

Wirral Council

Parks and Countryside Service

Vale Park

Management Plan

2022 - 2027

(Updated January 2022)



Bandstand

Management Plan written and updated by:	Date:
David Weaver	11/01/2022
Management Plan authorized by:	Date:
Darran Marquiss	

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1 Introduction

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Vale Park, New Brighton. 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** or report the problem on the website www.wirral.gov.uk or write to:

**Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED.**

1.1 purpose and scope of the plan

The prime purpose of this *Management Plan* is to ensure that the future upkeep and management of the park will sustain, and continue to improve on, the quality of the park and the facilities it offers.

This Plan covers the period from 2022-2027 and will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

The Plan is prepared for all those who use, manage or who might have an interest in the park, either now or in the future., it will continue to be subject to discussion and review with key stakeholders, including park users.

2 The Wider Policy Context

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

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

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004)
<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf>

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

1.1. 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>

1.2. 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.

1.3. Environmental Initiatives

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

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

The commitment to action aims to:

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

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

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

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

More information on the Climate Emergency Declaration maybe found at:

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

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

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

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

More information on the Cool Wirral Partnership maybe found at:

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

Some key initiatives include:-

Designating Pollinators and wildflower sites

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

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

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

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

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#), which is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help bees, butterflies and wildlife.

Trees, hedgerows and woodland

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

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

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

3 Aims, Visions and Objectives

Vale Park will be maintained in accordance with its primary purpose as a Historic Local Park and will be maintained to the standard required to achieve Green Flag award.

Vision:

The vision for Vale Park is to provide a public space that can deliver community safety, a place where you can escape the hustle and bustle of town life, relax, and reflect.

Aims

1. Increase the numbers of people visiting Vale Park
2. Increase the Income generated by the gardens to provide security of provision for the future
3. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour within the gardens, safeguard and enhance community safety.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Promote and encourage events and entertainment, in keeping with the character of the park.
- 1.2 Encourage local schools to use the Park for historical education.
- 1.3 Form partnerships with local businesses to increase appropriate Garden use
- 1.4 To facilitate the holding of events at Hamilton Square
- 1.5 An improved feeling of security within the gardens, working with partners
And stakeholders.

Vale Park vision statement

“Our vision is to be a dynamic and resourceful community, promoting healthy activities, and welcoming diversity, conserving the environment, valuing the heritage of Vale Park and celebrating culture, music and the arts

4 Site information

4.1 Summary

Name: Vale Park

Map: see Figure 1 Site plan (page)

Typology and primary purpose - Wirral Open Spaces Assessment November 2010 (based on PPG17 guidance): **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.

Grid Reference: 331295, 393466

Ward: New Brighton

Size: 3.97 Hectares

Address: Vale Park, Magazine Promenade, New Brighton, CH45 1LZ

Green Flag award scheme winner: 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021



Figure 1

4.2 Access:

Vale Park Access Statement

The park has 7 public entrances and exits located respectively; all entrances are tarmac surfaces except the main entrance in Woodlands road which has a cobbled stone start leading to Tarmac

Woodland Drive,

Main Entrance



Side Entrance



Vaughan Road, side entrance



Accesses pedestrian only, leading to 5 aside football pitch Rose garden and Play area

Magazine lane/woodlands drive



Magazine Lane



Accesses pedestrian only, main entrance to the Fairy Garden, formal bedding, Vale café and Bandstand

Magazine lane/Magazine promenade



Magazine Promenade



Accesses pedestrian only and is the main entrance to Magazine promenade through the park also to Outdoor Gym and lower green spaces

Disabled access

All entrances are suitable for wheelchair and mobility scooter access.

The top access point into the band lawn consists of a flight of steps requiring wheelchair users to use the installed access gate next to the notice board

4.3 Current facilities and features:

- Bandstand.
- Coffee Roast Café.
- Community Centre.
- Annual bedding displays.
- Mature tree.
stock.
- Open grass area.
- Kick about
Area.
- Rose Garden.
- Children's play
area.
- Fairy village.
- Mermaid Trail.

The Vale House community center and café was subject to Community Asset Transfer during 2011 and is now owned and managed by the 'Vale House Joint Management Committee'.

Coffee roast Cafe has been handed a 5-year lease due to a successful 2019(new management)

The former park lodge-house situated adjacent to the entrance on Magazine Lane is in private ownership

4.4 Tenure:

Vale Park is managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Department of Neighbourhoods delivery services

4.5 Summary of main uses:

- As a venue for performances of music and dance
- Passive and active recreation
- Social interaction
- Children's play
- Quiet reflection
- Dog walking
- Ball games
- Visiting the park's café and community centre
- Scalextric club WSR

4.6 Stakeholder and Partner organisations:

- The Friends (Café) of Vale Park
 - The Bandstand Committee
 - Vale House Joint Management Committee
 - New Brighton Primary School
 - Rangers service
 - Wirral Council Community Safety Team
 - Children and Young People's Department – 'Out Reach Team'
 - The New Brighton Community Partnership
 - Dog walkers
 - The fairies have moved in
- Scalextric club WSR

4.7 History & Heritage

In 1830 the area of land now occupied by Vale Park was formerly an estate called Liscard Vale this being the origin of the park's name. The estate was later divided, with the second estate being named The Woodlands, now recalled by Woodland Drive, the Road situated at the park's Western boundary.

