga</i>
2. Acer pseudoplatanus	<i>Ap</i>
3. Salix repens argentea	<i>Sra</i>
4. Salix fragilis	<i>Sf</i>
5. Salix x friesiana	<i>Sxf</i>
6. Quercus ilex	<i>Qi</i>
7. Quercus robur	<i>Qr</i>
8. Prunus cv	<i>Pr</i>
9. Crataegus monogyna	<i>Cm</i>
10. Sambucus nigra	<i>Sn</i>
11. Ulmus sp	<i>U</i>
12. Malus pumila	<i>Mp</i>
13. Populus nigra "italic"	<i>Pni</i>
14. Populus nigra	<i>Pn</i>
15. Copice of trees	<i>cop-</i>



Harrison area plan (Trees/Plants)

Appendix 7 Publicity and marketing information

40 Businesses have affiliated to FOHP/3 Churches/3 Community Groups showing their commitment to the community and the Park.

Fundraising and raising awareness of Harrison Park – Wallasey Village Christmas Festival, Egremont Festival, presenting to Liscard Ladies 8210 Club; Friends of Wallasey Village library

Harrison park friends group have their own website and face book page with information of interest to the wider community.

<friendsofharrisonpark@gmail.com Friends of Harrison Park facebook page

The 2 notice boards within the park are regularly up-dated by friends group and Rangers dept

Appendix.ii. Location Plan

(1) - HARRISON PARK SPECIES LIST

HARRISON PARK SPECIES LIST SJ292932

12/5/2015 Hilary J Ash, 24/7/2015 HJA with Margaret Coles and Adam Stuart.

Species abundance is estimated within the habitat on the DAFOR scale: D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=rare, L=locally. Underlined species are uncommon, habitat indicators, invasive species, or otherwise notable.

A) SAND DUNES

Tall sand dunes, cut off from the sea by the building of the Wallasey embankment in the late 19th century. Some surfaced paths and a few desire lines. The edges of the surfaced paths are mown regularly. The rest of the dune area is unmanaged.

There was a small nursery area at one time, from which various garden plants remain including some Japanese Knotweed. This has been mown recently, but needs proper herbicide treatment.

A small number of trees, mostly hybrid poplars, were planted some years ago near the tennis courts. These are not in good condition. Near Sandcliffe Road, parts of the dunes have developed scrub.

Dune grassland:

Acer pseudoplatanus	sycamore sapling	R
---------------------	------------------	---

Achillea millefolium	yarrow	O
Agrostis capillaris	common bent	A
Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent	R
<u>Aira praecox</u>	<u>early hair-grass</u>	<u>R</u>
Alliaria petiolata	Jack-by-the-hedge	R
<u>Allium vineale</u>	<u>crow garlic</u>	<u>R</u>
Alopecurus pratensis	meadow foxtail	R
<u>Ammophila arenaria</u>	<u>marram grass</u>	<u>O</u>
Anthoxanthum odoratum	sweet vernal-grass	O
<u>Anthyllis vulneraria</u>	<u>kidney vetch</u>	<u>F</u>
Armoracia rusticana	horseradish	O
Arrhenatherum elatius	false oat-grass	O,LA
Artemisia vulgaris	mugwort	O
Asparagus officinalis	asparagus	R
Bromus hordeaceus	soft-brome, lopgrass	O
<u>Carex arenaria</u>	<u>sand sedge</u>	<u>R</u>
Centaurea nigra	knapweed	R
Cerastium fontanum	mouse-ear chickweed	R
Cirsium arvense	creeping thistle	R
Cirsium vulgare	spear thistle	R
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed	F
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn	R
Crepis capillaris	smooth hawksbeard	O
Dactylis glomerata	cocksfoot	F
<u>Daucus carota</u>	<u>wild carrot</u>	<u>R,LF</u>
Elytrigia repens	couch-grass	O
Equisetum arvense	field horsetail	O
Fallopia japonica	Japanese knotweed	R,LD
<u>Festuca ovina</u>	<u>sheep's fescue</u>	<u>O,LA</u>
Festuca rubra	red fescue	A
Galium aparine	cleavers, stickyweed	R
<u>Galium verum</u>	<u>ladies bedstraw</u>	<u>O</u>
Hedera hibernica "Hibernica" Irish ivy		R,LD
Hieracium sabaudum	hawkweed	O
Hordeum murinum	wall barley	R,LF
Hyacinthoides x massartiana hybrid	bluebell	O,LA
Hypochaeris radicata	cat's-ear	F
Lamium album	white dead-nettle	R
Lolium perenne	ryegrass	O
<u>Lotus corniculatus</u>	<u>bird's-foot trefoil</u>	<u>O</u>
Luzula campestris	field woodrush	R
Lychnis coronaria	rose campion	R
Malus pumila	wildling apple	R
Medicago lupulina	black medick	R
Medicago sativa	lucerne	R
Narcissus cv	garden daffodil	R
<u>Ononis repens</u>	<u>restharrow</u>	<u>O</u>
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	R
Phleum bertolonii	small cat's-tail	O
Pinus nigra (moribund)	black pine (moribund)	R

