

# Naunton Park Management Plan 2018 - 2023



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## 1.0 Introduction

Naunton Park is located in Leckhampton, a leafy residential suburb of Cheltenham lying beneath the backdrop of nearby Leckhampton Hill, which forms part of the Cotswolds AONB. It is bordered by Naunton Park Primary School, allotments and residential gardens and enjoys splendid views of nearby Leckhampton Hill and further Cleeve Hill. It consists of the formally laid out "Rose Gardens" with close mown lawn and herbaceous/shrub borders and a large recreation ground with children's play area and Pavilion.

### Overview of Naunton Park

Name:	<b>Naunton Park</b>
Grid References:	Car park: SO 95105 20586 Ornamental garden: SO95069 20847
Area	5.1 hectares
Tenure	The site is owned and managed by Cheltenham Borough Council working in conjunction with Ubico and the Friends of Naunton Park group.  <a href="http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk">www.cheltenham.gov.uk</a> Green Space Development: 01242 262626
Site History	<p>The idea to create a recreation ground for the South Ward of Cheltenham was formally proposed in 1891 and Naunton Park recreation ground was officially opened on July 6th 1893 to an opening concert attracting over 2000 people.</p> <p>The next 20 years saw the development of twelve Cottage Homes for the aged and poor and a new school, Naunton Park Primary and an extra one and a half acres added to the recreation grounds.</p> <p>In 1994, following concern about the dilapidated state of the gardens, the Friends of Naunton Park were formed and the park was injected with a new lease of life including sports pitches, play area and wildflower planting.</p> <p>Naunton Park was awarded Green Flag status in 2006.</p> <p>The wildflower planting in and around the play area won the regional 'Blooming Wild' award from the Royal Horticultural Society in the Heart of England in Bloom awards in 2007.</p>
Site Description	Naunton Park is located in a leafy residential suburb of Cheltenham with splendid views of nearby Leckhampton Hill and the Cotswold escarpment.

	<p>It consists of a recreation ground with football and cricket facility and a formal rose garden separated from the playing field by a yew and privet hedge.</p> <p>A play area is situated on the west edge of the recreation ground on the boundary to Naunton Park Primary School.</p> <p>A council run allotment site forms the southern boundary of the recreation ground. The sports pavilion is sited between the field and the allotments.</p> <p>A café operates from the front central section of the pavilion opening on to a paved outdoor seating area. There are toilets and changing facilities in the rear for booked sports teams.</p> <p>A small office at the rear of the building is used by the Cheltenham branch of the Allotment Holders Association, this is currently under review.</p>
Green Space Classification	Naunton Park is identified in the Cheltenham Green Space Strategy as having the primary purpose classification of a Park.
Access	A car park and entrance is situated on Asquith Road. The entrances to the Rose Gardens are on Naunton Lane. All entrances are accessible for wheelchair users.
Opening Times	The park is open to the public at all times, 365 days a year.
Toilets	Pavilion has toilet, drinking water and changing facilities for users during matches. Toilets are accessible to public during café opening hours but no facilities are available outside of these times.
Stakeholders	<p><b>Cheltenham Borough Council:</b> Property Services, Community Development, Green Space Development, Ubico, Public Protection and Community Ranger.</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Naunton Park Pre-school Play Group, Naunton Park Primary School, Friends of Naunton Park, Baker and Graze hospitality, football teams, local childminders, cub, scout and brownie group, Woodcraft folk group, local residents, fitness groups and park users</p>

**Table 1:- Overview of Naunton Park**



## 2.0 Surveys

### 2.1 Legal Issues

#### Ownership

Naunton Park is owned by Cheltenham Borough Council and the legal boundaries are shown in figure 2.1 below. The size of the park is approximately 5.1 hectares. Entrances to the park are from Naunton Lane and from the car park on Asquith Road.



Figure 2.1 Aerial view of Naunton Park 2018

### **Lease**

The Friends of Naunton Park took on a lease to manage the pavilion on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 following a key handing ceremony with Councillor Wendy Flynn.

In Spring 2018 a local bakery and café operator, Baker and Graze, took on a lease for the central room, toilet and the external paving area and now run a popular café for park users. The link to their web-site can be found at:

<http://www.bakerandgraze.com>

### **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 Naunton Park**

Naunton Park's 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. Naunton Park 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, Naunton Park is defined as a Neighbourhood Park: “Sites which perform a function that serves a more immediate community. Unlikely to attract people from across the borough”.

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. Hierarchy and Walking Distance**

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)

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”*

## 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)"

Figure 2.2 shows the proximity of Naunton Park to surrounding green spaces and playing fields within the south of Cheltenham. The nearest green spaces to the park are Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve (on a dismantled railway line), Cox's Meadow and Sandy Lane playing field. The park is also located close by to the Cheltenham College playing fields, the East Gloucestershire Tennis, Hockey and Squash club and the Cheltenham Croquet Club.



**Figure 2.2 Map of Naunton Park area showing Park's location**



## 2.3 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

### Ecological survey

A Phase 1 habitat survey of Naunton Park 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:

Site comprises of amenity beds and grassland divided by gravel paths. Scattered trees occur within the amenity grassland. Well maintained yew and privet hedgerows form the southern and eastern boundaries of the site.

The report identified the following habitat types within Naunton Park which were rated by ecological value of low, moderate or high:-

#### LOW ecological value

- Amenity grassland
- Hard-standing
- Planted borders
- Planted shrubs - some potential for nesting birds
- Scrub - potential nesting bird habitat and cover for small mammals

#### MODERATE ecological value

- Hedgerows species poor - potential nesting bird habitat

#### HIGH ecological value

- Scattered trees (where mature)

The habitat survey highlighted areas where there is a need to increase bio-diversity in the park and the existing habitats that are important.

Figure 2.3 shows the habitat survey map.