In 1898, at a cost of £7,750, Wallasey Urban District Council purchased both estates, with the intention of providing a 'lung' or breathing space for an increasing population. The combined grounds opened as Vale Park on 20th May 1899.



Figure 2

The New Brighton Tower, seen in the background of the above photograph; was designed by Architects Maxwell and Turk of Manchester and patterned on the Eiffel Tower in Paris, construction commenced in 1896 and was completed in approximately 1900. Standing 621ft high the tower was taller than Blackpool Tower (548ft). The Tower was dismantled in 1921

Vale House built c. 1830 was originally a family home possibly belonging to a Cotton broker and was later extended. The family of Charles Holland, a Liverpool businessman and Wirral JP, lived here for over 50 years. Charles Holland travelled widely, returning with Botanical specimens and his gardeners planted many of the trees now gracing the park.



Figure 3

For much of the 20th century Vale House accommodated the park staff, though it lay disused for some years. The Friends of Vale Park encouraged the council to restore it. The building opened as a community centre in 1993.

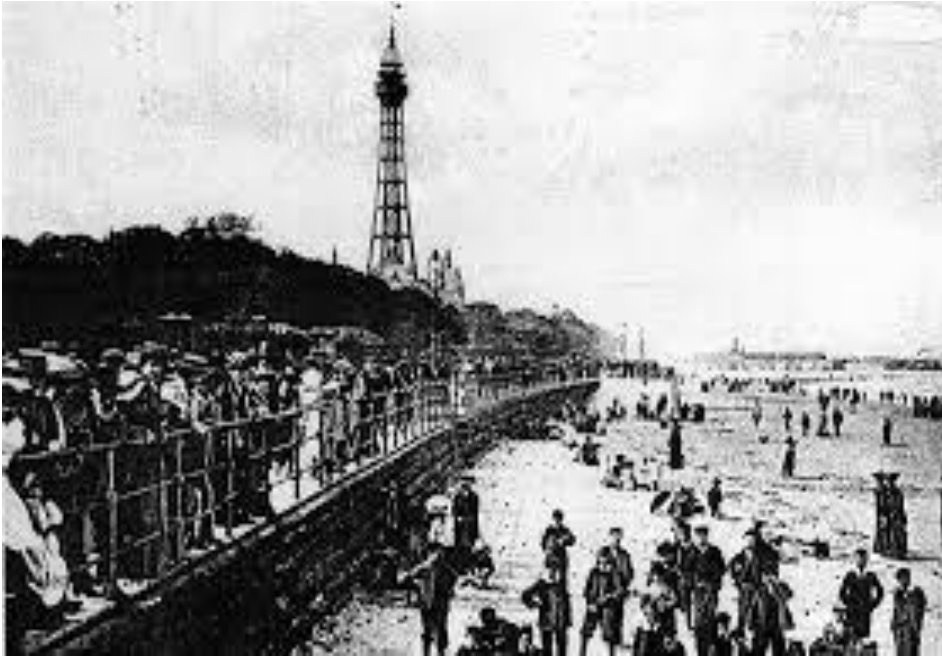
William Grinsell Burston was the first Head Gardener of Vale Park, though his title was *Curator*, perhaps reflecting the knowledge and expertise of someone in this position at the end of 19th century. He came to Liscard Vale as Head Gardener

in 1890. When the estate was taken over by the council; 'W.G' (as he was always known) stayed on and became Curator to the new Vale Park. Most of the laying out of the park, arranging the flowerbeds and paths, etc was undertaken by him. He was considered to be an expert Botanist and spent many hours sorting seeds and discussing rare plants with specialists from Liverpool museum. W.G. died at Vale House in 1918.

Ernest Burston, W.G's youngest son worked as a Vale Park gardener between 1918 and 1946 living with his wife in Vale House which had been converted into two flats following his father's death.

Commemorative seats to the Burston family and relatives face Vale House across the flowerbeds he laid out. A number of paintings by Ernest Burston and his son Sidney have recently been acquired by the Friends and now hang in the Café.

In 1926 a Doric-columned bandstand was constructed and played host to brass band concerts as it continues to do so to this day.



New Brighton Tower as seen from the park during early 1900

4.8 Resources:

- The park has a dedicated site-based Gardener
- A playground safety inspection team visits the park weekly to inspect and service the play equipment.
- Grounds maintenance is funded from the annual maintenance revenue budget
- A range of grounds maintenance machinery.
- NHS Funding for the Outdoor fitness equipment

Machinery List November 2022

- John Deere 54D 1026R: 13059
- John Deere Cutting Deck: 13058
- Viking 6: 13036
- Stihl Strimmer (electric) FSA 85: 14055
- Stihl Hedge cutter HS81: A512
- Stihl Blower (back pack) 18020
- Stihl Strimmer FS410: A555
- Stihl leaf Sucker: 13073
- Trailer Daxorta: A234
- Viking Rotary: 13061 - workshops
- Amon c8 rotovator 14031
- New Viking mulch 16144 - 30/11/18



5. Green Flag Assessment

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

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

5.1 A welcoming place

Disabled access

All entrances are suitable for wheel chair and mobility scooter access.

