

Torr Park Management Plan

2023 - 2028



**Parks and Countryside Service
Wirral Council**

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1. Introduction

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

Telephone number: 0151 606 2004

Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED

2. Wider Policy Context

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

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

- 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%201%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 can be 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. Torr Park

3.1. Description and location

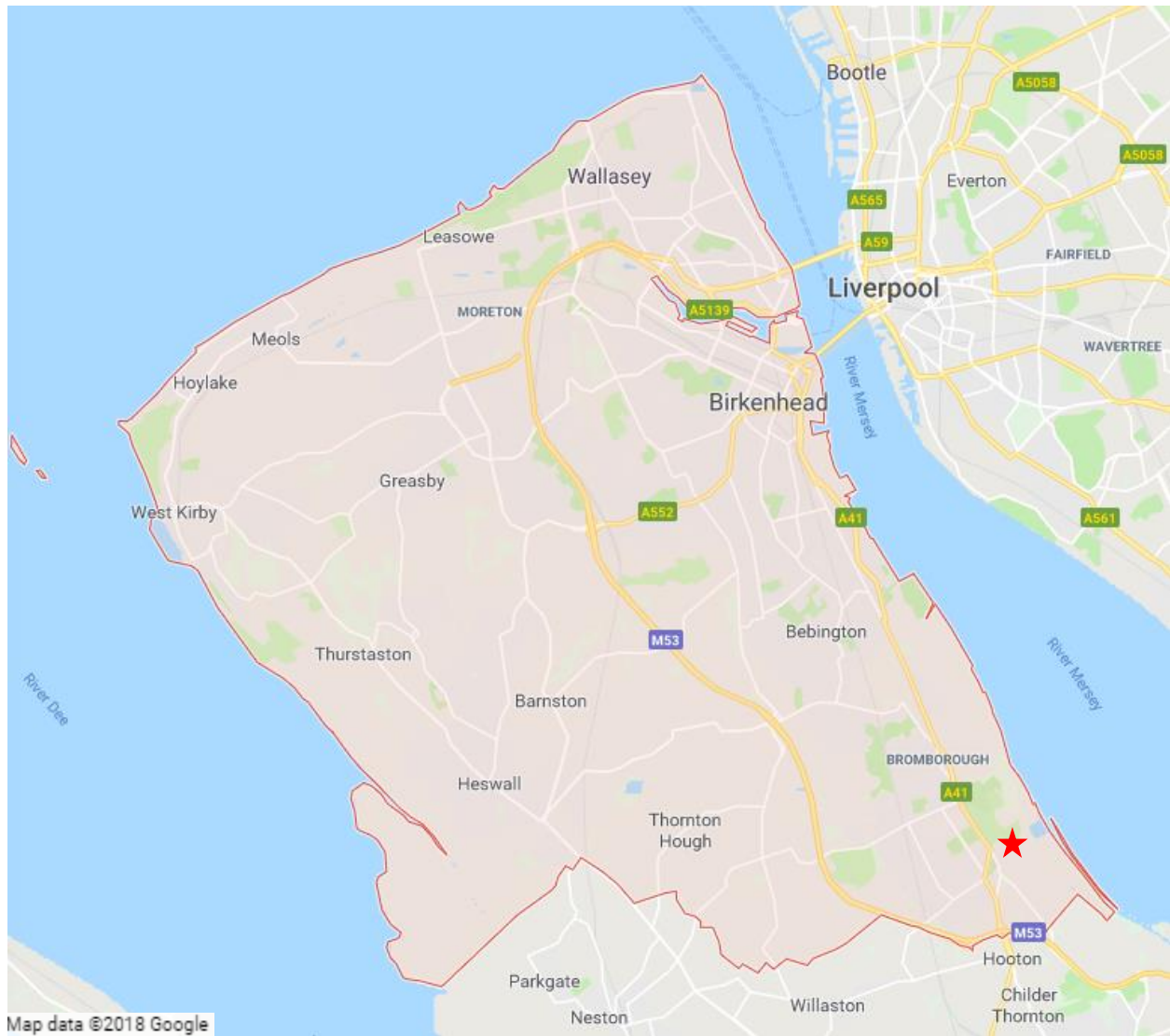
Name: Torr Park

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:





Torr Park (marked as red star) in the Wirral Peninsula.

