

# Montpellier Gardens Management Plan 2019 - 2024



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## 1.0 Introduction

Montpellier Gardens are located in the heart of Cheltenham within the central Conservation Area. The park represents an important part of the Regency townscape and an integral part of the town's Spa heritage. Historically a pleasure ground for the wealthy, this attractive green space was bought by the Council in 1891. The Gardens which are 3.66 ha in size are bordered by regency properties in Montpellier Walk (the A4015), Montpellier Terrace and Montpellier Spa. The park is managed by the Green Space Development team in conjunction with Ubico.

### Overview of Montpellier Gardens:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Montpellier Gardens</b>
<b>Grid Reference:</b>	SO 949217
<b>Address of Café</b>	The Garden Café Montpellier Gardens Cheltenham, GL50 1SD
<b>Area</b>	3.66 hectares
<b>Tenure</b>	The site is owned and managed by Cheltenham Borough Council. CBC work together with Ubico and both consult with FoMBaG <a href="http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk">www.cheltenham.gov.uk</a> : 01242 262626
<b>Site History</b>	Situated in the heart of the town in a conservation area, Montpellier Gardens, originally pleasure grounds for the wealthy, was bought by the Council in 1891 and is an important part of the Regency character of the town. In 2006, a major refurbishment programme was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. More details are available on request
<b>Site Description</b>	<p>Montpellier Gardens is a town centre green open space, of 3.66 Ha in size. There is a range of sports and play facilities including 6 tennis courts, play areas for children and a small skate park.</p> <p>The Gardens Café offers refreshments year-round with a range of hot and cold snack style food and drink. The Gardens Gallery offers an exhibition and performance space. The Bandstand hosts an excellent summer programme of music.</p> <p>Montpellier Gardens as a whole is a popular event space and is well used by Cheltenham Festivals and a number of smaller events</p>
<b>Green Space Classification</b>	Montpellier Gardens is identified in the Cheltenham Green Space Strategy as having the primary purpose classification of a Park.
<b>Access</b>	The gardens are bordered by Montpellier Walk (the A4015), Montpellier Terrace and Montpellier Spa Road. The main access is from Montpellier Walk. The site can be accessed by bicycle and is on a number of bus routes. The Eastern pathway is part of the cycle route network. All entrances and paths are accessible for wheelchair users.
<b>Opening</b>	The gardens are open to the public at all times.

<b>Toilets</b>	The gardens have DDA compliant toilet facilities at the entrance, serviced by Ubico and on a rolling maintenance programme.
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<p><b>Cheltenham Borough Council:</b> Property Services, Community Development, Ubico, Green Space Development, Public Protection, Community Rangers, The Cheltenham Trust Sports Development and Play Rangers.</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Friends of Montpellier and Bandstand (FoMBaG), local residents and businesses, existing park users, town visitors and festival organisers and attendees.</p>

**Table 1 Overview of Montpellier Gardens**

## **Surveys**

### **2.1 Legal Issues**

#### **Ownership**

Montpellier Gardens are owned by Cheltenham Borough Council and the legal boundaries are shown in figure 2.1 overleaf. The size of the park is approximately 3.66 hectares. Entrances to the park are from Montpellier Terrace, Montpellier Walk and Montpellier Spa Road.



**Figure 2. Aerial view of Montpellier Gardens. Scale 1:1250**

## **Lease**

The park's café building, which was refurbished in 2007, has been leased since 2011 to a local catering business that offers homemade cakes, sandwiches and a range of drinks. The facility is open all year round.

The Gallery is housed within the original proscenium building, restored with funding from a Heritage Lottery Fund to create a bespoke venue for the arts. A charity leases the building and runs visual art exhibitions by local artists.

## **Landscape Maintenance**

In 2012 the Council's Environmental Maintenance section was transferred to a new local authority company called Ubico. Ubico is jointly owned by Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Stroud District Council and West Oxon District Council. It provides all of these authorities with a range of services including waste collection, recycling, street cleansing and landscape maintenance of parks and open spaces including school fields. The link to Ubico can be found at:

<http://www.ubico.co.uk/index>

## **Byelaws**

A copy of the byelaws for all of the parks in Cheltenham is available on request.

## **2.2 Strategic significance of Montpellier Gardens**

Montpellier Gardens' strategic significance is set out within and governed by the following documents: the Joint Core Strategy, Cheltenham Borough Local Plan 2006, Cheltenham Borough Green Space Strategy 2009, and this 5 year Management Plan.

### **Local Plan**

Cheltenham is a large Regency spa town in Gloucestershire with a population of 115,700 (Census 2011) located on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment. Cheltenham is the home of the most prestigious race in the National Hunt racing calendar, the Gold Cup, the main event of the Cheltenham Festival in March. The town also hosts a number of cultural festivals featuring nationally and internationally famous contributors and attendees. The town is famous for its Regency Architecture and is said to be "the most complete Regency town in England", with many buildings listed.

The Cheltenham Borough Local Plan 2006 recognises the importance of parks in its Urban Green Environment, which says:

(6.1) “One of Cheltenham’s distinctive features is its green and open nature. The council recognises the importance of green spaces and their connectivity in the town and to the surrounding countryside, and particularly the opportunities they provide for recreation and relaxation, contributing to the health and well-being of the residents and visitors. The landscape of the town provides a green network of spaces and wildlife corridors which support a variety of trees, vegetation, and wildlife habitats, assisting in biodiversity conservation throughout the town, and, into the wider countryside”.

(6.6) “The council is proud of its parks, gardens and other green spaces and features. In recognition of this the council does not wish to see their loss through development or their deterioration through poor management and lack of resources and funding”.

(6.33) Cheltenham is justly renowned for its formal parks and gardens, which are an essential part of the Borough’s character, and has gained a reputation of the ‘Garden Town of England’.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Cheltenham Borough Council agreed Cheltenham’s pre-submission for public consultation on a new Cheltenham Plan which starts the formal process and public consultation later in 2018.

### **Green Space Strategy for Cheltenham 2009-2024**

In 2009 the Council produced a Green Space Strategy (GSS) for Cheltenham which set out the 15 year vision for green spaces within the borough. Montpellier Gardens is identified in the Strategy as having the primary purpose classification of a Park and Garden which provides: “Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events”.

Within the 3-tier hierarchy classification of the Strategy, Montpellier Gardens is defined as a Borough Park: “Sites whose significance should attract people from across the entire borough. Usually large sites with a range of facilities or designated importance for history or nature conservation.”

Table 2.2 shows the Hierarchy and Walking Distance classifications used to define Montpellier Gardens.

Hierarchy Level	Description	Walking Distance (m)
Borough	Those sites whose significance should attract people from across the entire borough. Usually large sites with a range of facilities or designated importance for history or nature conservation.	1200
Neighbourhood	Those sites which perform a function that serves a more immediate community. Unlikely to attract people from across the borough	600
Local	Those sites which perform a function to a small area – typically areas of amenity green space.	400
Local (<0.2ha)		50

**Table 2.1. Hierarchy and Walking Distance**

The vision set out in the GSS forms the basis for this 5 year Management Plan which is:

“working together to ensure a comprehensive network of attractive, valued and well used locally distinct green spaces, that are accessible, safe and welcoming, which meet the existing and future needs of the community, enhance biodiversity and are managed sustainably to reduce our impact on climate change”

The link to the classification can be found at:

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1389/green\\_space\\_strategy](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1389/green_space_strategy)

## **Joint Core Strategy**

The JCS is a partnership between Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council supported by Gloucestershire County Council. Formally adopted by Cheltenham Borough Council on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 the strategy provides a co- development plan to show how Cheltenham and the other partners’ areas will develop during the period up to 2031. It means Cheltenham is well placed to ensure the provision of homes and jobs for local people up to 2031 while protecting the things that make Cheltenham an attractive place to live, work and visit. The strategy sets out the approach that the Councils will take:

- To protect and enhance the natural and historic environment
- Deal with climate change
- Set out policies for the location and timing of new housing, employment development, key infrastructure, community, leisure and tourism facilities.

Para 2.9 of the Strategy states that “Cheltenham is characterised by its high-quality historic environment, set within a formal garden townscape and a wider open landscape defined by the Cotswolds AONB and the Green Belt.

2.14 states that: “Retail and Tourism will continue to make a major contribution to Cheltenham’s economy”; and finally

Policy INF4: Green Infrastructure states that: “Existing green infrastructure will be protected in a manner that reflects its contribution to ecosystem services (including biodiversity, landscape/townscape quality, the historic environment, public access, recreation and play)”

The link to the plan can be found at:

[Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury](#)

## **Cheltenham Plan**

The new Cheltenham Plan has reached its final stages of production and on 3 October 2018 was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent inspection. Go to our examination page to find out the latest information. The Cheltenham Plan will be a new planning document which will guide development in the local area and will be used in combination with the Joint Core Strategy.

## The proximity of Montpellier Gardens to other green spaces

Figure 2.2 shows the proximity of Montpellier Gardens Park to surrounding green spaces and playing fields within the south of Cheltenham. The nearest green spaces to the park are Imperial Gardens, Suffolk Square bowling green and Municipal gardens.

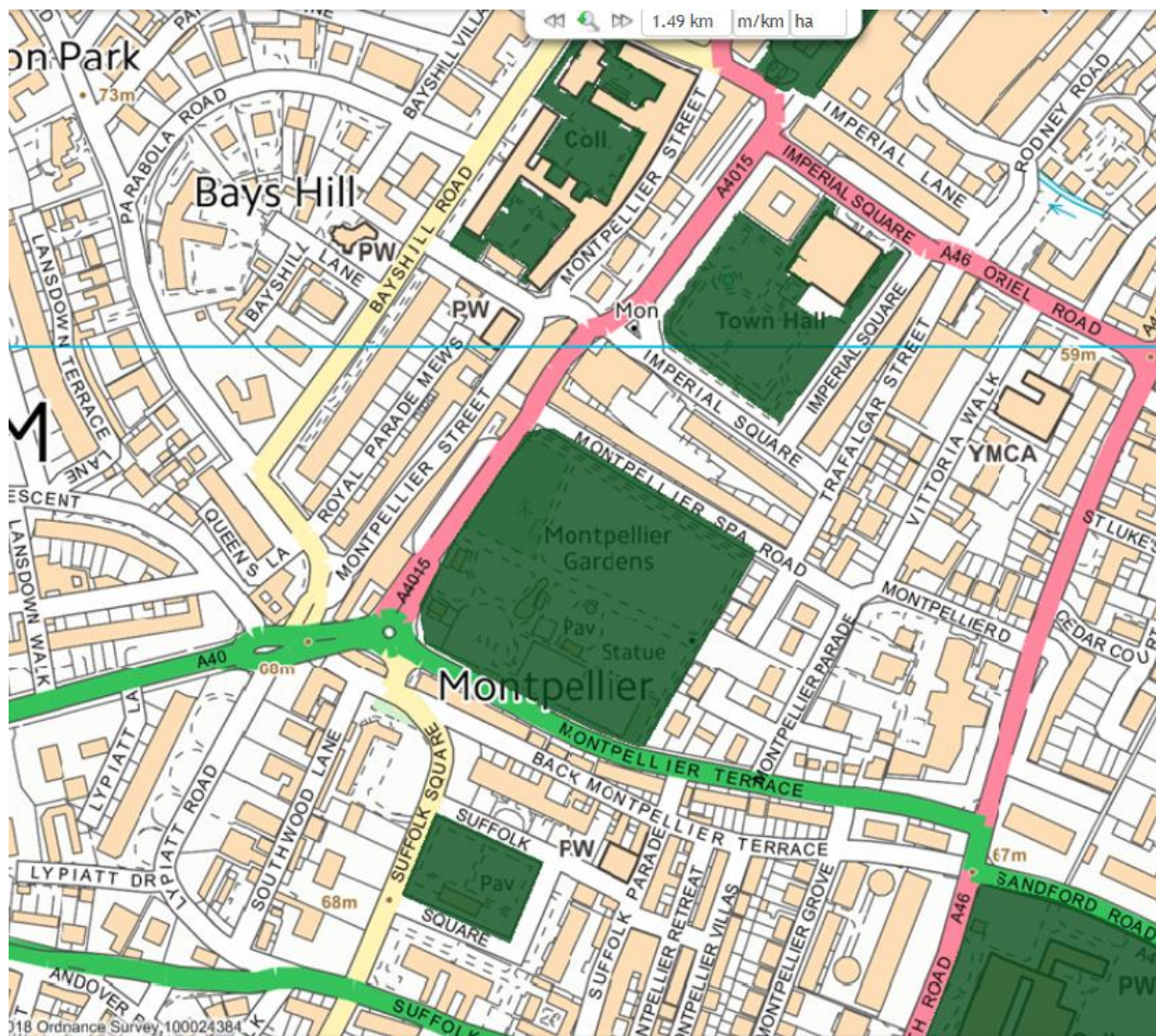


Figure 2.2 Map of Montpellier Gardens showing proximity of location to other green spaces

