

Thornton Hough Village Green Management Plan

2011 - 2021
(Updated January 2019)



Parks and Countryside Service
Wirral Council

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1. Introduction

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of the Village Green. 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:

Telephone Number **0151 606 2004**

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or write to:

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2. Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Delivery 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)
- Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, 2014 – 2024
- Wirral Plan 2020
- Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016)

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 sets out a series of 20 pledges which the council and partners will work to achieve by 2020, focusing on three key themes:

- protecting the most vulnerable
- driving economic growth
- improving the local environment

To find out more information about the 20/20 vision visit:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/wirral-plan-2020-vision>

2.2. Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

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/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-development-and-maintenance>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to attract and retain investment in the borough through provision of 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. 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.

3. Thornton Hough Village Green

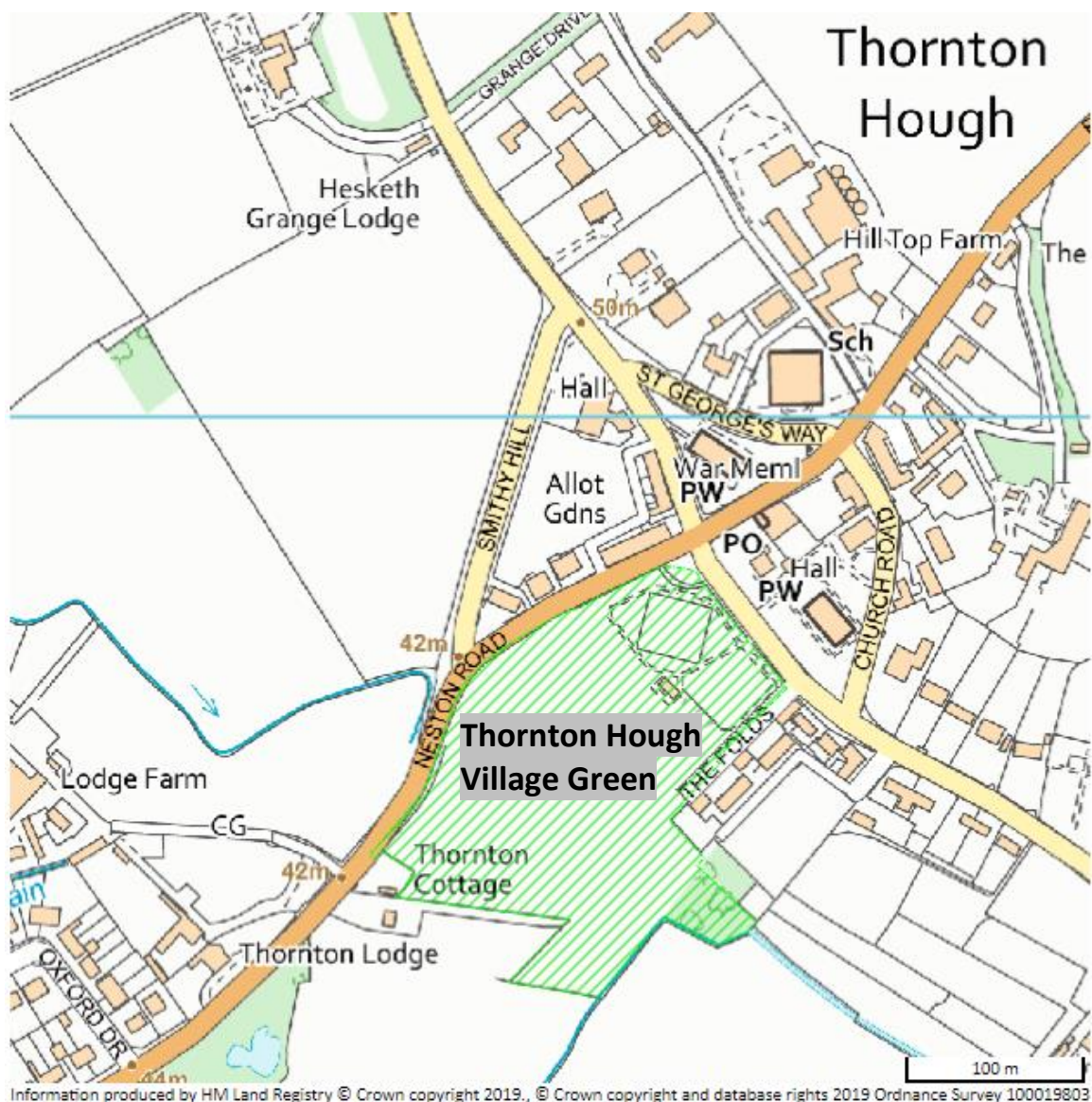
3.1. Description and location

Name: Thornton Hough Village Green

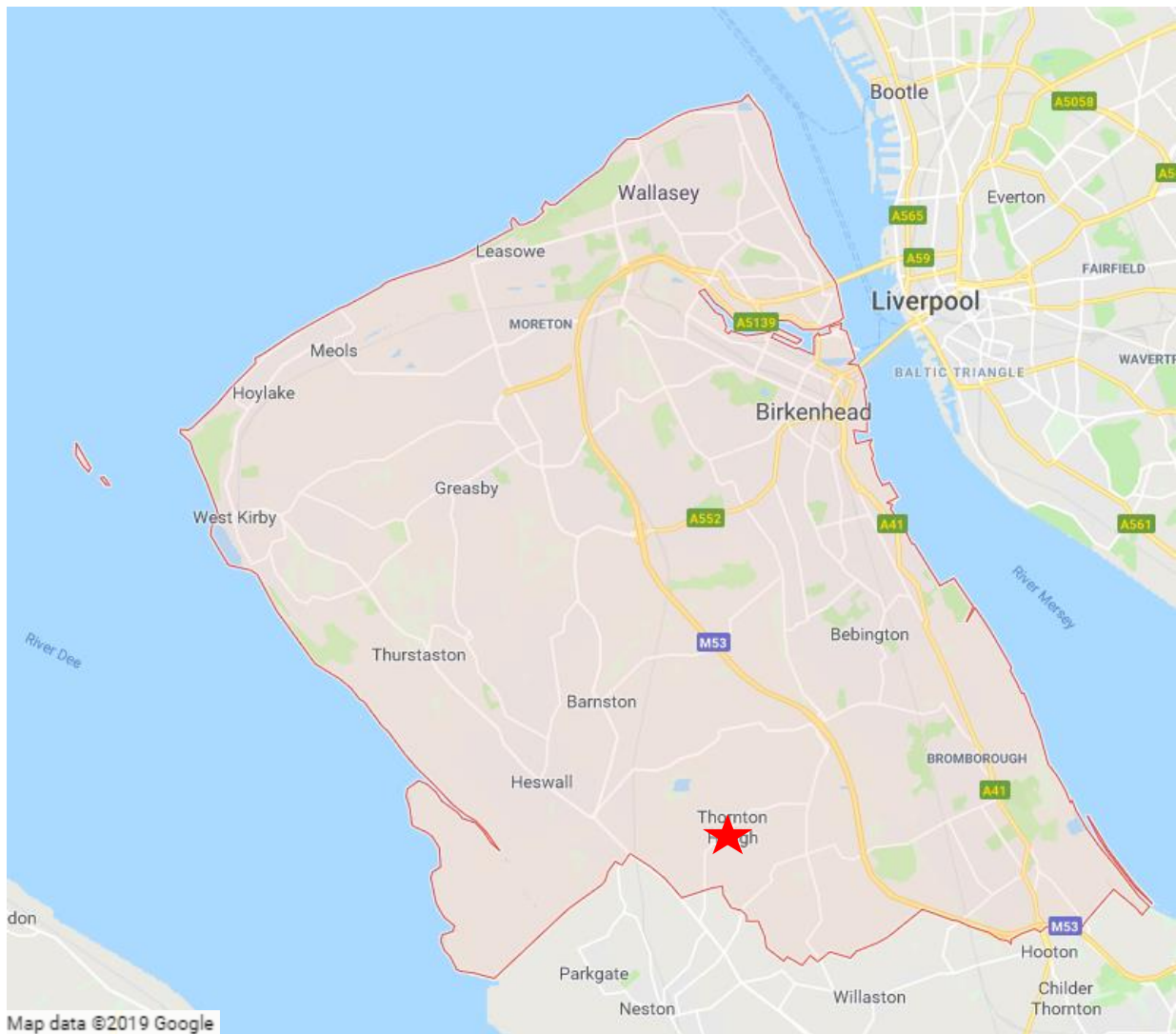
Typology: Local Park

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:



Thornton Hough Village Green location



Thornton Hough Village Green (marked as red star) in the Wirral Peninsula.

Grid Reference: 330273, 380768

Address: Neston Road, Thornton Hough, Wirral

Primary classification: Local Park

Ward: Clatterbridge

Size: 3.30 Hectares

The site is the traditional 'village green' for the country village of Thornton Hough and forms a focal point for the community's outdoor activities. It provides a venue for soccer, cricket, tennis and children's play and has a picturesque half timbered, thatched roofed pavilion. Informal recreational activities such as dog walking and ball games are also very popular and locally organised events take place on a regular basis. Characterful buildings surround the green, ranging from ornate red brick cottages to black and white half-timbered tudor style terraces. These provide a scenic backdrop.