Grid Reference: 336173 by 380398

Address: Torr Park, Eastham Village Road, Eastham, Wirral, CH62 0BN

Primary classification: Local Park

Ward: Eastham/Bromborough

Size: 3.58 Hectares

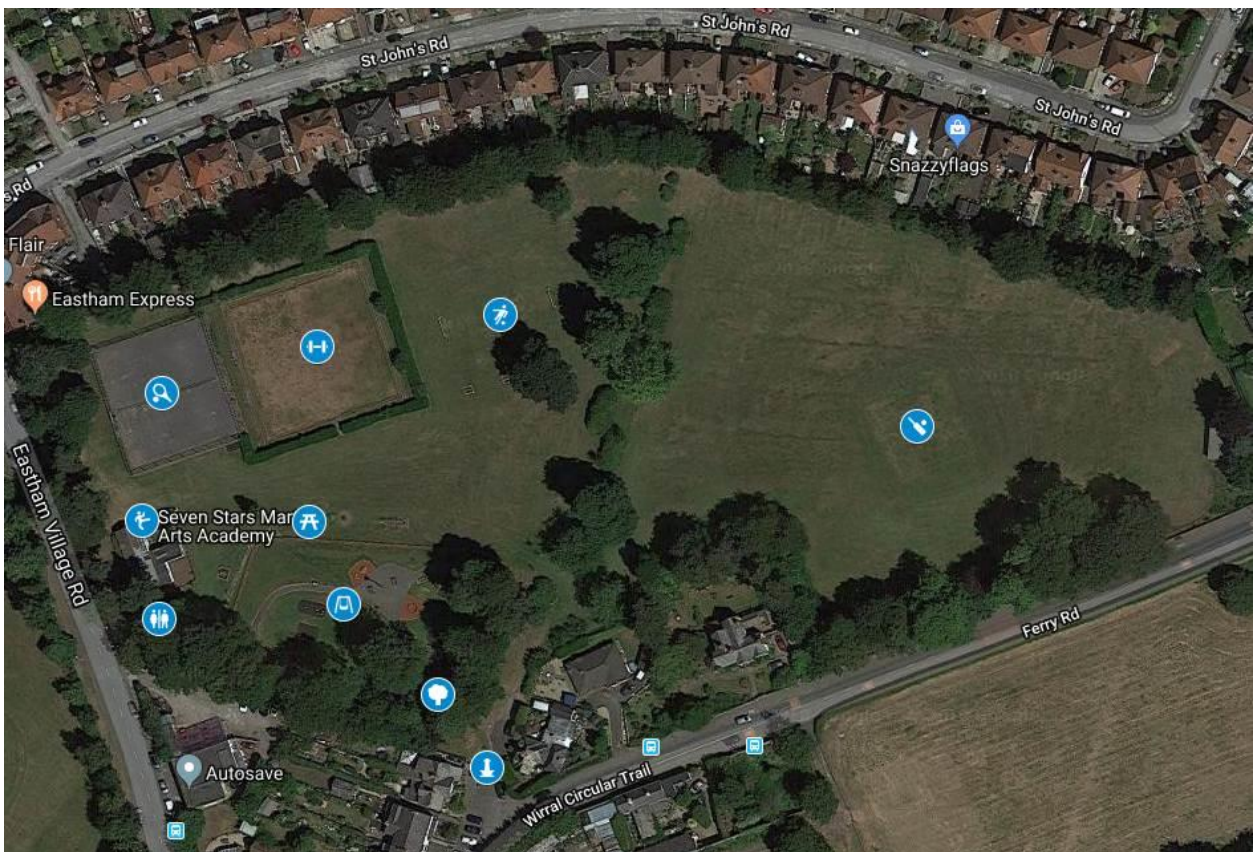
The site is the traditional open green space for the village of Eastham and forms a focal point for the community's outdoor activities. It provides a venue for, cricket, tennis and children's play within the area of the park. Informal recreational activities such as dog walking and ball games are also very popular and locally organised events take place on a regular basis and the area attracts a significant amount of pre-school parents and their children throughout the year and is a focal meeting point in the village. Residential properties surround the park along with numerous shops, food outlets, businesses and a local rugby club adjacent to the park. These provide an essential source of users to the park and the immediate areas. The park also provides a safe pedestrian route from the modern areas of the village to the older and original parts of the village which are within a designated conservation area.

3.2. Facilities and features

The park contains the following:

- Cricket Pitch (former)
- Two tennis courts
- Grass five a side football pitch
- Children's play area
- Sports pavilion
- Mature and regeneration tree stock
- Picnic tables
- Seating
- Specimen Trees
- Tree sculpture within Play area
- Fitness Park

A visual of Torr Park's facilities are shown below.



Visual image of Torr Parks facilities

Symbol	Description
	Football
	Tennis
	Martial arts facility
	Fitness park
	Mature trees
	WC (unused)
	Picnic area
	Children's play area
	Historical feature

Key of features and facilities

3.3. Tenure

Torr Park is owned and managed by Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Community Services Department.

The pavilion is the responsibility of the Asset Management section within Wirral Council.

Torr Hall is on a long-term lease agreement with Seven Stars Martial Arts Academy, with the building and land managed and maintained by the lease-holder. In 2019 the adjacent toilet block was taken over by the lease-holder of Torr Hall, who will maintain and utilise alongside their business.

3.4. Users of the park

The park has a wide user demographic including:

- Elderly visitors
- Parents with young children
- Schools /cubs/ brownies
- Local residents
- Bird watchers
- Local youths
- Friends' group
- Picnics
- Passive Recreation
- Opportunity for Voluntary Work (Friends' Group)
- Community Events
- Sporting groups including five a-side football, tennis and cricket
- Dog walking

3.5. Designations

Torr Park is located inside Eastham village 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/eastham-village-conservation-area>

The park is in close proximity to Eastham Country Park, designated as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI) for its lowland deciduous woodland, coastal cliffs and scrub, ornithological interest and rich ground flora. Nationally, SBIs are known as Local Wildlife Sites.

The Mersey Estuary adjacent to the Park is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Union’s Birds Directive and a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. It is consequently designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is primarily important for its assemblages of wintering waders and wildfowl and for birds on migration.

3.6. Partner Organisations

Wirral Council managed Torr Park in partnership with many individuals, groups and organisations. Some key groups and organisations are listed below:

- Friends of Torr Park (2023)
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team
- Merseyside Sports & Cultural Club (MSCC)
- Eastham Preservation Association
- Eastham Conservation Trust

3.7. Access to the park

3.7.1. Vehicle

There is a wide open access from the road situated directly opposite the local rugby club on Eastham Village Rd, with on-street parking available. An alternative ornate entrance through the parks original gates is located on Ferry Road, with a small car park located in front of a residential property.

3.7.2. Pedestrian

Access via aforementioned entrances. There are good well maintained paths through the site that are suitable for wheelchair users and visitors with mobility issues.

3.7.3. Cycling

The Wirral cycle route runs past the park along Ferry Road, with places to park a bicycle located in Eastham Village.

3.7.4. Public Transport

The park is located in close proximity to main bus routes, with the nearest bus stops located on the adjoining Ferry Road Eastham Village Road and the A41 (New Chester Road).

Bus services (bus numbers 1, 2, X8) offer regular services from Liverpool/Chester, with an hourly service to Eastham Ferry.

See <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables> for timetables and routes.

The nearest train station is at Eastham Rake, a distance of 1 mile, from which the park is a 20 minute walk.

See www.merseytravel.gov.uk for times and routes.

3.8. History

Eastham Village

Eastham is cited as one of the oldest villages on the Wirral Peninsula and has been inhabited since Anglo Saxon times. The name derives from its location: ham ("home") situated to the east of Willaston, which was then the principal settlement. The focal point of the village is the Grade II Listed Church of St Mary, whose churchyard contains an ancient yew tree. The church, which was established in 1852 by the Third Earl of Chester, Randal of Gernons, was extensively added to between the 13th and 15th centuries and restored in the 1870s. The village sundial (dated 1798) and village cross (dated 1891) are both Grade II Listed.

In 1854 the American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne, whilst in the position of United States consul in Liverpool, visited Eastham and declared it to be:

“the finest old English village I have seen, with many antique houses, and with altogether a rural and picturesque aspect, unlike anything in America, and yet possessing a familiar look, as if it were something I had dreamed about.”

Torr Park

Much of the surrounding land was once owned by the powerful Stanley family, who owned and managed much of Eastham village including Hooton Hall and the Hooton Arms.