<u>Plantago coronopus</u>	<u>buck's-horn plantain</u>	O
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort	F,LA
Poa pratensis	smooth meadowgrass	O
Poa trivialis	rough meadow-grass	O
Populus nigra hybrid	hybrid black poplar	O
Potentilla reptans	creeping cinquefoil	R
Prunus cv	cherry cultivar	R
Quercus cerris	Turkey oak seeding	R
Quercus robur	pedunculate oak sapling	R
Ranunculus bulbosus	bulbous buttercup	O,LF
<u>Rosa spinosissima</u>	<u>burnet rose</u>	<u>R</u>
Rubus fruticosus	bramble	O
<u>Rumex acetosella</u>	<u>sheep's sorrel</u>	<u>O,LA</u>
Rumex crispus	curled dock	R
Salix fragilis	crack willow	R
<u>Salix repens argentea</u>	<u>creeping willow</u>	<u>R</u>
<u>Salix x friesiana</u>	<u>hybrid willow</u>	<u>R</u>
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	F
Sisymbrium officinale	hedge mustard	R
Sonchus oleraceus	smooth sowthistle	R
Taraxacum sp	dandelion	F
Tragopogon pratense	goatsbeard	R
<u>Trifolium arvense</u>	<u>hare's-foot clover</u>	<u>O,LA</u>
Trifolium dubium	lesser trefoil	R
Trifolium repens	white clover	O
<u>Trisetum flavescens</u>	<u>golden oat-grass</u>	<u>A</u>
Ulex europaea	European gorse	O
Urtica dioica	stinging nettle	R
Vicia sativa	common vetch	O
Dicranum scoparium	broom fork-moss	O

Cat's-ear had the stem galls caused by wasp *Phanicia hypochoeridis*
 Creeping willow had the red bean gall probably caused by a sawfly (*Pontania* sp)

Poplars planted on slopes overlooking the bowling greens; they are back-cross hybrids (3 parts native, 1 part American). A few are dead or partly-dead, providing the only dead wood in the park and therefore probably valuable to invertebrates. Under and around the poplars is the only place where Irish ivy (invasive - may need to be kept in check), Jack-by-the-hedge, cleavers, crow garlic and sweet vernal-grass were found. Perching birds probably increase the soil fertility here.

On the dune slope nearest the golf course, some poor specimens of Lombardy poplar and a grape vine!

Nearby to seaward are a small area of burnet rose and 8 bushes or a **hybrid willow, *Salix x friesiana***, a cross between creeping willow and common osier. A similar number grow in the scrub area near Sandcliffe Road. It grows

to maximum 2m high, forming spreading bushes not trees. Eric F Greenwood (retired Director of Liverpool World Museum and our local expert taxonomist) has checked the identification.

This is a very rare hybrid, whose world population is mainly in north-wets England. The North Wirral dunes have the 2nd largest population in the world (after Sefton coast)! It reproduces from fertile seed, so should probably be classified as a species once the taxonomy is sorted out (there is a similar and even rarer hybrid which might be also present at Harrison Park). The Harrison Park population is at least 15 plants, a significant number. Eric Greenwood is currently studying these plants and intends marking some next spring with coloured tape, to be able to compare catkins and mature leaves at different times of year. No management action needed -just do not remove any low-growing willows. If one is obstructing a path, it can be cut back in winter like any other deciduous willow.

On the dune nearest the football field is a small patch of creeping willow.

B) SCRUB NEAR SANDCLIFFE ROAD (H on plan)

includes more bushes of the hybrid willow. Gorse will need management eg cutting to ground once it gets tall and leggy and becomes a serious fire risk. It will re-grow.