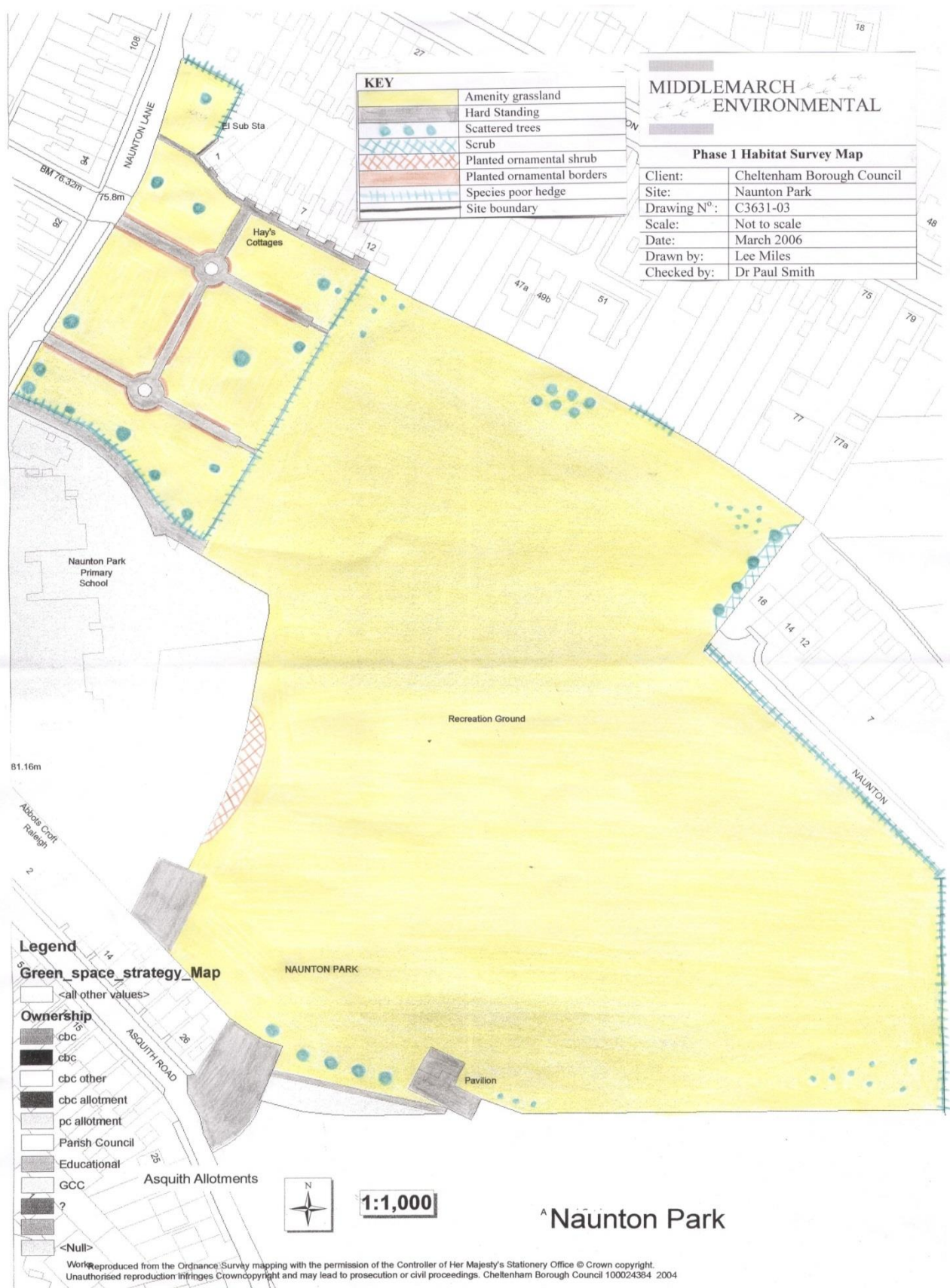


Figure 2.3 Habitat Survey Map of Naunton Park



## **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 Naunton Park every two years.

A tree survey was carried out on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The survey identified 73 trees in the park plus a group of Sorbus trees in the Rose Gardens which are managed by the Friends of Naunton Park. The most recent survey was carried out in December 2021 and found no requirement for any significant felling. One 10-15 year-old field maple fell in a storm, however, a replacement 3-metre field maple and additional wild service tree have been planted since.



**Figure 2.4 A Fine Example of a Weeping Ash Tree in the Rose Gardens**



Figures 2.5 and 2.6 show the Tree Survey Map and Tree Survey.



Figure 2.5 Naunton Park Tree Survey Map, March 2019



Figure 2.6 Naunton Park Tree Survey, March 2019

Trees system

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### Leisure Trees on Naunton Park

Trees in street: 49  
Report Date 22/5/2019

Location	Species		Ht	Sp	C	S	M	Insp Date	Remarks	Remarks Notes	Work Programme	Pri	Work Programme Notes
1	ACE	PSE	18	18	2	H	V	15/3/2019	XNG INS	INS - inspection not possible hedge side	DWD	1	
2	CER	SIL	5	5	1	G	I	15/3/2019	BKW LEN XNG	PLQ	STB	2	
3	TIL	EUR	19	16	2	G	V	15/3/2019	CVT		CLR	1	
5	PYR	CAL	8	9	1	G	V	15/3/2019	DIE	DIE-Dieback of several branches throughout crown	NNN		
7	SOR	AUC	5	3	3	G	V	15/3/2019	SSD XNG		STB	2	
8	GIN	BIL	3	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	NON		PIT	1	
9	MAL	SPP	4	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	NON		NNN		
10	FGS	SPN	9	16	2	G	III	15/3/2019	WFB	Lifted by Gaskins 2015. Consider drop-crotching to alleviate weight	CRA	2	
11	TIL	COR	14	14	1	G	V	15/3/2019	NON		CLP CLR	1	
12	TIL	COR	12	11	2	G	V	15/3/2019	LOV		DWD	2	
13	TIL	EUR	16	10	1	G	V	15/3/2019	INS	INS-not possible hedge side	TBW REG RBG	1	IVY
14	MAL	SPP	6	7	1	G	IV	15/3/2019	STD		CLA MIS	2	MIS - remove 50% of mistletoe
15	PRU	AVI	12	16	2	G	V	15/3/2019	WFB CNK STD	EXU. Reduced by 2M 2014	XNG CLA	2	
16	AES	IND	12	10	1	G	IV	15/3/2019	NON		TBW	1	
17	AES	IND	16	14	1	G	IV	15/3/2019	NON		STB	2	
18	CED	ATG	15	12	1	G	II	15/3/2019	NON		NNN		
18A	FRA	EXC	17	15	3	H	IV	15/3/2019	FGI THC SSD	SSD refers to severe root plate erosion. FGI-Innotus hispidus at 3 locations. FGN-King Alfred's Cakes on lowest limb	CRA RBG	1	CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
18B	ACE	PSE	17	13	2	H	IV	15/3/2019	NON	included metal work	CRA RBG REG	1	CRA - Reduce back to previous high pollard point
18C	ACE	PSE	17	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	SSD CVB		CRA RBG	1	CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
													CRA - reduce back to

[http://dbs08.fdean.gov.uk/cbc/trees\\_system/Reports/TreesOnStreet.aspx?ID=L](http://dbs08.fdean.gov.uk/cbc/trees_system/Reports/TreesOnStreet.aspx?ID=L) 22/05/2019



18D	ACE	PSE	17	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	NON		CRA RBG REG	1	previous high pollard point
18E	ACE	PSE	17	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	NON		CRA RBG REG	1	CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
18F	ACE	PSE	17	16	2	H	V	15/3/2019	NON		CRA RBG REG	1	IVY. CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
18G	AES	HIP	17	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	NON		CRA IVY RBG	1	CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
18H	ACE	PSE	17	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	NON		CRA RBG	1	CRA - reduce back to previous high pollard point
20	TIL	EUR	18	10	1	H	V	15/3/2019	CVT WSS INS	INS-basal insp no possible-basal growth	REG RBG IVY	1	
21	PLA	HIS	22	16	2	H	V	15/3/2019	CVT	CVT-not visible 2016	NNN		
22	TIL	EUR	18	10	2	H	V	15/3/2019	INS	INS - basal insp not possible - basal growth	REG RBG	1	REG-house side only
23	TIL	EUR	19	13	2	H	V	15/3/2019	WFB INS	INS-Basal insp not possible	RBG REG	1	
24	TIL	COR	16	9	2	G	V	15/3/2019	NON		DWD RBG MIS	1	MIS - remove 50% mistletoe
25	TIL	COR	16	9	2	G	V	15/3/2019	FCR CVL		REG DWD	1	
26	TIL	EUR	17	10	2	G	V	15/3/2019	LOV THC		DWD	1	
27	TIL	COR	16	10	2	G	V	15/3/2019	NON		DWD RBB	1	
28	POP	NIG	25	20	2	G	V	15/3/2019	INS	INS - Resistographed 2016 see file	DWD MIS	1	MIS - remove 75% of mistletoe
30	PRU	AVI	6	8	1	G	II	15/3/2019	NON		NNN		
31	ACE	RUB	3	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	VAN PLQ		PIT RST	1	
31A	PRU	AVI	8	7	2	G	III	15/3/2019	NON		NNN		
32	MAL	SPP	2	3	1	G	I	15/3/2019	PLQ	PLQ-Otway	PIT	1	
32A	PYR	CHA	3	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	NON		PIT	1	
33	PRU	AVI	2	1	1	G	I	15/3/2019	PLQ	PLQ-Fisher	NNN		
54-56	MIX	SPP	6	6	1	G	II	15/3/2019	GRO XNG	GRO-3 Prunus padus + 1 Prunus shirofugen	CLA	2	X
57-59	AME	can	3	1	1	G	I	15/3/2019	GRO	GRO - 30 Amelanchier being maintained by Friends of Naunton Pk	NNN		
G1(45-53)	MIX	SPP	4	3	1	G	I	15/3/2019	GRO BKW STD	GRO-15 Sorbus + Prunus	PIT STR	1	
G2(34-40)	ACE	CAM	4	3	1	G	I	15/3/2019	XNG	15 trees growing in group	NNN		
G3(41-43)	BET	SPP	2	1	1	G	I	15/3/2019	NON	group of 5 birch	PIT	1	PIT - young trees