## 2.3 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

### Ecological Survey

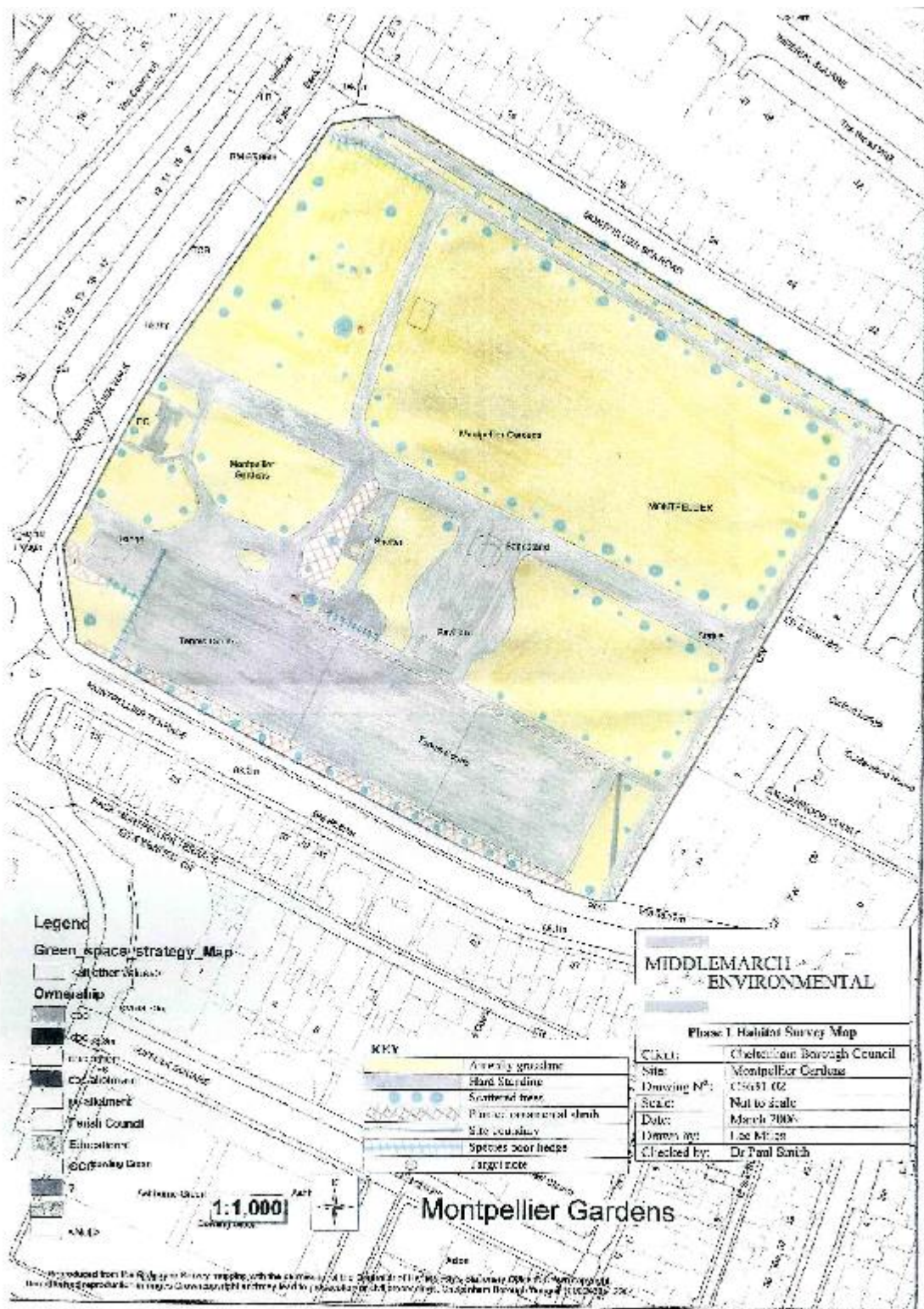
A Phase 1 habitat survey of Montpellier Gardens was carried out by Middlemarch Environment consultants in March 2006 as part of a Borough-wide Biodiversity Audit. The survey summarised the park as follows:

The site comprised amenity grassland, introduced shrub, scattered trees, species-poor hedge and buildings. Species noted in the areas of amenity grassland were daisy, smooth meadow grass, lesser celandine, annual meadow-grass, perennial rye-grass, Yorkshire fog, common chickweed and creeping buttercup. Bulbs were planted throughout the site, including daffodil, hyacinth and crocus. The eastern boundary was provided by a bed of introduced shrub, with a species-poor hedge towards the southern end. Species noted in this hedge were privet, cherry laurel, hawthorn and box. There was also a species-poor hedge in the south-west

corner of the site containing privet. Many trees were scattered across the site, with many mature specimens, including beech, lime and plane, of considerable size and ecological value, with some noted to contain mistletoe. Other tree species recorded were holm oak, yew, cherry, silver birch, sycamore, hawthorn, conifer species and cypress.

Protected species:

- The mature trees may have potential for bats.
- The hedgerows are likely to provide foraging & commuting routes for bats.



### Figure 2.3 Habitat Survey map

## **Hard and Soft Landscape survey**

A detailed hard and soft landscape survey of the park has not been carried out.

## **Tree Survey**

The Council's Tree Officers carry out a tree survey of Montpellier Gardens every two years.

The latest tree survey was carried out on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020. All priority 1 works were undertaken by Nature First from April 2020 onwards. The survey identified 168 trees in the park.

Figures 2.4 and 2.5 show the Tree Survey Map and Tree Survey.

There are several mature specimen trees within the main area of the gardens. The central pathway has been planted as an avenue and now has some outstanding mature limes.

A prominent mature Copper Beech within the gardens unexpectedly shed a limb in 2012 and a fence was erected to protect the public. Interpretation signs were added to inform garden users about the problem. In summer 2014, following a specialist survey, the beech tree was felled. The area has been returned to grass, 3 Liquid Ambers have now been planted within the arboretum area.

The area alongside the railings on Montpellier Walk forms an informal mini arboretum with a range of species present. An information leaflet was produced by a University of Gloucestershire student as part of their studies. The planting regime in the gardens is similar to the other green spaces within Cheltenham, replacement trees are being planted to replace over mature species in 5 -10 years' time to reduce the visual impact on the landscape.

The boundary of the tennis courts within the park has been replanted, as part of the restoration, with beech and lavender hedges. Annual pruning takes place on both species, although the Lavender has become over mature and may need to be replaced.

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# Leisure Trees on Montpellier Gardens

- Walk by inspection 2020  
Detailed inspection 2021

Trees in street: 161  
Report Date 16/3/2020

Location	Species		Ht		C	S	Insp Date	Remarks	Remarks Notes	Work Programme	Pri	Work Programme Notes
1	TIL	EUR	23	12	2	/	26/2/2020	XLI	All Lime trees in Gardens to be deadwooded by CTS prior to Jazz 2018	NNN		Walk by inspection 2020 - all trees full inspection 2021
2	BET	PDA	8	4	1	G	26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN		
3	QUE	RUB	18	1	2	G	26/2/2020	PLQ		CLA		
4	QUE	COC	3	1	1	G	26/2/2020	PLQ		PIT	1	
6	TIL	EUR	20	10	2	/	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
7	TIL	EUR	20	10	2	/	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
8	ACE	PLA	12		1	G III	26/2/2020	PLQ		CLA	2	
	PRU	AVI	3	1	1	G	26/2/2020	PLQ		PIT LST	1	LST - 30cms Retain cage
10	ACE	PID	8	8	2	G III	26/2/2020	CVB BKW SSD	PLQ	STB	2	
11	ACE	SAC	14	14	2	G III	26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ Leech	CLA	3	CLA-2.5M
12	LIR	TUL	13	8	1	G	26/2/2020	INS	Lost top 2018?	NNN		
	CUP	LAW	9	5	2	IV	26/2/2020	MUL VAN		NNN		
12B	LIR	TUL	3	2	1	G	26/2/2020	NON		PIT	1	
13	PRU	KAN	6	9	2	/	26/2/2020	NON		STB	2	
13A	TIL	PRU	5	3	1	G	26/2/2020	NON		NNN	1	
13B	TIL	PRU	4	2	1	G	26/2/2020	NON		NNN	1	
13C	PRU	AVE)	5	4	1	G I	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
13D	PRU	AVP	6	4	1	G II	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
13E	PRU		5	4	1	G	26/2/2020	XNG		NNN	0	
14	BET	PEN	14	4	2	G III	26/2/2020	PLQ		CLA	2	
15	QUE	ROB	17	11	1	G II	26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN		
16	QUE	ROB	12	14	2	G	26/2/2020	PLQ	PI-Q -Green	CLR	1	
	BET	PEN	8	4	1	G	26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN	0	

18	PLA	ORI	24	2				26/2/2020	CVT TWI FGI	FGI_ Kretashmaria at base N side between cavity-No new ff bodies 2018. Inn his FF x3 at 8m on S stem on old would, new FF on same limb at 949m	FOP	2	FOP - lift off yew
19	TAX	BAC	6	7	2			26/2/2020	THC		CLA	2	
	PRU	AVP	8	5	I	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
19B	PRU	AVP	7	4	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
19C	PAR	PER	3	2	I	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT I-ST		
21	CUP	MAC	16	10	3		V	26/2/2020	BKW FCR DIE	BKW- previous limb loss. Next limb loss = REM	NNN		
22	TAX	BAC	1	1			H	26/2/2020	THC		NNN	0	