P = definitely planted

Acer pseudoplatanus	sycamore	O,some
P		
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn	O
<u>Hippophae rhamnoides</u>	<u>sea buckthorn</u>	<u>R</u>
Pinus nigra	black pine	R,P
Quercus robur	pedunculate oak	R
<u>Rosa spinosissima</u>	<u>burnet rose</u>	<u>O,LF</u>
Rubus fruticosus	bramble	O,LF
<u>Salix repens argentea</u>	<u>creeping willow</u>	<u>O,LA</u>
Salix x ?	hybrid willow	R
Tamarix gallica	tamarisk	R,P
<u>Ulex europeus</u>	<u>European gorse</u>	<u>O,LD</u>

Other trees and shrubs growing around the park eg formal avenues, along bowling green fence, along boundaries to house gardens:

Cotoneaster sp	cotoneaster	R,P
Malus pumila	wildling apple	R
Prunus avium	cherry	R,P
Quercus ilex	holm oak	O,P
Rosa cvs	garden roses	R,P
Rosa rugosa	Japanese rose	R,P
Sambucus nigra	elder	R
Ulmus sp	elm	R,P

Sea buckthorn and Japanese rose can be invasive on sand dunes - monitor for any signs of spread.

C) STRIP BETWEEN CAR PARK AND RAILWAY (C on plan)

Tall grasses, tall herb, garden escapes and a few sand dune species (notably, burnet saxifrage) on a strip of relatively fertile, unmanaged ground. This adjoins similar habitat within the railway fence. This habitat is providing shelter for invertebrates, nectar and pollen, small mammal habitat and sunny nettle beds for butterflies such as small tortoiseshell to breed. Can be left alone to continue to provide these services. Cinnabar moth are breeding on the ragwort, and gatekeeper butterflies were seen.

D) SLOPE BETWEEN CAR PARK AND PLAYING FIELD (D on plan)

Narrow strip of unmanaged habitat, with tall herb similar to parts of (C), but primarily dominated by stinging nettle. This indicates fertile soil. Small tortoiseshell butterflies are breeding here, possibly other species such as peacock.

		C
	D	
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	F
Aegopodium podagraria	ground elder	O,LD
Agrostis capillaris	common bent	F
Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent	O,LA
<u>Allium vineale</u>	<u>crow garlic</u>	<u>R</u>
<u>Ammophila arenaria</u>	<u>marram</u>	<u>O,LA</u>
Anthriscus sylvestris	cow parsley	R
Arctium minus	burdock	O
	O,LA	
Arrhenatherum elatius	false oat-grass	A
	F	
Artemisia vulgaris	mugwort	O
	A	
Ballota nigra	black horehound	O
	R	
Calystegia silvatica	large bindweed	O,LA
Centaurea nigra	knapweed	R
Cirsium arvense	creeping thistle	O
	O	
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed	O
	O,LA	
Dactylis glomerata	cocksfoot	F
	F	
Dryopteris filix-mas	male fern	R
Elytrigia repens	couch-grass	F
Equisetum arvense	field horsetail	O
Festuca rubra	red fescue	
	O	
Geranium robertianum	herb Robert	R
Heracleum sphondylium	hogweed	R
	O	
Hyacinthoides x massartiana hybrid	bluebell	F
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	bluebell (native)	R

Lolium perenne	ryegrass	
	O	
Malus pumila	wildling apple	R
Parietaria judaica	pellitory-of-the-wall	
	R	
Persicaria amphibia	amphibious bistort	R
<u>Pimpinella saxifraga</u>	<u>burnet-saxifrage</u>	<u>O</u>
Pinus sp	pine (planted)	
	R	
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort	
	R	
Poa trivialis	rough meadow-grass	
	O	
Potentilla reptans	creeping cinquefoil	O
Quercus ilex	holm oak (planted)	
	R	
Rumex crispus	curled dock	O
Salix hybrid	hybrid willow as on dunes	R
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	O
	O	
Silene latifolia	white campion	R
Sisymbrium officinale	hedge mustard	
	R	
Sonchus oleraceus	smooth sowthistle	
	R	
Stachys sylvatica	hedge woundwort	O
Urtica dioica	stinging nettle	F,LA
	A	
Vicia sativa	common vetch	O

E) FORMAL AMENITY GRASSLAND AND PLAYING PITCHES (J on plan)

Close-mown all year

Holm oaks, ornamental elms and a bed of garden roses have been planted in these areas.