G4	ACE	CAM	3	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	WSS BKW XNG	8 Field Maples	STB	2	
G5 (105-111)	BET	JAC	5	2	1	G	I	15/3/2019	BKW	GRO-16 trees outside playground	PIT RST	1	LST-lower to 1 metre
G6	MIX	SPP	5	3	1	H	I	15/3/2019	BKW XNG	Mixed species planted as whips by Naunton Pk school children 2002	NNN		
G7	BET	JAC	7	3	1	H	I	15/3/2019	GRO	GRO-3 birch	CLA	1	
Rose Garden	SOR	SPP	3	1	1	G	I	15/3/2019	GRO XNG	Group of Sorbus-being maintained by Friends of Naunton Pk	NNN		

Inspector's Name: A HoldstockSignature: A HoldstockDate: 23/5/19

Arb B2 C64

Nature First

12014101

\* T1 Sycamore

- storm Dennis Feb 2020

- large limb loss over adjacent substation

- Growth to pollard @ approx 9m

Growth to reduce by approx 82% 11016713 - 1201

\* 54-56 Pinus Radus blown apart in wind May 2020

CTS to fell + poison 11016719 12015665

† 28 Remove remaining <sup>supplanted</sup> unstable from branch ends + elsewhere

CTS 11016526

12015664

- see arb H file 2020 - 2x branch failure

June 2020 + File note #164 Naunton



## **Management reviews**

Management reviews are held annually with Ubico and informally with the Friends of Naunton Park Group. These reviews highlight areas where improvements have been carried out and show areas which need to continue improving. The close working relationship enables regular and effective feedback and development and maintenance work to be coordinated.

Since Naunton Park achieved Green Flag status in 2006, the management of the park has been working to achieve the outcomes highlighted within the document and to improve on issues raised by the Green Flag judges.

## **2.4 Community Involvement**

The Council works closely with the Friends of Naunton Park to improve and enhance the existing facilities in the park for the use and enjoyment of local residents and users.

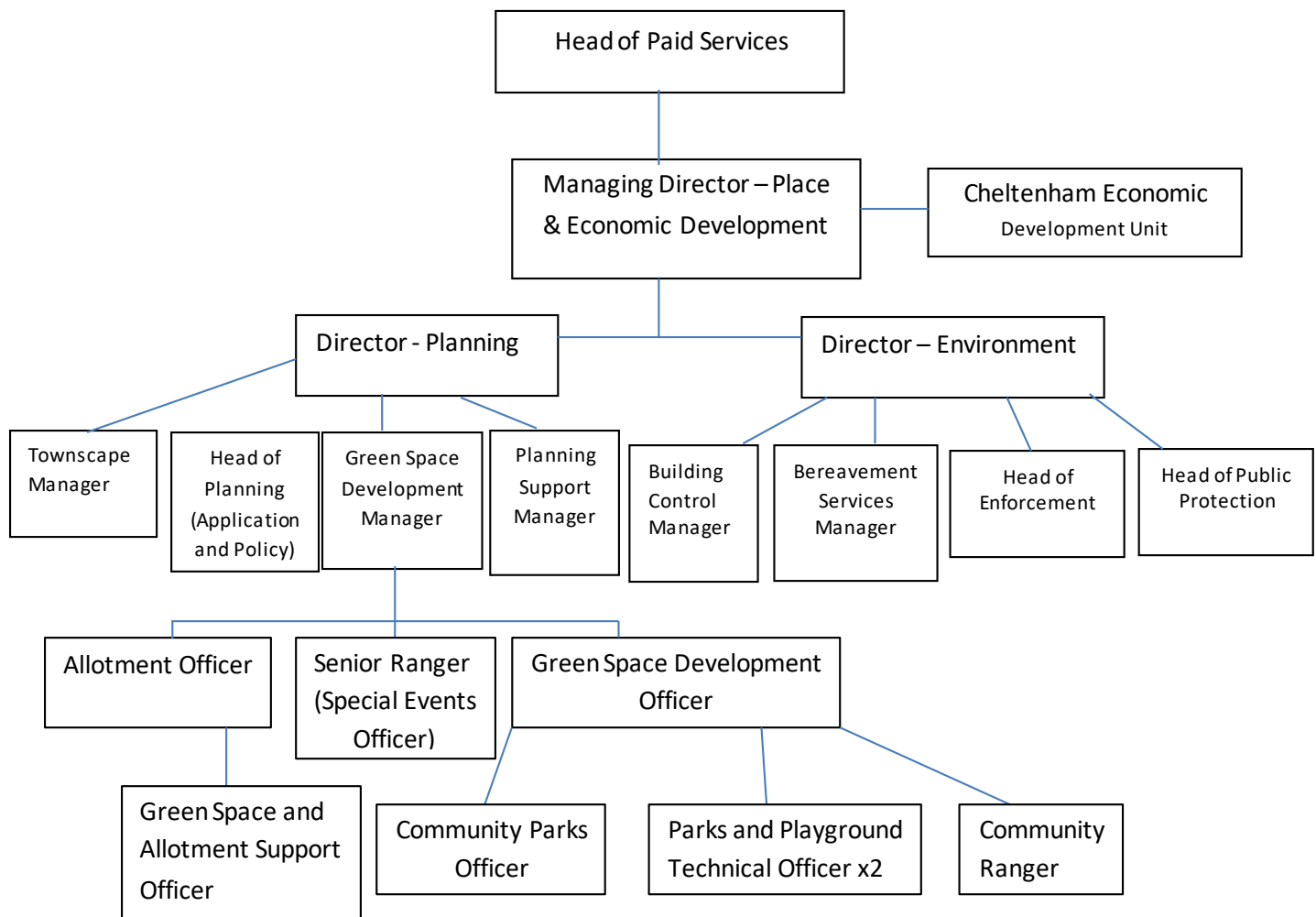
The Friends of Naunton Park Group was formed in September 1994 (becoming a registered charity in 1996) following concern about the deterioration in the appearance of the park. In its first year the Group attracted 200 members and started fundraising to assist with the renovation of the Rose Gardens, gaining sponsorship and donations from a wide range of local and national companies including a community environmental project award from British Telecom in 1995.

