

Pittville Park

Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Management Plan 2016 – 2026



Reviewed January 2022

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1.0 Introduction..... | 4 |
| 2.0 General information about the park..... | 8 |
| 2.1 Legal Issues..... | 8 |
| 2.2 Strategic Significance of Pittville Park..... | 10 |
| 2.3 Surveys and Assessments undertaken..... | 12 |
| 2.4 Community Involvement..... | 12 |
| 2.5 Current management structure..... | 14 |
| 3.0 Historical Development..... | 17 |
| 3.1 The heritage importance of the park..... | 17 |
| 3.2 History of the park - timeline..... | 19 |
| 3.3 Features of the historic layout | 21 |
| 3.3.1 Character Area 1 - Pump Room Lawns..... | 22 |
| 3.3.2 Character Area 2 - The Upper Lake..... | 23 |
| 3.3.3 Character Area 3 - Pittville Lawns..... | 24 |
| 3.3.4 Character Areas 4 & 7- Agg Gardner Recreation Ground..... | 25 |
| 3.3.5 Character Area 5 - The Lower Lake..... | 26 |
| 3.3.6 Character Area 6 - Marle Hill..... | 28 |
| 3.3.7 Character Area 9 - Pittville Gates (the Grand Entrance)..... | 28 |
| 3.3.8 Character Area 10 - Wildlife area | 28 |
| 3.4 Restoration | 28 |
| 3.5 Research | 29 |
| 4.0 Vision..... | 30 |
| 5.0 Management and Development of the park..... | 31 |
| 5.1 The management team..... | 31 |
| 5.2 Character areas..... | 31 |
| 5.2.1 Character Area 1 – Pump Room Lawns..... | 33 |
| 5.2.2 Character Area 2 – Upper Lake | 34 |
| 5.2.3 Character Area 3 – Pittville Lawns..... | 35 |
| 5.2.4 Character Area 4 – Agg Gardner Recreation Ground..... | 36 |
| 5.2.5 Character Area 5 – Lower Lake | 37 |
| 5.2.6 Character Area 6 – Marle Hill..... | 38 |
| 5.2.7 Character Area 7 – Agg Gardner west..... | 38 |
| 5.2.8 Character Area 9 – Pittville Gates..... | 38 |
| 5.2.9 Character Area 10 – Wildlife area..... | 38 |
| 6. Qualitative Analysis..... | 39 |
| 6.1 Welcoming Place..... | 39 |
| 6.2 Healthy, safe and secure | 40 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 6.3 Well maintained and clean..... | 42 |
| 6.4 Environmental management..... | 43 |
| 6.5 Biodiversity, landscape and heritage..... | 45 |
| 6.6 Community involvement..... | 46 |
| 6.7 Marketing and communications..... | 47 |
| 6.8 Management..... | 48 |
| 7. Inspection and Maintenance | 48 |
| 7.1 Buildings and other structures | 48 |
| 7.2 Play area and equipment..... | 48 |
| 7.3 Infrastructure | 49 |
| 7.4 Soft landscape..... | 49 |
| 7.5 Trees..... | 50 |
| 7.6 Pests..... | 50 |
| 7.7 Green Space Volunteers..... | 50 |
| 7.8 The aviaries..... | 50 |
| 8. Finance | 50 |
| 9. Monitoring and Reviews | 51 |
| 9.1 Customer satisfaction..... | 51 |
| 9.2 Reviews..... | 51 |
| 10. Action Plan..... | 52 |
| 11.0 Appendices..... | 61 |
| Appendix A – Summary Reviews..... | 61 |
| Summary of the 2021 Review..... | 61 |
| Summary of the 2020 Review..... | 62 |
| Summary of the 2019 Review..... | 63 |
| Summary of the 2018 Review..... | 64 |
| Summary of the 2017 Review..... | 65 |
| Summary of the 2016 Review..... | 66 |
| Summary of the 2008 to 2015 Review..... | 67 |
| Appendix B..... | 68 |
| Appendix C..... | 68 |

1.0 Introduction

Cheltenham is a town in Gloucestershire on the edge of the Cotswolds area. Just to the north of Cheltenham town centre is Pittville at the centre of which is Pittville Park (see figure 1.1 location plan).

Photo 1.1 – Park visitors enjoying the entertainment at the Heritage Cafe outside the Pump Room during restrictions for the Corona Virus in early August 2020.



Pittville Park is registered as Grade 2 on the National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, designated by Gloucestershire County Council in 1973, and is located within the Cheltenham Conservation Area. Within the park is the Pump Room which is listed Grade 1 on the National Register of Historic Buildings and considered to be the finest Regency building in Cheltenham.

Pittville Park is the largest park in Cheltenham, some 34 hectares, and one of the most important in Gloucestershire. It is not only used by the people of Cheltenham but many people travel miles to use the wide range of facilities, participate in the activities and enjoy the ambience and heritage of the park.

The park on the east side of the Evesham Road is the more formal part of the park consisting of the pleasure gardens and the Pump Room built between 1825-1830. It is an ornamental park with a lake, lawns, a play area and aviaries, cafes and a large collection of trees. Surrounding this side of the park are many fine Regency and Victorian houses.

To the west of the Evesham Road is the park created in 1890 for the people of Cheltenham by Cheltenham Borough Council and is less formal. It consists of a boating lake, the Agg Gardner recreation ground, a play area, adventure play area, pitch and putt course, MUGA (multi use games area), tennis courts, skate park, the Boathouse cafe and a fine collection of trees. To the north of this side of the park is Marle Hill with housing developed mainly from the 1960's. To the south is the St

Pauls area consisting of tightly packed terrace housing built in the 19th century with adjacent 20th century social housing.

Photo 1.2 – West side of the park



To the west of Tommy Taylors Lane is an area that used to be a clay pit, then used as a refuse tip, and is now capped and grassed. It has been developed as a wildlife area with more tree planting, wildflower planting and mown paths for walking and cyclo-cross (this area was not considered in the CMP although it is part of Pittville Park and included in this Management Plan).

In 2006 Cheltenham Borough Council (the council*) received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to write a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) that was to inform the regeneration of the park and be the basis for an HLF bid for £4 million. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful but the council formally adopted the CMP in 2008 and has been working, with the help of the Friends of Pittville (FoP) and other stakeholders, to implement the proposals set out in the CMP. The CMP can be found on the council's website at:

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/download/1203/pittville_park_conservation_management_plan

It is stated in the CMP at the start of the Proposals – Section 6 that:

“The proposed works are not intended to radically alter the fundamental design of the site which has remained largely unchanged for more than one hundred years. Instead they will gradually build on and improve the existing structure to reveal lost and hidden elements of the historic landscape as well as enhance recreation and education opportunities all in a way sympathetic to the needs of the people who use the park.”

In 2017 the council asked Illman Young Landscape Design to prepare an Analysis and Proposals Report for Character Areas 1 and 2. This document was to review and provide more detail of the proposals in the CMP so that work in these two areas could be taken forward. Detailed drawings and costings for reinstatement of the steps in front of the Pump Room and gates to the approach drives have been completed. Works around the upper lake have been commenced on site.