Achillea millefolium	yarrow	O
Armoracia rusticana	horseradish (by fence)	R
Bellis perennis	daisy	F,LA
Geranium molle	dove's-foot cranesbill	R
Hordeum murinum	wall barley	R
Hypochaeris radicata	cat's-ear	O
Lolium perenne	ryegrass	F,LA
<u>Plantago coronopus</u>	<u>buck's-horn plantain</u>	R
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort	F
Plantago major	greater plantain	F,LA
Poa annua	annual meadow-grass	O,LA
Polygonum arenastrum	equal-leaved knotgrass	R
Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup	R
Rumex crispus	curled dock	R
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	R

Taraxacum sp	dandelion	F
Trifolium repens	white clover	F

CASUAL ANIMAL RECORDS for whole site

BUTTERFLIES

Aglais urticae	small tortoiseshell
Maniola jurtina	meadow brown (abundant)
Pyronia tithonus	gatekeeper

MOTHS

Tyria jacobaeae	cinnabar
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BEES

Bombus pascuorum	common carder bee
Bombus lucorum/terrestris	white/buff-tailed bumblebee

OTHER MINIBEASTS

Coccinella 7-punctata	7-spot ladybird
Pisaura mirabilis	nursery-web spider
Cepaea hortensis	white-lipped banded snail
Lasius flavus	yellow meadow ant (hills)
	harlequin ladybird
	soldier beetle
	earwig
	grasshopper

Among birds seen feeding were small flocks of starlings and house martins. A large hole in one dune could be a fox-earth.

Proper invertebrate and bird species are desirable

(2) HARRISON PARK

Ideas to improve the attractiveness of the Park to people and wildlife, especially pollinators.

Friends of Harrison Park and Hilary Ash, Wirral Wildlife
from visits on 12/5/2015, 24/7/2015.

Park description:

Harrison Park is an area of relic sand dunes, cut off from the sea late in the 19th century, as the railway and Wallasey Embankment were built. It retains high dunes (sand-hills - Area A in species data), but these are aging and characteristic sand dune flora is restricted to small patches. However a relatively good number of species remain (see species lists, where they are underlined). There is an area of mixed scrub near Sandcliffe Road (Area B). The dune areas are not managed except to maintain the surfaced paths and seats, and mow a strip either side of the paths (about 1.5m wide).

There are formal sports areas (football, bowls, tennis) on the flat areas (area E), a children's play area, and formal amenity grass around the entrances,

especially on the Harrison Drive side. Small amounts of shrubbery are maintained around the bowling greens.

Formal tree planting includes an avenue from Harrison Road, a small recent rose bed, holm oaks planted along the Harrison Road boundary, and pollarded trees (sycamore and one lime) alongside the boundary with housing in Spring Vale.

The Park is well-used by local people for sports, dog walking and general recreation.

Botanical surveys were done on 15 May 2015 and 24 July 2015. The overall impression of the Park is of grass but relatively few flowers.

Ideas: (in no particular order). As with all parks, amenity and wildlife have to be balanced with the needs of the various users and the practicalities of what resources are available. **1) Daffodils** on grasslands by entrance from Harrison Drive.

A good idea from the Friends. Preferably, plant blocks of several different varieties, chosen to flower at different times to give a long flowering period through March-April. Avoid double-flowered varieties, which usually do not provide nectar and pollen to invertebrates. Choose fairly tall varieties (at least 30cm) to compete successfully with the grass. Arrange with the gardener that the daffodil areas are not mown until 6 weeks after the flowers fade. See if any buttercups flower in the bulb areas during this period - if not, it may be worth introducing some buttercups to give a second show of flower. Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* (readily available) or Bulbous Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus* (harder to find commercially, but there are some on the lower slopes of the sand hills from which seed could be collected to grow on). If this goes well, consider planting crocuses, on the formal mown grass areas near the entrances.

Planting season August-October.

Pollinators: one key problem in our current landscape is ensuring supplies of nectar and pollen throughout the seasons when pollinators are active (March-September). This is particularly important for bumble bees (and honey bees) which are active all season. Since most pollinators fly, they will source from the local landscape as well as the park, so local gardens contribute, including shrubs and trees. The impression is that spring sources in May were quite good, and daffodils will help extend that season back into early spring. Building up more flowers in summer would make the park more attractive then, to people and wildlife.