3.2. Facilities and features

Thornton Hough Village Green has the following main features and facilities:

- Junior football pitch
- Artificial cricket wicket
- Two tennis courts
- Children's play area
- Sports pavilion
- Lychgate
- Mature tree stock
- Seating



Features and facilities at Thornton Hough Village Green.

Symbol	Description
	Football
	Car Parking
	Tennis
	Cricket
	Pavilion
	Public WC
	Picnic/Seating
	Children's Play Area

Key of facilities and features

3.3. Tenure

Thornton Hough Village Green is owned and managed by Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Delivery Services Department.

The thatched pavilion and lychgate are the responsibility of the Asset Management section within Wirral Council.

The car park is the responsibility of the Parking Services section of Wirral Council's Regeneration and Environment Department.

The toilets situated within the car park are the responsibility of the Environmental Health section of Wirral Council's Regeneration and Environment Department.

3.4. Users of the park

The park has a wide user demographic including:

- Families and children
- Local residents
- Youth groups
- Play area users
- Dog walkers
- Sporting groups (football, tennis, cricket)
- Recreational users
- Friends activities/volunteering
- Joggers
- Picnics
- Community events

3.5. Partner Organisations

- Thornton Hough Community Trust
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team
- Football and cricket clubs who use the green
- Wirral classic car club

3.6. Designations

Thornton Hough Village Green is located inside Thornton Hough conservation area, one of 26 such areas found across the Wirral. A Conservation Area is defined in section 69 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Area) Act 1990 as 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'.

For more information see:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/built-conservation/conservation-areas/thornton-hough-conservation-area>

3.7. History

At the time of the Norman Conquest the village was called Toritone. During the reign of Edward II the land was owned by Roger de Thornton, his only daughter married Richard de Hough thereby establishing the village's current name. By the beginning of the 19th Century, the village with a population of just 165 formed part of the great Neston Estate owned by Baron Mostyn of Mostyn in Flint. Broken up into separate lots, the village and surrounding land was sold at auction in 1849.