Two further projects which build on the CMP proposals have been completed on site which are the Urban Greening Project, which included lake desilting and habitat improvements around both lakes and the Wildflower Meadow project in the west side of the park. (See Appendix B) In addition the FoP have been restoring Bed 38 (on the corner of Wellington Road and Evesham Road) with new planting.

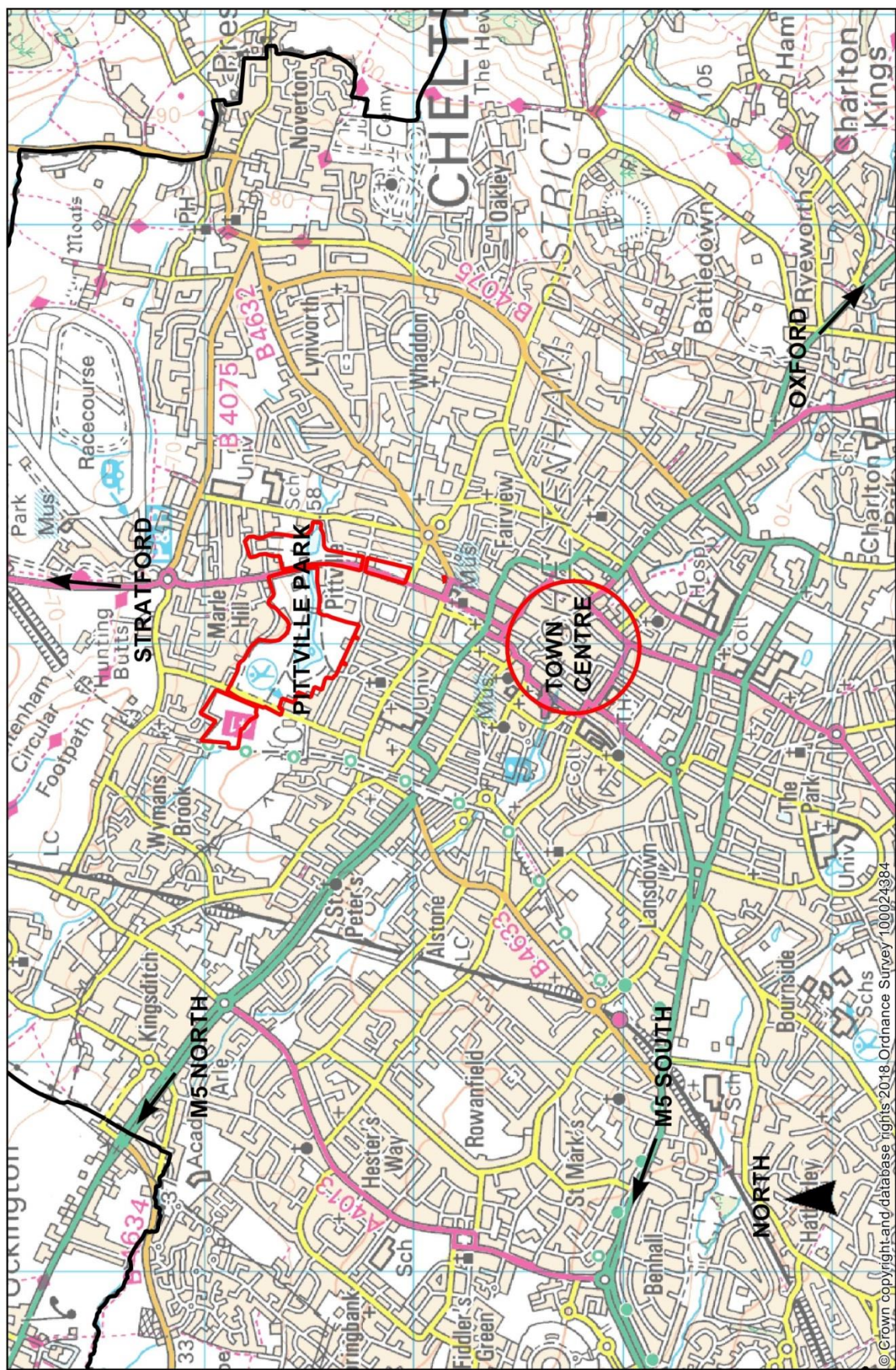
In 2014 the council decided to apply for the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation. The council, with the help of FoP, wrote this 'Management Plan 2016 - 2026', based on the CMP, to accompany the application and as a working document for the next 10 years. The application for the awards was successful in 2016. At the end of each year the council carries out a formal review of the Management Plan with stakeholders before re-submitting for the awards in the following January. A summary of the review for each year is included in Appendix A which provides a history of the progress achieved in the park since the CMP was adopted in 2008.

The Corona virus in 2020 has brought into focus the valuable role that green spaces, and particularly parks, play in helping society. During the first government 'lockdown' which was imposed in March 2020 it was only these spaces that were open and provided a safe space for the public. They were able to get out of their houses to relax, let their children run around even if the play areas were closed and to walk their dogs. Many people who never normally visited a public park discovered them. Pittville Park has been particularly busy with many more visitors and it has been noted from a more diverse population. An outdoor café was started at the Pump Room and music provided at the weekends creating a community atmosphere. Volunteering in the park was stopped for periods during the year and even when working parties were able to take place different arrangements had to be introduced in line with the council's approved Risk Assessment.

In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency in Cheltenham and appointed consultants to prepare a report 'Carbon Neutral – leadership and stewardship' to advise how the town of Cheltenham can be carbon neutral by 2030. An initial review has been carried out to assess how this will affect the park and how the management of the park can contribute (see Appendix C).

*In 1876 Cheltenham became an incorporated borough having a Mayor and Corporation. It was generally known as Cheltenham Corporation until 1900 when the first references to Cheltenham Borough Council appeared although both terms were in use for some time.

Figure 1.1 - Location Plan



2.0 General information about the park

2.1 Legal Issues

Ownership - Pittville Park is owned by the council and the legal boundaries are shown in figures 2.1. The size of the park is approximately 34ha. The Entrance Gates at Pittville Lawn are owned by the council but the surrounding highway land is owned by Gloucestershire County Council.

Leases - The Pump Room and adjacent car park is owned by the council and maintained by the council's Property Department, all vegetation and landscape work is carried out by Ubico. Contractors are employed to carry out structural repairs and routine maintenance to the building. In 2014 The Cheltenham Trust (TCT) was formed and secured the lease of the building for 99 years.

The Central Cross Cafe, Boathouse and Play Area kiosk are owned by the council but leased to 'In the Park Ltd' company.

The Former Air Raid Precaution Control Centre is owned by the council and is leased to the All Saints Scout Group who are responsible for its maintenance.