However the Stanley family fell into bankruptcy in 1845, and the land that now Torr Park is situated on was sold to William Laird of the Camel Laird family. This date is depicted in a boundary stone (pictured below). Laird did not pursue this purchase and the land was sold to John Torr, who was to become a well-known Liverpool MP and public figure. John Torr died in about 1880, and left his property to his son Canon Torr – a long standing vicar in Eastham Village. When Canon Torr died in 1924, he stipulated that an area of land should be set aside for recreational purposes for the people of Eastham, and it was decided by his sons to open a park called Torr Park at the heart of the village. The park was completed in 1927, with a gatepost to commemorate the occasion constructed. The gatepost and plaque still remains today (pictured below).



Figures: Top left: William Laird boundary stone (picture provided by the Eastham Preservation Society)

Top right: Plaque commemorating the opening of Torr Park

Middle: St Mary's Church, Eastham.

Bottom: The Hooton Arms, Eastham.

4. Green Flag Assessment

The intention is for the park 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.co.uk.



View of Torr Park with play area in background

As part of the upkeep the following actions have been carried out as part of the management of the park.

- Installing new adult fitness equipment park on the site of the disused bowling green ✓ (see section 4.2.3.)
- Picnic benches and seats improvement ✓
- Toilet Block tenancy agreed, with Seven Stars Martial Arts company ✓
- Tree safety survey conducted ✓
- Trees identified by the survey to be dangerous felled and deadwood removed from site ✓
- Replaced chestnut paling fencing with screen fencing surrounding martial arts centre ✓
- Paint existing palisade fence to make it more sympathetic with park background ✓
- Pursue interest shown by Merseyside Sports & Cultural Club (MSCC) in taking over cricket facilities on a 25 year lease – ongoing
- Gate pillars surveyed by independent contractor ✓
- Gate pillars renovated and restored ✓ (completed 2019 – see section 4.2.5.)
- New Play equipment installed (Frog) ✓ (completed 2022 – see section 4.2.3.)
- New Noticeboard installed ✓ (completed 2021 - see section 4.2.1.)
- No Mow May ✓ (See Section 4.2.5.)

4.1. Assessment Criteria

This section utilises the eight Green Flag Award criteria. These provide a sound and easily recognisable framework for the analysis and assessment

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

Torr parks action plan can be found in Appendix 1.

4.2. Assessment

4.2.1. A Welcoming Place

Torr Park lies within Eastham village and is adjacent a designated Conservation Area within one of the most historical villages in Wirral. The park is open and has a welcoming aspect. There are main entrances situated on Ferry Road and Eastham Village Road and it can also be accessed at most points along its boundaries.

Access

Eastham Village is signposted from junction 5 of the M53 motorway and from the Chester New Road (A41) at its junction with Bridle Road. The village is also signposted from nearby roads.

Bus services operate to Eastham Ferry at the end of Ferry Road and along the New Chester Road (A41) from which the park is a 10-minute walk.

The nearest train station is at Eastham Rake, a distance of 1 mile, from which the park is a 20-minute walk.

See www.merseytravel.gov.uk and <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables> for timetables and routes for bus and train travel respectively.

Park overview

The park is serviced by surfaced footpaths which extend from the main access areas from Eastham Village Road through the park to the park entrance to the Ferry Road.

New picnic tables and seating has been installed within the park and also within the dog free children's play area.



Picnic benches in Torr Park

Welcoming signs greet visitors at both main entrance points: Eastham village road (next to Torr Hall) and at the Ferry road entrance. Signs are standardised throughout the park and are consistent with the signs in the play area.



Resurfaced footpath from Eastham Village Rd to Children's play area



"Welcome to Torr Park" signs on the two main entrances

Entrances

Eastham Village Road:

Entrance on paved surface is to the right of Torr Hall. The local community will be encouraged to use the notice board at this location when installed. It provides an opportunity to display details of forthcoming events, community information, local activities, contact names and telephone numbers.

Ferry Road:

This is by far the most ornate entrance, which would be enhanced by the addition of a notice board. The Council and local community could be encouraged to use the notice board at this location. It would provide the opportunity to display details on the forthcoming events, community information, local activities, contact names and telephone numbers.



Ferry road entrance with welcoming sign in background

Noticeboard

A new noticeboard was installed in 2021 on the entrance bordering Eastham Village Road. It displays the GreenFlag award certificate, any local information and information regarding the Measured Mile (see appendix 4).



New Noticeboard installed in 2021

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.

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.

Any incidents of vandalism are reported to the Local Team Leader, who in turn will raise the issue with the ASB team with a view to stepping up patrols of the park and where necessary engaging with the youths that use the park. Reported incidents also help build up a profile of any misconduct within the park.

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.

Dog-free and smoke-free play

The park boasts a large 'dog-free' children's play area and picnic area - created in 1997 and upgraded in 2017, it is situated to the south elevation of the park.

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'.

Play area

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; in particular, their information sheets for:

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

This information is available from <http://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 R.P.I.I (register of play inspectors international LTD) 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 R.P.I.I 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.

- Site safety.
- Suitability and condition of ancillary items.
- Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment.
- Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing.

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

Dog Issues

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 correctly wrapped in Council litterbins. 'Dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. The park is very popular with dog walkers and many do clean up after their dogs.

All entrances now have newly installed litterbins, with also an additional 3 litterbins located within the children's play area. In 2019 a new bin was installed near the five a-side pitch.

The enclosed children's play area is a designated as dog free zone. This is clearly signposted on the entrance points to the area and also sprayed onto the floor.



Pavement signage within the play area

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

This play area also has within its area an 'Up Side Down Tree' Sculpture which is prominent and eye catching feature, with minimal maintenance involved.



Signage sited within the dog free children's play area

Infrastructure

Parks and countryside staff conduct 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. Environment (Trees/plants)
2. Infrastructure (footpaths, steps, fencing, bridges)
3. Street Furniture
4. Site Signage
5. Monuments and Sculptures
6. Sports and Play Facilities
7. Building externals
8. Access routes
9. External Areas (Structures, adjoining fences & walls)

The creation of a new advisory group in 2017 has helped minimise vandalism and encouraged ownership of the park and provides a basis to report problems to the park staff, they provide the 'eyes and ears' service supplementing the work of paid staff, and represent a valuable contribution to the running of the park.

Arboricultural Maintenance

Tree safety inspections are conducted by the councils in house Tree Risk Management Team. Work is then contracted out and conducted on a priority basis.