The top access point into the band lawn consists of a flight of steps requiring wheelchair users to use the installed access gate next to the notice board

Car parking

A small car park that is situated adjacent to Vale House provides preference for visitors who are blue badge holders.

Café/Tea room facilities

The coffee roast café is in a central position within the park and is accessible for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Public Toilets

At this moment in time the public toilets have had to be demolished and removed due to irrepairable damage caused by a falling tree during storm

Arwen in the November of 2021

All entrances are suitable for disabled access and have entrance signs.

A distinctive sign located on Seabank Road at the junction to Magazine Lane indicates the direction to Vale Park.

A large plan of the New Brighton area is situated adjacent to the park's promenade entrance and contains information on the history of the park.

Finger posts situated at various points along the Mersey River Promenade indicate the direction and distance to the park.

A prominent 'Vale Park' sign is positioned on the park's Woodland Drive boundary facing the junction with Magazine Lane; two corresponding signs are located adjacent to the Magazine Lane Lodge entrance and the promenade entrance respectively.

Information boards

There are 3 community information boards placed at the main entrance the Magazine Promenade entrance and the Magazine Road entrance, and they are regularly updated with events, posters and site information by parks staff, rangers and volunteers.

5.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Dog Fouling

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.

The whole of the Wirral Council area is designated under Dog Control Orders that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. These provide increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order. These are – failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice.

The park has signs at the entrances and other locations indicating it is a 'clean it up' area. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Dog fouling is classified in law as litter for street cleaning purposes, and can be disposed of in Council litterbins. 'Dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. The park is very popular with dog walkers and most do clean up after their dogs.

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

Anti-social behaviour

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

Parks and Countryside are represented on the Junior Joint Agency Group (JAG), a forum consisting of the following agencies Merseyside Police, Community Safety, Youth and Community. Serious issues regarding security in parks are raised at the meeting

with the intention of providing a multi-agency approach to addressing any problems

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

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

Motor vehicles

Vehicles can park in small car parking area that is situated within the main entrance off Vale drive.

Pathways, pedestrian routes

Tarmac footpaths across the site are generally in good condition, most footpaths are shared with cyclists, without issues.

Provision for health: children's play area

Play area

In addition to the weekly inspection of play areas and fitness equipment undertaken by Parks and Countryside staff, these facilities are also independently assessed on an annual basis. An engineer from The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) assesses the equipment in accordance with EN 1176: "playground Equipment". A detailed written report itemising each piece of play equipment and an assessment of its condition is provided following the inspection, the inspection covers the following:

5.3 Site safety

5.4 Suitability and condition of ancillary items

5.5 Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment

5.6 Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing

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

Dog-free and smoke-free play



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

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

The play area is also designated 'dog-free'. This is shown on the play area signage.

Fitness equipment

Wirral Council were successful in a funding application for outdoor gym equipment from the NHS Wirral. An outdoor gym with fitness stations was installed in the Park in 2012. There is signage on site (see below) which shows the locations of the fitness equipment. The outdoor gym has been very popular with a wide age range and many people have used the circuit to jog around the park and exercise.



5.3 Well maintained and clean

Woodland management

The parks tree stock has been surveyed and a woodland management plan produced (see Appendix 4). A program of pruning and selective removal in accordance with the survey's findings has been started. The work will open-up pocket views such as towards the river from the upper area of the park and from the band lawn.

The tree diversity in the park is made up of around 40 species with only 4 species making up 65% of the tree population. The dominant tree species is sycamore making up around 39% with beech, lime and Norway maple collectively making up the other 26%.

For details on council owned trees near to or overhanging private property, please refer to the council's policy published on the council website available at:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/highway-maintenance/highway-trees>

Play

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

Hard and soft landscaping inspections

Site based staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. The following items are appraised by the Local Team Leader conducts in an annual report.

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

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

Buildings

The Park's coach house and bandstand are owned and maintained by Wirral Council's Asset Management Section.

Vale House is controlled and managed by a local community association as a community center with café.



Figure __ Vale house

5.4 Environmental Management

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

Pesticide usage at the park is confined to non-residual Herbicide for the control of weed growth on pathways.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of the chemical based products used within the park together with pesticide records are retained at the district depot (Central Park). Chemical storage and usage within the park complies with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation.

Motorised mowing equipment used at the park is checked for emission levels. Waste handling within the Parks and Countryside Service was subject to a review during 2006

Green waste generated at the park is separated out and composted at the area depot at Central Park; this material could be composted on site. Any waste timber or metals recovered are also separated for reuse/recycling at the depot.

Tree brash resulting from tree work is chipped and stored at Central Park depot for reuse

The park's bedding plant requirement is produced using 100% peat free compost. Peat is not used in any other capacity within the park.

Cycle parking racks are provided on the terrace area adjacent to Vale House.

Single-use plastic policy announced

13 November 2018

The council has announced a new policy designed to reduce single-use plastics (SUP) in Wirral.

After a resolution on the issue was passed in December 2017, the council has now set out its plans to work with communities and raise public awareness of the environmental impact of SUPs.