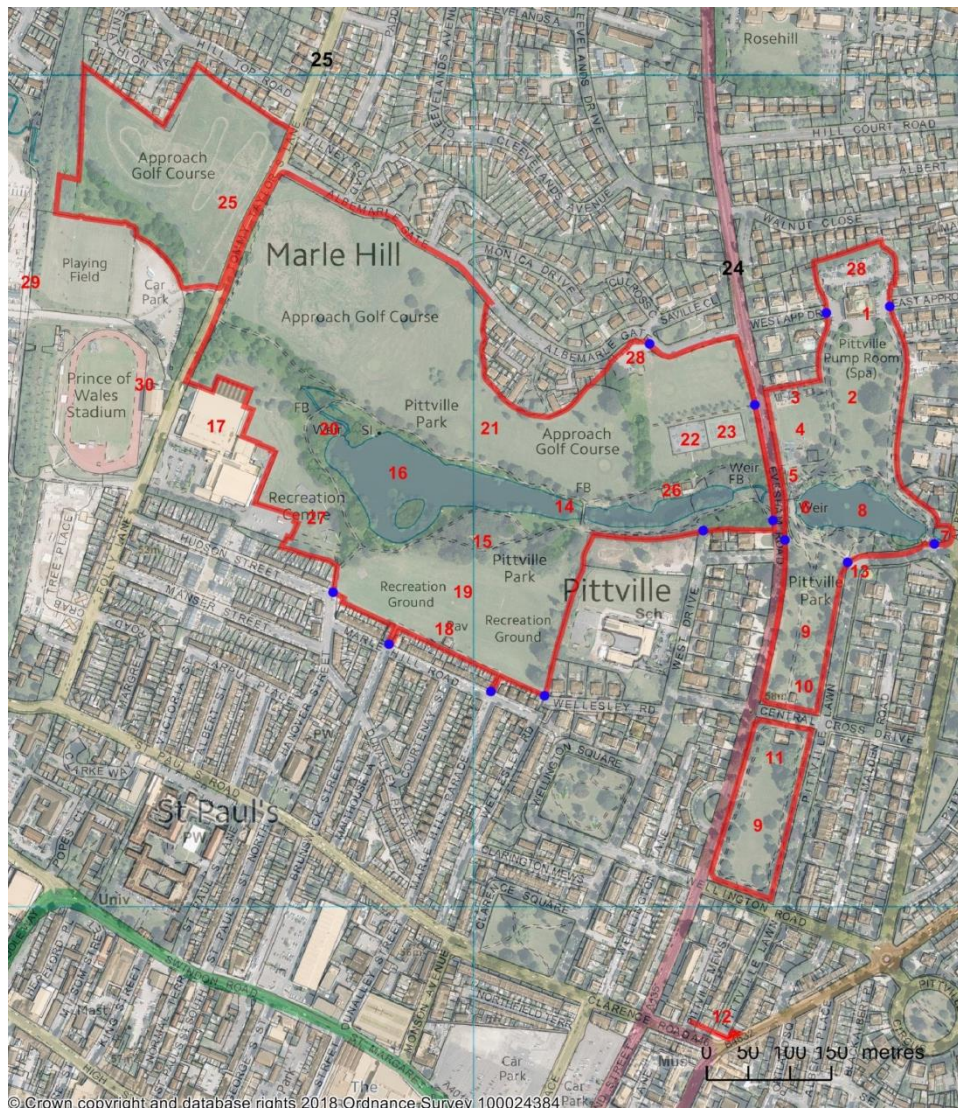
Landscape Maintenance - In 2012 the council's Environmental Maintenance section was transferred to a new company Ubico. Ubico is a local authority company owned by its shareholders Cotswold District Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Stroud District Council, and provides these authorities with a range of services including waste collection, recycling, street cleansing and landscape maintenance of parks and open spaces including school fields.

Byelaws - A copy of the byelaws for all of the parks in Cheltenham are available on request.

Public Space Protection (Cheltenham) Order 2020 - 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/downloads/file/6340/public_spaces_cheltenham_order_2020

Figure 2.1 – Pittville Park legal boundary with key features



KEY:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Pittville Pump Room | 12. Pittville Gates | 23. Tennis Courts |
| 2. Pump Room Lawn | 13. Fools Gates | 24. Evesham Road |
| 3. Aviaries | 14. Community Bridge | 25. Tommy Taylors Lane |
| 4. Play area | 15. Natural play equipment | 26. Boathouse |
| 5. Toilet Block | 16. Lower Lake | 27. Agg Toddler Play area & MUGA |
| 6. West Bridge | 17. Leisure @ Cheltenham | 28. Car Parks |
| 7. East Bridge & Residium | 18. Agg Gardner Pavilion | 29. Honeybourne Line |
| 8. Upper Lake | 19. Agg Recreation ground | 30. Prince of Wales Stadium |
| 9. Pittville Lawns | 20. Weir and Wyman's Brook | Blue points. Access points. |
| 10. Central Cross Cafe | 21. Pittville Gates | |
| 11. Scout Hut | 22. Pittville Gates | |

2.2 Strategic Significance of Pittville Park

Cheltenham is a large Regency spa town in Gloucestershire with a population of 115,700 (Census 2011) located on the edge of the Cotswold area. 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 of its buildings listed.

Walking northwards from the town centre to the racecourse is Pittville, a regency development started in 1825 by Joseph Pitt. At the centre of Pittville is Pittville Park, the largest of the many parks in Cheltenham. The east side of the park was originally private pleasure gardens with the Grade 1 listed Pump Room and spa which is now the only remaining spa in Cheltenham where the waters can be tasted. The park, on both sides of Evesham Road, is Grade 2 listed. The west side of the park which is Victorian in origin was built for recreation and leisure.

Joint Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 (JCS)

The JCS, a partnership between Gloucester City, Tewkesbury Borough and Cheltenham Borough, was adopted in December 2017. This development plan sets out the amount of new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure that is needed in the three districts up to 2031. It contains policies pertaining to proposed development.

The Cheltenham Plan (adopted July 2020)

The Cheltenham Plan together with the JCS, the Gloucestershire Minerals and Waste Local plans and any neighbourhood plans made in the future comprise the Statutory Development Plan for Cheltenham up to 2031. “The development plan also sets out higher level objective and aspirations that aim to both conserve what is valued and cherished with Cheltenham and to encourage development in spatial and policy areas the council wishes to promote in the public interest.”

The following policies have specific relevance to Pittville Park:

Policy L1 Landscape and setting.

Policy TN1 Protecting the route of the former Honeybourne rail line (adjacent Pittville Park)

Policy GI1 Local green space

Policy GI2 Protection and replacement of trees

Conservation Areas - Cheltenham has a number of Conservation Areas, the largest of which is the Central Conservation Area which covers the whole of the Town Centre, an area of over 600 hectares. This Conservation Area is split into 19 areas, one of which is Pittville. The key characteristics of Pittville are described as:

- Extensive open green spaces and well established tree-lined streets form the structure of Pittville's character and appearance and the setting of its buildings;
- Pittville Park creates a parkland setting for the character area and takes up approximately 50% of the character area;
- The pattern and layout of streets, spaces between buildings, and mass and style and use of quality building materials complement each other. They combine to give the area grandeur, elegance and spaciousness;
- The area contains large numbers of Regency and early Victorian formally laid out terraces and grand villas which form a distinct identity for the area;
- This character area contains over 150 statutory listed buildings, allowing it to have a rich architectural and historic interest;
- Pittville character area contains the Grade 1 listed Pittville Pump Room which dates from 1825;
- There are extensive views of the Cotswold escarpment which can be seen from the open spaces and creates a rural connection between the countryside and the urban area.