Thornton Hough as we see it today is, almost entirely, less than a hundred years old. Note this description of the place as seen by a traveller in 1847: 'the village presents a very unpleasant appearance, and though it possesses a few tolerably good houses, the greater portion is of a very inferior description'. Into this poor Cheshire village came, first, Joseph Hirst, a retired woollen merchant from Huddersfield, Yorkshire. Between 1866 and 1875 he built the parish church, the vicarage, church school, and the group of cottages and shops behind the church. These and other changes caused a later traveller to remark, 'Thornton Hough presents a collection of mansions and villas second to none in the Wirral Hundred'. Yet the biggest change was still to come, and all to do with soap!

In 1888 William Lever, the first Viscount Leverhulme, moved into Thornton Manor, a large mansion on the outskirts of Thornton Hough. He was famous for transforming the Port Sunlight soap factory and building the model estate for his workers. Over the next few years he purchased much of the village and surrounding land in Thornton Hough. He soon set about knocking down the old buildings and in their place building houses similar in architectural style to those at Port Sunlight. He also built a school, a girl's orphanage, shops, a club, and a village smithy, complete with spreading chestnut tree. The Congregational church, built in imitation Norman style, was commissioned by Lever, who insisted that no expense be spared in its design and erection.

The village green transferred to municipal ownership, Cheshire Local Authority, during the 1930's. This became Bebington Municipal Borough Council in 1937 and Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council in 1974, following local government re-organisation.

4. Green Flag Assessment

The intention is for the village green to continue to meet the standards as defined by the Green Flag Award Scheme; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.uk.

Thornton Hough Village Green has been awarded a Green Flag every year since the first application in 2004. We believe it was the first village green to receive the award.



Green Flag raising ceremony

The following actions previously identified for the Thornton Hough Village Green have been achieved recently:

- Tennis court surface binding and painting ✓
- New noticeboard installed ✓
- Picnic benches and seats installed ✓
- Bulb planting ✓
- Car park fencing replaced and timber bollards installed ✓
- Rowan tree planting (memorial tree) ✓
- Continue to improve the flagging and tiling to the pavilion frontage in phases ✓

4.1. Assessment Criteria

The following Green Flag assessment criteria are used as a focus for the future development of the green:

- 1) A welcoming place
- 2) Healthy, safe and secure
- 3) Well maintained and clean
- 4) Environmental management
- 5) Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
- 6) Community involvement
- 7) Marketing and communication
- 8) Management

Thornton Hough Village Green action plan can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

4.2. Assessment

4.2.1. A Welcoming Place

Thornton Hough is a designated Conservation Area and is one of the most attractive villages in Wirral. The village green is open and is surrounded by characterful buildings ranging from ornate red brick cottages to black and white half-timbered Tudor style terraces. It provides a venue for football, cricket, tennis, dog walking and a children's play area, with locally organised events taking place on a regular basis.

Good and Safe Access for all

The main entrance is situated on Raby Road and is distinguished by a commemorative oak built lychgate. Further entrances on The Folds and Neston Road, where the green can be accessed at most points along the road boundary. A small public car park with toilet facilities is located on Neston Road. On road parking is available to visitors on Raby Road.

For vehicular access Thornton Hough village is signposted from junction 4 of the M53 motorway and from the Chester High Road (A540) at its junction with Parkgate Lane and Neston Road. The village is also signposted from nearby roads.

For pedestrians tarmac surfaced footpaths extend from the main entrances through the upper section of the green. Access through the site is suitable for wheelchair users.

Seating is located throughout the site with three picnic tables are located at the lower end of the green. The seating is currently not of a uniform style, with future consideration given to standardising the design style as seats are replaced.

Numerous litterbins are located throughout and the design has been standardised over the last few years following Green Flag judges' comments.

The Wirral cycle route runs past the green along Neston Road. It is an aspiration to have secure cycle parking installed surrounding the green, with the feasibility and possible locations drawn up in 2019.

Entrances and signage

Raby Road entrance:

A lychgate constructed from dressed sandstone blocks and green oak with traditional wrought iron fixtures under a slate roof defines the main entrance to the green. This was built as a memorial to Lord Leverhulme and is situated directly opposite the parish church of All Saints. There is a noticeboard at this location, which provides details on the Green Flag award, community information, local activities, contact names and telephone numbers. A new noticeboard was installed here in 2019, with all material and information due to be moved from the old noticeboard in early 2019.



Raby Road entrance



New noticeboard 2019 (in progress of moving all materials from old to new board)

Neston Road / Raby Road entrance:

This attractive entrance, forming part of the adopted highway external to the site, is surfaced using York stone paving and herringbone pattern block work. Two seats are set amongst annual bedding with a backdrop of escallonia and hawthorn hedging. There is an oak and scrolled ironwork signpost commemorating Thornton Hough's success in the national best-kept village championship.



Neston Road / Raby Road entrance

Neston Road entrance:

This entrance is adjacent to a small car park and is well used, mainly by dog walkers and picnickers. The gravel car park and public toilets here are managed by the Environmental Health Section of the Regeneration Department and not the Parks and Countryside Service. The toilets are open for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Signage informing the public to 'clean up' after their pets is in place. The provision of a notice board should be considered for this entrance.



Neston Road entrance

The Folds entrance:

This entrance is adjacent to The Folds, a private road. The green is open along the length of The Folds with unauthorised vehicle access being prevented by a row of timber bollards.