In 1997 the Friends were awarded a Cheltenham in Bloom award for outstanding community involvement. This was followed by an award of £16,800 in 2004 through Living Spaces to redesign the Rose Gardens. The Friends had also attracted match funding for this project to the sum of £10,000 from the Mayor's Charity. A landscape architect was appointed and the rose gardens were replanted. Trees and thousands of daffodils were also planted on the playing fields by members of the Friends group. Some of the award was used to create two pieces of play sculpture. These were carved out of timber by a chainsaw sculptor during the Autumn Fair in September 2005. The sculptures were designed by pupils from Naunton Park Primary School. Improvements have also included the installation of two wrought iron arches at the entrances to the park from Naunton Lane.

In 2016-17 the Friends group raised funding to install a new path and inclusive play equipment.

The Friends organise several fundraising activities each year. These include coffee mornings, autumn and spring fairs, garden parties and skittle evenings. All the events are well supported by the local community, attracting hundreds of local residents. The Group organises two major fundraising events each year in the Rose Gardens: a Summer Garden Party and an Autumn Fair, which includes a popular Dog Show.

**Figure 2.7 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 and developing the Council owned parks and play areas.
- **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.

## 3.0 Historical Development

### 3.1 Heritage importance of the park

#### Site History

The idea to create a recreation ground for the South Ward of Cheltenham was formally proposed in September 1891 and the decision to purchase Naunton Park (see Figure 2.7 below) for the proposed ground was made in November that year. A price of £10 per acre was agreed and the Council sought a loan of £2,200. By September 1892 the land was owned by the Borough. Tenants were given six months' notice; allotment holders were given grace to lift potatoes.



**Figure 3.1 1891 Map of Proposed Ground for Naunton Park (Naunton Piece)**

In December 1892 levelling and laying out of the Park's ground began. Fencing was started in January 1893 and completed two months later. Naunton Park recreation ground was officially opened on 6 July 1893, the wedding day of the Duke of York and Princess Mary of Teck (later George V and Queen Mary). Later that month Captain St Clair Ford of "Zeelugt" (now Linton House), arranged a fete and concert in the recreation ground on the occasion of his daughter's wedding. A severe winter delayed the laying out of Naunton Park until March 1894; further additions followed in the months ahead. The gardens, lawns and paths were designed for the older people whilst a field for football, cricket and other sports was laid out for everyone to enjoy. Local people donated plants for the gardens; Mrs Hay of "St Ronans" (a house no longer standing) on the Old Bath Road, gave an arbour - this was thatched and stood near to what was to become the poplar avenue.



Naunton Park Football Team 1905/6  
with thatched arbour behind

In August 1893 Captain St Clair Ford offered to provide a drinking fountain if the council would assist. This it did, by putting in the foundations. The fountain was designed by Joseph Hall, the Borough Engineer, and "opened" by the Mayor, Alderman Wethered, in October 1894 on a pouring wet day. It was a square brick pillar faced in Doulton tiles, about 20 feet (7 metres) high, topped by a terracotta cornice and an Italian style vase. On the sides of the pillar were Doulton plaques of female heads representing the four seasons. The cost of the drinking fountain was £100.

Meanwhile the Baths and Recreation Ground Committee had been instructed to build a shelter and conveniences in the recreation ground. There was some dispute about the cost of the proposed shelter at a Council meeting; eventually Captain St Clair Ford and friends donated a rustic shelter to be ready for use in June 1895.

The caretaker of the recreation ground at this time was a Mr Sutton, who lived in a house facing the park, No 90 Naunton Lane.



Drinking Fountain

In June 1893 an open air concert was held in Naunton Park ground attended by 2,850 people. Captain St Clair Ford presented 6 dozen poplar trees which were planted by Mr Hall in December to form what became known as the St Clair Ford Avenue along the school side of the garden (see Map B). Seats were placed along this avenue. The Captain also donated a rustic arch to form an entrance to the garden. It was based on an Indian design and had the words "Naunton Park" incorporated in it: these can only have been seen during the winter months as it was obviously composed of living plants (honeysuckle or clematis?). The poplar avenue was felled in 1951.



St Clair Ford Avenue

It is not surprising to learn that Captain St Clair Ford regarded Naunton Park ground as "The Garden of Eden" - indeed his generosity helped make it so. He died in February 1896. His widow

wished to carry out her late husband's wish and donate a bandstand. The Council agreed to lay the foundations and in July of that year a pretty thatched bandstand, situated on the south side of the poplar avenue, was opened. This became a regular venue for concerts by local bands for many years until its deteriorating condition made it necessary to remove it in December 1925.

At this time the garden benefited from donations of large vases and a variety of plants from Councillor Ward-Humphrey, Mrs Clair Ford, Rev J. Mugliston as well as many others. A year later a Diamond Jubilee Sports Day event was held on the Recreation Ground. In 1899 Mr & Mrs Hay donated a sum of money sufficient to build 12 cottage homes for the aged poor and the Mayor secured a site next to the gardens which included enough land for a caretakers house. A foundation stone was laid in May 1899 and eventually the 12 cottages were built, one being for a resident nurse.



Archway in Summer

### 3.2 Features of the historical landscape

**Fig 3.2 The Hay's Cottage Homes**



Reproduced here is an article published in the Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic on July 9, 1904:

*"The Hay Memorial Cottage Homes, Naunton Park, Cheltenham  
In the spring of 1899 these cottage homes were commenced, through the generosity of the late Mr and Mrs Hay, for the benefit of the aged and deserving poor of both sexes.*

*The buildings are situated on a fine open site overlooking the Naunton Park Recreation Ground and commanding a good view of the Leckhampton Hills.*

*Two additional cottages [making twelve in all] and two wash-houses for the joint use of the occupants, have recently been occupied. This extension, together with the original buildings, was designed by Mr J Hall [who left Cheltenham last year, having been appointed Executive Engineer of Bombay], and has been erected according to*



*the further drawings and under the supervision of Messrs Healing and Overbury, architects, of Cheltenham and Gloucester.*

*The outer walls are of Leckhampton stone, with 'chopped face', with brick lining; the roofs are covered with Broseley tiles; the whole of the half- timber work being in solid oak.*

*The following inscription is carved on the oak beam over the ground floor windows of the central portion: 'These Cottage Homes were founded by John Alexander Hay and Marianne Louisa, his wife, AD 1899, as a memorial of their long residence in Cheltenham.'*

*The management of the Homes is vested in the Mayor, Alderman and Rector of Cheltenham, and the total cost of the work, including site, has been nearly £3000.*

*Mr Allen Wilson was the contractor for the main block of the buildings, and the extension has been added by Messrs AC Billings & Sons Ltd of Cheltenham."*

### **Naunton Park Primary School**

By the early 1900s, fifty years or more of gradual housing development in the area meant that Naunton Park needed a school. A spacious new school was built on land adjoining the ground. The school opened in 1906 after a ceremony conducted by Alderman George Norman. One and a half acres were added to the recreation ground to compensate for the area lost to the school.

## **3.3 Research**

Members of the Friends of Naunton Park have collated a memory bank of valuable historical information on the Park and Rose Gardens which is published on their web-site. Below is a published section:

*The following is compiled from people's memories of the gardens :*

The gardens were locked at night, the railings not being removed until the Second World War. Opening times were posted on a board at the entrance to the gardens and the park keeper (who lived at 90 Naunton Lane) was responsible for locking up. Woe betide any children taking their time about leaving after he had blown his whistle! Children seen misbehaving or generally being naughty would find the keeper's keys thrown at them - "and it hurt"! One boy carving his initials on a tree was banned from the recreation field for two weeks. Children were not allowed in the garden unless given permission by the park keeper. No games were allowed in the garden - they had to go through to the recreation field. The swings and giant strides were on the right hand side of the field near to where the present day pavilion is situated. "Giant strides" (for those readers who are too young to remember) consisted of a 15ft high central post like a telegraph pole with a wheel bearing at the top. Ten chains were suspended from the bearing, each having a wooden crossbar handle about 3 feet from the ground. Children would run around the central post - faster and faster - until they would literally "take off".