Adjacent to Pittville and the south side of the park is the St Pauls Conservation Area which was developed in the latter half of the 19th century predominantly to house the town's artisan workers and consists of high density terraced houses.

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 the green spaces within the Borough. Pittville Park is identified in the Strategy as having the primary purpose of a 'Park and Garden' which provides: "Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events". The park is multi-functional and includes natural and semi-natural green spaces, urban woodland, green corridors, outdoor sports facilities, and provision for young people.

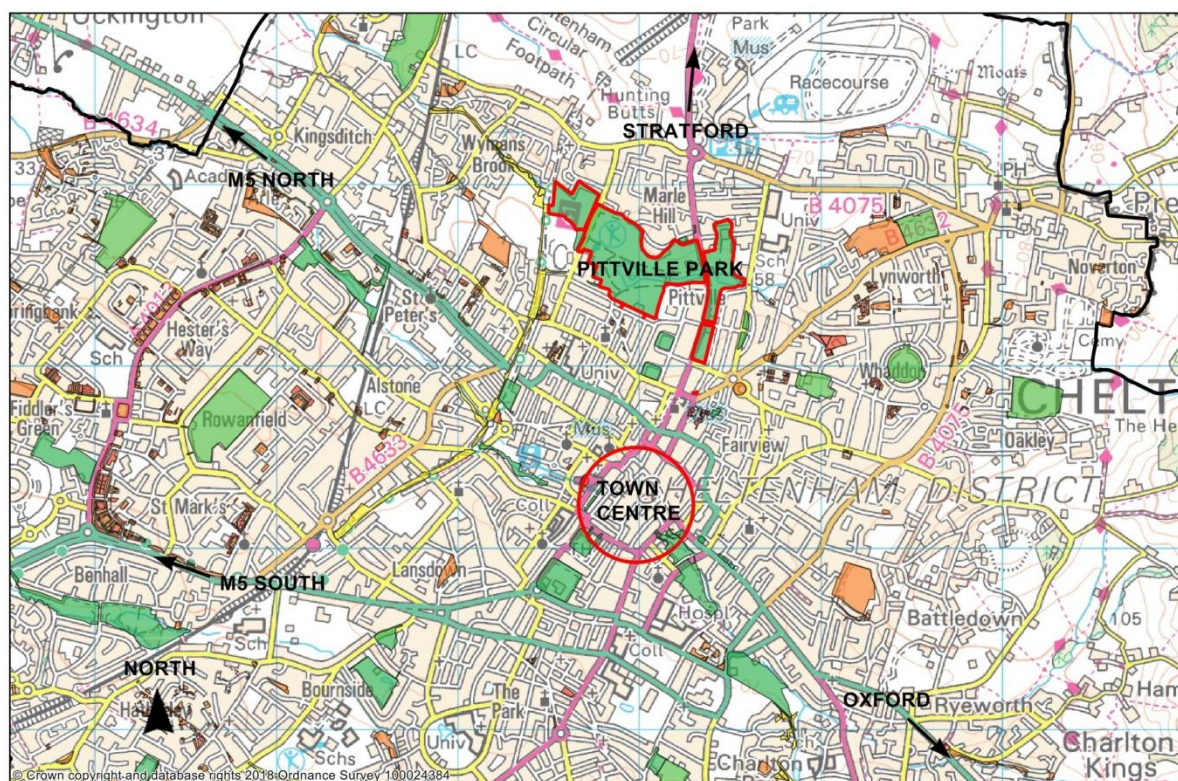
Taken from https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1389/green_space_strategy

The vision set out in the GSS forms the basis for this 10-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 relationship of Pittville Park to other green spaces - Figure 2.2 shows the relationship of Pittville Park to Cheltenham's other parks and green spaces. The park is north of Cheltenham and only ten minutes' walk from the centre and an equal distance south of the racecourse. The park is divided by the A435 Evesham Road with its borders mainly surrounded by housing.

Figure 2.2 – Location map and nearby parks



2.3 Surveys and Assessments undertaken

Ecological survey - Middlemarch Environmental carried out a biological audit in 2006 which formed part of Cheltenham's Green Space Strategy which was adopted in 2009. The park is categorised as a park and garden with a B+ biological score.

Hard and soft landscape survey - The Landscape Agency as part of the CMP carried out a Hard and Soft landscape survey.

Tree survey - A detailed inspection of the trees in Pittville open space is carried out by the council's Tree Officer every 2-3 years and the trees on Pittville Lawns are inspected every 18-24 months. A copy of the tree survey is available on request. The open space was inspected May 2021 and a silver maple fronting Evesham Rd has been removed. Additional planting within the park in 2021 includes three-metre specimens of dawn redwood, flowering pear, lime, silver birch, weeping willow and five giant redwood.

Lake survey - A detailed topographical survey of both lakes was undertaken to ascertain the level of silt in 2019.

2.4 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Pittville Park is through voluntary groups such as FoP and the St Pauls Road Area Residents Association (SPRA).

FoP was established in September 2006 with the aim to promote greater community involvement in the enjoyment, protection, future restoration and renewal of Pittville Park and Estate and has about

350 members. Since 2009 about 40 are active volunteers in the park, with an average of 25 at each working party, who work alongside the Community Ranger. During the early 2000s the park had suffered vandalism and the council had established a Park Watch scheme with the Police in a number of parks in Cheltenham, including Pittville. Park Watch is no longer funded but consists of an informal scheme consisting of the Police, council staff, local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and local residents who keep an eye on the park

SPRA was established in June 2008 to provide an effective way to capture and address the common concerns of the St Pauls community. Its objective is to help improve the quality of life in the area, and to represent the residents by maintaining effective communication with the many authorities and organisations influencing life in the area.

Other groups and organisation who involve the community within the park include:

The Cheltenham Trust was established in October 2014 and promotes the recreational side of Cheltenham through art, culture and sport.

The Central Cross Café, Boathouse and play area kiosk, currently run by 'In the Park Ltd', are well-used hubs in the park. They serve fresh coffee, homemade cakes and ice creams and are popular places for local people and visitors to meet. The Boathouse provides boating on the lower lake, fishing tennis and 'pitch and putt' during the summer months, as well as concerts, school holidays events and activities.

The park is also used by a number of fitness organisations as a base, these include British Military Fitness and the national Park Run as well a small number of smaller local companies.

Over the summer, due to COVID-19, TCT have run an outdoor cafe at the Pump Room and organised music and dancing at weekends in front of the Pump Room. These events have been very well attended during the summer. A temporary structure in the form of an orangery has been erected adjacent the Pump Room under emergency Covid 19 rules to house the café.