The Folds entrance

Public toilet provision

Public toilets are located in the car park just off Neston road, and are maintained by the Environmental Department at Wirral Council.

4.2.2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

This management plans details ways in which the council and its partners endeavour to keep the park and surrounding areas safe, secure and of good quality.

Parks staff undertake daily patrols, reporting any issues or problems to the Local Team Leader. Members of the 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.

Control of dogs and dog fouling

The village green is very popular with dog walkers, with the vast majority presenting no issue to the park or its users. However, we know from the evidence produced from the Wirral Parks Survey (2012) that a dog fouling and dogs off leads are a major concern for park users in Wirral.

In response to concerns raised the park has signs at the entrances indicating that 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. All children's play areas are designated as 'dog free' areas.

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. Enforcement officers from Wirral Council working in partnership with Kingdom Security, environmental protection division will issue a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice to anyone caught not cleaning up after their dog.

For further information visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/dog-fouling>

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council's Community Patrol is established to provide a 24 hour response to any concerns notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol provides a reactive response to calls from the public and Council staff and generally they do not undertake routine patrolling. Problems of a persistent or on-going nature however can be raised with the team. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 0151 666 5265.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the Area Parks Manager.

Play area

The play area is enclosed and is designated as dog free; signs to this effect are attached at the two entrance points into the area.

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



Signage surrounding the play area



Thornton Hough Village Green Children's Play Area

The children's play area is inspected daily by parks staff and each week by a dedicated play area safety inspection team. During the inspection 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

Play areas shall be inspected, maintained and repaired to ensure that they are safe and all equipment is in working order in accordance with the relevant British Standard or other relevant standard. Refer to British Standard EN1176 Part 1-7 and 1177 of Accidents R.P.I.I (register of play inspectors international LTD) for guidance on all aspects of play area and play equipment maintenance.

This information is available from <http://www.playinspectors.com/>

The play area also has an independent annual recorded inspection by R.P.I.I or similar accredited organisation. The inspection is a full mechanical and physical examination, which includes a risk assessment and indicates compliance with the Equality Act

Maintenance work is only carried out by R.P.I.I (register of play inspectors international LTD).

Minor repairs and adjustments shall be carried out to play equipment, gates and safety surfacing to ensure that they are safe and usable at all times. Any play equipment, gates and safety surfacing that cannot be repaired immediately shall be made safe until an effective repair is undertaken.

Major repairs identified during the inspection shall be reported immediately to the Service Manager.

Infrastructure

The pavilion is kept locked at all times, and is only unlocked when in use by the sporting teams

4.2.3. Well maintained and Clean

Parks staff undertake regular patrols and make note of any minor maintenance issues as they arise. The Local Team Leader prepares a programme of 'winter-works' to be undertaken each year by the grounds maintenance team.

The program is based upon the general service requirement ([Appendix 2](#))

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

- Paths, steps, ramps
- Walls, fences, gates
- Buildings
- Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins
- Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features
- Trees

Any problems are highlighted to the Local Team Leader and the work is either assigned to the park staff or to our asset management team (who appoints a contractor).

Litter and Waste Management

There are 12 litterbins situated around the site, with the hotspots being around the picnic benches (especially in the summer months) and in the bins surrounding the children's play area.

A mobile team in parks staff empty bins at least once a week, with more visits in the warmer months as visitor numbers increase. Litter inspections are undertaken on a daily basis by members of the park staff. In addition all members of parks staff are prepared to pick up litter as and when they see it.

Any reports of littering or fly tipping are dealt with as soon as possible by the parks staff.

Horticultural maintenance

This is carried out in accordance with the 'Parks and Countryside Green Service Requirement' ([Appendix 2](#)).

A mobile team of gardeners maintain the green to a high standard and undertake a range of grounds maintenance operations including grass cutting, annual bedding and shrub bed maintenance, sports pitch maintenance, hedge cutting and litter removal.

Tractor mounted equipment undertakes mowing to the larger grass areas and surface management operations to the football pitch and cricket square.

A forestry team visits the green in order to undertake seasonal specialist tree work.

Arboricultural Maintenance

Tree safety inspections are conducted based on the parks and countryside's tree policy ([Appendix 3](#)).

Potentially hazardous trees are identified and reported to the Local Team Leader, whereupon urgent safety work is carried out directly as required. Conservation and amenity tree work is

carried out where resources allow, as part of the winter works programme. In addition individual property owners who neighbour the site may make occasional demands for tree pruning.

Wirral Council's grounds maintenance team undertake a programme of seasonal tree work related to tree safety and responds to emergencies.

Infrastructure Maintenance

Graffiti is removed immediately by patrolling staff or volunteers on site wherever possible. Any more difficult instances of graffiti are reported via the 'Streetscene' helpline run by the Council's waste department. This helpline is also available to the public. Priority is given to offensive material. For more details see [Appendix 2](#).

Football pitches are in regular use through the season. The cricket wicket is used informally by cricket clubs as a practice venue or for non-professional games. The junior football pitch and the artificial cricket wicket are in reasonable condition and are maintained by the parks staff.

The surfaces of the tennis courts have been cleaned; bound, coated, remarked and turned through 90° in 2011 resulting in an improved playing surface and appearance. In the summer months the courts are well used.

Thornton Hough Community Trust has purchased flower bulbs for planting with 3000 native bluebells and 10,000 daffodils being planted.

Drainage problems occur on the playing field at the lower end of the site and flooding can extend to a large area.