Gardens with summer house

The gardens were longer in the 1900s. They extended on to the recreation field as far as what is known as the "tump" - the trees on the left hand side were about 50 yards further on from the present boundary hedge. School Sports Days - very grand affairs - were held on the field. There

were sideshows with Cheltenham rock and other delights for sale for the small children. Prizes for winners of the races included tennis racquets and cricket bats.

At the far end of the St. Clair Ford Avenue there were some steps up to a grove of laburnum trees where one could rest on a seat and enjoy the scent of the "golden showers". There were some steps down to a summer house for adults to sit in - children were not allowed in on their own.



Grove of laburnum trees, 1902

The drinking fountain was a source of great attraction for the children, especially small boys who used to turn on the tap, then put a finger on the end of it and direct a jet of water over any unwary person passing by - "especially the old ladies in the cottages"! There were brass cups provided for drinking: one small girl was told by her mother not to use the cup as "you never knew who had been drinking out of it".

Accounts vary as to the plants in the gardens. In springtime, all along the front of the Hay Cottages, grew narcissi. These borders were looked after at that time by the park-keeper, Mr Read. Agapanthus were planted along the St. Clair Ford Avenue, and as can be seen from the old photographs, there were agaves in large terracotta pots, trailing plants in urns, various shrubs on the lawns, and rose arches leading up from the entrance to the drinking fountain - all must have made for a colourful garden.

The Emmanuel Church choir used to sing in the park and the Salvation Army held services there as well as giving concerts. The bandmaster, at the end of the concert, would ask if any child would like a turn at conducting. When the challenge was taken up, no matter how little musical knowledge the "young conductor" had, the members of the band would follow him or her faithfully, resulting in a cacophony of sound in variable slow - quick time!

At the far end of the sports field was a pavilion which is remembered by several residents as being called the Lamb Shed. A local farmer used to graze his sheep on the field and the lambs would play in and around the pavilion, which was more than the local children were allowed to do. It was a "no-go" area for them!

Needless to say, a vigorous sweeping and cleaning was necessary before the pavilion could be used at cricket matches. There was an air raid shelter in the recreation field near to where the present children's playground is situated. The children were shepherded into it whenever the siren went. One very dry summer, about 20 years ago, the outline of the air raid shelter was clearly visible because the grass on it had dried more quickly than that on the rest of the field.

The council reinforced the cellars in some houses near the park (for example Naunton Crescent, Naunton Park Road and elsewhere) with brick pillars, to create extra shelters for local residents. The railings were removed from the front of the gardens during the war but for safety reasons those in front of the school were kept.

After the war the drinking fountain, whose foundations were collapsing, was removed, too, for reasons of safety.



Steps leading from poplar avenue to laburnum grove

## 4.0 Vision

This section sets out the vision for the park based on 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 Naunton Park.

### Aims

Criteria	Vision
Welcoming Place	To make Naunton Park a welcoming park that is accessible to all sections of the community
Health, Safe and Secure	To ensure Naunton Park 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 Naunton Park is managed and maintained to a high standard to provide an attractive park and enjoyable experience for all visitors
Sustainability	To ensure that Naunton Park 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 Naunton Park**



## 5.0 Management Zones

For ease of management, Naunton Park is conveniently divided into 4 Management Zones: The Rose Gardens, the Recreation Ground, the Children's Play Area (including MUGA) and the Park Pavilion, see map 5.1 below.



Map 5.1 Naunton Park Management Zones

## 6.0 Qualitative Analysis

### 6.1 Welcoming place

Naunton Park is situated in Leckhampton, a residential suburb in the south west of Cheltenham.

The two entrances from Naunton Lane are well defined and clearly identifiable by wrought iron arches. The main entrance opposite Naunton Crescent has 'Naunton Park' inscribed within its arch to the Rose Gardens.



**Figure 6.1 Inscribed archway entrance to Naunton Park Rose Gardens**

The park entrance from the Asquith Road car park affords a wide open vista of the park, with the Horse Chestnut topped 'tump' and neatly kept hedgerows in the distance and nearby views over the allotments to Leckhampton Hill. Two benches located here provide visitors seated viewing opportunities across the park.

The Park's interpretation panel is situated here giving visitors information on the history and wildlife of the park together with the Park Code and contact details for Cheltenham Borough Council.

## **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 parks.

The Council's two Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers carry out regular play equipment and green infrastructure inspections.

When any issues are reported by members of the public, 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**

Naunton Park has been less prone to anti-social problems than other Council owned parks but liaison with the local PSCOs has proved effective in dealing with the occasional issues that arise such as vandalism and graffiti. Prompt identification and removal of tagging and graffiti has proved to be effective, as have additional PCSO patrols at identified times.

The parks' site notice-boards display information about how to contact police and the council by telephone, e-mail or via the web-site to report damage and incidents.

### **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/](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/62/community_safety_and_crime/1387/)

### **Vehicles in the Park**

Vehicle use within Naunton Park is restricted to Council staff, maintenance staff (Ubico) and contractors. All vehicles are driven no faster than 5mph, with hazard lights and always giving 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.



## 6.3 Clean and well maintained

### Litter and waste management

The Council has a programme of replacing its existing waste bins with a new style uniform black bin which has doubled the storage capacity in high usage areas of the park. Bins are emptied regularly by Ubico. A review is carried out periodically to examine options to separate waste for recycling but is not possible at present. Results from recent trials are currently awaited.

### Park maintenance

Park maintenance is carried out by Ubico and the Council's Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers. The Council's Tree Officer undertakes a detailed inspection of the trees in Naunton Park and the Rose Gardens every 2 years. A report on condition and any remedial works is produced. Any remedial works to trees are carried out by a specialist tree surgeon. Trees are also checked after high winds for damage and any necessary works carried out.

Hard surfaces, paths, bins and seating are regularly inspected by the Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers and minor repairs carried out as soon as possible to maximise the availability of facilities. Any graffiti is removed as soon as possible. There are planned enhancements for the footpath provision in the park, providing a circular route around the recreation ground with self-binding gravel, additional seating areas, a swale to aid Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS), a gentle sloping mound for play from swale excavations and additional wildflower seeding all hoped to be completed during 2023 and all available for public comment and input. The council and FoNP are currently sourcing funding for the work, in the region of £60-80,000.



Figure 6.2 Naunton Park Planned Enhancement Information

## Buildings

The pavilion in the Park is managed by the Council's Property Department and is included within a rolling 20 year planned maintenance database of assets and properties held by the Property Services team. This is covered in detail under the Finance section.

To help minimise repair costs of the pavilion, vandal-proof doors, pipes and windows have been installed. Perspex is used in favour of glass, windows are discreetly caged and down-pipes are made of steel rather than plastic, so that they cannot be broken. The pavilion has external lighting activated by sensors to deter vandalism. Vandalism here is rare, helped by the fact that the building is in frequent use by the local community and because of the number of people visiting the park and tending to the nearby allotments.

A Ubico pavilion attendant looks after the sports part of the pavilion, unlocking and locking it on match days and cleaning it after bookings. It also houses the café, for which there is ongoing discussion regarding expansion into other areas of the pavilion and extending the outside patio space.



**Figure 6.3 Naunton Park Pavilion**

## **Other structures**

There are notice boards at each of the two pedestrian entrances from Naunton Lane, where the Friends of Naunton Park group display information about events and the Green Flag certificate is proudly displayed. An interpretation panel is situated at the car park entrance, off Asquith Road, close to the pavilion.