Photo 2.1 – Pump Room temporary orangery cafe



Recently the National Star centre, Bradbury Gardens, was built on the boundary of the south side of the west side of the park and provides support for disabled people to live independently in the community. There is the opportunity for residents to become actively involved in the park carrying out litter picking where possible, as part of the twice-monthly FoP working parties. A grain dispenser has been installed by the council to encourage people to reduce the amounts of bread being fed to the wildfowl, where for 20p a handful of grain is dispensed and this is looked after by St Vincent's and St George's centre and FoP.

The University of Gloucestershire department of art and photography and media campus is close to the park and is used regularly for class lectures and coursework.

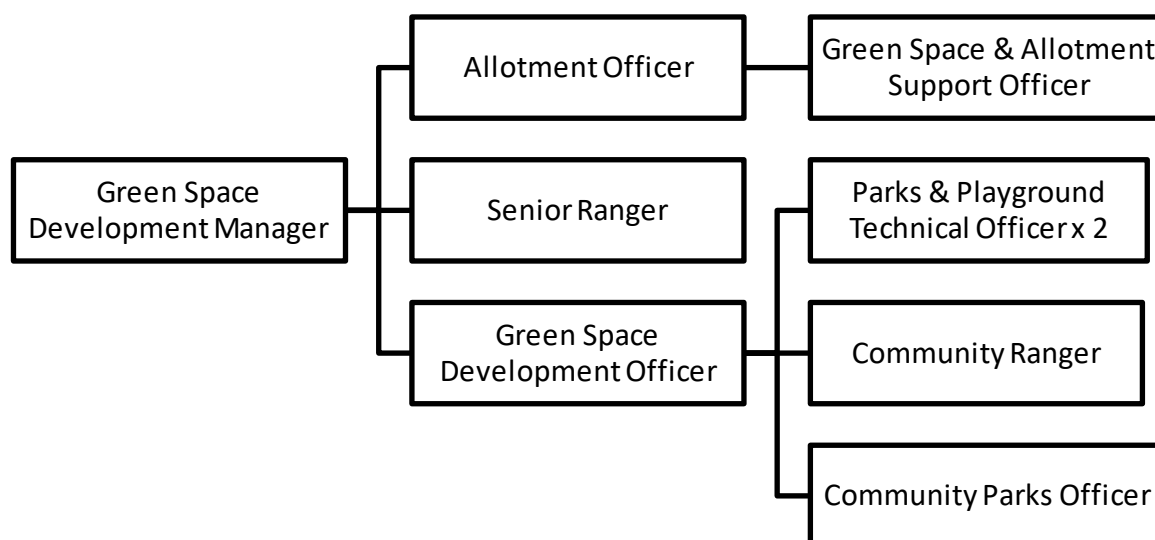
Schools visit the park for days out from as far as Northleach in East Cotswold. Other events include the council's Tree Officer conducting tree walks and FoP conduct walks and talks for Heritage Open Days. Lectures are given to local groups on the history of Pittville by FoP volunteers. There are a number of 'one-off' events in the park.

2.5 Current management structure

The Council's management structure can be viewed on the Council's website.

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/16/open_data/558/council_organisation. The park is looked after by the Green Space Development Team (GSDT) which is in the Planning directorate. The management structure of the GSDT is shown in figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3 Green Space Development Team structure



The Green Space Development Manager is the commissioning officer for Ubico as well as overseeing the GSD officers.

The Green Space Development Officer is responsible for the development of parks and play areas within the council's boundary that are council owned, 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 allotments and organising repairs, and is the point of contact for tenants if they have concerns or issues.

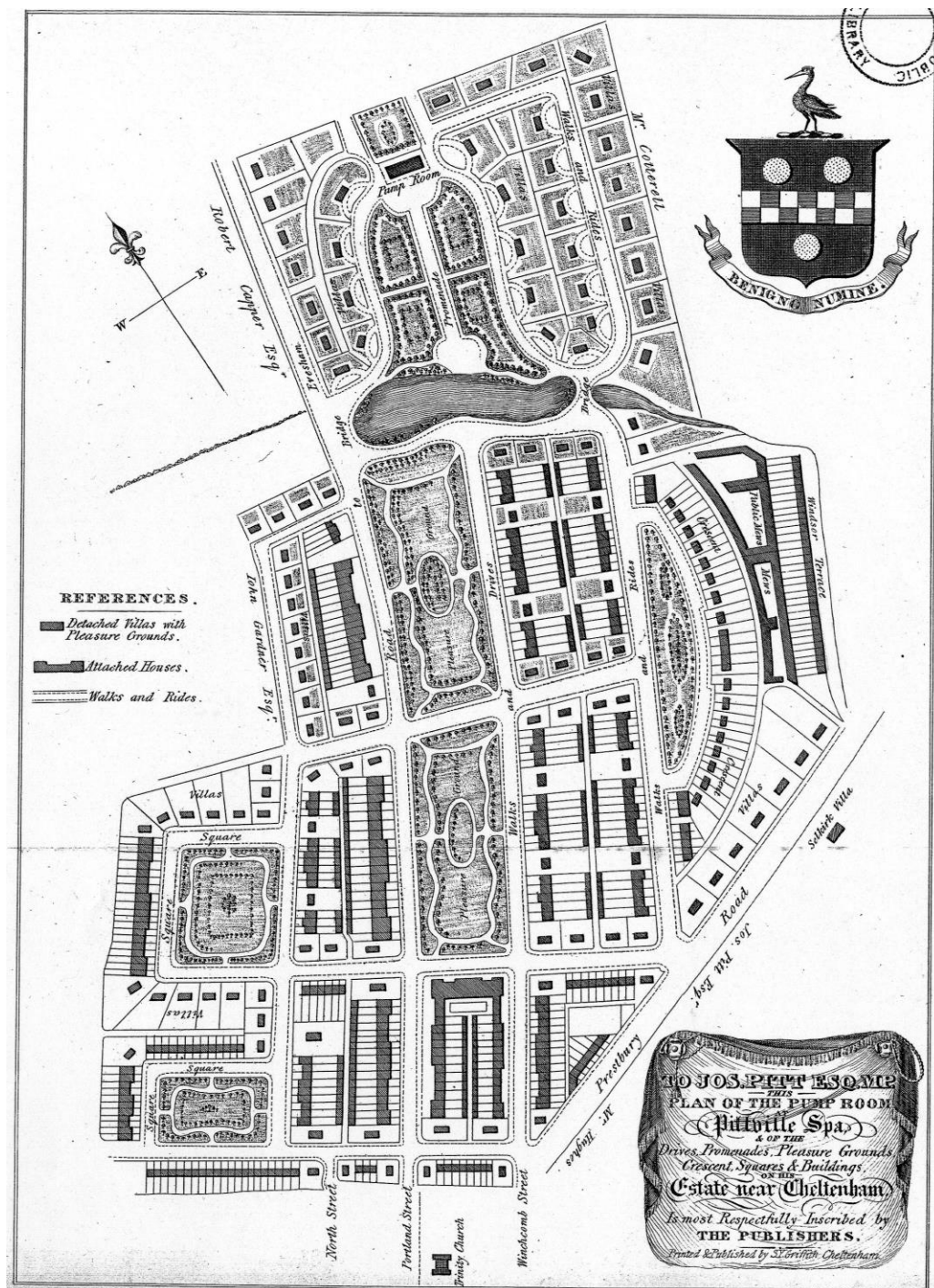
The Senior Ranger is responsible for the day to day running of Leckhampton Hill, working with tenant grazer to improve the status of the SSSI site. The ranger also oversees events on council land to ensure the correct paperwork is submitted and the event is suitable for the site. **The Community Ranger** organises and facilitates working parties with local community groups, friends group, schools and other organisations, as well as attending Local Neighbourhood group meetings.

