

## Park Rangers: Leckhampton Hill, Use of Green Space and Community Engagement

Recommendation	Timetable	Lead service	Partners	Resource Implication	Update April 2011
Implement existing action plans such the Leckhampton Hill, and develop additional plans for other key sites	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Friends groups, wider stakeholders	May require external support	Dry stone wall completed. Total of £850,000 raised in grants and in-kind sponsorship. Consultation undertaken to further enclose extensive grazing areas. HLS agreement signed and associated funding due to come on-stream in October 2011, amounting to £60,000 over 5 years.
Identify other possible sites for events and activities to reduce the impact on currently used sites.	2013/14	CBC Parks Service	Festivals and events team		Underway.
Review scale of fees and charges for use of green spaces	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Parks Development Manager		Undertaken in Autumn 2010 for land hire in connection with special events. Fees and charges in line with other authorities.
Encourage greater community use of green space	2011/12	CBC Parks Service	Friends groups, stakeholders, residents	Revenue investment required	Undertaken through support of Friends groups (e.g. Community Pride Grant for a family picnic in Hatherley Park), PAWS event, support of Play Ranger events, Community Ranger events, Bands in the Park programme during summer months, play area development undertaken with input from local families. Also promotion of cleanliness and appropriate behaviour through enforcement activities.
Where sites identified for change of primary purpose, authority should work with stakeholders to secure external funding to implement changes	2011/12	CBC Parks Service	Friends groups, stakeholders, residents	May require capital investment	Mapping undertaken in Autumn 2010 to identify sites with potential for change of use. Very limited number of sites identified. Next steps to explore options with Properties and Asset Management.

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Introduce a more structured approach to community consultation and engagement	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Richard Gibson	May require external support	To be discussed with Richard Gibson's team as and when time and resources allow.
Invest resources in developing partnership working so that individuals and groups can realise their potential	2011/12	CBC Parks Service	Richard Gibson	Revenue investment required	Partnership working developed with Friends Groups, Community Payback team, Youth Offending Service. Further development may have revenue investment implication.
Target non users and under represented groups to better understand their views and aspirations for green space	2010/11 then all years	CBC Parks Service	Richard Gibson Community agents	Revenue investment required / may require external support	Focus on young people has led to instillation of 5 MUGAs (Agg Gardner, Springfields Park, Clyde Crescent, Grange Field, Naunton Park and Brizen Rec.) This has increased park usage among this age group (identified as a priority in Green Space consultation).

## Parks Development - Mapping Requirements and Play Provision

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Adopt the 10 design principles for successful play spaces in the creation of all new play areas and the refurbishment of existing provision.	All years	CBC Parks Service		Capital investment required for all new or refurbished play areas	Adopted and on-going. 5 new play areas built with Playbuilder funding (Agg Gardner, Springfields, Benhall Open Space, QEII Playing Field and St Peters Park) and others refurbished as part of on-going programme
Address issues of children's play, working with developers and other agencies to consider innovative street design solutions to local play provision and safe access to play	All years	Urban Design			Adopted and on-going. Department input into all developments with a play element (currently Starveall Farm).
Address any gaps in current play provision through the creation of natural play.		CBC Parks Service		Capital investment required	Adopted and on-going: Tree trunks in Ag Gardners, boulders in Springfield Park and QE2 and earth modelling (mounds). Over £200,000 in Playbuilder funding successfully bid for to provide five new areas for natural play. Meadows and native plantings enhance the natural experience.
Continue to map areas of natural and semi natural green space that form components of other types of green space.	2009/10	CBC Parks Service		Staff time	On-going. Required for further work to enhance bio-diversity and ecology in the Borough.
Extend the size limit of 2 hectares downwards to see what sites below this threshold could contribute to meeting the 300m accessibility standard.	2009/10	CBC Parks Service		Staff time	On-going.
Repeat the quality audit on a regular basis to measure change	2011/12 and then every three years.	CBC Parks Service		May require external support	Timescale to be reviewed due to level of resources required for this activity. To explore use of random sampling or for key sites only.

## Parks Development - Mapping Requirements and Play Provision

Consider potential for change of use of low quality low value green spaces	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Planning, wider stakeholders	Staff time	Mapping undertaken. Very small number of sites identified. To be progressed with Properties and Asset Management.
Consider the establishment of an index of locally listed parks / public green spaces in Cheltenham	On-going				Historical elements now form part of the local index administered by the Council's conservation team.