Highlights of the policy include:

- All council procurement processes, services and events – even third party events on council property – will be required to be single-use plastic free wherever possible in a bid to reduce their environmental impact.
- A voluntary SUP free code for Wirral businesses will be developed in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Surfers Against Sewage (SAS).
- The council will support the Refill scheme to encourage residents to fill up drinking bottles and reduce single-use plastic bottles.

- The council will also work with local community groups to support local schemes and projects working to tackle SUPs.

5.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

A commemorative stone inlaid into the gate pier of the promenade entrance records the opening of the park in 1899.

A section of original granite cobble stones were revealed during resurfacing work to the entrance driveway from Woodland Drive, these have been left exposed along the length to which they extend.

The coach house and house remain from the original estate. Feature ground retaining stonework abuts the park's footpath network at various points. The coach house is home to the G,M,O who works from there also his machinery garage is located on the ground floor .

The upper floor is occupied by a Scalextric cub who rent the room from W,B,C.

www.wirralslotracing.uk/scalextric-club



Coach house 2019



Spring crocus display

Spring 2021 saw Wirral Council incorporate Plantlife's **#NoMowMay** campaign into the management of its parks & countryside areas. **#NoMowMay** is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us. This follows Plantlife's national campaign.

Insect pollinator species have experienced national declines and wildflowers provide a vital habitat, food source and refuge for many bees, butterflies, birds, bats and bugs. Wirral's parks and open spaces can provide a vital resource for struggling wildlife species.

Research conducted by Plantlife's Every Flower Counts survey suggest that by not mowing in May the nectar sugar produced by flowers such as dandelion, white clover and selfheal can support up to 10 times more bees and pollinators (up to 4000 bees a day!) In practice Wirral Parks & Countryside ceased the mowing of general grass areas within parks and countryside areas for a six week period from the end of April to the middle of June. Sport pitches, bowling greens, churchyards, cemeteries, play areas, outdoor gyms and formal areas were not included in this scheme and were maintained as normal.

As one of the parks that took part in **#NoMowMay** The Breck saw all of its general grass areas (with the exception of the borders of the main paths) left uncut for the six week period. As a pocket of countryside within an urban area The Breck lent itself well to this change in management practice.

There was a definite increase in the presence of flowering plants, in particular common daisy and clover and the feedback from park users was generally positive.

It is anticipated that the **#NoMowMay** initiative will continue in 2022 and future years.



Celebration Garden

During 2018 the rose garden in the park was transformed into a celebration garden where members of the public can buy a granite stone and have it engraved with a message of their choice.

Benches and a couple of flower beds were added to make the space a calm and peaceful place to sit and remember loved ones.

There is a website on the council website for all the information on it and a facility to order the stones

[Vale Park Celebration Garden | www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

celebrating life ...

Vale Park
Immortalise your 'life event' and celebrate in style. Create a lasting message, carved in stone in our tranquil 'Memory Garden' in Vale Park.

From it's creation Vale Park has been an inspirational place, where people have found, experienced and created wonderful memories. Our Memory garden is the perfect spot to celebrate these and other amazing times.

The memory garden will be created in the old rose garden near to the play area in Vale Park and will be planted with a range of wildlife friendly plants.

MEMORY GARDEN
VALE PARK

Celebrate your graduation!

Celebrate tying the knot!

Memory Garden
Memories should stand the test of time, and for eons they have been etched, painted and carved into the very stones of the earth. Our Memory Garden gives you the chance to immortalise your chosen life event in stone in a beautiful Victorian Parkland on the banks of the River Mersey.

Be it a Golden Wedding anniversary, birth of a child, a graduation, winning the league or celebrating the life of a loved one, our garden is perfect for you.

5.6 Community involvement

Vale House Community centre has five businesses under its roof: Chelsea's Cupcakes, Mersey Arts Project, Vale Kids (providing early years), Reflex and Movement Therapy, The Coffee Roast Café, New Brighton Radio and Advanced Aesthetics to the best of my knowledge they are all privately owned companies. So, there is business enterprise in the park too.

The park is frequently visited by dog walkers, families, cycling groups, ramblers, hard to reach families(encouraged by the voucher scheme), home schoolers, NCS groups of young people, power walkers and those using the equipment provided, the memory garden has hosted small groups celebrating the life of a loved one particularly, the swings are a great magnet on the way home from school and at other times too, Mums and young children meet regularly incorporating the park on their promenade walk, The New Brighton Lifeboat guys are frequent visitors, music groups gather, art groups also to paint, The Pirates are frequent visitors supporting events and marauding around the park! Also, Positivitree, Involve and Koala meet in The Coffee Roast. During the summer months we look forward to putting the pulse back into the park with the return of the Brass Bands and other musical events (listed later – those I know about). Vale Park has visitors who are happy to travel, I have met groups from the other side of Birmingham who were on a weekend away to pop over to Liverpool but preferred the tranquillity and friendliness of the Vale Park community.

Vale House Community Centre continue to have a steady 12 people who attend their Monday Lunch Club. This is held in the Mersey Arts Project room because it is closed on a Monday and food supplied is cooked by The Coffee Roast staff – many members have been attending for years.