The Village Green in early spring

4.2.4. Environmental Management

Wirral parks and countryside team put sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery. We seek to have a positive impact on the environment, both now and for the future. Our key commitments are:

- Improve our sustainable performance
- Comply with environmental legislation
- Purchase sustainably
- Use natural resources sustainably
- Travel sustainably
- Minimise waste
- Manage land sustainability
- Raise Awareness
- Work in partnership

These key commitments are adhered to in all of Wirral Council's parks, including Thornton Hough Village Green.

For full details of the sustainability aims see [Appendix 4](#).

Peat Usage

Annual Bedding for the green is bought in and is produced, to the Council's specification, using compost that is 100% peat free. Peat is not used in any other capacity within the green.

Green Waste

Green waste generated at the green is removed to Warren Farm depot where it is composted or chipped and stored for future re-use. Tree brash resulting from tree work is chipped and stored at Warren Farm depot for reuse. Grass is cut once a week, so grass cuttings are minimal and left in situ.

Chemical Usage

Herbicide usage is restricted to non-residual herbicide for the control of weed growth (only when deemed necessary) and selective herbicide for turf treatment on the football pitch and cricket outfield. Efforts to curtail usage are ongoing with an agreement in 2019 to reduce the width of spraying undertaken.

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

Energy and Water

The only areas which have water and energy access are the pavilion and the toilets. The pavilion is only used when a sports team uses the facility (at most twice a week), so water and electric usage is minimal for the site. Water and energy consumption is monitored to minimise wastage and achieve economies in usage.

Tractors and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Climate Change Adaption

Wirral Borough Council has a climate change adaption strategy, which has two main goals:

- to substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral
- to adapt Wirral to unavoidable climate change

The strategy and yearly progress reports are available here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-climate-change-strategy> .

The progress report for 2018 can be found [here](#).

Climate projections foresee that long-lasting dry and hot conditions (like we saw in 2018) are set to increase in frequency and intensiveness. Therefore one example of how Thornton Hough is adapting to climate change is by choosing plants or flowering plants in areas of new planting that are more tolerant of drought conditions.

4.2.5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Thornton Hough is well-used by visitors, and an important part of the work of the team is to balance the needs of recreation with the conservation of the park's habitat and heritage.

Heritage

The village green has the following main heritage features:

- Lychgate entrance arch via Raby Road entrance
- Historical buildings and surrounding architectural heritage.
- Mature tree stock

Thornton Hough village, including the Village Green, is designated a Conservation Area by Wirral Council's Planning Department. It is one of the twenty-six Conservation Areas in the Borough. This status recognises the significance of the village's special architectural heritage. Forty of the village properties were listed Grade II in 1986.

Thornton Hough village is historically significant, built to form a part of the estate of the former Lord Leverhulme, with the intention of housing the estate's workforce. The village consists of a fine example of mixed architectural styles with construction dating from the turn of the century. The building styles are full of character and range from ornate red brick cottages to black and white two and three storey half-timbered Tudor style terraces. Two fine sandstone churches, the village school, a public house and the village smithy also compliment the village. They all combine to present a quintessential English village setting.



View across the Green

Thornton Hough village achieved the national award of best-kept village in the 'Championship Class' during the years 1964, 1968 and 1973. It was awarded 'Class winner' in 1959, 1963 and 1972. The awards are proudly commemorated on a prominent sign surrounded by scrolled wrought iron work atop an oak post situated at the junction of Raby Road and Neston Road. The sign requires refurbishment (see action plan in [Appendix 1](#)).

Thornton Hough Community Trust has a conservation committee, which is made up of trust members and ward Councillors. Issues affecting the village such as planning applications are considered by the committee.

The black and white half-timbered, thatched roofed sports pavilion is a prominent feature on the green. It has a sandstone wall surround and steps leading to the playing field. The roof was re-thatched by Wirral Council during March 2003. The surfacing surrounding the pavilion requires attention.

All trees on the green are protected by preservation orders under the Conservation Area status afforded to the village. To the south of the green the boundary abutting neighbouring farm land consists of a mixture of mature native species deciduous trees which present a back drop to the green. Tree planting to the upper area of the green consists of individual ornamental specimens. A survey of condition and requirements is carried out annually.

The lychgate entrance contributes considerably to the green's ongoing heritage. It is important to retain and maintain the current features on the green. The Lychgate is scheduled for renovation in 2019.

Biodiversity

The village green is predominantly formal and dominated by grass, with predominantly deciduous trees on the site. All trees on the village green and surrounding area are protected by preservation orders under the Conservation Area status afforded to the village. As the trees mature they are regularly surveyed by a certified contractor to assess their danger, with any work needed undertaken immediately.

Tree planting occurs to largely replace old stock, or in areas deemed to be in need of more trees. Native trees are predominantly chosen, due to their superior biodiversity value. A review of the trees chosen by the Council is due to take place in 2019, with more consideration placed upon choosing native trees that are able to withstand changing climatic conditions that the UK will be facing in future years. A Rowan tree (*Sorbus aucuparia*) was planted as a memorial tree on the village green in January 2019



Rowan tree planted by two members of the parks team in 2019

Areas of long grass on the eastern side of the green help support biodiversity. In 2019 a review by the Biodiversity Officer alongside parks grounds maintenance staff will take place in order to look at implementing larger no-cut areas to promote wildflower growth, helping to support invertebrate, mammals and bird species.

4.2.6. Community Involvement

Stakeholders, partners, volunteers and friends are an integral part of the way the Council will take forward the Parks and Countryside Service.