## Local Food, Bio-diversity and Sustainability

Recommendation	Timetable	Lead service / organisation	Partners	Resource Implication	Update April 2011
Promote and facilitate local food production with the local community	All years	CBC Parks Service	Vision 21 University	Revenue investment	Allotment strategy Action Plan approved October 2010 to fund 290 additional allotments and additional land for non-allotment food growing activities e.g. social enterprises. 200 additional allotments created through renovation of derelict land and splitting of large plots.
Establish wider community links to support local food production and promote sustainable approaches to land management	All years	CBC Parks Service	Vision 21 University		On-going communications with Vision 21, Stable Company and more to develop joint approaches.
Improve the provision of cycle parking and access for people with disabilities at allotment sites	All years	CBC Parks Service		May require capital investment	Consultation undertaken. Cycle parking provision not required at present and existing access deemed sufficient.
Identify and introduce mechanisms to celebrate success and share good practice	2011/12	CBC Parks Service	CBC Marketing and communication		Promotion of Fiesta in Montpelier, Paws, Play facilities, allotments competition and more in the local press.
Develop action plan to translate recommendations of biodiversity audit into measures to improve biodiversity across the borough	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Planning	Staff time	Underway. Recommendations being drawn up for different habitats.
Consider the recommendations of the biodiversity audit and the opportunities to address climate change when considering site specific or generic management plans.	2009/10	CBC Parks Service	Climate Change / Sustainability Officer	Management planning may require external support	On-going.
Ensure that the wide range of opportunities to address climate change are fully considered in strategic planning, land management and service delivery	2009/10	CBC Parks Service	Climate Change / Sustainability Officer	Capital investment required	On-going.
Identify opportunities to reflect sustainability issues and climate change resilience	All years	CBC Parks Service	Climate Change / Sustainability	May require initial investment	Promotion of allotments and local food, support of Vision 21 and other groups, change in mowing and planting regimes.

## Local Food, Bio-diversity and Sustainability

Recommendation	Timetable	Lead service / organisation	Partners	Resource Implication	Update April 2011
Develop action plans for LNRs and other key sites	2010/11	CBC Parks Service	Friends groups, wider stakeholders	May require external support	Generic approach to nature reserves established. Specific plans also now being developed and nature reserves being actively managed. Hedges have been laid at Griffiths Avenue Nature Reserve in conjunction with BTCV. Other activities include vegetation clearance, planting, species management and support (creation and enhancement of habitats) etc.

**Planning, Development and Strategic Land Use  
in Green Space Management**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Lead service / organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resource Implication</b>	<b>Update April 2011</b>
Investigate the possibility of county wildlife sites to the west of the town becoming Local Nature Reserves.	2012/13	CBC Parks	Planning, wider stakeholders	May require external support	No existing wildlife sites in this area.
Address deficiencies through the proposed North West Extension housing development.	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks	Staff time	North West extension plans on hold. To be addressed through planning process and Section 106.
Deliver opportunities for additional Local Nature Reserves within the proposed urban extensions	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks	Staff time	North West extension plans on hold. Strategic Land Use input through planning process and Section 106.
Ensure that the contribution of private green space is recognised for its amenity, biodiversity and accessibility contribution.	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks		Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.
Protected and enhance the natural environment of the borough through sustainable management practices and planning policy	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks		Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.
Ensure all development opportunities respect biodiversity principles and are planned for nature conservation benefits	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks		Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.
Protect allotment land from the pressures of development, neglect and vandalism	All years	CBC Parks	Strategic Land Use	Ongoing revenue	Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents. Allotment site security managed by Parks Department.
Identify opportunities to increase provision of new allotments or land for local food production	All years	CBC Parks	Strategic Land Use	Capital investment required	Allotment 5 year action plan approved in October 2010 funding development of 290 additional allotments.

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<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Lead service / organisation</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Resource Implication</b>	<b>Update April 2011</b>
Continue to review the policy options available for each green space	Every year	CBC Parks	Strategic Land Use		Exercise undertaken to map green space with potential for change of use. Awaiting tie-in with Properties asset management review.
Commence a programme of local consultation about the change of use of low value sites	On a site by site basis	CBC Parks	Friends groups, stakeholders, residents. Strategic Land Use	May require external support	Parks team currently mapping and reviewing low value sites.
Ensure that the contribution of private green space is recognised for its amenity and biodiversity contribution.	2009/10	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks		Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.
Explore and develop local standards for green space provision	2009/10	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks	May require external support	Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.
Develop a more strategic approach to the use of S106 contributions and seek to allocate a percentage of all funds to strategic level sites	2010-2011	CBC Parks	Strategic Land Use		Restricted by current statutory requirements.
Set a quality standard linking catchment to a recognised national quality measure	2010/11	Strategic Land Use	CBC Parks		Strategic Land Use Team developing new planning guidance documents.