The Community Parks Officer works alongside the Green Space Development Officer on new projects and works with the Community Ranger on working parties.

The Green Space and Allotment Support Officer provides administrative support to the division, as well as coordinating the commemorative bench scheme.

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.

Figure 3.1 Joseph Pitt's plan for the Pittville Estate (1826 map)



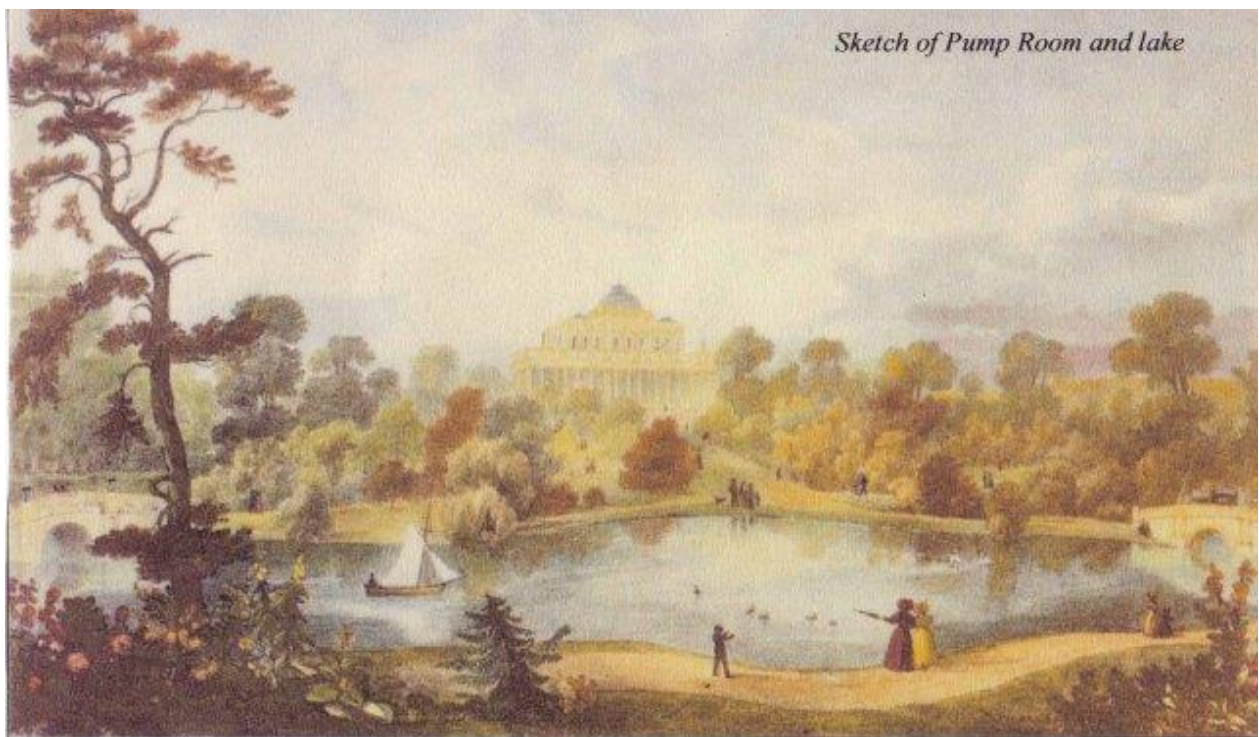
3.0 Historical Development

3.1 The heritage importance of the park

Pittville Park is registered as Grade 2 on the National Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic interest in England, designated by Gloucestershire County Council in 1973, and is located within the Cheltenham Central Conservation Area. The Pump Room within the park is listed as Grade 1 on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

Pittville was founded by Joseph Pitt whose vision was to design a smaller scale Regents Park or Hyde Park, with gardens, walks and drives, centered on a classical Pump Room with spa water available, but where the houses were not so expensive. The area has some of the best examples of Regency and Victorian housing in Cheltenham with some locally listed buildings and structures allowing it to have a rich architectural and historic interest.

Photo 3.1 - Sketch of the Pump Room and upper lake



The council purchased the Pump Room and gardens in 1890. At the same time they purchased parcels of land on the west side of the Evesham Road to create a recreation ground and pleasure gardens for the general population of Cheltenham that was more informal in character. The council combined the land to the west of Evesham Road and the gardens to the east to form Pittville Park which was opened in 1894.

Figure 3.2 - 1903 map



3.2 History of the park - timeline

There is a detailed history of the development of Pittville in the CMP section 2. Below is a brief summary in the form of a timeline.

1800 Joseph Pitt, a lawyer and banker from Cirencester started to acquire land north of Cheltenham and is awarded a large amount of land under the 1806 Enclosure Act.

1810 Marle Hill House was built and Wyman's Brook dammed to form a lake for the house.

1822 First well was dug for the new spa.

1825 Pitt employs architect John Forbes to produce plans for a new town to rival Cheltenham, construction starts on Pittville Pump Room (the foundation stone is laid on the 4th May). Nurseryman Richard Ware starts laying out the gardens, damming Wyman's Brook to create the lake, walks and drives and the plots for 500 houses.

1830 The Pump Room opening ceremony is held on the 20th July.

1833 The Pittville Gates, the grand entrance to Pittville designed by the architect Robert Stokes.

1835 Pittville Horticultural Association founded and shows held at the Pump Room.

1842 Pitt dies leaving debts of almost £150,000, the remaining building plots are sold off.

1844 - 50 The east and west approach drives to the Pump Room are constructed.

1888 The County of Gloucester Bank sells the Pump Room and gardens to the council.

1888 Recreation ground south of Marle Hill is opened by Sir Tynte Agg-Gardner.

1890 The last lessee, Edward Shenton, gives up his lease to the Pump Room and spa.

1891 The council purchases parcels of land to the west of Evesham Road to create a pleasure park for the people of Cheltenham.

1894 On 25th April the Pump Room and gardens, the Marle Hill annex and Agg Gardner Recreation ground are opened as Pittville Park by the Mayor.