The Friends of Vale Park New Brighton (History)

The original Friends of Vale Park started in 1989. It was a voluntary organization with a Vision Statement, a constitution, an annual general meeting, independently audited accounts, risk assessments, public liability insurance plus health & safety, child protection and vulnerable adults' policies.

In 2019 the Friends main organizer was sadly was taken into a home for her failing health due to this the friend's group sadly went into decline and all but disappeared.

With the support of Wirral Parks & Countryside The new official **Friends of Vale Park** (FOVP) was established in January 2022 with its own committee, constitution, and bank account. The group aims to raise funds for Vale Park and work in partnership with Wirral Council.



During the last three years the Coffee Roast (café situated in Vale House) has undertaken arranging events and fund raising these have included the following but this is not an exhaustive list

- Friday Night Meal initiative with Cheshire Freemasons. 3,500 meals were delivered to people in isolation during covid-19 pandemic 9 recipients were nominated by Emmanuel Church, Hope for New Brighton, St. Andrew's Church, St. James Church, and new Brighton Baptist Church. This was a regular 2 course freshly cooked meal delivered by volunteers – a point of contact and a lift to those isolating.
- Raised 1,800 through customer donations of 50p + at the till (take away service only at that time)
- Raised 300 for The Open-Door Project 0 again customer donations at the till)
- Raised 3,500 for Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm (as above plus donations)
- Purchase of a Defibrillator for outside of Vale House. Customers and local community then started giving donations to pay for the box to go outside, a local electrician fitted it free because he had heard and staff have been trained in its usage

- Raised 270 for Macmillan cancer Charity and adopted them as their charity for 3 months during the summer
- Donated 200 for Vale Park Community Centre towards damp problems in building
- Donated 450 to New Brighton Community Centre to help make and deliver Christmas Dinners to local community
- Donated 50.50 to Pirate Project helping with Alder Hey and the Fairy Village
- Donated funds to The Pirates towards lighting up the Fairy Village
- Supported those in the arts throughout Covid-19 with a 75% discount at The Coffee Roast
- Donated 24 Children's Mental Health Book packs to SS Peter and Paul School, Liscard Primary School, St. Michael's School Woodchurch.
- Donation of prizes and staff uniforms for Joytime
- 70 families were given vouchers for 20.00 each to spend at The Coffee Roast (families were from SS Peter and Paul Primary School, New Brighton School, Mount Primary School, Liscard Primary, Park Primary School) * This voucher scheme has reached far more families as it has continued past the first lockdown and been implemented over Summer and Christmas Holidays too... continues
- Families were given free Santa experiences during December '21. Families who they have got to know through the voucher scheme were invited to spend time, have lunch (depending on time of day) and be entertained by the real Santa. This will be ongoing for future Christmases too.
- Current Charity is Muscular Dystrophy (event planned 6/8/22)
- Collection point for Wirral Hygiene Bank, collection point for Wirral Scout Post
- Positivitree, Involve, Koala, Rotary and FOVP all have and still use the Coffee Roast for their sessions.

The Fairy village



A Fairy House



A Fairy enjoying the crocus

These fantastic pictures show youngsters playing in a magical fairy village.

Major Mace and wife Sue began the project, in Vale Park, New Brighton, in February 2015 with a tree stump, some driftwood left over from the Black Pearl (a driftwood pirate ship on New Brighton promenade) and a bit of decking.

Now it has grown into a whole driftwood fairy village, including around 13 separate areas including a troll tree, memory garden, a tooth fairy's home and a fairy washing line complete with tiny clothing hung out to dry.

Intricate details are hidden away inside the fairy homes, which have drawn in children from the local area who explore the village in the hope of finding one of the elusive magical creatures.

Mainly created using items found on the beach, uprooted trees and decorations added by youngsters, the site has become hugely popular with local children, with Major Mace and Sue creating a back-story about how the village was born out of the fairies' need for a place to create magical dust.

Sue said: “My husband made a very basic door out of some decking for a tree stump, and we got such a big response that we added a bit more and a bit more.

“It’s just taken off, we’ve been invited to go to Llangollen Fairy Festival and are just having fun with it all.

“But we just have fun doing it and the children get so much out of it, it’s lovely.”

“We’re adamant nothing is attached to any living tree, we don’t want to damage trees



The troll house in the driftwood fairy village in Vale Park

5.7 Marketing and Communication

Website

The Breck is on the Wirral Council website and can be found at:

[Vale Park | www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)

The Wirral Council web site www.wirral.gov.uk The Parks and Countryside Service's home page includes links to information about Wirral's **Green Flag** parks.

Wirral Parks Survey

This was undertaken in 2012 to find out what visitors think about their parks, beaches and countryside, and to inform management of Wirral's Parks. The Wirral Parks Survey Consultation Summary can be viewed here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5916>

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

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

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

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

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

Events

Due to restrictions put in place to combat the spread of SARS-Covid 19 there were no events organised throughout 2020 or the beginning of 2021. With the easing of restrictions in the summer of 2021 weekly events were slowly and under strict Covid regulations were allowed to take place such as **Joytime** (children's entertainment and talent show) and **Jam in The Park** (a local bands music festival)



Childrens entertainment



Jam in the Park

As restrictions continue to be eased it is hoped that we can continue to cautiously increase the number of events at The Breck to pre-pandemic levels. Such as Community Yoga classes, and Brass band shows



Yoga in the park fundraiser for lifeboats 2019



Brass Band

5.8 Management

This management plan aims to inform staff and members and the public about the aspirations Wirral Council and The Breck Community Volunteers have for the future development and maintenance of the park.