## Landscape Services

Recommendation	Timetable	Lead service	Partners	Resource Implication	Update April 2011
Clarify land ownership and management responsibility		CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services			Project underway by Landscape Services Team.
Increase people's access to natural green space through changing management regimes	2010/11	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services	Friends groups, wider stakeholders	May require external support	Tree trunks in Ag Gardners, boulders in Springfield Park and QE2 and earth modelling (mounds). Over £200,000 in Playbuilder funding successfully bid for to provide five new areas for natural play. Meadows and native plantings enhance the natural experience.
Adopt more sustainable management practices on council land using evidence from the biodiversity audit	2009/10	CBC Parks	Friends groups, wider stakeholders	May require investment	Implementation of standing and dead wood policy, creation of meadows and grasslands and resulting changes in mowing regimes, habitat creation in nature reserves and parks, sustainable and indigenous planting increased.
Protect and enhance the natural environment of the borough through sustainable management practices and planning policy	Likely timetable to be determined	Strategic Land Use and see above re JP			As above and via development of planning guidance documents.
Manage and care for the two parks in Cheltenham (i.e. Pittville Park and Bouncer's Lane Cemetery) on the English Heritage "Register of Listed Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England" in accordance with the legislation covering them and in consultation with English Heritage's Historic Landscape advisors	On-going	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services	Friends of Pittville / PARA English Heritage	Staff time	On-going

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Ensure that the principles of restoration and maintenance, as set out in the recently prepared conservation plan for Pittville Park are implemented when restoration or maintenance works are undertaken in the park	2010-11	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services	Friends of Pittville / PARA English Heritage	Staff time	On-going
Ensure that all future maintenance and planting plans for Montpelier Park are in accordance with the aims of the Restoration master plan, as undertaken during recent restoration.	On-going	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services		Staff time	On-going
Review working practices and identify targets and performance measures that contribute to an overall system of performance management and deliver policy and strategic objectives.	2010/11	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services		May require external support	Parks Service has written draft performance indicators for review.
Engage residents and service users in the setting and monitoring of standards	2011/12	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services	Friends groups, stakeholders, residents		Not priority given existence of national standards and very limited resources to undertake this. Green Flag standards used for parks and 10 Principles for play areas.
Develop meaningful benchmarking of the service in terms of usage, satisfaction and quality ( <i>and cost</i> )	2011/12	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services			Limited resources to undertake measuring activities, surveys etc. Green Flag criteria to be used where required for standards. Some bench-marking being undertaken to compare costs of services between authorities.

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Review the approach to quality standards for green space and produce a realistic plan of how to raise standards.	2011/12	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services		May require external support	Reviewed. Existing national standards (Green Flag and 10 Principles for Play) considered appropriate and useful as standards. Plans include review of number of parks entered for Green Flag status (resource implication) and measures to increase number of volunteer hours to supplement decreasing department resource.
Invest in new technology to support improvements to the service and greater efficiencies	2009/10	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services		Capital investment required	Review of mowing regimes. Less frequent mowing requires different machinery. Use of external contractors to provide specialist support e.g. for cutting of flower meadows etc.
Re-align resources and ensure the correct skill sets are in place to achieve strategic objectives	2009/10	CBC Parks Service / Landscape Services - AR & JR	HR Trade Unions		Re-structure undertaken in 2010 in Operations Division.

## Trees

Recommendation	Timetable	Lead service	Partners	Resource Implication	Update April 2011
Increase tree resources to reflect the borough's ageing tree population	2009/10	CBC Parks Service	Gloucestershire Country Council		No increase in capital budget but public donations for new tree planting have risen sharply in recent years.
Invest in a computerised system for recording the tree stock and link this to its GIS mapping systems		CBC Parks Service			No funding for new trees computer system. Previous system re-instated. Not yet GIS compatible. Currently investigating whether a new service-specific system could be bought and shared with neighbouring authorities.
Make the Tree Preservation Order database available to the general public					TPO database almost ready to go online. Decision not to publish until certain it is complete (anticipated by mid / end 2011).
Develop a more consistent approach to the management of highway trees with Gloucester Highways		CBC Parks Service	Gloucestershire Country Council		Formal quarterly meetings take place to discuss issues and develop protocol.