Community Trust

Thornton Hough Community Trust is made up of a membership of local residents and ward councillors from the neighbouring parishes of Thornton Hough, Brimstage, Raby, Raby Mere

and Storeton. It has associated bodies such as the Conservation Committee, the Grants Committee and the Road Safety Committee. The trust group evolved from its original beginning as the Village Millennium Committee in 1998. Members elect a chair, secretary, treasurer and twelve trustees each year.

The Trust has helped to achieve improvements to the green. They have contributed financially towards the refurbishment of the play area, the purchase of flower bulbs, trees, picnic benches and litterbins. In 2018 the Trust has installed a number of lights in the trees, which have been well received by comments on social media. The Parks and Countryside Service will continue to liaise with Thornton Hough Community Trust, resident and user groups.

Wirral's Parks Friends groups are invited to attend a Park's Forum, which is held twice a year. This presents an opportunity for the various groups to meet and share their experiences. Collectively the Friends of Wirral Parks produce a quarterly newsletter with contributions from all friends groups.



Lights installed in 2018/2019 by Thornton Hough Community Trust (Source: Facebook)

Sporting facilities for the Community

The football pitch is available for seasonal hire and currently two local teams are using the facility.

The artificial cricket wicket is the only facility of its kind available for casual hire on a one-off basis in the borough and offers an attractive venue for occasional play to the wider community.



The football and cricket pavilion

The two tennis courts are leased to Thornton Hough Tennis Club and maintained by them in partnership with Wirral Council. Individuals wishing to play can do so by joining the club for an annual fee.

The village school, Thornton Hough Primary School, uses the green for various curriculum activities, such as sport and science and hold their annual Sports Day on the site.



Annual Sports day for Thornton Hough Primary School held on the Village Green

Events

The annual Wirral historic vehicle rally finishes at Thornton Hough Village Green, where crowds gather to admire and judge classic cars. The event is organised by the Wirral classic car club. Information about the event can be found [here](#).



Wirral historic vehicle rally (Source: Wirral Globe)

The site is available for events, such as fetes, festivals or shows. A selection of previous events held at Thornton Hough Village Green is shown below.



*Top image: Folk music concert
Bottom image: Thornton Hough Village fete*

4.2.7. Marketing and communication

Marketing of the park

Thornton Hough Village Green is widely advertised and site information is available across many different platforms:

- Wirral Council website: Includes information on opening hours, facilities, access information, contact details and link to the Green Flag management plan for the site.
- Visit Wirral Website: Wirral's tourism website, which gives details on the history of the area and what activities you can do on the village green and surrounding village. This website gives the park a wider international audience and promotes the parks website.
- Green Flag Award website: Gives a great overview of the site, alongside park facilities and contact details. Allows people to see online that the park has achieved this prestigious award.
- Thornton Hough Community Trust website: Gives latest news and updates alongside details on how people can volunteer or raise money for the trust.
- Thornton Hough Community Trust Facebook page: Gives details of meeting locations, alongside pictures/information on what the trust have achieved in the park.
- Quarterly newsletter produced by the Community trust entitled "The Crow", which raises awareness of issues relating to the village and surrounding area.
- Wirral Globe: Local newspaper and online news. Advertises events such as the historic vehicle rally.
- Noticeboards: Updated regularly it contains community information, interpretative material including maps, forthcoming events and contact information for Wirral Council and user groups.
- Various brochures and guides to Wirral feature Thornton Hough in various capacities and have a positive effect in generating interest and encouraging additional visits to the area.

The green mainly serves the surrounding village community, as was originally intended. Understandably the site has gained considerable popularity with visitors from the wider Wirral area and further afield with visitors attracted to spend their leisure time, encompassing both passive and active recreational pursuits within this very attractive setting.

When considering additional marketing of the green, it is important to balance the potential impact of increasing visitor numbers on the needs of the local community; consequently this is at present intended to be kept to a sustainable level.

The picturesque village green attracts filming opportunities, like in 2017 when filming took place for a biopic about literary great J.R.R Tolkien.



Filming on Thornton Hough Village Green in 2017 (Source: Wirral Globe)

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 survey's findings were incorporated into the Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014-2024, for full details see here:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-development-and-maintenance>

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.

Since then Thornton Hough Village Green has adopted dog control measures such as restricting dogs in the play area and consistent signage on cleaning up after dogs, with adequate bins provided throughout the park. Toilet facilities are available onsite and regularly cleaned/maintained. Event advertising is increasing with council and partners events advertised locally and online on platforms such as Facebook or Visit Wirral.