23	TIL	EUR	22	14	2		v	26/2/2020	NON	Sounds a little hollow at 1m N. side	DWD	1	
		PLA	4		1	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT	1	
25A	TIL	PRU	4	3	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT STB		
27	TIL	PLA	9	8	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		CLA	2	
29	TIL	PLA	8	5	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN	1	
30	TIL	EUR	21	16	2		v	26/2/2020	STD		MIS	1	MIS - remove mistletoe at branch ends.
31	TIL	PLA	7	6	1	G		26/2/2020	BKW		PIT CLA		
32	TIL	EUR	28	13	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		DWD	1	
33	TIL	EUC	9	5	2	G	I	26/2/2020	VAN LDR BKW	VAN*Dog damage	NNN		
34	TIL	EUR	16	9	3		v	26/2/2020	DIE EXU STD	STD-FCR NE side. no tone change	DWD		
	TIL	PLA	10	9	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
36	TIL	PRU	6	4	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
	TIL	PRU	3	2	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ-Sarah	PIT	1	
38	TIL	EUR	21	10	2		v	26/2/2020	LOV XNG	NF removed of Mistletoe 2017	NNN		
39	TIL	PLA	7	6	2	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ - Bark	RBB	1	
39A	TIL		7	6	2	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN		
39B	TIL	PLA	10	8	2	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN		
39C	TIL	PLA		7	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ BKW		CLA NNN		
39D	TIL	PLA	10	8	2	G		26/2/2020	PLQ		CLA NNN		

39E	TIL	PLA	7	6	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ		CLA	2	
39F	CAR	BEF	7	6	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		CLP NNN		
39G	CAR	BET	7	4	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
40	MAL	SPF)	6	7	2		IV	26/2/2020	cv-r SSD BKW	CVT-25cm	NNN		
	PRU	AVG)	6	10	2		IV	26/2/2020	PLQ THC		CIP	3	
	PRU	spp	3	2	2	G		26/2/2020	PLQ			1	
41B		SPP	3	1	2	G		26/2/2020	VAN I-DR BKW	THC PLQ Clarke Street Parade	PIT		
		EUR	24	11	2		v	26/2/2020	CVL THC		DWD		
44	TIL	EUC	12	8	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		CLP	2	
45	TIL	EI-JR	20	12	2		v	26/2/2020	CVT DIE THC	CVT-Climbing inspection 201 5 45,47,49 see file note	NNN		
	TIL			5	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ VAN	PLQ - Cook VAN„Dog damage	NNN	0	
		EUR	25	12	2		v	26/2/2020	CVT	see file note	NNN	0	
					1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ BKW	PLQ Daiby			
		EUR	22	12	2		v	26/2/2020	CVT BKW	see file note	DWD	2	
		EUR	8	5	2	G		26/2/2020	VAN		NNN		
51	TIL	EUR	19	11	2		v	26/2/2020	EXU	EXU-at base SW side	DWD		
		KAN	9	9	2	G	III	26/2/2020	BKW	BKW-roots	NNN	0	
53	TIL				2	G		26/2/2020	BKW INS PLQ	PLQ - VN	PIT		
													MIS - remove
54	TIL	EUR	25	16	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		DWD MIS	1	Mistletoe at branch ends.
54A	PRU	SAR	5	6	1	G		26/2/2020	BKW PLQ	PLQ Astbury	NNN		
55	TIL	EUC	11	6	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		NNN	2	
56	TIL	EUR	18	12	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		DWD		
56A	PRU	AVI	12	9	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ Clark	NNN		
57	TIL	EUC	10	5	2	G		26/2/2020	BKW PLQ	PLQ - Reeve	NNN		
58	TIL	EUR	25	19	2		v	26/2/2020	NON	Gaskins to DWD June 2019	NNN		
59	PRU	KAN	10		1	G	III	26/2/2020	BKW	BKW„roots	NNN		
60	TIL	EUC		7	1	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ Cotswold Life	NNN		
61	PRU		7	6	2	G	III	26/2/2020	STD BKW		NNN		
62	TIL	EUR	24	16	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		DWD	2	
63	PRU	AVI	12	10	2	G	III	26/2/2020	NON		CLA	2	
	TIL	EUC	10	7	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ Carlin	NNN		

65	PRU	SAR	1	1	9	1	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ BKW VAN	VAN„Dog damage PI-Q Walters	NNN		
66	TIL	EUR			14	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		CLA	2	
67	PRU	AVP	3	1	1		G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT	1	
68	PRU	KAN	8	10	2		G	III	26/2/2020	BKW		NNN		
69	TIL	EUC	12	7	1		G	I	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
70	CRA	OPS	7	7	2			v	26/2/2020	STD BKW		NNN		
72	TIL	EUC	9	9	1		G	II	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
73	PRU	AVP	3	1	1		G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT STR	1	CLA
74	PRU	KAN	6	10	2		G	III	26/2/2020	BKW		NNN		
74A	PRU	SPF)	3			1	G		26/2/2020	NON	Prunus shi ratae/ Mount Fuji	PIT	1	
75	LAB	VOS	5	7	2			v	26/2/2020	LEN CVT STD		NNN	0	REM at xmas
76	TIL	EUC	11	8	1		G		26/2/2020	PI-Q		NNN		
77	TIL	EUC	11	9	2		G		26/2/2020	PFM		CLP	2	
78	LIR	TUL	9			1	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ		FOP	2	FOP- lowest branch growing towards north east
80		SYL	9				H	III	26/2/2020	BKW	BKW Buttress	NNN		
81	TIL	EUR	17	11	2			v	26/2/2020	CVT		NNN		
83	TIL	EUR	25	13	2			v	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
83A	TIL	COR	3			1	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT LST	1	Replace 4 stakes on cage
84	TIL	EUR	17	11	2			v	26/2/2020	CVT		MIS		MIS - at branch ends
85	TIL	EUC	10	6	3		G		26/2/2020	BKW STD PLQ	CVT PLQ Rotary	NNN	0	
87	TIL	EUC	9	6	2		G		26/2/2020	BKW PLQ	PLQ - Long	STB	2	
88	TIL	EUR	19	11	2			v	26/2/2020	NON		DWD MIS		MIS at branch ends
89	TIL	PLA	9	7	2		G		26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN		
90	TIL	EUR	19	12	2			v	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
91	TIL			6	1		G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ PFM	PLQ Commerce	CLA	2	
														MIS - at

92	TIL	EUR	28	15	2		v	26/2/2020	CVT		MIS	1	branch ends
93	TIL	PLA	8	7	2	G		26/2/2020	VAN	VAN-Dogs	NNN		
	TIL	EUR	23	16	2		v	26/2/2020	NON		REG CLA	1	
95	TIL	EUR		17	2		v	26/2/2020	CVL		DWD	2	
96	CRA	OXY	5	7	2			26/2/2020	LEN BKW STD		NNN	0	
97	TIL	EUR	22	13	2		v	26/2/2020	CVT	Gaskins DWD May 2019	DWD		
98	SEQ	GIG	10	5	1	G		26/2/2020	PLQ		NNN	0	
99	SEQ	GIG	23	8	2		IV	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
100	JUG	NIG	8	7	2	G	II	26/2/2020	PLQ BKW		NNN		
101		SYL	4	3	1	G		26/2/2020	VAN	Van-split trunk	PIT	1	
102	FGS	SYP	9	5	2			26/2/2020	VAN		CLA	2	
103	CHA			7	1		IV	26/2/2020	VAN MUL	Van-bark stripping	NNN		
104	TIL	EUR	16	8	2		v	26/2/2020	XLI LOV THC	No Change in tone	NNN		
105	FGS	SYP	16	13	2		IV	26/2/2020	XLI BKW	graft? change tone	No in DWD RBB	2	
106	PIN	WAL	3		1	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT	1	
108	CHA	LAW	9	4			IV	26/2/2020	BKW		NNN		
109	CHA			3	2		IV	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
110	CHA	LAW	9	3	2		IV	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
	FGS	SYL	11	6			H	26/2/2020	BKW		NNN		
114	CHA	LAW	12	7	2	G	III	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
115	ACE	PLA	10		1	G	III	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
117A	KOE	PAN	3	1	1	G		26/2/2020	PI-Q I-DR		PIT		
118	PRU	PIS	7	9	2		IV	26/2/2020	FGN	FGN- Phe tub	NNN		
119	CHA	LAW	14	4	2	G	III	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
120	LIQ	STY	3		1	G		26/2/2020	NON	Liquidambar styraciflua Stella	PIT	1	
120A	LIQ	STY	3	1	1	G		26/2/2020	DIE	Liquidambar styraciflua Lane Roberts	PIT	1	
120B	LIQ	STY	3	1	1	G		26/2/2020	NON	Liquidambar styraciflua Thea	PIT	1	
	ACE	PSV	13			G	III	26/2/2020	BKW WFB		CLA	2	
122B	ZEL	SER	8	5		G		26/2/2020	NON	Species- Zelkova serrata	PIT		
125	QUE	CAN	2		1	G		26/2/2020	NON		PIT		Remove tree tie
127	QUE	CER		14	2			26/2/2020	XLI PLQ	PLQ National	CLP	2	

										Trust			
128	AES	HIP		17	2		v	26/2/2020	XLI XNG LOV		FOP		FOP- Remove all zip ties with xmas lights and replace with string
130					2		III	26/2/2020	XLI		NNN	0	
						H		26/2/2020	LDR VAN		NNN		
133	TAX	BAC	7	8	2	H	III	26/2/2020	NON		CLP STB	2	
133A	LIG	VUL	7	14	2		v	26/2/2020	GRO THC DED		NNN		

134A	TAX	BAF	4	4	2	H		26/2/2020	MUL		NNN		
135	CAR	BET	5			H		26/2/2020	NON		NNN	0	
136	PRU	HIL	6	3	3	H		26/2/2020	LOV THC DIE		NNN	0	
137	TAX	BAC	5	5		H		26/2/2020	MUL LOV		NNN		
138	ACE	PLA	15	15	3	H	III	26/2/2020	WFB		NNN	0	
140	TAX	BAF	5	5		H	II	26/2/2020	MUL		NNN	0	
142	FGS	SYL	15	12	2	H	II	26/2/2020	NON		CLA CLR	2	CLR Hard!
143	PRU	PIS	7	7	2		v	26/2/2020	WEB FGN BKW		NNN	0	
144	ACE	PLA		14	2	H	III	26/2/2020	NON INS	INS- obscured at base	DWD	2	
144A	GIN	BIL			2	H		26/2/2020	VAN		PIT	1	
145	PRU	AVI	4	5	1	H		26/2/2020	PLQ	PLQ Guy	NNN		
150	PRU	PIS	6	6	1	G		26/2/2020	NON		IVY	2	
151	PRU	SPF)	3	2		H		26/2/2020	NON		PIT		
152	CRA	OPS	7	7	2		v	26/2/2020	DIE STD		CRA	2	
153A	PRU	spp	3	3	1	H		26/2/2020	NON		PIT	1	
154	CHA	LAW	10	4		H	III	26/2/2020	POL		REM	2	
156	CRA	OPS	8	6	2		IV	26/2/2020	BKW STD		<del>NNN</del> CRA		
157	TAX	BAC	11	10	2	H		26/2/2020	NON		NNN		
158		FLO	3	3	1	H		26/2/2020	PLQ		CLP	2	
159	ILE	AQU	12				IV	26/2/2020	NON		NNN		