A tree safety survey was conducted in July 2018 on the trees present in the park, and again in 2021. The surveys record specific details on the species, height, crown spread and exact location before

commenting in detail on the state of trees health and any recommendations to be conducted. Recommendations were then followed up by the Council after the survey,

A procedure has been written which describes the basic steps when a member of staff has concerns regarding a specific tree or trees. The staff member should report the issue to the Tree Risk Team (making sure the parks managers are aware also). The tree risk team will then action the request based on priority.

Wirral Council has a Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy 2020-2030. Details can be found here: <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50068877/V19%20Tree%20Strategy%20Summary%20Doc%20for%20Cabinet.pdf>

Actions:

- Conduct further tree safety surveys as specified by previous survey ✓
- Fell, prune or manage trees which are assessed to be dangerous ✓
- Site safety inspections (annually)

4.2.3. Well Maintained and Clean

Litter, cleanliness and vandalism

Litterbins are sited at the entrances and throughout the park with the design standardised over the last few years following initiatives in other green flag sites.

Litter inspections and bin emptying are undertaken on a daily basis by the on-site parks staff member. The bins are usually emptied on a Monday and Friday. Litter is picked up at the same time. They also have sole responsibility for grass cutting. No machinery other than authorised council machinery is permitted to be used within the park.

The newly formed Friends advisory group are playing a valuable role in helping to keeping the park well maintained and free from litter.

In 2019 the park was experiencing high volumes of litter left near to the 5-side football pitch. To combat this a new bin was installed in that location, and has seen litter drop significantly.



New bin location located near the five aside to combat litter issues

Ongoing Maintenance

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with the ground's maintenance specification. **(Appendix 6)**

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

Tractor mounted equipment undertakes mowing of the larger grassed areas once per month in accordance with budget restraints and maintenance plan.

An arboricultural team visits the park in order to undertake seasonal specialist tree work that has been recommended by the tree management team.

The children's play area is inspected 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 equipment and surfacing sited in the dog free children's play area





In 2022 Torr Park Playarea has a new animal! A climb on Frog joins the hedgehog

Tennis and Football

The surfaces of the tennis courts are regularly cleaned and have been cleaned in January 2023. New nets have been bought and have been installed.

The five-a-side football pitch receives regular mowing (Fortnightly), with seating installed and the goal posts painted (as and when required).



Five a-side football pitch

Graffiti is removed immediately by patrolling staff. 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.

Redevelopment of the disused bowling green into an outdoor gym



In 2019 a new fitness park containing outdoor exercising equipment for adults has been installed. The land around it was landscaped, and the hedge (which did surround the area) has been removed on two sides and thinned out on the other sides. This enables line of sight vision with the children's play area to enable parents/guardians to remain aware of their child's activities. The aim of the fitness equipment is to provide a safe place for adult exercise, whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle and the council has received positive feedback regarding this on twitter.



Closeup of some of the new fitness equipment



A new sign installed in 2021 explaining how to use each piece of equipment

Improvements

In September 2018 the old chestnut paling fencing was removed surrounding Torr Hall (used as a martial art centre currently) and replaced with a new screen fencing. In addition, the existing palisade fencing located around the garage will be painted a more sympathetic colour so that it blends in with the park's surroundings.



Fencing surrounding Torr Hall

The building adjacent to Torr Hall at the front of the park has now been leased out to “Seven Star Martial Arts Club” to manage and maintain in line with their business. Then building has been cleaned up with the moss removed by a contractor in Spring 2019.

In 2021 the building was painted, the external metal door removed and a new noticeboard was installed outside.



Before and after clean-up on the building adj. to Torr Hall



Building now in 2022

Actions:

- Redevelop disused bowling green into outdoor gym fitness park ✓
- Paint existing palisade fence to make it more sympathetic to park ✓
- Pursue interest shown by Merseyside Sports & Cultural Club (MSCC) in taking over cricket facilities.
- Moss removal from building roof ✓

4.2.4. Environmental Management

Wirral parks and countryside team put sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery. 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 Torr Park. For full details of the sustainability aims see Appendix 3.

Chemical use

Chemical usage has been severely restricted in 2019/2020 and is now only used in exceptional circumstances or to deal with invasive non-native species. Herbicide usage is restricted to non-residual herbicide.

Chemical storage and usage comply 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.

Waste Minimisation

Waste handling within the Parks and Countryside Service is collected and deposited in designated skips in the compound at Warren Farm. Wherever possible green waste is separated and composted or chipped and stored for future re-use.

Any waste timber or metals recovered are also separated for reuse/recycling at the Warren Farm depot.

Tree brash resulting from tree work is chipped on site or stored at Warren Farm depot for reuse.

Peat Usage

Any plants or trees for the park are bought in and is produced, to the Council's specification, using compost that is 100% peat free.

Energy Usage

Water and energy consumption is monitored to minimise wastage and achieve economies in usage.

Tractors and mowing equipment are regularly checked for emission levels and comply with the appropriate legislation.

Maintenance of Buildings, equipment and landscape

Pest management is delivered under contract with that service within the Department of Regeneration and complies with the required regulations.

Sustainable materials are utilised in the park as much as possible with the main item being seating. Some of these are of a robust steel design and others of iron and wood design. A programme of wood replacement is under way as necessary on existing seats. All wooden furniture is purchased from suppliers that can certify that timber is from a sustainable source.

Climate Change Adaption

Wirral Borough Council in 2019 has declared a [Climate Emergency](#).

Wirral Council is committing to acting to:

- achieve 'net zero' carbon emissions associated with our activities by 2030
- promote wider action to help reach 'net zero' emissions for Wirral as a whole no later than 2041

The Wirral Council 2025 Plan underlines our ambitions concerning the environment and climate emergency. Details can be found here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/climate-change-action#wgSM-2>

The draft strategy for Cool 2 (Climate strategy from 2020 onwards) is found [here](#).

Torr Park puts sustainability at its heart of every decision. One example is by choosing species that are able to adapt to a changing climate, for instance drought tolerant plant species.

Actions

- Assess pesticide usage alongside new research ✓
- Continue to only use herbicides in exceptional circumstances within the park ✓
- Maintain and improve waste handling and recycling systems
- Continue to monitor and reduce water consumption
- Continue to source furniture from sustainable sources

4.2.5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Management of natural features, fauna and flora

Torr Park is dominated by grass, with a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees on the site. All trees in park 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.