The ornamental Rose Garden is furnished with traditional style wooden benches. Benches can be purchased through the Commemorative Bench Scheme. Within the recreation ground area, rustic sleeper style benches have been installed.

Four of the litter bins in the park are of the original wrought iron design first used by the Council and feature the town's heraldic crest of arms, whilst the remainder conform to the Big Ben styles used within the other parks in Cheltenham.

The park does not have any gates and is open to the public every day. The two main entrances to the Rose Gardens are furnished with metal arches, one of which bears the name of the park across it.

The Park's front perimeter on Naunton Lane is bordered with black wrought iron railings and two wrought iron entrance arches. Decorative dwarf iron railings provide formal structural borders to the planted beds in the Rose Gardens. All of these structures are inspected as part of the park's quarterly inspection regime.

## **Equipment maintenance**

Play equipment including play surfaces and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) 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. Once a year a detailed condition survey is carried out by the Council's external specialist.

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 a weed membrane 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.

The Council planned to trial an alternative approach in controlling vegetation/weeds in public spaces in order to reduce its reliance upon the use of glyphosate based herbicides, and to consider alternative approaches to managing unwanted vegetation in public spaces in 2020. Unfortunately the trial was delayed and more limited than hoped due to COVID-19. The restricted trial concluded that no direct chemical or alternative method of weed control/removal is currently available when considering cost, time and efficacy during trials of such measures as flame throwers, acids, hot foam and electricity. However, continued efforts to limit use of glyphosate remain an important objective.

The trial and all updates are appended in the Council's Environmental Services. The updates can be found at: [https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/8290/appendix\\_a\\_-\\_use\\_of\\_glyphosate\\_for\\_weed\\_control](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/8290/appendix_a_-_use_of_glyphosate_for_weed_control)

### **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 toilet facilities in the pavilion.

### **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)

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>

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 and is still awaited. It is to be expected that the current and any future operators of the café in Naunton Park Pavilion will use recyclable packaging for their hot drinks and takeaway food and provide separate bins for café users to segregate their rubbish.

### **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.

Naunton Park is 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**

Naunton Park has an important avenue of indigenous lime trees near the southern perimeter of the Park by the Pavilion, significant mature specimens within the Rose Gardens and a cluster of notable Horse Chestnuts growing from a raised earth tump on the northern boundary of the Park, which provides an important wildlife and recreational feature on the northern boundary of the Park. The Rose Gardens has also benefited from the more recent planting of Amelanchier, Liquidambar, Prunus, Ginkgo and Sorbus species.

The tree management regime is to leave trees to take their natural shape and minimise pruning unless there is a safety issue. However given the root excavating activities of children playing around/on the tump of trees on the northern boundary, the Council's tree officers have been "high pollarding" this small spinney every 3 years for about the last 12 years.

Standing deadwood is retained where possible and does not pose an unacceptable risk to public safety, and provides excellent habitats for a range of wildlife especially wood boring insects.

The overall objective of arboriculture management within Naunton Park is to maintain the number of trees to at least present day levels and to seek additional opportunities for tree planting to enhance the natural landscape.

Informal groups of native trees were planted by the Friends group in the play area, amid the new wild-flower planting. A further group was planted by school children in 2006, which are replacements for the group of trees

to the west of the open space. CBC Parks Technical Officers planted several cherry, rowan and willow in 2007. The Friends have been planting occasional trees (with agreement of CBC trees officers) in suitable sites elsewhere in the park in more recent years.

A more naturalistic style of planting was introduced in the form of a planted copse areas in the recreation field. This was supplemented in the 2009/10 planting season with hedging roses, blackthorn and holly.

In several cases, the thinning of trees (e.g. in the play area) was undertaken (in 2011) to allow for the growing into maturity of trees planted by pupils of Naunton Park primary school in 2002. Such thinning work is considered good arboricultural practice.

In addition to the replacement field maple and wild service trees mentioned previously, an area of hedging on the northern boundary is due for planned additional planting in thinner areas and in February 2022 there has been further tree planting including 6 wild cherry, 4 rowan, 2 hazel and 1 silver birch planted by green space council staff and there will be further mixed native variety whips planted before the spring by staff from Publica, a council owned employment company which delivers shared services between Cotswold, West Oxfordshire, and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council on a corporate work day, accompanied by members of the Cheltenham green space team.

## 6.5 Conservation and Heritage

### Conservation

The wide variety of wildflowers and perennial plants selected and planted in the Rose Gardens are scented and nectar-rich pollinator sources to attract bees, butterflies, insects and birds. Green Woodpeckers, Long Tailed Tits, Grey Wagtails are frequently seen in the Park and more occasionally Sparrow Hawks and Tawny Owls.



**Figure 6.4 Linear Hedgerows Provide Wildlife Benefits**



The linear privet and yew hedgerows between the recreation ground and the Rose Gardens also provide nesting sites for birds and roosts for bats. Common Pipistrelles can be frequently glimpsed on summer evenings in the Rose Gardens. Recently added and further proposed swathes of species rich wildflower meadow areas towards the eastern end of the recreation ground provide an added food source and habitat for invertebrates and subsequent attraction for other fauna, enhancing the biodiversity of the site. Further varied tree planting in the near future will add to the mature tree stock and other developing specimens to provide a variety of nesting, perching and foraging opportunities for all manner of wildlife. Additionally, the creation of a swale to aid Sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) and informal play mound will offer further habitat variety, detailed in section 6.6.

Furthermore, there are discussions ongoing over arrangements for surveys to take place to obtain a biodiversity baseline and habitat mapping to enable enhancement and monitoring of progress into the future within Pittville Park and other green space sites around Cheltenham. These will most likely involve students from University of Gloucestershire, council staff and other voluntary contributors.

Areas of grassland are left uncut around the park. The longer grass especially where there are wildflowers provide valuable habitat that can support a greater variety of wildlife in the park than areas of short grass and no wildflowers.

## **Heritage**

Naunton Park has no built heritage features within the park's boundary but the Hays Cottages immediately facing the Rose Gardens provide an attractive architectural backdrop to the formally laid out part of the park's entrance. They are an attractive row of cottages built from Leckhampton stone with Broseley tiled roofs and half-timber facings made from solid oak.

The cottages are alms houses for the poor and needy and are managed by the Cheltenham Family Welfare Association, a registered charity based in Cheltenham that provides management and support for a number of charitable trusts in the town.



**Figure 6.5 Hays Cottages provide an architectural backdrop to the Rose Gardens**

## 6.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Naunton Park principally revolves around the Friends of Naunton Park Group, Naunton Park School and local sports groups.

The Friends of Naunton Park Group acts as chief catalyst in stimulating community involvement from the Park's surrounding residential area. The Group operates fairly independently, organising community events eg litter picking, fundraising and liaising on park development with the Council's Green Space team.

During 2016/17 the Friends of Naunton Park Group was instrumental in achieving substantial funding of £20,000 to improve the Park's networks and play areas for the local community. This enabled the funding for a newly laid path to provide an important link from the car park in Asquith Road to the Rose Gardens, via the Multi-Use Games Area and the Naunton Park School entrance. As part of this funding the Friends Group also received a Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together For Children grant for the purchase and installation of new inclusive play equipment in the toddlers play area. Figure 6.5 below shows a section of the newly laid path in front of the toddlers play area with new equipment, to which the 2023 additions will create vastly improved access to more of the park for all users.