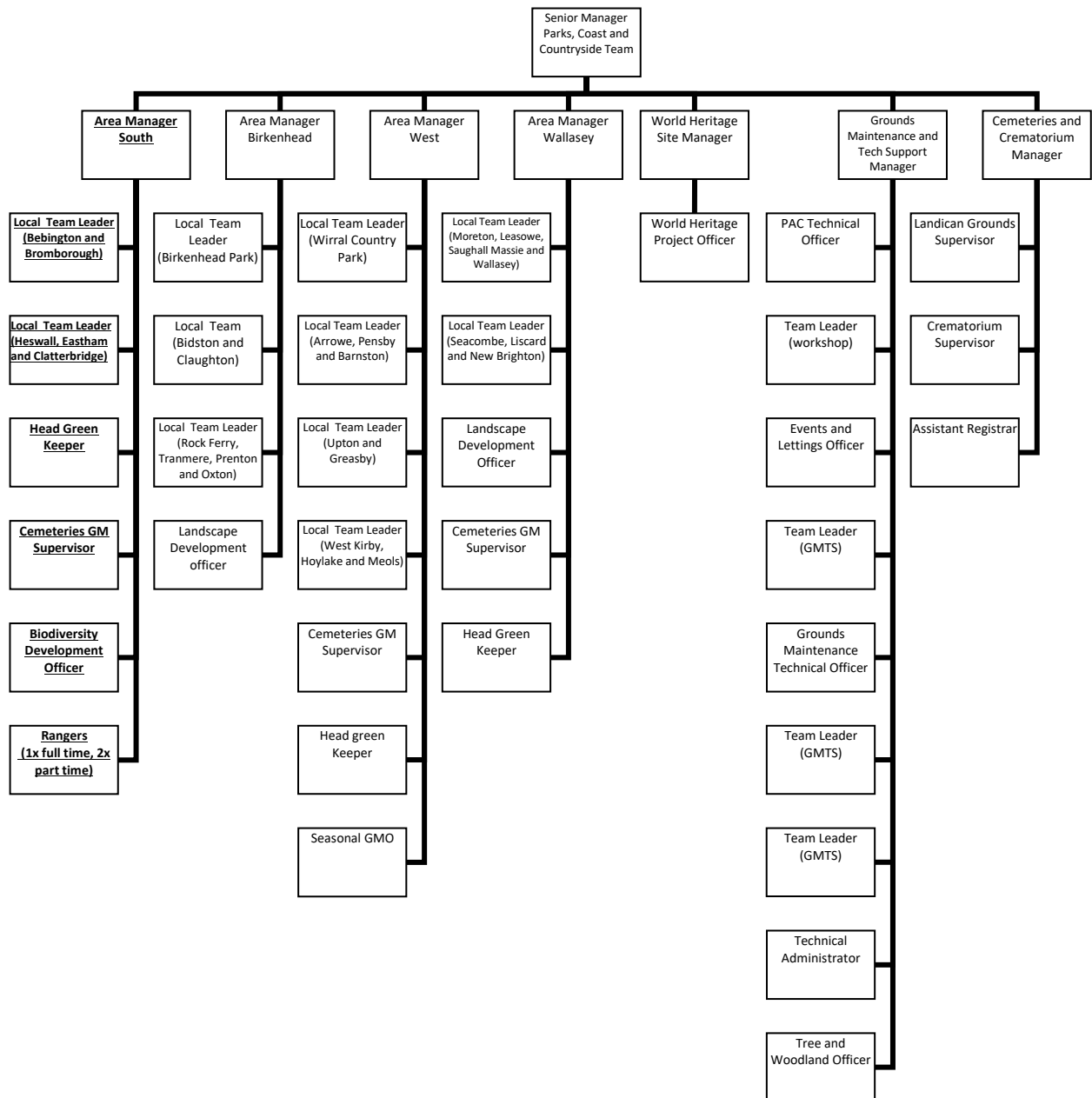
4.2.8. Management

The Local Area Team Leader and Area Parks Manager for Wirral South are responsible for the management and maintenance of the site.

This management plan aims to inform staff and members and the public about the aspirations Wirral Council and The 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.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the Area Parks Manager for Wirral South on: **0151 606 2004**. Email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk



2018/2019 Wirral Parks and Countryside Service organisation chart.
Thornton Hough Village Green falls under South Wirral (underlined).

5. Appendices

Appendix 1: Action Plan

	Action	Lead Officer	Target date	Funding source	Completed
1. A Welcoming Place					
	Investigate and install secure cycle storage	Local Team Leader	2019/2020	To be identified	
	Replace seating	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Wirral Council Donation/ memorial seats	Ongoing
	Renovate Lynch Gate	Local Team Leader	2019	Parks PPM Budget	
	Install new cast iron notice board close to Pavilion	Local Team Leader	2019	Parks PPM Budget	√ 2018
	Update and install relevant information in the new noticeboard	Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	
	Remove old noticeboard	Local Team Leader/ Grounds Maintenance Team	2019	Within existing resources	
	Refurbish the timber 'Best Kept Village' award sign	Area Parks Manager/ Community Trust	2020/2021	Parks PPM budget	
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure					
	Review of dog fouling and dog control signage	Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	
	Repair sections of path from Raby Road to the tennis courts	Local Team Leader	2019	Parks PPM budget	
	Standardising picnic tables and seating	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Donations/ Parks PPM budget	Ongoing
3. Well Maintained and Clean					
	Dead tree on main field (next to Neston Road) felled as safety concern	Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	
4. Environmental Management					
	Reduce the use of herbicide by reducing width of spray	Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	√2018
	Movement towards drought tolerant plant and bedding species	Local Team Leader	2020	Within existing resources	Ongoing
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage					
	Plant Rowan Tree	Local Team Leader/ Grounds Maintenance Team	2019	Donation as memorial	√ 2019
	Implement larger no-cut areas on the eastern side to promote wildflower growth.	Biodiversity Officer/ Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	

	Improve the flagging and tiling to the pavilion frontage in phases	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	PPM Budget	√2018
	Consider the provision of on-site historical interpretive information	Area manager /Friends	2019/2020	To be identified	
6. Community involvement					
	Regular contact with Village trust to discuss plans and review progress as part of Green Flag re-application process	Area manager/ Village Trust	November/ December annually	Within existing resources	Ongoing
7. Marketing and Communication					
	Continue to promote the site through Council publications and investigate new opportunities	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Promote the use of the artificial surface cricket pitch	Area Parks Manager/ Friends /Village Trust	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Promote memorial trees and seats with new poster added to the noticeboard	Local Team Leader	2019	Within existing resources	
8. Management					
	Enhance branding of the park	Local Team Leader	2019/ 2020	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Ensure that funding is used in ways which supports the special character of the site.	Local Team Leader	Ongoing	Existing resources and any additional funding	Ongoing

Appendix 2: Parks and Countryside Service General Service Requirement

Parks and Countryside Service General Specifications applicable to Thornton Hough Village Green

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 exception 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.