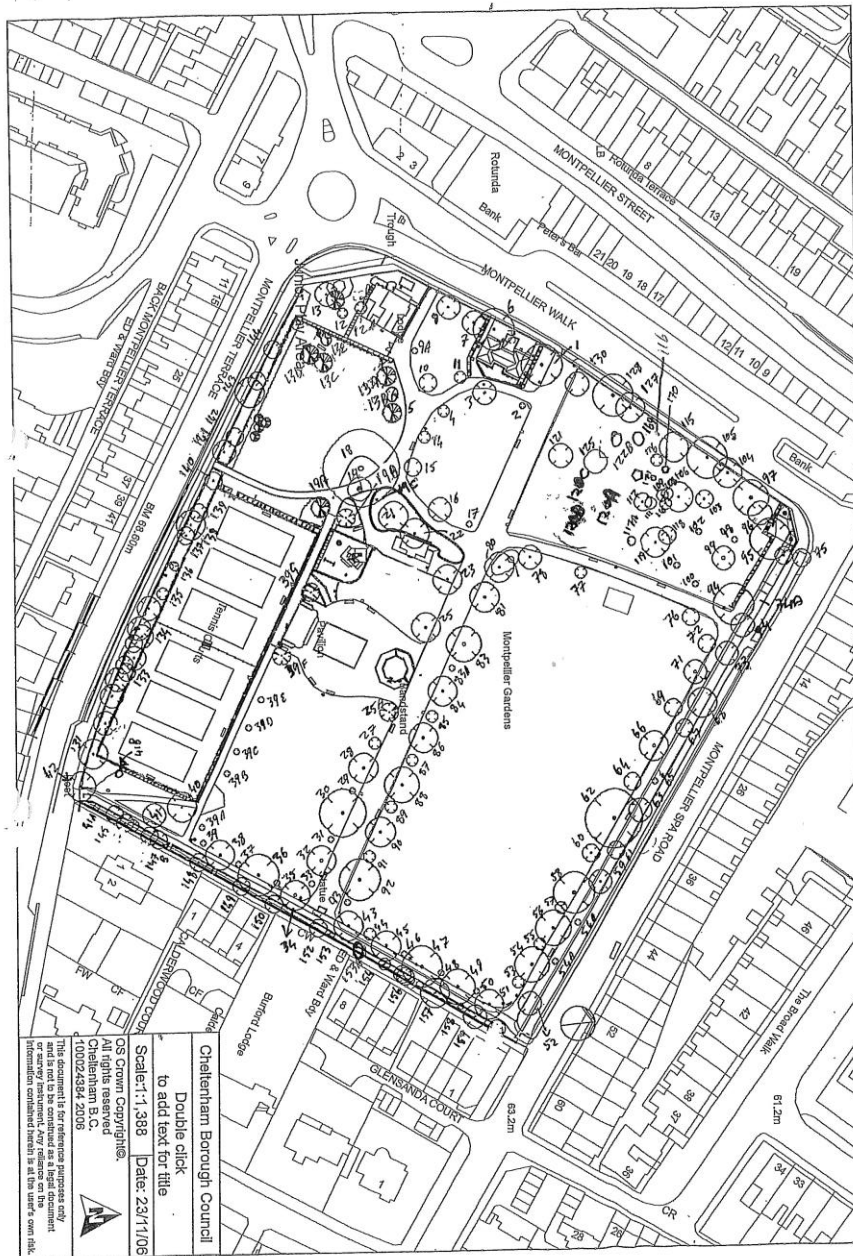
Inspector's Name: C C/dtu/cex,x

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Signature: .....  
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## Figure 2.4 Tree Survey of Montpellier Gardens



### Figure 2.5 Tree Survey Map of Montpellier Gardens

## Management reviews

Management reviews are held annually between Council officers and Ubico to highlight areas where improvements have been carried out and to identify areas which need to continue improving. The close working relationship enables regular and effective feedback and development and maintenance work to be co-ordinated. The Green Space Development Manager attends quarterly meeting with Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens (FOMBAG) FoMBaG, Gardens Forum representatives and other stakeholders to discuss projects and other matters

## 2.4 Community Involvement

The Council works closely with the Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Montpellier Gardens to improve and enhance the existing facilities in the park for the use and enjoyment of local residents and visitors.

The Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens were established in 1994 following the restoration, of the bandstand. The Group's stated aim is 'promoting, encouraging and supporting the maintenance, conservation and facilities of Montpellier Gardens', and they contributed in the development of the gardens' restoration management plan and with many volunteer hours since then.



During 2019 the Group started sourcing funding for outdoor gym equipment and working with the Green Space team a design and specification for equipment was agreed. Purchase and installation has been delayed due to Covid 19, but it is hoped to be implemented once restrictions are lifted.

Previously the Group kindly funded the purchase of 10,000 Narsissus Tete a Tete daffodil bulbs, 500 of which were planted by the Group in the beds around the bandstand, with the remainder being planted by Ubico on the western edge of the Gardens. All of these produced a very colourful spring display for visitors. The Group continued with their successful Saturday Litter Pick Days throughout the spring and summer months

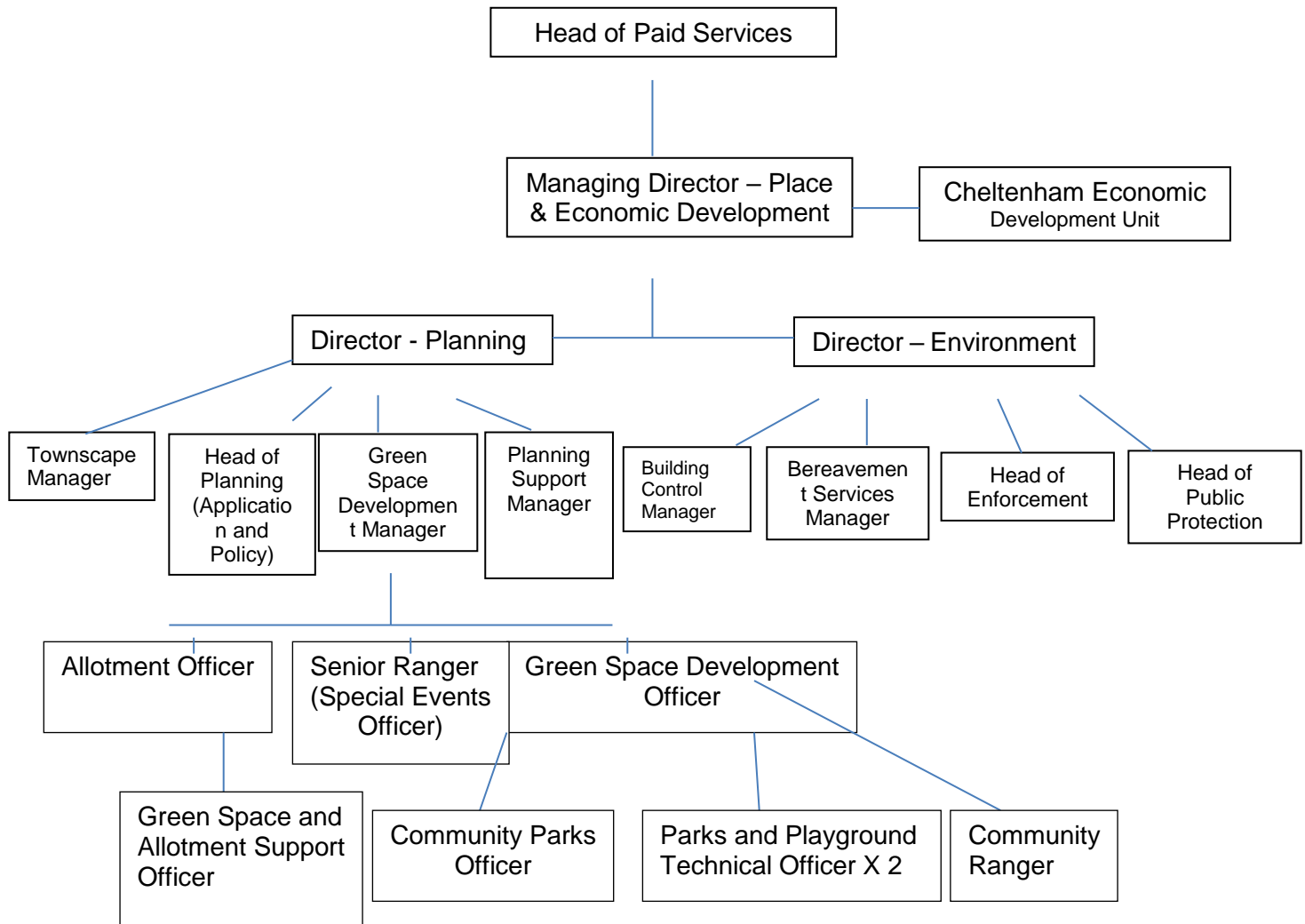
The Group has a Twitter account for visitors to keep up to date with events, news and activities at: Twitter:@montpellierGard and an up to date and well visited Facebook page which promotes events and displays photographs taken by visitors to the gardens. The Facebook page link can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MontpellierGardens/?fref=ts>

The Friends also support the use of the bandstand through the Cheltenham Trusts' Bands in the Park programme throughout the summer months.

The Friends Group committee met regularly during the year and their Annual General Meeting was held on the 13th March in the Council's Municipal offices. Half-yearly newsletters were sent to members to bring them up to date with activities in the gardens.

**Figure 2.6 Current Management Structure**



The Green Space Development (GSD) team are part of the Council's Planning Directorate and comprise of:

- **The Green Space Development Manager** is the commissioning officer for Ubico and manages the Green Space Development team.
- **The Green Space Development Officer** is responsible for the development of Council owned parks and play areas, instructing the Parks and Playground Technical Officers to make improvements to the spaces and to increase play value where possible.
- **The Allotment Officer** is responsible for the letting of the borough's allotments and organising repairs, and is the point of contact for tenants if they have concerns or issues.
- **The Senior Ranger** is responsible for the day to day running of Leckhampton Hill, working with tenant grazer to improve the status of the SSSI site. The ranger also oversees all events that take place on Council owned land to ensure the correct paperwork is submitted and the event is suitable for the site.

- **The Community Parks Officer** supports the Green Space Development Officer with new green space projects, implementing improvements to Council owned parks and play areas and carrying out play area inspections.
- **The Community Ranger** organises and facilitates working parties with local community groups, friends of groups, schools and other organisations, as well as attending Local Neighbourhood group meetings and organising the Paws in the Park event.
- **The Green Space and Allotment Support Officer** assists with the day to day running of the office which includes processing orders and invoices.
- **The Parks & Playground Technical Officers x 2** undertake routine visual and operational inspections of all parks and open spaces and playgrounds. They undertake minor works or coordinate repairs and improvements with external contractors.

### **Investors in People (IiP)**

Cheltenham was one of the first local authorities to gain the award in 1995 and have retained it for 17 years, a great achievement. In December 2012, The Council's IiP assessor undertook a Strategic Review. In the context of the level of change that was taking place within the council, they concluded the council required a further 12 months before it would be in position to undertake a re assessment against the standard. Since then the Council has retained the award.