Ways to do that:

2) Quite a good range of sand dune flowers persist in small patches eg bird's-foot trefoil, kidney vetch, rest-harrow, wild carrot, ladies bedstraw, hare-foot clover. However much of the sandhills are covered in thick tall grassland (false-oat, cocksfoot, couch), where it would be difficult to establish wild flowers. The management of areas like this is a subject of debate in conservation circles (not least between Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England over our Red Rocks reserve) and guidance may emerge in the medium term. Meanwhile, **wild flower planting** is best concentrated in areas of lower soil fertility, marked by lots of ribwort plantain. A suitable trial area

exists just behind the Japanese knotweed. Wildflower seed scattered into existing vegetation does not establish well. The recommended technique (see Landlife's Wildflower catalogue) is to clear small areas (about 0.5m x 0.5m) of surface vegetation and roots. Plant in 4-5 wildflower plants. The cleared area gives the plants time to establish before the grasses and other species grow back. On this sand, with low soil fertility, it may be worth trying clearing small patches and sowing a few wild flower seeds. See what happens!

Wild flower plants can be bought (see Suppliers, below) or, more cheaply, grown by volunteers from seed. Small quantities of seed can be bought from Landlife and other suppliers, grown up in pots to about 6 leaves, then planted out in March or September. On these sandy soils, some water in dry spells in the first few weeks after planting might be useful.

Visit Court Hey Park, Broad Green, Liverpool (National Wildflower Centre) to see what can be gradually achieved in a typical urban park (though on rather different soils).

Suitable species:

Autumnal hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*

Field scabious *Knautia arvensis*

Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*

Meadow cranesbill *Geranium pratense*

Ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*

St John's wort *Hypericum perforatum*

White campion *Silene alba* = *S. latifolia*

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

or collect seed from any of the flowers on site and try growing it up.

Another possibility is to try yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) on a small area. Sow seed in August-September in areas with smaller grasses. This hemi-parasite feeds on the grasses and reduces their vigour, allowing more space for wild flowers. It is also attractive to bees.

3) Consider making some raised **planters** for around the entrances/football pavilion/formal areas and planting these with culinary herbs eg thyme, perennial marjoram, chives, rosemary, mint, sage. Friends of Warwick Park, Upton have done this. Also Incredible Edible Hoylake in various locations (see Contacts). Herbs can be cheaply bought as small plants from garden centres, or raised from seed or cuttings as appropriate. Raised beds are good items for sponsorship by local businesses/community organisations, as they can have a small plaque attached to publicise the sponsor. Some maintenance of the planting is needed, so willing volunteers have to be available.

4) Consider planting some **flowering shrubs** along edges where gardens abut the park, to soften the visual impact of the fences and provide summer nectar and pollen. Talk to the gardener about planting and the small amount of maintenance needed (cutting back if they get straggly)

Suitable species include:

Lavender
Hebe (summer-flowering cultivars or *H. brachysiphon*)
Cistus (lots of cultivars)
Tree lupin *Lupinus arboreus*
Daisy bush *Olearia haastii*
Spiraea - *S. bumalda*, *S. billardii* are summer-flowering

Pollinators also need areas to **shelter** in bad weather, to hibernate in winter, and to breed. Harrison Park should be good for these purposes, as it has

- * sandy soil, which allows burrowing (especially where light trampling makes "open" vegetation with sand showing between the plants),
- * areas of natural shrubs (including sand dune species such as creeping willow, dewberry and burnet rose).
- * long grass on the sandhills.
- * tall herbs and grass on the strip between the car park and the railway

Ideas:

5) Leave the **existing shrub** areas to develop naturally, including possibly some gradual spread.

NB hybrid willow, *Salix x friesiana*, a cross between creeping willow and common osier. About 15 bushes grow in Harrison Park, some near the poplars and the rest in the area near Sandcliffe Road. It grows to maximum 2m high, forming spreading bushes not trees. Eric F Greenwood (retired Director of Liverpool World Museum and our local expert taxonomist) has checked the identification and is very keen that these bushes are preserved. This is a very rare hybrid, whose world population is mainly in north-west England. The North Wirral dunes have the 2nd largest population in the world (after Sefton coast)! It reproduces from fertile seed, so should probably be classified as a species once the taxonomy is sorted out (there is a similar and even rarer hybrid which might be also present at Harrison Park). The Harrison Park population is at least 15 plants, a significant number. Eric Greenwood is currently studying these plants and intends marking some next spring with coloured tape, to be able to compare catkins and mature leaves at different times of year. No management action needed - just do not remove any low-growing willows. If one is obstructing a path, it can be cut back in winter like any other deciduous willow.

On the dune nearest the football field is a small patch of creeping willow.