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass

Premium ornamental areas and ornamental areas shall be maintained so that they are substantially free from weeds, coarse grasses, moss and algae by cultural methods and the application of approved pesticides. Cutting machines shall be cylinder type for fine turf maintenance. For premium ornamental areas the arising's shall be boxed off and recycled or reused. For ornamental areas there is no requirement for boxing off arising's.

All premium ornamental and ornamental grass areas shall be maintained within the specified height range:

- Minimum height 8 mm
- Maximum height 15 mm

Premium ornamental and ornamental grass maintenance shall include all necessary:

- pest, disease and weed control
- fertilising
- scarifying
- aeration
- rolling
- irrigation
- seasonal renovation

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 the park.

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 team leader.

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 planting

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.

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

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

Children's play areas

Play areas shall be inspected, maintained and repaired to ensure that they are safe and all equipment is in working order in accordance with the relevant British Standard or other relevant standard.

Refer to British Standard EN1176 Part 1-7 and 1177 and to the RPII (Register of play inspectors international Ltd) for guidance on all aspects of play area and play equipment maintenance; in particular, their information sheets for:

- inspection and maintenance of playgrounds
- regular inspection of playgrounds
- legal aspects of safety

This information is available from <https://www.playinspectors.com/>

Inspection shall be recorded either manually or electronically and logged with the Employer within the week following the inspection. Only trained and competent staff, who have attended a recognised and appropriate course run by RPII or similar training body, shall carry out maintenance operations which shall be undertaken in a safe and thorough manner.

Minor repairs and adjustments shall be carried out to play equipment, gates and safety surfacing to ensure that they are safe and usable at all times including weekends, bank holidays and public holidays. Any play equipment, gates and safety surfacing that cannot be repaired immediately shall be made safe until an effective repair is undertaken.

Minor repairs shall include replacement of swing seats, chain, links, bearings, and loose-fill safety surfacing and rubber tiles.

Major repairs identified during the inspection shall be reported immediately to the Service Manager.

Painted and timber surfaces must be treated on a regular basis to ensure good condition and presentation. This includes all play equipment, gates and furniture.

Arrange for an independent annual recorded inspection of all play areas by RPII or similar accredited organisation. The inspection shall be a full mechanical and physical examination and include a risk assessment for each play area, and indicate compliance with the Equality Act.

Public Safety

Store all equipment and materials in a safe condition and provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.

Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.

Comply with all the responsibilities and requirements on waste collection and disposal.

Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the team leader immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

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 team leader.

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 team leader may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The team leader 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.

Refer to section 'Waste management including recycling of biodegradable waste' (green waste).

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 team leader 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.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/result/?q=trees>

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 3: Parks & Countryside Tree Policy

When considering tree work, whether by inspection or complaint, a number of issues are taken into account. The primary driver for work undertaken on trees will always be health and safety. While the Council would always want to be a good neighbour in terms of managing our tree stock, we do not automatically prune to reduce height, for light, satellite reception or to control leaf fall etc.

- All persons employed to undertake tree work shall be suitably trained and qualified and in possession of the appropriate certification.
- All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010.
- Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses, and all adjacent land, are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees.
- As part of site health and safety inspections, we 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 identified hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.
- Undertake requests for commemorative and other funded tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces to support the renewal of the tree stock, where these requests align with the design of specific parks and green spaces.
- The appropriate Council Officer for each parks and countryside site (usually the Parks, Allotments and Countryside Team Leader for the location) is responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations including tree preservation orders, which would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.
- Before undertaking work, 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 arrangement to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the service manager.
- Any work should include, where appropriate, the removal of stumps and subsequent surface reinstatement.
- Stumps intended for permanent retention to be cut at a specified height and left.
- On completion of all work, the work area will be thoroughly cleaned and left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.
- All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work is to be disposed of. The only exception to this shall be 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 and bridleways.
- There is an emergency call out service which provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs which have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. Incidences of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Appendix 4: Wirral Parks and Countryside Service – Sustainability Key Commitments


WIRRAL PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE TEAM
WIRRAL PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE — SUSTAINABILITY

Aim : Wirral Parks & Countryside teams putting sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery.

Key Commitments:

In all our activities, We will :

- **Improve our sustainable performance** review, annually report, and continually improve our sustainability performance , including progressing on carbon reduction.
- **Comply with environmental legislation,** regulations and relevant codes of practise.
- **Purchase sustainability.** Select and promote goods and services , using purchasing criteria which balance economic, social and environmental factors, requiring our suppliers to address similar issues.
- **Use Natural resources sustainably.** Implement an efficiency programme to reduce energy and water demand and promote and install low carbon technologies in our buildings/ other constructions where possible, requiring contractors to address similar issues e.g. supplier miles, procurement, local labour etc.
- **Travel sustainably .** Encourage sustainable travel by staff, service users, contractors, residents and visitors.
- **Minimise waste.** Reduce, re-use and recycle resources, as far as is practicable, and ensure responsible disposal of all its residual waste.
- **Manage land sustainability.** Protect , conserve and enhance our natural and built environment, safeguarding heritage , enhancing habitats and biodiversity and the amenity value of the parks and countryside.
- **Raise awareness** of this policy and related sustainability issues amongst employees , contractors, service users, residents and visitors.
- **Work In partnership** with other organisations to promote wider responsibility towards sustainability, highlight best practice, share information and encourage joint working.

 **WIRRAL**