1897 The over mantle is added to the Pittville Gates and the lamps converted to electricity.

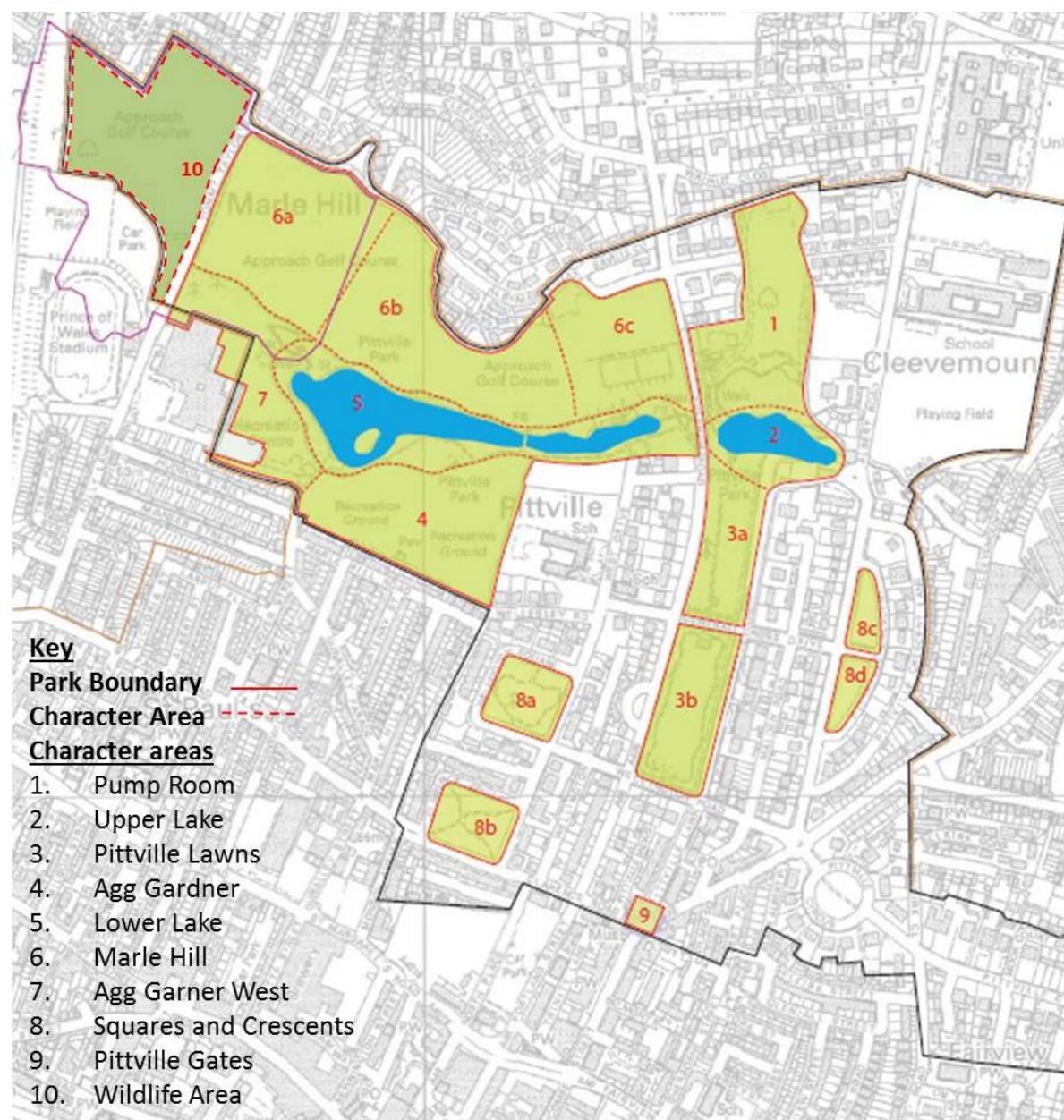
1931 The council purchase land west of Evesham Road for the golf course.

1936 Aviaries built and play area in place.

- 1939 - 1944 The Pump Room and lawn are taken over by the military and used by the American army in preparation for D-day. Air Raid Precaution Control Centre, Central Cross Drive built.
- 1945 Council purchases land either side of Tommy Taylors Lane comprising allotments and clay pits which are used as landfill until 1964.
- 1946 Restoration of the Pump Room started following structural damage (completed 1960).
- 1960 Restoration complete and the Pump Room opened by the Duke of Wellington. Upper floor occupied by the Gloucestershire College of Arts for 20 years.
- 1983 Upper floor of the Pump Room used as a Costume Museum until 1999.
- 2006 The council start process of applying for a HLF grant to restore and improve the park as it was suffering from anti-social behavior and lack of investment. Award of £50,000 made to write a CMP. FoP formed to support the bid.
- 2008 CMP written and application made to HLF but bid unsuccessful. Council adopts the CMP.
- 2012 Entrance gates restored and new metal 'Community Bridge' opened in west side of the park.
- 2016 Park awarded Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation.
- 2017 FoP awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. Substantial play area expansion.
- 2018 Illman Young, landscape architects, appointed to carry out an Analysis and Proposals for Character Areas 1 & 2 in the east side of the park. New refreshment kiosk with outdoor seating and 'Changing Places' facility to cater for people of all abilities.
- 2020 East end of the rockery and Bed 38 restored. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the use of the park increases considerably. An outside café is opened at the Pump Room together with a temporary structure for the café.
- 2021 Lake desilting, habitat improvements and wildflower projects carried out.

3.3 Features of the historic layout

Figure 3.3 – Character areas in the Conservation Management Plan



The Squares and Crescents are not part of the GF and GHSA award.

3.3.1 Character Area 1 - Pump Room Lawns

The Pump Room

The Pump Room was built between 1825 and 1830 and was leased to a succession of tenants who paid rent to Joseph Pitt. It was the largest of the town's spas and medicinal waters were dispensed from the elaborate marble and Scagliola pump to visitors, in the same way as they are still available today. Improvement works on the current supply is at present currently ongoing. Regular balls, fetes and public breakfasts were held. In 1890 the Pump Room was acquired by the Council, along with the gardens. During both World Wars, the Pump Room was taken over the military authorities, and its military use between 1940 and 1944 added to the structural damage and deterioration that was rectified in a major restoration between 1949 and 1960. Since 1960 further improvements have taken place along with enlargement of facilities. In 1960 the restored upper floor was leased to the Gloucestershire College of Art and the hall used as a more central role in the social and cultural life of Cheltenham. The hall has excellent acoustics for live music and is used for dances, concerts and the Cheltenham Music Festival.

In 1900 the Borough Surveyor submitted plans for two bandstands, one for the gardens, involving the demolition of the steps in front of the Pump Room and the other for the Marle Hill Annexe. By the end of 1900 a bandstand had been built. In 1994-5 the bandstand was restored at a cost of £6000 and repairs have been carried on several occasions since

Aviaries and Children's Play Area

The inventory of Edward Shenton's property at Pittville in 1890 includes mention of aviaries and various animal houses. The present aviaries appear to have been established in 1936 on their present site and by which time swings and other play equipment were in place. Committee minutes record the provision of various new aviaries, dovecotes, pens and water troughs at various times thereafter.

The play area was rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of £540,000 in 2017 with funds from the Council, grants and donations. A new refreshment kiosk and outdoor seating have been provided and adjacent is a 'Changing Places' facility to cater for people of all abilities.