## **3.0 Historical Development**

### **3.1 Heritage importance of the park**

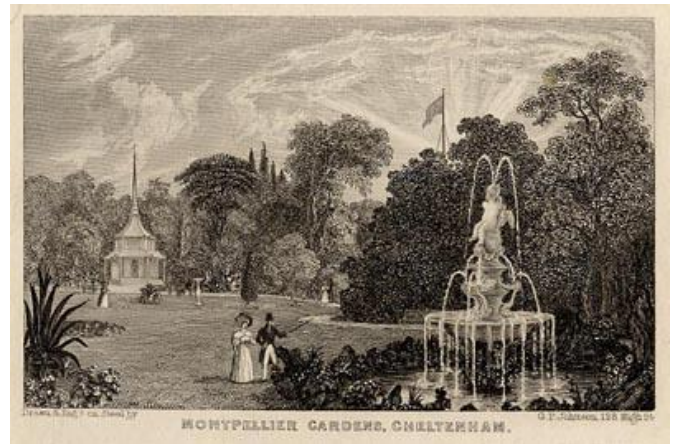
#### **Site History**

The development of Montpellier Spa and Estate was undertaken in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by Henry Thompson. The site of Montpellier Gardens was originally known as Trafalgar Field, after the victorious battle of that name.

In 1809, Thompson built the first Pump Room; it was a long, unpretentious building with wooden pillars and a veranda, and a small structure over the centre for an orchestra. In 1817 this rather primitive structure was pulled down and the present building was erected.

Eight years later, the architect John Papworth added the domed circular room which became known as the Rotunda. The interior, with its sixteen Corinthian Pilasters, its domed ceiling and original fittings designed by Papworth himself, was used as a ballroom which was graced by the presence of the Duke of Wellington and many of his distinguished contemporaries.

The development of the Gardens ensured that Montpellier Pump Room was seen in appropriate setting. The Gardens were originally pleasure-gardens being of a semi-public nature, providing a place for society to meet and promenade. As such, the gardens and features were fundamentally a setting to a social function. The gardens were open to the public, on payment of an admission fee, and were largely frequented by those visiting the spa to take the waters.



Pleasure-gardens were a commercial concern and competition between establishments was significant. By the 1830s, the Gardens were home to glasshouses filled with exotic plants, a Chinese Pagoda with a bandstand underneath and fountains were incorporated to attract and delight, whilst programmes of events, concerts, galas, illuminations and special attractions were organised, such as the Great Nassau Balloon Launch of 1837.

The change towards public ownership at the latter end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw the focus of the Gardens change to a place of public amusement, recreation and resort. In 1864, the bandstand was constructed, quickly becoming a very popular facility with regular concerts. The proscenium built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century provided a venue to hold theatrical and other cultural events. The provision of sports facilities including lawn tennis courts, archery and croquet were also introduced, probably attributable to the National Fitness Campaigns of the early twentieth century.



In 1891 the Borough Council purchased Montpellier Spa and its gardens, for which £7,400 was paid. By this policy the council preserved the Spa Buildings and saved the gardens from speculative builders, thus maintaining a large part of the Regency Heritage as a priceless and permanent possession of the town.

The history of the gardens during the twentieth century was dominated by World Wars I and II. During both, the gardens were appropriated for the

war effort for the military to train and exercise and for the '*Dig for Victory*' campaign. The railings were removed during World War II for the war effort. A more welcome addition was the tennis courts, consisting of hard and grass courts.

By 1955, the gardens were laid out in their present form and few changes occurred until the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The rotunda was restored by the council and Lloyds Bank in the early 1960s and in 1994, the Civic Society initiated restoration of the Bandstand.

Extensive restoration and development of the gardens was made possible in 2006 by the award of a substantial grant of £1.25 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Public Parks Initiative programme with a significant contribution from the borough council. The restoration works, implemented from June 2006 to July 2007 have ensured that Montpellier Gardens will continue to play an important part in the lives of residents and visitors alike while making a unique contribution to the town's economic, social and environmental wellbeing well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century

### 3.2 Features of the historical landscape

#### The Gardens Gallery

The original proscenium building was built in. After falling into disuse and a dilapidated state it was restored as part of the HLF-funded restoration project. The Gallery as it is known today is a bespoke venue for the arts.

The Council formed a partnership with a local consortium of arts groups (The Gardens Gallery Community Interest Company). A not-for-profit company, who, on completion of the restoration works, leased the building from the council in order to run visual art exhibitions by local artists. The link can be found at:

<http://www.gardensgallery.co.uk>



#### Montpellier Bandstand



Montpellier Bandstand was built in 1864 making it possibly the oldest bandstand in the country. It was refurbished in 1995 by the Council with funds raised by FoMBaG, since when the council has run a summer “Bands in the Park” programme, with financial assistance from FoMBaG. The bookings are managed by The Cheltenham Trust since the trust was formed in 2014.

#### The Garden Café

The café was refurbished in 2007, as part of the restoration works, to incorporate a new indoor café facility.

Since 2011, the café has been franchised to a local catering business that offers homemade cakes, sandwiches and a range of drinks. The facility is open all year round.

In the Park provide an online booking system allowing people to book tennis courts:

<http://www.inthepark.co.uk/leisurefacilities/?s=tennis-in-the-park-cheltenham>



The patio area around the café has been extended with the help of a grant gained by the Cheltenham Coffee Company (now In the Park) who run the franchise. The planting area behind the café was re-planted in 2013 to include a wider range of wildlife friendly plants, including grasses and Mahonia.

### 3.3 Research

Significant historical research of the Gardens was carried out as part of the 2006 Heritage Lottery Fund application to restore the Gardens. A tendering process was carried out by the Council and independent consultants, the Landscape Design Group were appointed to research and collate all historical records held by the Council, the Friends of Group and other agencies. This information is available in the Conservation Management Plan, which is available on request.

Historic records, postcards and photographs of the Gardens are also available on “Days Gone By in Cheltenham” Facebook page. The following are recently published extracts on the Gardens:

“Balloon ascents were a popular attraction back in the 19th century, and there were several in Cheltenham. On this occasion, Mr Hampton invited spectators in Montpellier Gardens to witness his ascent by balloon and return by parachute. The local authorities were concerned about his welfare (health and safety striking even back then) and gave him permission to ascend only upon the condition that the balloon remained tethered to the ground. However, wily Mr Hampton agreed to the condition but on achieving a height of a few hundred feet suddenly cut the ropes and kept on heading upwards. He estimated that he achieved an altitude of about 9,000 feet whereupon he let loose the balloon and started his descent by parachute. The balloon rose further, but then split apart and hurtled to the ground passing Mr Hampton as he gracefully descended drifting towards Gloucester. He finally landed after an eleven minute descent in a field just past Mr Hick's farm at Badgeworth. The landing was a little bumpy and Mr Hampton sustained a small cut above his left eye. He returned by fly to Montpellier to general acclaim.”





“A nice old postcard of Montpellier Gardens showing the bandstand. Love the archery targets on the right!”



“The original Pavilion, Montpellier Gardens; taken over by the Gloster Aircraft Factory during the War as Dispersed Site No. 28; and used as a General Stores.”

## 4.0 Vision

This section sets out the vision for the park based on the Council's Green Space Strategy (GSS) and a series of objectives that are developed into actions within this plan. These are linked to the Green Flag Award criteria – the national standard for quality in green space management.

The Vision of the Borough Council's Green Space Development Team and its partners is:

*“Working together to ensure a comprehensive network of attractive, valued and well used, locally distinct green spaces, that are accessible, safe and welcoming, which meet the existing and future needs of the community, enhance biodiversity and are managed sustainably to reduce our impact on climate change”.*

Table 4.1 below shows the criteria and vision for Montpellier Gardens.

### Aims

Criteria	Vision
Welcoming Place	To make Montpellier Gardens a welcoming park that is accessible to all sections of the community
Health, Safe and Secure	To ensure Montpellier Gardens is managed and maintained to a high standard to provide a safe and secure environment for all visitors
Clean and Well Maintained	To ensure that Montpellier Gardens is managed and maintained to a high standard to provide an attractive park and enjoyable experience for all visitors
Sustainability	To ensure that Montpellier Gardens is managed and maintained in an appropriate manner so that the environmental impact of these operations is minimised
Conservation	To promote biodiversity through appropriate management
Heritage	Maintain the historical integrity of the park – its character zones, views and vistas  Maintain the quality of management standards sympathetic to the original design, materials and planting  Maintain the strategic significance of the park in the local plan and community plan
Community Involvement	To provide an inclusive approach to involving all sections of the community in contributing to the management and development of the park
Marketing	To provide an inclusive approach to the promotion and marketing of the park and its facilities
Management	To provide a co-ordinated and joined up approach to the management, maintenance and development of the park

**Table 4.1 Table of criteria and vision for Montpellier Gardens**

## Management Zones

For ease of management, Montpellier Gardens can be conveniently divided into 5 Management Zones which are based on the landscape character zones identified for the 2006 HLF restoration scheme. Understanding the character of the gardens enabled the restoration aims and proposals to be developed in a way which respected and strengthened the historic and landscape character of the gardens.

The restoration objectives within each character zone are set out below Figure 5.1



**Figure 5.1 Montpellier Gardens Management Zones**

### Zone A – Boundaries and Entrances

This relates to the boundaries of the Gardens which are defined on three sides by roads. The boundary with Montpellier Walk to the west is open and there is a lack of enclosure resulting in traffic noise and intrusion. Similarly, the boundary with Montpellier Spa Road to the north is open although mature trees along this edge of the site provide a degree of definition.

To the south, a belt of trees and shrubs separates the internal areas of the Gardens from Montpellier Terrace and provides a greater degree of screening and containment. The boundary to the east is defined by a brick wall and a planting bed. Here issues for the Boundaries and Entrances character area were addressed through the restoration process:

- The quality and appearance of the western boundary was enhanced through the installation of new ornamental railings. These now provide a high quality frontage to the Gardens and help channel pedestrian movement

- New gateways were installed to define the main entrances to the Gardens and provide a new entrance point for those visitors and users arriving from the town centre
- Existing boundary planting beds were enhanced with new shrub planting to provide improved screening of adjacent traffic noise and attractive landscape edge
- New cycle barriers have been installed to improve the quality of furniture within the gardens
- Lighting was installed to provide increased security and safe use of the gardens in the evening.

### **Zone B – The Lodge and Western Lawn**

This is key area of the gardens at the point where many people enter. It includes the Lodge building and Toilet Block along the western edge and an area of arboretum style planting and lawn to the north. The areas around the toilet block are laid to grass or planted with groundcover shrubs. The lawn and arboretum area to the north is an attractive area of the Gardens containing a number of fine specimen trees although the character of the area is diminished by the sight and sound of traffic along Montpellier Walk to the west.

Key issues for this zone which were addressed through the restoration process were:

- Refurbishment of the toilet block and provision of facilities to meet DDA guidelines.
- Planting of new shrubs along the western edge to reduce the impact of traffic whilst maintaining views to and from the gardens.
- Management of trees within the arboretum area to remove incongruous specimens, open up the area create a more inviting space with views through to the Rotunda.
- Improvements to the Lodge to provide increased privacy and security whilst maintaining the character of the building.
- Repair and resurfacing of existing footpaths and provision of new footpaths to recreate the early 20<sup>th</sup> century circulation layout.

### **Zone C – Informal Recreation**

The character of the northern areas of the gardens is defined by the scale and openness of the main lawn and the avenues of mature trees which surround this. This area of the gardens is perhaps most well used by visitors for passive and active recreation and as the main route across the gardens towards the town centre. As such, areas of grass at the main entrances onto the lawn have become eroded. The key objectives in this area are to retain the simplicity of the design and manage the existing tree stock.