**Figure 6.6: New Path Link and Toddlers Play Area**



There is a long history of very strong community and sporting links between the adjacent Naunton Park School (now solely a Primary School) and the Park. Their origins have been so closely inter-twined that the park has always provided an educational backdrop for the school and ready resource for outdoor classroom events and environmental projects.

The recreation ground has always played an important part in the School's sports timetable. During the summer the field is marked out for the Primary School for athletics, with a track of 400 metres marked around one of the boundaries. In the weeks leading up to their sports day, an eight lane 100 metre sprint track is marked out. A variety of sports teams and fitness groups also use the park. The football pitches are used by the adult Saturday leagues on Saturday afternoon and Sunday mornings by the adult Sunday leagues. They are also used on Sunday afternoons by teams in the Junior Football Leagues and by Leckhampton Rovers who use it for their home matches. The pitches are also available for midweek evening matches and for rounders' pitches, on request.



**Figure 6.7 Junior Football team setting up for a match**



## 6.7 Marketing and Events

There are two notice boards located in the centre of the Rose Gardens which displays news and events occurring in the Park. The Cheltenham Borough Council website provides further information about the park and includes travel advice detailed below and can be found at:

[https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/33/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces/347/naunton\\_park](https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/33/parks_and_open_spaces/347/naunton_park)

Travelling to the park

**Bus** - Naunton Park is not situated on a direct bus route. [Two bus routes](#) have stops within a 5 -10 minute walk to the park.

**Road** - The ornamental garden of Naunton Park has entrances on Naunton Lane. Accessible via Old Bath Road and Naunton Road. A car park is located via Asquith Road.

### Access

Park entrances:

**Naunton Park Lane** - ornamental garden

**Asquith Road** - where there is:

a car park and play area, pavilion and a playing field

The Friends of Group maintain and update the news on the notice boards and also update and publish marketing and events information on its website, which can be found at: [www.friendsofnauntonpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnauntonpark.org.uk)

The café at the pavilion has an Instagram account publicising their presence and events at the park:

[https://www.instagram.com/nauntonpark\\_pavilion/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/nauntonpark_pavilion/?hl=en)

## 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 Naunton Park Group
- 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. The table below 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
Wildflower 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 Naunton Park 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 Naunton Park 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. In the Council's Planned Maintenance Programme for 2017 to 2022, the planned maintenance of Naunton Park Recreation Ground has been allocated a sum of £7336 in the budgetary year 2020/21, which with inflation (11%) will be £806.96 with a Council adjusted planned maintenance cost of £8,143.

There is also an annual Routine Maintenance Programme amount set aside from the Property Services annual budget for Naunton Park Pavilion of £2702.00. This should be safeguarded as covering Statutory Compliance and Business Continuity maintenance. The sum of £2702.00 is broken down into the following amounts:

£436.00 for mechanical proposed planned maintenance to operational buildings (Statutory Compliance);  
£60.00 for fire precaution systems annual servicing to operational buildings (Statutory Compliance);  
£1041.00 for electrical proposed planned maintenance works to operational buildings (Statutory Compliance);  
£515.00 for statutory compliance health and safety inspections/management (Statutory Compliance);  
£200.00 for coverings: roof/RWG cleaning annual servicing to all operational buildings (Business Continuity) and  
£450.00 for weekly legionella point-of-use water run-off (showers and taps) (Statutory Compliance).

## 9.0 Monitoring and Reviews

### Customer satisfaction

A customer satisfaction/park users' survey has not yet been undertaken on the Park. However local residents and customers can feedback their views on the park via the Friends of Naunton Park Group meetings and web-site forum or directly to the Council. The Council publicise their contact details on the Park's interpretation panel and on the notice boards in the Rose Gardens, and always strives to resolve any issues of dissatisfaction or implement suggested improvements within the park.

### Review processes

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 debriefing.



## **10.0 Action Plan**

### Park Development Plan

**Key:**

GSDO - Greenspace Development Officer,

CPO - Community Parks Officer,

FoNP - Friends of Naunton Park,

TO - Tree Officers,

P&PTOs – Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officers

SR – Senior Ranger

CR - Community Ranger,

GSDM - GreenSpace Development Manager

Ongoing – for tasks or project that do not have a timeframe or ending

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 Naunton Park is welcoming and accessible to all possible users	Review and maintain high quality signs at park entrances and detail on the facilities within the park	Check signage is well maintained as part of regular infrastructure inspections	Well maintained and up to date park signage at both entrance points.	Ongoing	CPO, P&PTOs, FoNP	New bollards installed in entrance car park Feb 2022
		Ensure Notice Board in Rose Gardens is well maintained & containing up to date information	Check regularly and update information	Quality and up to date Notice Board	Spring 2022	CPO, P&PTOs, FoNP	
		Improve accessibility for all	Path installation from MUGA/Play Area to Rose Gardens.	Well maintained pathway links for users	2017	GSDO	Completed 2017
			Create new circular path around recreation area	Improve site access and use of full site for all users	2023	GSDM, GSDO, FoNP	Funds raised from council and Enover through FoNP

CRITERIA	VISION	AIMS	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 Risk Assessment programme and implement	Annual	GSDO	Updated 2022
		Continue with comprehensive formal regime of play and infrastructure inspections	Weekly, monthly and annual inspections of play equipment at different levels.	Appropriate actions undertaken following inspection findings	Ongoing	P&PTOs, SR, CR, External contractor	
			Park infrastructure inspections carried out bimonthly	Appropriate actions undertaken following inspection findings	Ongoing	P&PTOs, SR, CR	
		Continue to ensure safe pitch management	Pitches marked out weekly and visual condition checks carried out during playing season	Clearly marked and safe playing pitches for all users	Annual	GSDO, Ubico	
			End of season renovations to pitch	Well maintained pitch structures	Annual	Ubico	Re-established cricket pitch 2021



CRITERIA	VISION	AIMS	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained	To maintain the highest standards of landscape, ground maintenance and cleanliness	Maintain a clean and tidy park environment	Litter bins are emptied regularly	Regular removal of deposited litter	Ongoing	Ubico	
		Maintain park free of litter and dog fouling at all times	Continue to liaise with Public Protection Team (PPT) to encourage fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and litter dropping in the park	Dog fouling and litter dropping discouraged and reduced	Regularly	GSDO, Ubico, P&PTOs	
			Continue to work with football team that use the park to target dog fouling issues	Reduced incidents of dog fouling during matches	Regularly	P&PTOs, CR	
		Complete the programme of replacing bins	Continue with the rolling programme of replacing existing bins for double capacity units	Bins replaced with double capacity bins		P&PTOs, Ubico, GSDO	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIMS	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	ASSIGNED TO	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained continued		To ensure fly tipping and graffiti is removed within a 3 day period from reporting	Ensure that any reports of fly tipping and graffiti are dealt with promptly Review the litter and graffiti policy incl. lead times	Removal of fly tipping and graffiti within 3 days maximum	Reactively	Ubico, GSDO	
		Maintain hedgerows to a high standard	Continue with current hedge cutting regimes of privet and yew hedges.	Well maintained hedgerows	Regularly	Ubico	
		Maintain all elements of the park to high standards	Implement the Maintenance plan	Ensure contractor compliance	Ongoing	GSDM, Ubico	
		Maintain Naunton Park Pavilion to a high standard	Pavilion checked weekly -when booked & monthly. See checklist – App 1	Clean and tidy pavilion	Ongoing	Ubico	
			Review usage of rear room	For potential integration within café	2022	Property Services, GSDO	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.3 Clean and well maintained continued			Building survey carried out according to 5 Year Plan	Any defects identified & factored into planned maintenance budgets for remedy	2018	Property Services	Carried out 2018
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 Naunton Park	Work within the council's policy for reducing impacts on the environment	Reduction of green waste removed from site after planned maintenance.	Ongoing	ALL	
			Try to reuse natural materials whenever possible within the park	Bark chip around tree bases to help with water conservation	Ongoing	TO, Ubico, FoNP, CR	
			To minimise the amount of reusable material being removed from site	Reduction of materials going to landfill	Ongoing	All	
		Protect infrastructure and habitat longer term	Create swale and mound as part of site improvements project	Benefit SUDS provision and increase habitat diversity	2023	GSDO, GSDM, FoNP	
6.5 Conservation	To promote biodiversity through appropriate management	Increase the diversity and habitat structure within the park	Continue to plant up gaps in Rose Gardens according to plant list	Increased planting and maintenance in Rose Gardens	Throughout 2021/22	GSDO, Ubico FoNP	Ongoing FoNP work



CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.5 Conservation Continued			Identify areas for habitat improvements	Produce proposals for habitat improvements & species. Meadows & woodland flora - Out to consultation	Summer 2022	CR, FONP, Ubico	
					Feb 2021		New wildflower meadow areas planted 2021
	To promote biodiversity through appropriate management	Increase the diversity and habitat structure within the park	Identify areas for habitat improvements, continued.	Project with Bug Life Trust to improve pollinator corridors as part of their BLine initiative	Spring/Summer 2021	GSDO, FoNP, Bug Life Trust	Continuing under BLine work with alternative funding
	To promote biodiversity through tree management and conservation	Manage and conserve Naunton Park's trees	Tree condition surveys carried out every 2 years	Any tree problems are identified and resolved	Survey December 2021	TOs	Inspection completed 2021
			Continue to seek tree planting opportunities	Increased tree cover in park	Ongoing	TOs, GSDO, Ubico, FoNP	Whips planted & 2 new larger trees 2021
			Continue the programme of replacing removed trees with suitable species	Appropriate tree replacement and management	Ongoing	TOs, Ubico, FoNP	1 field maple replaced
				New tree planting	March 2021	FoNP, CR	13 new trees planted Feb 2022
			Mulch around young tree near play area	Promote tree health and growth	Spring 2022	FoNP, CR	
			Continue with standing dead wood policy	Identify suitable dead wood sites for increased insect habitats	Ongoing	TOs, Ubico, FoNP	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.5 Conservation Continued	To increase database and knowledge of biodiversity of park	Encourage and increase local community's involvement in recording wildlife and improving biodiversity	Continue to work with external organisations and encourage recording of species	Improved and up to date species lists of flora and fauna in the park	Ongoing	SR, CR, FoNP	Discussion underway with University and staff survey training
6.6 Heritage	Maintain the historical integrity of the Rose Gardens and Hays Cottages within the management of the Park as a whole	To promote the historical significance of the Rose Gardens	To increase users' understanding and enjoyment of the Rose Gardens	Interpretation Panels, leaflets, events and guided walks	Ongoing	CR, FoNP	
	Maintain the strategic significance of this important green space within the new local plan and community plan	Park and Gardens recognised in local plan	Continue to ensure that planning service at county and borough level is aware of its significance	Consultation with planners, feed in to policy documents and reports	Regularly	GSDM	

CRITERIA	VISION	AIM	ACTION	TARGET	TIMETABLE	OFFICER	PROGRESS
6.7 Community Involvement	To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events and activities and Friends group	Continue to support the work of the Friends Group & promote their involvement in the park management and its development	Encourage FoNP to seek funding sources and work with them to identify projects and funding opportunities	Grant-aid awarded and implemented through appropriate projects in the park	Ongoing	CR, CPO, FoNP	
			To continue with regular meetings and other communications	Up to date information maintained on: Facebook, Twitter, FoNP web-site and Park Notice Boards	Ongoing	CR, CPO, FoNP	
			To promote events in the Rose Gardens and Park and encourage more diverse events.	Balance the number of activities with the other park users	Regularly	CR, GSDO, CPO	
6.8 Marketing	To actively promote the park to all potential users	Increase the facilities of the park for a range of park users and visitors	Continue to promote park and events on a range of social media	Up to date information on website	Regularly	CR, FoNP	
				Regular updates of events	Regularly	CR, FoNP	
6.9 Management	To promote a responsive, flexible and high quality management service.	Retaining the Green Flag award	To submit the Green Flag award application	Application submitted	February 2022	CPO, GSDO	Completed submission

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Work plan

#### Work Programme

Location	Details of work	Timing of works
Open grass areas	Gang mow open grass areas allowing cuttings to fly. Clear cuttings from other landscape features Strim or clip grass edges on every other mowing operation Areas with 'naturalised' bulbs not to be mown until bulb foliage has 'died back' area then to be cut and cleared or if foliage is light, to be flailed. Then bring back into regular mowing regime Edge/half-moon grass edges against paths identified on inspections during growing season Clear litter from grass area 3 times a week Box mown	Every 14 days through growing season Every 28 days through growing season  Late spring/early summer  Late autumn/winter All year Every 14 days throughout season
Rose Garden grass area		
Wildflower areas	Monitor occurrence of dominant weeds and those liable to release windblown seed into adjacent gardens. Apply herbicide to bindweed or remove them Reduce the number of thistles by up to 80% or remove flowers especially where the prevailing wind blows seed into gardens Leave cutting down wildflower area until as late into the autumn as possible but cut before site becomes too wet to work on. Cuttings to lie to allow seed fall before clearing. Avoid damage to basal rosettes Clear litter from grass area 3 times a week Detail items	Growing season      Late autumn  All year
School sports	Mark sports lines as requested for school sports	Summer term
Play area	Inspect weekly Inspect monthly Arrange independent annual inspection Repair as required Litter clear 3 times a week	Weekly Monthly Annual All year All year



Cricket	Mark out, prepare and pre-season roll cricket squares Mark out cricket boundary Box mow cricket squares every week Mow outfield every week Prepare individual wickets as required Access need and apply broadleaf herbicide if required Apply fertiliser Post season maintenance	April May - September May - September May - September As booked for matches April and August April September
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Football pitch	Weekly pitch and post inspection during playing season Mark out lines weekly throughout playing season Mow out lines as required Aerate pitch on 8 occasions Contravate and overseed Repair any damage to goal mouths and centre Mow as remainder of field through summer Apply fertiliser	Weekly Weekly As required Late May May May/June Every 14 days through growing season April/October
Changing room	Locking and unlocking when booked Clean after each booking and report defects Inspect exterior on quarterly infrastructure inspection Building structure maintained as 20 year scheduled by property department	As fixture list As fixture list Jan, Apr, July, Oct Ongoing
Shrub areas	Prune according to seasonal requirements or landscape aspirations Weed control and litter clear Clear litter from borders 3 times a week Assess mulch depth and top up Detail items Plant holly at end of Naunton Park Close together with hedging roses and blackthorn at eastern end	Monthly visits  Monthly visits All year Annual  Winter
Hedges	Trim twice a year Weed control and litter clear Clear litter from borders 3 times a week	Jun/Jul, Oct/Nov Monthly visits All year
Trees	Complete inspection and programme works identified Plant additional trees at eastern side	Spring Winter
Infrastructure	6 monthly infrastructure inspections and subsequent remedial works Bins emptied as litter clearance frequency Paths to be swept every 7 days	Jan, Aug  3 times each week All year
Security	Monitor dog fouling and report to PPTO's	Ongoing