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

Parks staff and their functions:

The General Manager for Wirral Parks & Countryside (Wallasey Area) is responsible for the management of The Breck.

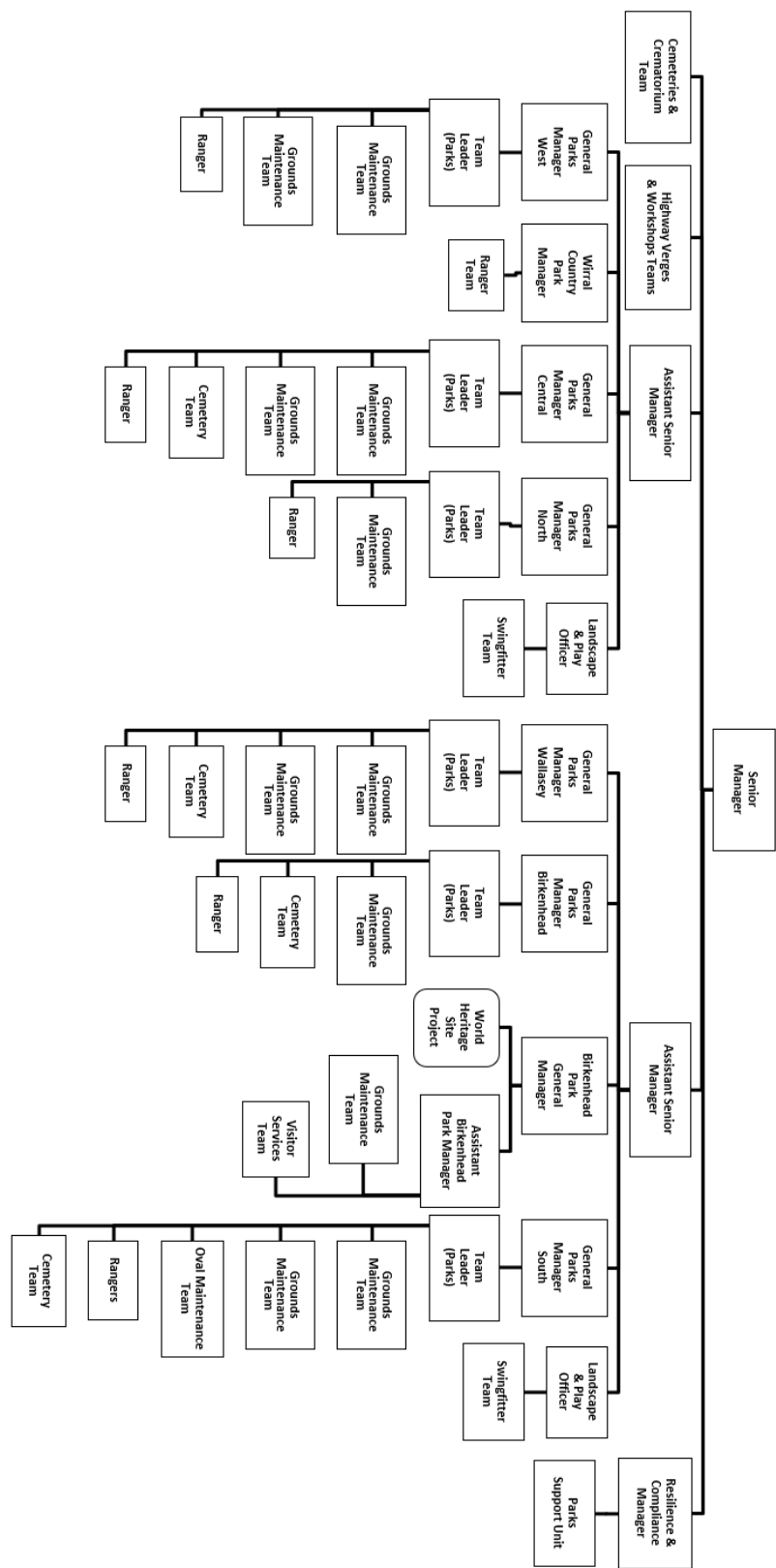
One permanent ranger responsible for weekly site visits to inspect for damage and broken glass, litter pick, carry out routine maintenance, ensure site safety and organise/supervise weekly volunteer task. Assisted by a gardener/tractor driver using tractor-mounted equipment for mowing of the larger grass areas.

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

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the Parks, Allotments & Countryside General Manager (Wallasey Area).