Key issues for the Informal Recreation character area which were addressed through the restoration process were:

- The repair and resurfacing of the footpaths around the edges of the lawns.
- Management of existing mature trees to promote healthy growth and ensure public safety.
- Reinforcement of the entrance points onto the lawn which had suffered erosion.

### **Zone D – The Proscenium and Bandstand Lawns**

The central area of the gardens including the main three key buildings, the proscenium, bandstand and cafe along with the main pedestrian walkway of the Broadwalk. This area has a more formal character with avenues of trees and a large central space. The bandstand has been refurbished and has a regular summer bands programme. The refurbished Proscenium is now home to the Gardens Gallery. The area around the Garden Cafe includes a small lawn and toddler play area, is popular with families and has a more intimate character. The eastern part of this area comprises a lawn area which terminates at statue of Prince William at the end of the Broadwalk.

Key issues for the Proscenium and Bandstand Lawns character area which were addressed through the restoration proposals were:

- Restoration of the Proscenium to provide community and arts related uses.
- Refurbishment of the refreshment kiosk to DDA standards.
- Refurbishment and realignment of the planting bed to the rear of the kiosk to improve visibility and security.
- Refurbishment of the planting and paving around the Bandstand.
- Creation of an enhanced central space to allow a greater diversity of events through new surfacing and paving.
- Refurbishment of the children's play area (funded and delivered through CBC budget)
- Repairs to the Prince William Statue as a focal point to the eastern end of the Broadwalk.
- Provision of new lighting, seating and signage to enhance facilities for visitors.

#### **Zone E - Formal Recreation**

This area is dominated by the tennis courts which extend along almost the full length of Montpellier Terrace and are enclosed by wire netting. The courts are contained along the southern boundary by shrub planting which provides visual separation between the Gardens and Montpellier Terrace. The existing tennis courts have significant impact on the gardens and characterise the southern boundary while fragmenting the character of the western boundary.

Key issues for the Formal Recreation character area which were addressed through the restoration proposals were:

- Removal of the western tennis court and fencing to reinstate the historically important western lawn and reduce the impact of the courts within the gardens.
- Refurbishment of the remaining tennis courts to improve the visual quality of these and provide improved recreation provision.

#### **Footpaths and connections**

The park has a good footpath network with a good circulation layout. A new key route was created to connect the Broadwalk to Montpellier Spa Road entrance area, running along the western boundary through the Arboretum. The route encourages south to north connection through the park increasing public use of this area and restoring the historic route. In addition to this route connections to adjoining footpaths and the existing memorial were created.

The 1923 layout identifies access into the park from Montpellier Terrace through the area occupied by the existing tennis courts. A new footpath access was created into the gardens from this boundary consistent with the historic layout and current access requirements. The footpath was connected to the central area of the gardens and the junior play area to the north have been developed and implemented by Cheltenham Borough Council.

#### **Accessibility**

Whilst the gardens slope only gently to the north, not all areas are readily accessible to disabled users due to the presence of steps at all key points of level change. There is no direct and accessible link between the lower levels of the gardens around the Bandstand and Proscenium and the upper tennis court levels due steps at all level changes, and the serving hatch to the refreshment kiosk is currently set too high to allow use by wheelchair users. The restoration proposals included the following measures to improve accessibility:

- Repairs and resurfacing the footpaths will provide a sound, even paving surface.
- The provision of a ramped footpath linking the central area and refreshment kiosk with the upper tennis court levels.
- Lowering the height of the serving hatch to the kiosk.
- Refurbishment of toilets and provision of new toilets to meet DDA requirements.
- The seating strategy will provide comfortable seats which are located to accommodate wheelchair spaces next to seating points.

## 6.0 Qualitative Analysis

### 6.1 Welcoming place

Montpellier Gardens are situated in the centre of Cheltenham. The approaches to Montpellier Gardens from all entrances are assessed to make sure that entrances are clearly signposted and first impressions are positive and that the park is inviting to users / visitors.

Metal railings border the front of the gardens. These were installed in 2006, as part of the refurbishment programme, to replace the ones removed during the Second World War. Limited knowledge is known if the railings were used to enclose the gardens completely or shrubs were used.

Welcome boards at each entrance provide a historical snapshot of the gardens and contact details for the Green Space team and the police. The signs also include a site plan and the park code. There is also a News and Events board fixed to the wall under the eaves of the Gardens Café. This board is used to promote events by Friends of Montpellier Gardens (FoMBaG), café, the Gardens Galleries, rangers and displays the Green Flag Certificate.

The gardens are open to the public every day, with open access at all times.

Bollards prevent vehicle access on the main board walk section which can be removed for deliveries and service vehicle.



## **6.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The Council recognises the important role that parks and green spaces play in the health and well-being of its residents. The Council promotes and facilitates a programme of events aimed at encouraging the maximum use of its parks and open spaces for the whole community.

### **Policy and process**

The Council has an overall Health and Safety Policy for its parks and a risk assessment approach to the management of health and safety in its parks.

The Council's Community Parks Officer carries out a weekly inspection of the play area, its equipment and surfaces to ensure cleanliness, maintenance and safety. A detailed condition survey is carried out by the Council's external specialist annually. The Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers carry out regular timetabled green infrastructure inspections of the whole park.

When any issues are reported by members of the public, then these are immediately escalated by the Green Space Development team for resolution, either by external contractors or by Ubico's grounds maintenance team.

### **Anti-social behaviour**

Due to its central town centre location, Montpellier Gardens is prone to incidents of anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, alcohol and drug taking.

The Council refers to the Police Architectural Liaison Officer (now staffed by PCSO) who comments on specific aspects of security and safety in parks and green spaces. This can range from advice about lighting, fencing, areas of vegetation that may be giving cover to illegal or anti-social activities and more.

### **Dog Control**

In July 2020 new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) were agreed by Borough Councillors. These orders include dog control and exclusion from play areas. These orders replaced a number of previous orders with regards to anti-social behaviour, alcohol consumption and dog control. The link is as follows: [https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/62/community\\_safety\\_and\\_crime/1387/public\\_spaces\\_protection\\_order\\_pspo#:~:text=Cheltenham%27s%20public%20spaces%20protecton%20orders%20A%20public%20spaces,require%20or%20restrict%20certain%20behaviour%20in%20that%20area](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/62/community_safety_and_crime/1387/public_spaces_protection_order_pspo#:~:text=Cheltenham%27s%20public%20spaces%20protecton%20orders%20A%20public%20spaces,require%20or%20restrict%20certain%20behaviour%20in%20that%20area)

### **Vehicles in the Park**

Vehicle use within Montpellier Gardens is restricted to Council staff, maintenance staff (Ubico) and contractors. All vehicles are driven no faster than 5mph, with hazard lights on and vehicles must always give way to pedestrians.

### **Events**

A small number of Cheltenham parks receive the majority of applications for special events. Special events are predominantly events organised by external organisations who wish to use Borough Council open space as an event venue. Parks and open spaces are actively promoted as event venues and there are guidelines that cover all elements, such as insurance, risk assessments, setting up, clearing up times, duration and nuisance to local.

To hold an event in the park the host needs to complete a special events application form and submit via the special events team along with a risk assessment. Environmental health ensures that the event will keep the impact to a minimum on the local resident and other park users. The event organisers also enter into a land use agreement with the council.

## **6.3 Clean and well maintained**

### **Litter and waste management**

Over this year, the Council has undertaken a programme of replacing its existing waste bins with a new style uniform black double bin

The document linked below is the environment service policy and additional information to meet the needs of the waste service which was implemented in 2011. Waste and recycling policy for CBC can be found on the following link:

[http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?fileID=3590](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=3590)

Fly-tipping, graffiti and broken glass are dealt with on a response basis and are dealt with immediately, as this has been found to be the most effective way of preventing an escalation or recurrence of the problem.

In terms of rubbish separation and recycling provision in Montpellier Gardens there is no current provision as it has been assessed as not practical.

### **Park and Grounds maintenance**

There are five mobile grounds maintenance teams operated by Ubico, an arms-length grounds maintenance company set up and owned by Cheltenham Borough Council.

An example of a previous detailed work programme is available at Appendix 1

All parks buildings are managed by the Council's Properties Department and are included in a 20-yr rolling maintenance programme.

### **Buildings**

The bandstand, proscenium, kiosk, lodge, and toilet block are all on a rolling 20 year planned maintenance programme managed by the Council's Properties Department, details of which are available on request.

### **Other structures**

Double capacity steel black litter bins are sited within the gardens at entrances and in area of paths joining. The double capacity bins provide suitable capacity for busy summer months and the opportunity to explore segregating litter in the future when our contractor is equip to do so.

The gardens are furnished with traditional wooden slated benches with cast iron ends. Additional benches are acquired through the Commemorative Seat scheme administered by the Green Space Development Team. The benches are standardised to provide a uniform look.

All of the paths within the gardens are surfaced with a naturatex resin. The paths in the gardens provide routes around the site and a wide broad-walk runs from the entrance on Montpellier Walk and leads to the statue of Prince William.

The path along the eastern boundary is a shared cycle / pedestrian route, with a traffic light controlled crossing in Montpellier Terrace leading into the cycle network serving the Suffolks and the University.

Traffic calming measures on Montpellier Walk has improved links with the shops and cafes.

## Equipment maintenance

In order to promote safe use of parks and green spaces, all infrastructure, facilities and equipment are inspected on a regular and scheduled basis.

The Council employs a full-time Parks and playground technical officer who assesses the condition of paths, fencing, gates, seating, information boards, hard surfacing etc on a schedule that reflects the level of usage of the green space and the required frequency identified. Play equipment including play surfaces, the skateboard ramps, climbing blocks and other equipment used by the public are inspected on a weekly basis to ensure cleanliness; maintenance and safety of equipment on a regular basis. A fully comprehensive condition survey is carried out annually by the Council's external specialist.



Play area equipment and surfacing all conform to the relevant British / EN standards and are visually inspected on a weekly basis. Repairs are identified on a risk basis as *high* (repair immediately), *medium* (schedule for repair) or *low* (monitor). A copy of the full annual inspection is available on request.

All works are prioritised and supervised by the technical officers and are carried out by them or by known and reputable contractors.

Play areas display pictorial signs for no dogs, no wheeled vehicles, no smoking, no glass and say no to strangers.

## 6.4 Sustainability

The Council's Climate Change Strategy 2005 was the previous overarching policy to progressing projects and practices designed to improve environmental performance and meet broader sustainability objectives. The main objectives were to:

Raise awareness of the potential impact of climate change;

Establish accurate data of greenhouse gas emissions from activities in Cheltenham;

Propose measures to help prevent the causes of climate change, by aiming to reduce CO2 emissions from activities in Cheltenham by 20% from 1990 levels by 2010 and by 60% by 2050;

Propose measures to help us adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change;

And engage with external agencies and other stakeholders to gain commitment to addressing climate change issues and delivering the climate change action plan.

On 9 July 2019, Cheltenham Borough Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and committed to become a net zero carbon council and borough by 2030.

To help the council understand the actions that will be needed to address the climate emergency a 'carbon neutral Cheltenham' report was commissioned, which was approved in October 2019.