Hawthorn saplings were planted in partnership with a corporation to promote carbon emission offsetting, whilst also allowing regeneration of native trees in the park. Bird boxes, obtained via a build-a-birdbox workshop at Eastham Country Park in autumn 2018 were installed around the park in Spring 2019 in various suitable areas to help promote local bird populations.

The park serves as an important wildlife corridor, being in close proximity to Eastham Country Park, a designated SBI and the Mersey Estuary, which is designated SPA and Ramsar site. In early 2019 onwards an area will be designated as a no-cut zone to promote wildflower species with the aim to attract more invertebrate species.



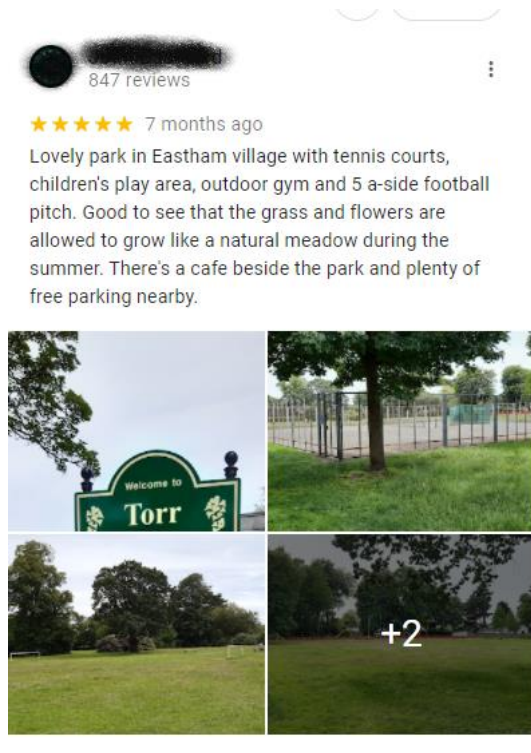
Hawthorn Saplings

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, Torr Park takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#). This results in mowing ceasing in all general grass areas to help bees, butterflies and wildlife. Wirral Council adopted this in 2021, which following positive feedback will continue



No Mow May 2021



Positive Feedback in 2021 on allowing the grass to grow longer during the months of May and June

Landscape

The park was traditionally managed as a recreational space for the local people of Eastham, and this idea continues today. All aspects of the park are considered to be of benefit to local people. The main users of the park are dog walkers, sports/recreational activities and activities for children or young families. Therefore, the parks landscape reflects these users and has changed over time to reflect peoples changing needs. An example of this is the new fitness park installed in 2019 which provides an opportunity for outdoor exercise to the local people of Eastham.

Following Torr Parks success in gaining the prestigious Green Flag status in 2020, a new flagpole was erected and the Green Flag hoisted to celebrate this success.



Green Flag Flagpole

Heritage

Eastham Village has areas to the east and south which is predominantly older and contains historical properties, including some surrounding the park. The park lies within 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 and historical heritage. The properties to the north and west are predominantly pre second world war and recent new builds.

The opening of the Manchester Ship Canal by Queen Victoria in 1894, led to prosperity in the area, and resulted in increased industrialisation in the area. Many of the properties on the riverfront were once under the ownership of ship canal authorities.

The village was originally a ferry location for the Mersey ferry network until the early part of the 1900's, with the ferry docking station located 10 minutes' walk from Torr Park and in close proximity to another council run green flag site: Eastham Country Park.



Original Torr Park plaque

In 2018 a structural survey was conducted on the gate columns. Following this refurbishment works have taken place in 2019 to restore both the gates and pillars to their former glory.



Historic Gates and Pillars restored in 2019

Eastham village residents are very well versed in the historical aspects of the village through the various societies along with a regular newsletter which is produced and distributed around the local area.

Actions:

- Refurbishment of ornamental gates and gate columns ✓
- Consider the best location for a flagpole in the event of achieving a Green Flag award ✓
- Following successful award of Green Flag – install flag pole and erect flag ✓
- Bird and bat boxes installed in suitable locations ✓
- Consider no-cut areas to promote wildflowers and to act as wildlife corridor for invertebrates ✓
- Implement No Mow May ✓

4.2.6. Community Involvement

In 2019 Torr Park's advisory group became an official Friends Group. They attend the Wirral Park's Forum, which is held twice a year and discuss ideas and issues that are present in each of the parks. 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.

The creation of this group has encouraged and lead to the engagement of the public, societies, groups and individuals to use the site and promote healthy living life styles by using the facilities it offers.

In 2017 several community meetings took place between the friends (formerly advisory group), developers, Wirral South constituency office for parks management, ward councillors and local people to look into the funding that have been sourced from the Section 106 Development Fund for Eastham. This funding amounted to £65k and stipulates proposals to enhance the park as part of the village infrastructure and well-being for future generations of users.

The cricket pitch, which is currently unused was discussed. All parties agreed that a cricket club would be beneficial to the park and should be made available for seasonal hire. As of 2022 no interest has been shown in taking over this area for the usage of cricket, but the area provides a good space for dog walkers and recreational usage.



Former Cricket Pavilion and pitch

The two key areas that the consultation process identified for investment are:

1. Disused toilets at the entrance of the park which has alternative use or refurbishment potential



Toilet block next to Torr Hall

2. Disused Bowling Green which has potential to be changed into an alternative use.



Former disused bowling green

Both these key areas have now been addressed. The disused bowling green has been turned into a fitness park, complete with adult fitness equipment (see [section 4.2.3](#) and Appendix 2 for full details). And the disused toilet block at the entrance of the park is now managed and maintained by the adjacent business at Torr Hall (full details see [section 4.2.3](#)).

See Appendix 6 for details on the Torr Park advisory board steering group consultation.

Actions:

- Promote friends' advisory group with the aim to become a fully functioning friends' group ✓
- Further talks with parks partners to ensure consultation is acted upon
- Continue to communicate actions and address issues with users of the park ✓

4.2.7. Marketing and communication

Marketing of the park

Torr Park is widely advertised, and site information is available across many different platforms:

- Wirral Council Website: Includes information about onsite facilities, booking information for tennis or cricket, accessibility options for people with disabilities and a link to the management plan.
- Tennis facilities in Torr Park can be found online on the Wirral Council's website.
- Green Flag Award Website
- Another future plan is to link in and promote on Visit Wirral (Wirral Tourisms web site).
- A walking guide promotes the links between the park and the wider countryside; it is available electronically or as a paper copy.
- Wirral Council's "Measured Miles" scheme as part of LoveParks week in 2018
- Torr Park Facebook page
- Local advertising on noticeboards (installed 2021)

Torr Park was included in the Wirral Council "Measured Miles" initiative as part of "LoveParks" week in 2018. The scheme sets routes across a number of our local parks, all one mile in length, and was seen as way of encouraging an active lifestyle and working towards achieving the recommended 150 minutes of exercise a week. The initiative is a good way of promoting the park for activities such as walking, running or dog walking. The route map and descriptions can be found in Appendix 4.