6) **Gorse** (*Ulex europaeus*) occurs in a few places. This is a good wildlife plant, with nectar-rich spring flowers and spiny stems, which support spiders and shelter small birds from predators. However, it gradually grows tall and leggy and then becomes fire-prone. Consider cutting to ground level about a fifth of the gorse each year, so that it regrows from the base as fresh stems. Cut the oldest stands first. If fires do occur, then take that into account and reduce/miss a cut to keep the cycle going. Cut in September-December. Disposal of the cuttings can be a problem - discuss this with Wirral BC staff.

7) If any tree dies, then try to retain at least the bigger pieces of wood on site, by putting them in the scrub areas as small piles ("**habitat piles**"). These will

provide more shelter/hibernation spaces, and also support the invertebrates that live on dead wood eg many beetles. School children much enjoy making "**bug hotels**" from pallets, dead wood, pine cones, packing material, hollow stems, straw etc.. If the idea appeals, try having several, some in shade and some in sun.

8) Japanese Knotweed. There is a legal duty on the council to control this invasive species, but also financial constraints on how much they can do. Cutting it will eventually weaken it, but takes many years, and it keeps spreading out along the edge of the cut to colonise new areas, especially on sandy soils. The only effective treatment at present is glyphosate-based herbicide (a biological control is being trialed). Wirral BC is currently treating large stands at Walker Park, Prenton. A 3-year programme is needed, spraying or injecting the herbicide during the active growing season (May-August). See guidance on Environment Agency website.

Other invasive species:

Sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*. A couple of bushes grow in the shrub area near Sandcliffe Road. This species is seriously invasive on sand and changes the soil by fixing nitrogen. Consider removing.

Japanese Rose *Rosa rugosa* is growing by the bowling greens. This can be seriously invasive on sand, so any plants that appear elsewhere on the park should be promptly removed.

9) Black poplars planted on slopes overlooking the bowling greens are back-cross hybrids (3 parts native, 1 part American). A few are dead or partly-dead, providing the only dead wood in the park and therefore probably valuable to invertebrates.

Under and around the poplars is the only place where Irish ivy (invasive - may need to be kept in check), Jack-by-the-hedge, cleavers, crow garlic and sweet vernal-grass were found. Perching birds probably increase the soil fertility here. On this exposed coast they will not make tall trees as they do inland, but this is one of the few trees species that will grow in these conditions. If these specimens die, it would be good to replace with the native (Hoylake Allotment Society has been propagating the tree, and Chester Zoo also do so. Ask Hilary Ash, who belongs for to the Cheshire Black Poplar biodiversity Actions Group, if action becomes necessary).

Nearby to seaward are a small area of burnet rose and 8 bushes or a hybrid willow, probably a cross with the native creeping willow? Eric F Greenwood to check the identification.

Around these black poplars, garden escape Irish ivy has taken over the ground flora. This should not be allowed to spread further, but removing it is a big task and probably not a priority.

10) Area C: STRIP BETWEEN CAR PARK AND RAILWAY. Tall grasses, tall herb, garden escapes and a few sand dune species (notably, burnet saxifrage) on a strip of relatively fertile, unmanaged ground. This adjoins similar habitat within the railway fence. This habitat is providing shelter for invertebrates, nectar and pollen, small mammal habitat and sunny nettle beds

for butterflies such as small tortoiseshell to breed. It can be left alone to continue to provide these services. Cinnabar moth are breeding on the ragwort, and gatekeeper and meadow brown butterflies were seen, probably breeding. Habitat piles of dead wood or bug hotels could be made here.

11) Area D: SLOPE BETWEEN CAR PARK AND PLAYING FIELD

A narrow strip of unmanaged habitat, with tall herb similar to parts of (C), but primarily dominated by stinging nettle. This indicates fertile soil. Small tortoiseshell butterflies are breeding here, possibly other species such as peacock.

This area can also be left alone for shelter and nectar/pollen.

Hilary Ash MA, PhD, MCIEEM
Hon Conservation Officer
Wirral Wildlife
The Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust
13 November 2015

Contacts:

Seeds:

Landlife and National Wildflower Centre www.wildflower.org.uk and www.nwc.org.uk

This are our local wildflower seed supplier, growing the seed in St Helens, so we start here. If they cannot supply a particular species, then suppliers for seed (and wildflower plants) can be found via www.flora-locale.org (look for advice sheet on suppliers).

Incredible Edible Hoylake - Rose Chandler and colleagues at Hoylake Allotments HoylakeAllotment@aol.com
Walker Park, Prenton - John Martin
Warwick park, Upton - Joan Wilkinson, 677-3856

Funding: Community Action Wirral is a good source of advice:
www.caw.org.uk

Environment Agency for Japanese Knotweed advice
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