The report, 'Carbon Neutral Cheltenham: Leadership through Stewardship', sets out the baseline carbon emissions for the council and the borough and a roadmap to achieving net zero carbon by 2030. The link can be found at:

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/61/climate\\_and\\_sustainability/533/climate\\_change](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/61/climate_and_sustainability/533/climate_change)

### **Pesticides and herbicide use**

Several years ago, an external company was commissioned to review the council's pesticide policy and practice. Since then, the recommendations have been adopted and the council actively pursues a policy to minimise their use. As an alternative to using chemicals, flower and shrub beds are mulched using a 75mm layer of composted wood chippings which is topped up on a yearly basis, and the use of a weed membrane is considered to control the growth of weeds. No insecticides are employed. If deemed necessary any hard-surfaced areas in the park may be spot-treated in April and July for weeds using glyphosate. This is only applied if there is deemed to be no other available option and is undertaken either by trained staff or a suitable contractor.

## **Materials**

The Council has adopted a No Peat Policy in order to minimise the use of this finite resource and the resulting potential impact on climate change. The Council's nursery, before it closed in this year, produced a high volume of bedding plants for use within Cheltenham and supplies several other local authorities. Since its closure in June 2018, the Green Space team procures wherever and whenever possible, low or no peat materials are used. When purchasing plants, i.e. shrubs and herbaceous, from external suppliers almost all of the potting media is now coir based peat substitute.

The Council tries to reuse wood chippings from contractor works, whenever possible in parks or open spaces. Often a request is raised to leave chippings from tree surgery in situ, then it is available for volunteer work parties. Given the much recognised benefits of leaving deadwood in situ, consideration will be given to leaving either standing dead wood or leaving tree trunks in situ when felling or tree surgery is required.

The ecological benefits include providing a habitat for various different decay fungi and wood boring insects, which in turn attract other wildlife further up the food chain. Different decay strategists will colonise standing dead wood and prone trunks. Standing trunks are also suitable sites for nesting birds and perches for birds.

## **Water**

The water used on site is from a mains supply and is used for the Gardens Café, the Gardens Gallery and the public toilet facilities.

## **Recycling**

The Council's waste and recycling objectives are managed according to its Environmental Service Policy, revised for 2020-2030 .The policy can be found at:

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3590/waste\\_collections\\_service\\_policy](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3590/waste_collections_service_policy)

Ubico is at present unable to recycle any waste collected in litter bins across Cheltenham. A planned recycling update due in 2020 has been delayed due to Covid 19. It is to be expected that the current and any future operators of the Gardens Cafe will use recyclable packaging for their hot drinks and takeaway food and provide separate bins for café users to segregate their rubbish

The Council is also signed up the county's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, 2007-2020, it currently remains a live strategy through 2021:

<https://democracy.cheltenham.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/20071030/Agenda/2007%2010%2030%20Gloucestershire%20joint%20municipal%20waste%20strategy%20headline%20strategy%20adoption%20draft.pdf>

## **Air quality**

The Council has produced an Air Quality Action Plan in 2014 in accordance with its statutory duties under the Environment Act 1995 and following the designation of the Borough as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2011. The AQMA was declared because five separate locations within Cheltenham did not meet the government's health based limit for the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is a gas formed from fossil fuel combustion. It comes from some industrial processes but mostly from road traffic exhaust emissions.

Montpellier Gardens are not located within an area of air quality concern but as an important urban green space it indirectly benefits respiratory health by improving air quality and limiting the impact of heatwaves on respiratory problems associated with heatwaves by reducing urban temperatures. Green spaces and trees in particular, provide both direct cooling from shade and reduce the ambient temperature through the cooling effect of evaporation of water from the soil and through plant leaves.

The link to the Council's Air Quality Action Plan can be found at:

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3780/air\\_quality\\_action\\_plan\\_2014-27](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/3780/air_quality_action_plan_2014-27)

## Arboriculture management

There are several mature specimen trees within the main area of the gardens. The central pathway has been planted as an avenue and now has some outstanding mature limes.

A prominent mature Copper Beech within the gardens unexpectedly shed a limb in 2012 and a fence was erected to protect the public. Interpretation signs were added to inform garden users about the problem. In summer 2014, following a specialist survey, the beech tree was felled. The area has been returned to grass, 3 Liquid Ambers have now been planted within the arboretum area.



The area alongside the railings on Montpellier Walk forms an informal mini arboretum with a range of species present. An information leaflet was produced by a University of Gloucestershire student as part of their studies. The planting regime in the gardens is similar to the other green spaces within Cheltenham, replacement trees are being planted to replace over mature species in 5 - 10 years' time to reduce the visual impact on the landscape.

The boundary of the tennis courts within the park has been replanted, as part of the restoration, with beech and lavender hedges. Annual pruning takes place on both species, although the Lavender has become over mature and may need to be replaced.

Overall arboricultural management in Montpellier Gardens is undertaken by an in-house team of tree professionals with the following aims:

- To comply with the overall plan for, and management of, the park
- To preserve and enhance the existing landscape

- To identify and undertake work required for health and safety reasons

## 6.5 Conservation and Heritage

### Conservation

Although the Bee Guardian Scheme is no longer in operation, the Council continues to use bee-friendly planting in the site, where it can. The variety of flowers and perennial plants planted in the shrub borders and plant beds are specifically selected to be scented and nectar-rich pollinator sources to attract bees, butterflies, insects and birds. A majority of the gardens is mown grass, which is cut high to allow for the ground flora (daisies and clover) to be retained, also providing pollinating insects with nectar sources within the gardens. The privet hedgerows provide nesting sites for birds and roosts for bats.

Nature conservation however is not considered to be the primary function of the Gardens. The park is an historic site and with its town centre location is significant for events and public entertainment. Any actions that's the Council undertakes to increase biodiversity and nature conservation are taken within this context.

### Heritage

#### The Gardens Gallery

The original proscenium building was built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. After falling into disuse and a dilapidated state it was restored as part of the HLF-funded restoration project. The Gallery as it is known today is a bespoke venue for the arts.

The Council formed a partnership with a local consortium of arts groups (The Gardens Gallery Community Interest Company).

A not-for-profit company, who, on completion of the restoration works, leased the building from the council in order to run visual art exhibitions by local artists. The link can be found at:

<http://www.gardensgallery.co.uk>



## Montpellier Bandstand



Montpellier Bandstand was built in 1864 making it possibly the oldest bandstand in the country. It was refurbished in 1995 by the Council with funds raised by FoMBaG, since when the council has run a summer “Bands in the Park” programme, with financial assistance from FoMBaG. The bookings are managed by The Cheltenham Trust since the trust was formed in 2014.

## The Garden Café

The café was refurbished in 2007, as part of the restoration works, to incorporate a new indoor café facility.

Since 2011, the café has been franchised to a local catering business that offers homemade cakes, sandwiches and a range of drinks. The facility is open all year round.

In the Park provide an online booking system allowing people to book tennis courts, <http://www.inthepark.co.uk/leisurefacilities/?s=tennis-in-the-park-cheltenham>



The patio area around the café has been extended with the help of a grant gained by the Cheltenham Coffee Company (now In the Park) who run the franchise. The planting area behind the café was re-planted in 2013 to include a wider range of wildlife friendly plants, including grasses and Mahonia.

## 6.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Montpellier Gardens is centred on the Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens (FoMBaG). The Group acts as a catalyst in stimulating community involvement and operates independently organising various volunteer and community events throughout the year. This year the Friends of Group organised an evening Christmas carol concert which attracted over 800 visitors

## 6.7 Marketing and Events

Being well positioned, Montpellier Gardens is one of the most popular outdoor venues for events within the town. It plays host to the renowned Cheltenham Jazz, Literature and Food festivals and a wide variety of events including a local scout jamboree, the Midsummer Fiesta, fun fairs, film shoots and television broadcasts. The gardens became so popular in recent years that they were the subject of an events review

The Council granted planning permission in 2012 that consented to a total of 70 special event days in each of Imperial and Montpellier Gardens, which also includes setting up and taking down. This replaced the previous consent from 2011 that permitted 75 days.



**A scene from this year's Midsummer Fiesta**

Before that the situation had evolved to a point whereby Imperial Gardens was hosting over 100 special event days and Montpellier around 30. The current permission sought to regularise and cap the number of days at a level which was considered sustainable, and in doing so reduce the number of days in Imperial Gardens, which was considered to be over used, and increase them in Montpellier where it was believed there was scope to do so.

The significance of using the gardens for the Cheltenham Festivals is that it allows them to create a village style atmosphere where they can generate income from the sale of tickets, on site catering, and sponsorship giving them financial stability and securing their future in Cheltenham. The town centre location of the gardens was considered an important factor in this and the Council was therefore supportive of their proposal to utilise the gardens.

In allowing events to take place however, conditions are now placed upon land hirers tying them into repair work to ensure the gardens are restored back to their original condition and restricting their use to specific areas of the gardens, which along with the cap on days physically prevents events from becoming any larger. The most effective way to repair so much grass loss, and return it to public use as soon as possible, is to undertake repairs using turf. Since 2014 the Council has instructed that horticultural sand is incorporated into rutted areas to improve soil structure and drainage, and this practice has proved beneficial.

These reinstatements are implemented at the expense of each event organiser and within two weeks of the end of the hire period. Similarly, organisers are charged a share of the cost to aerate the grass and tree root zones which is intended to relieve the accumulative effects of ground compaction brought about by continual special event activities. Much of the repair works comes about as a result of the Literature Festival, mainly because of its size, duration and the time of year it takes place.

A noticeboard located in the proscenium has dedicated space to advertise events and is used by the Gardens Gallery to promote their activities. It is not felt that changes or improvements to the marketing and promotion strategy are required and channels of communication are assessed and employed according to the event and the audience. Events are widely advertised and well attended. The Green Flag logo has been applied to all publicity relating to Montpellier Gardens, for example, posters, flyers and web pages. The award is also referred to in media releases.

## Pre-Covid 19 Events Held in Montpellier Gardens 2019.

1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Cheltenham Jazz Festival
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Scout Fete and Funday
14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> June	Food and Drink Festival
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Midsummer Fiesta
10 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> July	Danters Funfair
4 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> October	Cheltenham Literature Festival
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carols in the Bandstand evening
Throughout year	Different artists display their work in the Gardens Gallery Bands in the Park (bandstand) July and August

All of the listed festivals above were due to be hosted within the park during 2020, but were cancelled due to Covid 19. Some organisers managed an online version eg The Cheltenham Literature Festival. A Summer Garden festival was held in the arboretum from July to September. This festival focused on wellbeing with a food and beverage offering.



**The Music Man entertaining children at 2018 Midsummer Fiesta**

## 6.8 Consultation of Management Plan

The following organisations are consulted with as part of the management plan process:

Borough Councillors for the Ward

County Councillors

Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens

Officers of Ubico

## 7.0 Management Plan

### Introduction

In the current financial climate the regime of maintenance has undergone amendments and a new document has been produced for the maintenance of buildings, which is available on request.