Local advertising can take place once a noticeboard is installed at the entrance with information about events, local news and to market opportunities such as the underused cricket facilities at Torr Park.

Social media now plays a large role in finding events or new places to visit, especially for young families. Torr Park has its own Facebook page and although it's currently not managed by the council it is used to promote events hosted by the council or partners. One example in 2018 is "Picnic in the Park", which was organised jointly by the Wirral Council and Eastham Connects. The event was promoted on the Torr Park Facebook page, likely driving more people to the event. A copy of the banner used can be found in Appendix 5. An aim is to get events and local information more readily available online, both via the council's website and through social media. This can be achieved by encouraging partners and the council to link the Facebook page in all events, and to advertise events through initiatives such as Imagine Wirral or the Wirral View online events page.

The park 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 especially pre-school groups. When considering additional marketing of the park, 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.

Proposed Actions

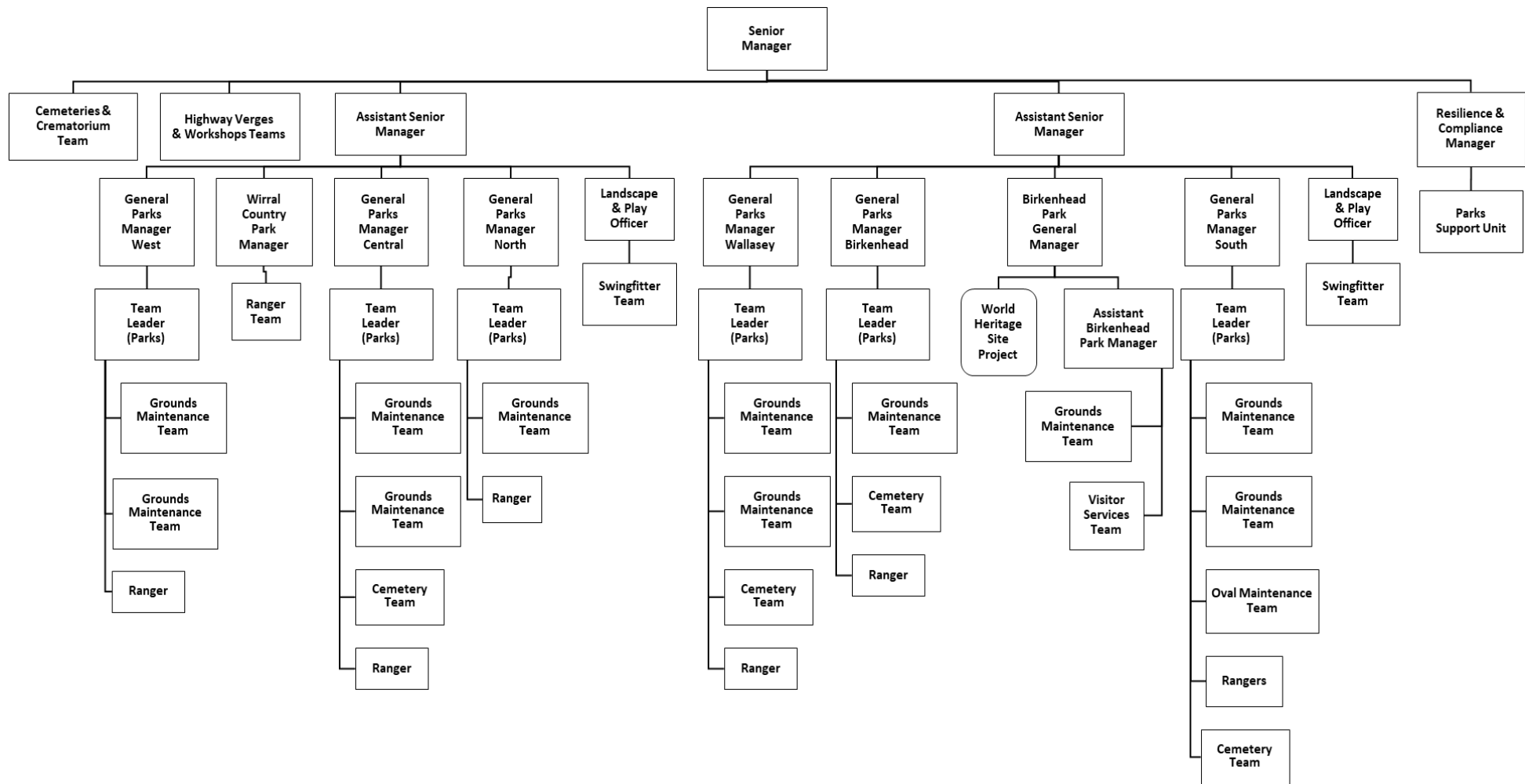
- Add Torr Park to the Council's website ✓
- Promote the use of social media
- Promotion of local events and information on noticeboards (Installed 2021) ✓
- Explore the possibility of the friends undertaking a regular site specific visitor survey
- Continue to promote the park through Council publications and investigate new opportunities

4.2.8. Management

The General Parks Manager (Parks Allotments and Countryside Department) is responsible for the management and maintenance of the site (see next page for service organisational chart).

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

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements.