David Weaver T- 01516062086 E- davidweaver@wirral.gov.uk

Current Wirral Parks and Countryside Service organisation chart



6. Action Plan

	Action	Responsibility	When	Financial	Complete
1. A welcoming place					
1.1	Herbaceous planting in the kidney beds	Local team leader	December 2017	Within existing resources	done
1.2	Vaughan Road entrance to include signage	Area Parks Manager	Sept 2017	Within existing resources	done
1.3	Replace litterbins throughout	Area Parks Manager / Landscape team	Apr 2017 /18/19/20	Parks PPM budget £3000	On going
1.4	Lavender bed planting	Local team leader	Apr 2017	Within existing resources	done
1.5	Replace and fix new picnic tables in the children's play area	Landscape team	2016	£1300	done
1.6	Install finger post at Magazine Road entrance	Area parks Manager	Spring 2017	Approx. £1000	done
1.7	Move notice board from behind railings to main promenade entrance	Area parks Manager	Feb 2017	Onsite staff	done
2. Healthy, safe and secure					
2.1	Continue to monitor incident reports from Community Safety	Area Parks Manager	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
2.2					
2.4	Undertake annual recorded site safety inspection.	Local team leader	Apr 2016/17/18	Within existing resources	On going

3. Well maintained and clean					
3.1	Refurbish the rose garden	Area Parks Manager	2019	C,plete	Memory garden
3.2	Appraise the park's shrub planting and improve as required	Landscape team	Summer 2017	Requires additional funding	
3.3	Resurface the kick-about area 570M ²	Area Parks Manager	When funding becomes available	Requires additional funding	
3.4	Replace current wooden boarding with wire mesh fencing	Local team leader	Feb 2017	Within existing resources	done
3.5	Mark out NO Go areas for vehicles with yellow grid	Local team leader	2019		Done
	Carry out repairs to trip hazards in Tarmac Paths and roads				
4. Sustainability					
4.1	Construct bays for composting and waste control.	Area Parks Manager	2015	Within existing resource	done
4.2	Continue to use 100% peat free compost for the park's bedding plant production.	Area Parks Manager	Ongoing	Within existing resource	Monitoring each year

4.3	Implement the tree survey	Area Parks Manager	Winter annually	Within existing resources	2016 2017
	Trees inspected 25mtrs inwards from boundary	Amenity trees	2017		Done
	Arbor management	Amenity trees	2019		complete

5. Conservation and heritage

5.1	Installing donated Dove cote	Local Team Leader	2018	Donated	??????????
5.2	Clean and waterproof coat the bandstand dome, re-paint bandstand.	Senior Parks Development Officer	2015	Requires additional funding	done
5.3	Restore the condition of the sandstone boundary walling along Magazine Lane	Area Parks Manager	2016	Requires additional funding £50K	

6. Community involvement

6.1	Monthly meeting with stakeholders including Friends groups	Parks Manager	Monthly	Within existing resources	On going
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7. Marketing

7.1	Improve the available information regarding the park on the Wirral Council Internet website	Service manager	2017	Within existing resources	On going
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7.2	Advertise Celebration Garden	General Parks Department	2022	Within existing resources	Ongoing
8. Management					
8.1					
8.2	Annual meeting with stakeholders to update management plan	Area Park Manager	2017/18	Within existing resources	On going
8.3	Monthly meeting with Friends Group	Area Park Manager	2022	Within existing resources	Ongoing

7 Monitoring and Review

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

The General Manager will incorporate progress on Management Plan actions into the monthly management team meetings.

Rangers will report back on progress or shortfalls to the General Manager after each visit.

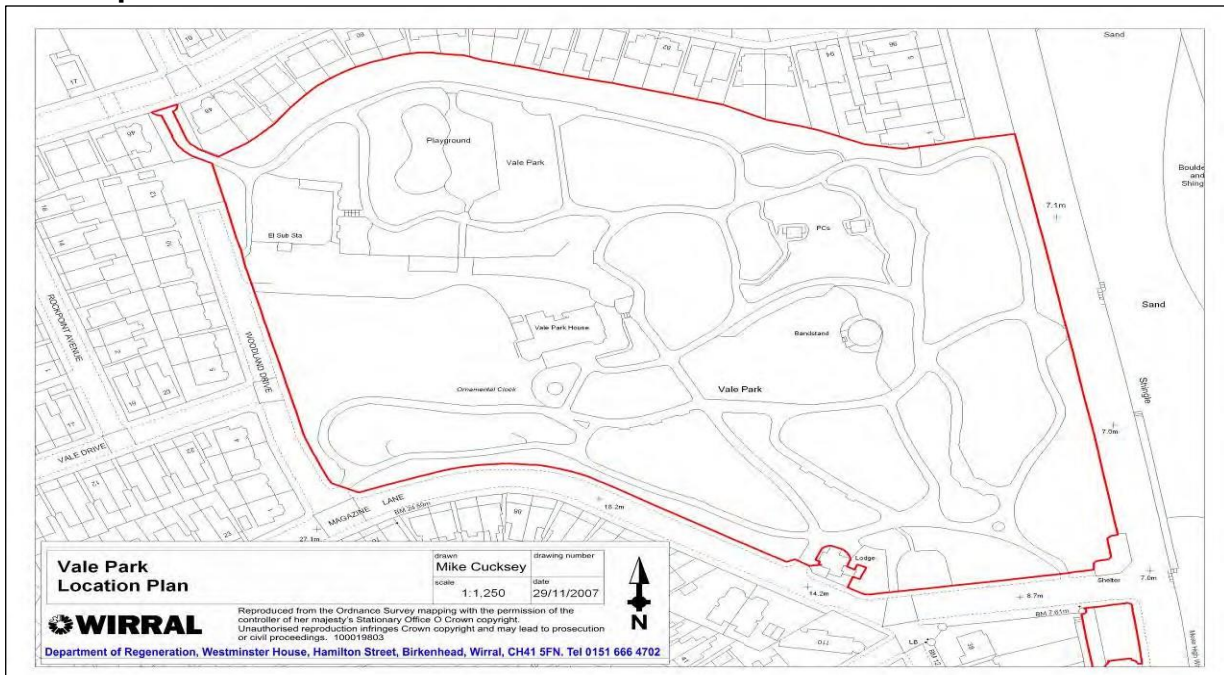
The General Manager will carry out random inspections of the site between programmed monitoring visits.