The following is a summary of the report:

### Existing maintenance arrangement CBC Property – Building

All buildings are inspected in the same way. Table 7.1 shows the frequency of inspections

Inspection of	How often	Responsibility of
Roof covering	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Gutters	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Windows and doors	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
External walls	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Decoration	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Water and drainage	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Mechanical services	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Heating	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
Firefighting equipment	Annually	CBC Property
Electrical	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property
External Fixtures and Fittings	Every Five Years unless required	CBC Property

**Table 7.1 – Building inspection and frequency**

### Maintenance programme CBC Green Space Development – Infrastructure

Inspection of	How often	Responsibility of
Railings	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Gates	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Footpath surface	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Wooden Benches	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Metal Benches	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Bins	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Interpretation boards	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Noticeboards	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Tree plaques	six times per year starting February	CBC GSD
Play equipment	Weekly	CBC GSD
	Monthly	CBC GSD
	Annually	CBC GSD /outside body
Park and Open spaces	Monthly	CBC GSD
Fencing	Quarterly	CBC GSD

**Table 7.2 –Park Infrastructure inspections regime and frequency**

## Maintenance Programme Ubico – Soft Landscape

Regime	How often
Close cut grass	2 weekly
Play area grass	2 weekly
Shrub areas	Annually (winter or spring) depending on species
Wild flower areas	Cut, cleared and seeded annually
Pathways swept	Monthly (in autumn increases)
Car Parks swept	Monthly
Empty litter bins	Daily (summer twice a day)

**Table 7.3 – Soft landscaping regime**

## 8.0 Finance

The Council does not disaggregate the parks and landscapes budgets on a per park basis. However, costs for Montpellier Gardens are broadly divided into two main areas: management and maintenance.

A budget cut imposed on the department will mean a small reduction in the overall amount allocated for the management and maintenance of Montpellier Gardens but since it coincides with the completion of the capital works, it is likely that the Green Space Development input will be reduced without significantly impacting on the maintenance and standards in the immediate future.

Management functions are performed by the Council's Green Space Development Team. Maintenance is undertaken by Ubico, the Council's environmental maintenance company.

In terms of volunteer contributions, FoMBaG supports Cheltenham Borough Council with a range of projects including paying for the planting around the bandstand.

## 9.0 Monitoring and Review

### Customer Satisfaction

A customer satisfaction/park user's survey has not yet been undertaken on Montpellier Gardens. However local residents and customers can feedback their views on the park via the Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens Group meetings, web-site forum, Facebook page or directly to the Green Space team. The Council publicise their contact details on the Gardens interpretation panel and on the notice boards in the park and Gardens Café, and always strive to resolve any issues of dissatisfaction or implement suggested improvements in the park.

Prior to the major restoration works user surveys were undertaken regarding the play areas Feedback indicated that the play facilities were of low value and that there were no facilities for older children. The Council responded to this feedback by designating over £40,000 from its annual play area capital programme to ensure that new play facilities were introduced as part of the restoration project. Also as part of the surveys the toddler play area was enlarged and the equipment was replaced, along with the surfacing that made it more accessible than the previous loose fill material.

## **Review Process**

The review process is carried out quarterly with a member of the consultees of the management plan. An annual progress and programme meeting takes place between officers of Cheltenham Borough Council and Ubico. After each meeting the Council schedules a debrief.

## 10.0 Action Plan

**Key:**

GSDM - Green Space Development Manager

GSDO – Green Space Development Officer

CPO - Community Parks Officer

FoMBaG - Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens

TO - Tree Officers

PPTO - Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer

CR - Community Ranger

SEO – Special Events Officer

GS&AO – Green Space and Allotment Officer

PS – Property Services

WT – Website team/Communication team

MC – Marketing Cheltenham

Ongoing – for tasks or projects that do not have a timeframe or end date

Regularly- for tasks that are carried out periodically

## Park Development Plan

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.1 Welcoming Place	To ensure that Montpellier Gardens is welcoming and accessible to all possible users	Review the park's signage	Detailed plan for updating signage	Update signage and install new If required	Ongoing	CPO	Cleaned signs and updated poster.
		Maintain inviting entrances to the park	Ensure railings and gates in good repair	Repairs and painting carried out when needed	Ongoing	PPTO	
		Maintain railings free from advertising posters and banners	Any advertising posters to be removed promptly	Railing remain free from advertisements	Ongoing	All	
		Continue commemorative bench scheme	Ensure location map is up to date	Reach capacity for benches in the park		GSDO	Gardens scheme is full currently
			Identify potential capacity within tennis courts	If feasible, extend bench scheme within courts	Autumn 2021	GS&AO	
		Noticeboards are current and full	Check noticeboards weekly	Remove any out of date notices and ensure current	Regularly	CPO	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure	To ensure the safety of all staff and users	Minimise hazards	Ensure Risk Assessments are up to date	Review RA programme in place & implemented	Annual	GSDO	Covid 19 Risk Assessments 2020
		To ensure all contractors work within H&S guidelines	Before contractor commencing work all paperwork has been received and is correct	Correct paperwork received for all external works	Regularly	GSDO	
		Continue to report any incidents and maintain records of breaches of H&S	Regular inspections carried out on infrastructure including play equipment	Complete inspections reports and any faults reported and resolved	As per inspection regime	PPTO	
		Continue to work with Ubico, Police etc.	Regular meetings and updates from Police, Garden forum	All parties regular update through email or attend quarterly meetings	Regularly	All	Covid 19 Anti-Social Behaviour meetings & marshal patrols around park 2020/2021
		Continue with comprehensive formal regime of inspections	Weekly (visual) monthly (detailed) & annual (external inspection of Play equipment	Documented inspections completed and reports retained	Ongoing	PPTO, CPO	<i>General maintenance carried out on play house to prolong life of unit spring 2018</i>

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained	To encourage more healthy outdoor fitness opportunities  To maintain the highest standards of landscape, ground maintenance and cleanliness	Park infrastructure inspections	Appropriate action following inspections	All inspections carried out and reports retained	Ongoing	PPTO	Completed   Completed
		To provide an outdoor fitness gym unit in the gardens	Shortlist drawn up and fund raising started	Outdoor gym equipment installed in park	March 2022	GSDM/CPO/FomBag	
		Maintain the park free of litter and graffiti at all times	Ensure that any reports of fly tipping are dealt with promptly	Removal of fly tipping and graffiti within 1 day maximum	Ongoing	GSDM/UBICO	
		Commence the programme of replacing bins	Prioritise bins to replace	All bins replaced with double capacity bins	Completed 2016/17	PPTO/CR	
		Investigate options of recycling on site	Trialling of recycling bins	Potential installation of recycling bins	Autumn 2021	Ubico/GSDM	
		Maintain commemorative benches to prolong longevity	Implement the maintenance plan, contractor oils twice a year (March & Oct)	Ensure contractor compliance. All benches will have life span of approx. 10 years	Regularly	PPTO/ Contractor	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained continued	To maintain the highest standards of landscape, ground maintenance and cleanliness	Maintain the tree numbers in the garden	Successional planting of trees	Established trees in place before removing damaged or disease ones	Regularly	TO	1 Ginko planted Winter 2017/18 1 Scarlet Oak & 1 Pride of India planted winter 2018/19
		Continue to improve shrub border areas with correct time of year pruning	Continue to work with Ubico to ensure borders are well maintained	Well maintained shrubs and borders	Autumn 2021	FomBag/Ubico	
				<i>Section of laurel and privet hedge reduced in height</i>	<i>Winter 2017/18</i>	Ubico	<i>Completed Jan 2018</i>
				Lavenders replanted in raised beds by tennis courts	2019 but delayed due to Covid	Ubico	March 2020
				Eastern border by cycle path 'gapped' up with shrubs	November 2020	Ubico	Completed
				Planting/infilling boundary hedge with privet saplings	Spring 2018	Ubico/GSDO	Completed
				Perennial planting beds reviewed and improved with pollinators	Ongoing	Ubico	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained continued	To maintain the highest standards of landscape, ground maintenance and cleanliness	Ensure the garden's drainage is working correctly	Contractors employed to clear gullies	All drainage gullies working correctly especially after heavy rain	Annual	Ubico/GSDO	Completed
		Maintain surfaces of pathways	Identify damage to surface and repair	Three sections of buff bonded surface repaired	Ongoing	PPTO	1 x section repaired 2020, 2 x sections repaired 2017
		Ensure skate ramps are kept Graffiti free and in good repair	To paint over graffiti as and when needed and skating surface coated	Graffiti free ramps and annual painting of skate surface by contractor	Ongoing	PPTO/ Contractor	
		Ensure all buildings are well maintained	Ensure maintenance implemented from work programme	Exterior of the gallery and café fully painted	2020	PS	Autumn 2020

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CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.4 Sustainability	To adopt environmental management principles and therefore reduce the impact of management operations on the environment	To adopt an environmental policy for the parks service and therefore Montpellier Garden	Work within the council's policy for reducing impacts on the environment	Reduction of green waste removed from site after working parties and planned maintenance	Annual	ALL	Ongoing
			Try to reuse natural materials whenever possible within the garden	Bark chip around tree bases to help with water conservation	Ongoing	TO	
			To minimise the amount of reusable material being removed from site	Reduction of materials going to landfill	Ongoing	All	
		Increase the vegetation interest for longer season through planting plan taking into account climate change	Investigate different planting styles and how they could be incorporated into park	Increase in the flowering and vegetation interest across the year	Autumn 2021	GSDO	Ongoing

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.5 Conservation	To promote biodiversity through appropriate management			10,000 Tete a Tete daffodil bulbs planted for Spring 2018 display & colour	Autumn 2017	CPO	Completed
		Where appropriate increase the biodiversity of the park	Identify areas for habitat improvements,	Produce proposals for the areas including species if possible	Autumn 2019	CR	Ongoing
		Maintain the health of park's trees	Carry out tree survey	Report produced and any work required scheduled in	March 2020 April 2020	TO	Completed March 2020
		Promote the Park's trees	Carry out any remedial work	One tree planted	<i>Winter 2017/18</i>	TO	1 Gingko planted
			Update website with tree list		Ongoing	TO	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.6 Heritage	Maintain the historical integrity of the park and its character zones	To promote the park's history and its significance of the garden within the local area	To investigate the methods to capture historical information from the local community	Hold event for local residents to share their memories and photographs	Autumn 2021	CR	Action on hold due to Covid 19
	Maintain the strategic significance of the green space in the new local plan and community plan	Parked in local plan	Continue to ensure that planning service are aware of the significance	Meet with Planners	2016	GSDM	Completed 2016

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.7 Community Involvement	To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events and activities and Friends group	Continue to work with the FomBaG to support their work	To continue with the quarterly meetings and other communication	The creation of a working programme month to month for the year	Regularly	CR /FomBaG	2020/21 volunteer work parties suspended due to Covid 19
		Continue to support working parties and encourage greater diversity of volunteers	Continue to promote the working parties through social media and word of mouth	Increase in number of volunteers attending working parties	Ongoing	CR/FomBaG	
		Continue to attend Garden Forum meetings	Working with the local residents and business within garden Users information gathering day	Ensuring that all events comply with the planning consent Comprehensive insight to garden and how used	Ongoing	GSM	
		Engage with park users for their thoughts	Continue to monitor events in the garden and encourage more diverse events	Balance the number of activities with the other garden users, currently 72 days	Regularly	SEO	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.8 Management	To provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service	Apply for the Green Flag Award	To submit the Green Flag Award application	Application submitted	February 2021	CPO	Completed February 2021
		To review and incorporate Green Flag judging comments	To review and update action plan annually with completed actions	Action plan updated	February 2021	CPO	Completed February 2021
			To review and update the management plan	Management plan updated	January 2020	CPO	

This plan will be reviewed annually, but on-going feedback from stake-holders and regular meetings with Friends of Montpellier Bandstand and Gardens (FoMBaG) will enable continuous development.