2022 Wirral Parks and Countryside service organisational chart.
Torr Park falls under South Wirral

5. Appendices






FEEDBACK REPORT: 2022-23

		<h2>Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop)</h2>									
Name of Site	Torr Park Eastham	Managing organisation	Wirral Borough Council								
Weather Conditions	Sunny but fresh										
Date of assessment	Sunday 10 th September 2023	Time (from – to)	1pm – 3pm								
Overall Result	<p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p>										
Result: (✓)	<p>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</p> <p> Green Amber ✓ Red </p>										
Grading		Strengths and Recommendations									
<p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red</p> <p>NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p>		<p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>									
A Welcoming Place											
1. Is the site welcoming?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NG</td> <td style="background-color: green;">G</td> <td style="background-color: orange;">A</td> <td style="background-color: red;">R</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NG	G	A	R		X			A welcoming site	
NG	G	A	R								
	X										
2. Is the site easy to find?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NG</td> <td style="background-color: green;">G</td> <td style="background-color: orange;">A</td> <td style="background-color: red;">R</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NG	G	A	R		X			Easy to find	
NG	G	A	R								
	X										
3. Is signage in good condition?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>NG</td> <td style="background-color: green;">G</td> <td style="background-color: orange;">A</td> <td style="background-color: red;">R</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NG	G	A	R		X			Yes	
NG	G	A	R								
	X										

4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A		Yes, but would benefit from additional surfaced footpaths around the site NOTED
		X			
Healthy, Safe and Secure					
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R	Generally yes except for Tennis court which is covered in broken glass. Good children's play equipment & gym equipment NOTED – The tennis Courts are cleaned once per week, unfortunately we did not know about the glass, it hadn't been reported.
		X			
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R	Yes
		X			
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R	No dogs on site at the time of the visit but no evidence of dog fouling
		X			

Well Maintained and Clean					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R	<p>Litter a big issue on the site. Broken glass and bottles, plastic bottles, general litter throughout the site which looks like it has been there for several weeks. Obscene graffiti on the children's play equipment which should be removed as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>NOTED – The graffiti would have been picked up and reported/dealt with during the weekly inspection. We have been managing and dealing with ASB on site and plan to spend more time and have a Friends Group to help out now.</p>
				X	
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	Maintenance good
		X			
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	Yes good
		X			
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G	A		<p>The pavilion building has crumbling render to the walls which is very visible and detracts from the remainder of the park</p> <p>NOTED – We are currently assessing our unused buildings to see if we can Community Transfer or in some cases demolition. This is on going.</p>
		X			
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	<p>Tennis court and gym equipment dangerous to use at time of visit due to broken glass.</p> <p>NOTED – This would have been picked up and reported/dealt with during the weekly inspection. We have been managing and dealing with ASB on site and plan to spend more time and have a Friends Group to help out now</p>
			X		
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G	A	R	<p>Generally yes, however there is an opportunity to manage the large areas of short grassland to improve biodiversity on the site. Leaving areas unmown during the summer and generally varying mowing regimes in different areas of the park would encourage insects, bees, birds & butterflies. NOTED</p>
		X			
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	
	X				
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R	Information in notice boards
		X			
16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G	A	R	No one in the park
	X				
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G	A	R	Information in notice boards
		X			
18. Is the correct year flag	NG	G	A	R	Green flag flying but incorrect year NOTED – We had an issue

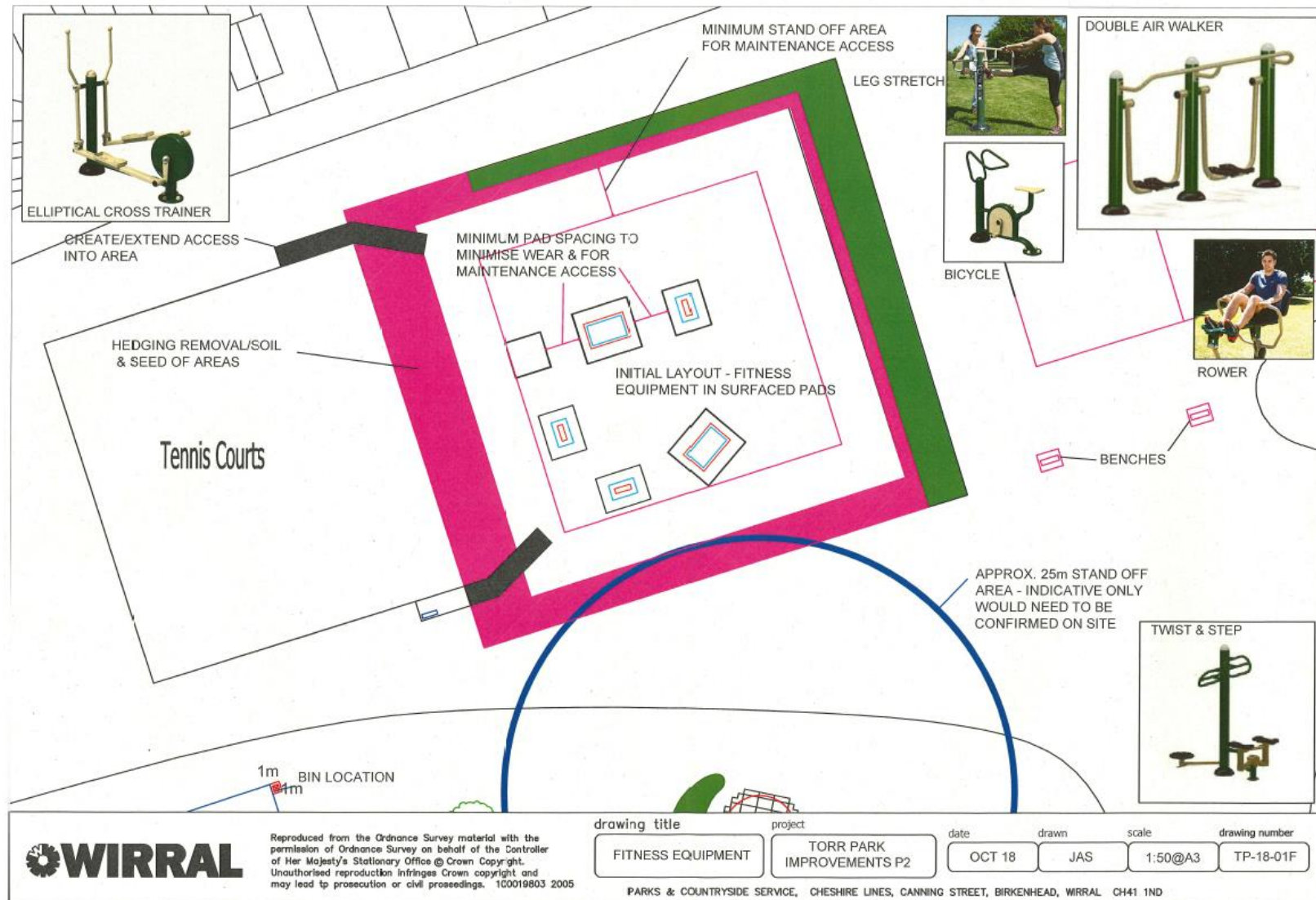
flying and certificate on display?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	with the number of flags delivered, Was the flag not 2022/23.
Overall Result (✓)	Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard? <div> Green  Amber ✓  Red  </div>	
Final comments: A lovely park with lots of potential for biodiversity improvement. Litter and glass removal needs addressing		