The General Manager will carry out a quarterly inspection of the site with the relevant park staff to assess maintenance standards and check against the issued work programme and specification.

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

Appendix 1:

Site Map



Appendix 2:

Aerial Photograph



Appendix 3

Parks, Allotments and Countryside General Service requirement

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

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

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

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

- ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- programming works effectively
- applying resources appropriately

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

The park shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice

Part 1: litter and refuse

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

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

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

Sweeping and cleansing

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fallen leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- visitors' centres and attractions
- ornamental grass areas
- soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders
- surfaces within play areas

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- in good horticultural condition
- and / or with a safe, well drained hard surface

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

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

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

Graffiti and fly-tipping

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Area 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 Area Team Leader.

Grass maintenance

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

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

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

- an even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.

- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected and removed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General/amenity grass

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

- Minimum height 25 mm
- Maximum height 60 mm

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

Undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of the hard landscape infrastructure of parks, open spaces and other sites. All locations covered by a site management plan at contract commencement shall have been subject to a condition survey within three years of contract commencement. All other locations shall have been subject to a condition survey within five years of contract commencement. Following each site condition survey, the prepare an improvement plan for inclusion in the relevant site management plan and subsequent submission to the Area Manager, or where there is no site management plan for direct submission to the Service Manager.

Hard surfaces weed control

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

Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance

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

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

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

Benches and seating

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

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

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

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

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

Notice boards and signs

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

Shrubs

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

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

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

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

Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to

ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be removed for recycling or reuse.

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

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

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

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

Public toilets

Be responsible as key-holder for opening, closing and securing the buildings. Maintain public toilets to a sufficiently high level of cleanliness to protect public health and maintain good appearance.

Toilets shall be kept free from unacceptable odours. All sanitary ware shall be kept free from all, stains, dirt and any build-up of lime scale or dry germ. A streak and smear free finish shall be achieved. Replace where necessary all consumables such as toilet rolls.

Use best endeavors to conserve supplied utilities including electricity and water, and arrange access for the reading of meters by the utility suppliers.

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 Service Manager immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

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 thirdparty damage within 24 hours, inclusive within his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

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

Appendix 4 :

VALE PARK MANAGED ASSET QUANTITIES TABLE

ITEM	QUANTITY	TYPE
Premium Ornamental Grass	686m ²	
Ornamental Grass	1749m ²	
General Grass	26264m ²	
Hedge two side and top	1342m ²	
Hedge one side and top	70m ²	
Annual Bedding	388m ²	
Rose Bed	474m ²	

Shrub Bed	1044m ²	
Hard Surface	2620m ²	
Benches	42	
Picnic Tables	9	
Bins	18	
Community notice boards	2	
Porous 5 "a" side	1	
Play Area	1 no.	
Outdoor Gym Equipment	4 items	
Deckchair storage	1 no	
	1 no.	Bandstand
	1 no.	Former Coach house
Tree Stock	Yes	
Woodland		
Natural area	Yes	

Appendix 5:

Wirral Council environmental policy

Environmental Management

The Wirral Resilient Parks project was conducted as part of work in support of Cool - the Wirral climate change strategy (2014-19). It involved a consultant investigation by TEP, managed by Wirral parks staff following a successful bid for funding from CLASP. The project researched adaptation and mitigation measures for parks. It involved more detailed investigation of five 'case study' parks and countryside sites in Wirral that face existing weather-related issues of the type that are expected to be more common place as a result of climate change. e.g. flooding and wildfires. Concept proposals were developed for these sites to illustrate how they could be developed and managed to take onboard climate mitigation and adaption. The creation of these concept proposals involved dialogue with local parks staff, friends groups and park users. A key output of the investigation is a resilient parks toolkit summarising the findings of the research for wider application.

Since the project was completed some low and no cost measures have been adopted, e.g. changing mowing regimes and planting whips in some areas prone to water logging, as has been the case at Central Park. Where the original concept proposals involved the need for capital spend bids are submitted when opportunities arise, however for Central Park, the actions are complete.

Appendix 6:

Managing environmental impact

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 practice.
- **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.

Appendix 7:

Statement of Intent

Wirral Council accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all subsequent regulations. The council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, visitors, contractors and any other persons affected by its undertaking. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, to ensure that departments comply with this commitment through the implementation of a robust management system that seeks continual improvement in the health and safety performance of the council. The council's objectives, so far as health and safety is concerned, are to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable:-

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

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

Eric Robinson Chief Executive

Date: 25th February 2015

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