Appendix 1: Action Plan

	Action	Lead Officer	Target date	Funding source	Completed
1. A welcoming place					
2. Healthy, safe and secure					
	Tree safety survey conducted: Identify trees that are a safety concern.	General Manager and Tree Management Team	Ongoing	Parks budget	✓ Ongoing
	Trees identified to be a safety concern to be actioned	General Manager and Tree Management Team	Autumn/ Winter Annually	Parks budget	✓Ongoing
	Annual site safety inspections	General Manager / Team Leader	Annually	Within existing resources	Ongoing
3. Well maintained and clean					
	More proactive with graffiti reporting and inspections	Team Leader - Supervisor	Weekly	Within Existing Resources	Ongoing
	Explore community transfer or demolition of old Cricket Pavilion.	General Manager Legal	Ongoing	To be identified	Ongoing
	Structured inspection and reporting of damaged tennis courts	Supervisors/ Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
4. Environmental management					
	Reduce the use of herbicide	General Manager Team leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
5. Biodiversity, landscape and heritage					

	Bird and bat boxes introduced in suitable areas across the park	General Manager Volunteers	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Consider no-cut areas to promote wildflowers to act as wildlife corridor for invertebrates	General Manager	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Implement No Mow May	General Manager	2021 (Ongoing)	N/A	Ongoing
	Consider the provision of on-site historical interpretive information	General Manager	Ongoing	To be identified	Ongoing
6. Community involvement					
	Consult Eastham Village Preservation Society to gather information on history of Torr Park	General Manager	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing
7. Marketing and communication					
	Addition of Torr Park to the Council's website	General Manager	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing
	Promotion of local events and information on noticeboards	Team Leader/Friends	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing
	Promote use of social media with the council and partners	Comms Team General Manager	Ongoing	n/a	Ongoing
	Improve the marketing of the cricket pitch, tennis courts and park.	General Manager / Friends / Village Trust	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
8. Management					
	Enhance branding of the park	General Manager	Ongoing	Within existing resources	Ongoing
	Ensure Section106 development funding for the park is used in ways which supports the special character of the site.	General Manager and Landscape Design Officer	Ongoing	Section 106 Development Funding	Ongoing

Appendix 2: Initial plan for new fitness equipment on the disused bowling green



Appendix 3: Wirral Parks and Countryside Service - Sustainability

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

Appendix 4: Torr Park Measured Miles



Welcome to Torr Park

Measured Mile

What is a measured mile?

These are measured routes, of approximately one mile in length. You can use this route for walking, jogging, running and generally being active.

The route is a flexible way to build towards your weekly 150 active minutes (or 2.5 hours) as well as enjoying our parks all year round.

Please be aware this course is mostly off surfaced pathways and across slightly uneven ground. We advise you wear appropriate footwear with decent ankle support. The course is 800m in length and must be repeated once to reach the full measured mile.

How do I know I am doing it at the right level?


We all walk and exercise at different speeds. If you are walking and feel comfortable to talk, but it is a challenge to sing the words of a song. Then you are exercising at the correct level!

How do I join in?

Just download your chosen map from:

www.wirral.gov.uk/walkingmiles



Directions

 **Start** : At the park entrance off Eastham Village Road, to the right side of the Seven Stars Martial Arts Centre. Follow the solid surface pathway across the front of the play area and at the end of the path take a left turn onto the small driveway and onto the field. Follow the field edge keeping it to your right hand side until you reach the edge of the cricket pitch. You have completed the first 200m.

1 200m — Continue following the field boundary on your right and take a right turn as you reach towards ferry road as the field boundary turns towards Ferry Road. Turn Left and follow the wall and tree line parallel with Ferry Road until you pass all the trees. Then follow the field around past the front of the cricket pavilion. Just after the pavilion and just before you reach the trees you have walked 400m.

2 600m — Continue to follow the field boundary, keeping the trees to your right and keeping the cricket pitch to your left. Follow it until you reach the line of trees running to your left across the park. Turn left through these trees, and once you are in line with the big Oak tree (to your right) that stands alone turn right behind it towards the bowling green.

3 Continue forward past the bowling green and tennis courts and as you reach the end of the tennis courts turn left and walk behind the Seven Stars Martial Arts building. Once past the building turn left back to the entrance where you started. Congratulations you have now walked half a mile.

4 1000m — In order to reach your goal you need to repeat this course from the  start to point 3. As you return back to the entrance you have completed your measured mile. 

**Congratulations
you have
walked the
Torr Park
Measured
Mile.**

**Congratulations, you
have walked a
measured mile!! Each
mile is 1600 m or 1.6 km.**



WIRRAL

Appendix 5: “Picnic in the Park” advertisement on Torr Parks Facebook page

SAT 11TH AUG, 12 - 3PM
TORR PARK, EASTHAM VILLAGE RD



Picnic in the Park

A free event for all ages! Bring a picnic and check out some of the brilliant community activities on offer in Eastham

- Bouncy castle
- Drumming demonstration
- Mr Tee's Ice Cream
- Bee-keeping demonstration
- Mobile police station
- Face-painting
- Help and advice
- Health checks

Please check the weather forecast prior to the event. If there is adverse weather predicted, this event will not go ahead.

Find us on Facebook [**@easthamconnects**](#)



Appendix 6 : Grass Maintenance schedule.



Alternative Model to General Grass Maintenance

Site	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Amenity Open spaces	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance	Cease Maintenance
Sports pitches	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance
General grass area in parks	No Cuts	Two cuts One at the end of April	No Mow May*	Two Cuts** One at the Start of June	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut
Bowling Greens	Spring Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Normal Maintenance	Winter Maintenance
Formal Areas***	One cut	Fortnightly	One Cut (end of the month)	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
<u>P.O.S</u>	No Cuts	Two cuts One at the end of April	No Mow May*	Two Cuts One at the Start of June	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut

Frequency of grass maintenance will be reduced from 10 cuts per year to 8 cuts per year on all general grass areas in parks and public open spaces. Additional areas will also be identified for rewilding and tree planting.

*No Mow May is a nationally adopted idea to leave areas uncut in May to help pollinator species. [See more details here](#)

** General Grass Areas will be left uncut until start of June.

***Formal areas are classified as areas the teams would normally cut on a weekly basis i.e. Hamilton Square