Pump Room Gates

The east and west approach drives to the Pump Room were not part of the original plan for Pittville. The West Approach Drive was first laid out in 1844 and the East Approach Drive in the 1850's. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1884 do not indicate any form of gate at either end of either drive. There may have been gates at the approaches to the Pump Room before 1939 but if there were gates, it is assumed they were taken as salvage. In 1948 Messrs RE & C Marshall executed the contract to provide a pairs of gates and railings at each approach to the Pump Room.

Path

The current layout of the paths closely reflect Pitt's original plan, the main difference is that the sweeping gravel path between the Pump Room and the upper lake was removed and grassed over when acquired by the Council in 1890.

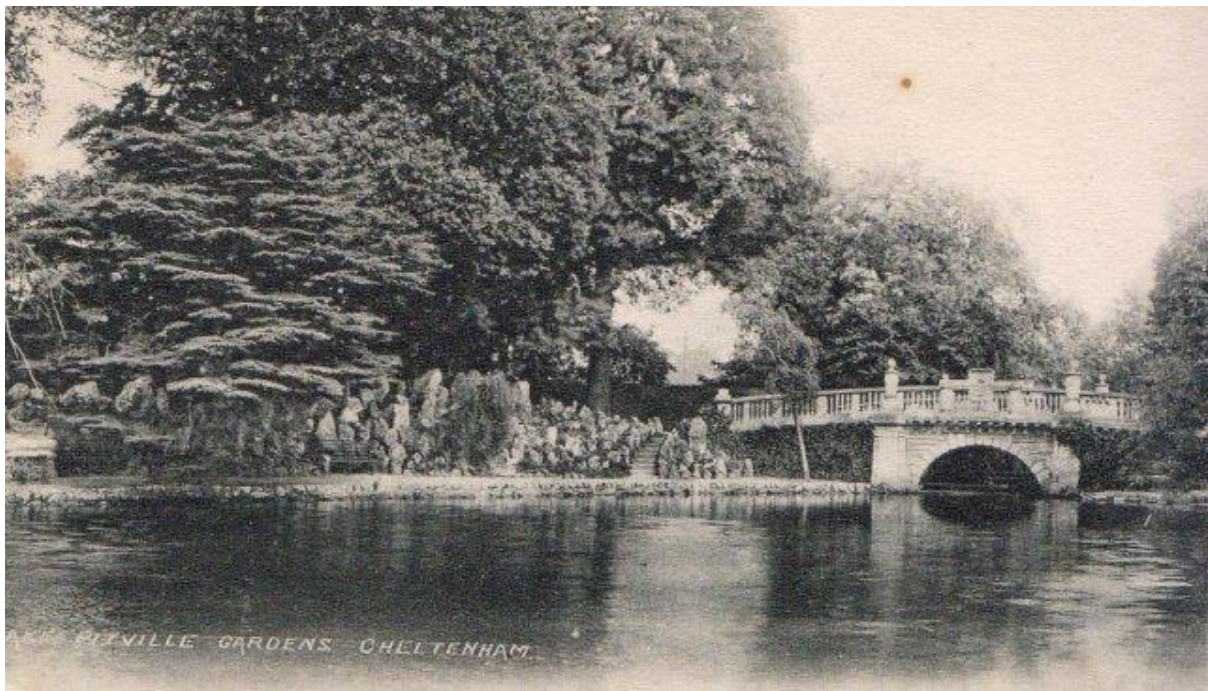
3.3.2 Character Area 2 - The Upper Lake

The Lake

Wyman's Brook was dammed to form an artificial lake in 1825 and crossed at its east and west ends by two stone built ornamental bridges. To the east of the east bridge is a small pond with a barrier to trap silt and debris and prevent it getting into the lake and is referred to as the residuum. The early drawings of the lake show the lake surrounded by paths, trees and shrubs. The lake was used for boating and other leisure activities.

On the north side of the lake is a path and rockery. Initially the stones in the rockery were vertical in the style of rockeries at the time and shown in photographs around 1900. In 1932 and 1933 the rockery was rebuilt with rocks laid horizontally to reflect the natural rock strata and replanted. Over the years the rockery has been replanted but is now overgrown and in need of restoration.

Photo 3.2 Rockery and east bridge on the upper lake (1905)



The early illustrations of the south side of the lake show paths along the edge of the lake as fairly open. Over the years railings have been erected and a lot of trees, many not suitable, have been planted or self-seeded restricting views and use by the public. It is in need of restoration.

In 1886 the Rev. William Hodgson, Rector of St. Peter's church felt that the town of Cheltenham, a relatively wealthy town, should raise money to fund the building of a lifeboat to join the few that were operating around the coastline. The completed boat was launched onto the upper lake watched by crowds of people. The boat was gifted to Burnham-on-sea and there is an interpretation board on the bank near where it was launched into the lake.

West bridge gates

These gates are of a novel design with the incorporation of 'hairpin' rails, doubled by a 'U' turn at the top, which is an unusual feature more associated with late 19th century and early 20th century park furniture. It incorporates heavy cast flower motifs in an unusual manner between the bars. They seem unlikely to be contemporary with the development of Pittville but may relate to the early history.

Floral gates

In 1953-4 new gates were provided for the entrance to the gardens from Evesham Road north of the west bridge, being a gift of the Floral Fete Committee of the Cheltenham Chamber of Commerce, as a tribute to the work of Alderman W J Green as Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Grounds Committee between 1935 and 1951. A suitably worded plaque is attached to one of the stone pillars.

West Drive Gates

There are a pair of gates that give vehicular access near to the residuum and east bridge over the upper lake together with a nearby pedestrian gate. Both are in keeping with the adjacent railings.

3.3.3 Character Area 3 - Pittville Lawns

Layout of the lawns

Comparing the layout of the paths in the Pittville Lawns today with Pitt's original plan they are very similar. The flower beds have gone and the lawns are no longer enclosed by hedges and ironwork. Ironwork would probably have been taken away in 1939 for the war effort. Although there are no records it is likely the hedges were taken away after 1954 to reduce maintenance when the Council stopped charging an entrance fee.

The east side of the park has a large, varied and historic collection of trees and many of these are in Pittville Lawns which help create the landscape character of the park. There is a champion pencil cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), with further information available at https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/67/trees/507/cheltenhams_champion_trees along with a number of other significant trees, with a few originating from 1825 when the Pleasure Gardens were laid out and others planted when the Council took over in 1890. Further trees have been planted over the years including a number of memorial trees. The Trees Officer has produced three tree walk leaflets and gives guided walks in the park.

Fools Gate

The gateway at the northern end of the lawns was originally in Montpellier Gardens. In 1895 the Council resolved that the "old entrance gates to the lodge at Montpellier Gardens to be removed and fixed at the entrance of the Pittville Park opposite Lake View".

The Entrance and Refreshment Chalet (now the Central Cross Cafe)

The chalet was designed by the Borough Surveyor Joseph Hall and was opened in 1903, and was where visitors paid their admission fee, could obtain refreshments and spa water. Following the opening of the chalet, the nearby Essex Lodge which was a subsidiary spa, was demolished

Photo 3.3 Entrance and refreshment chalet



Former Air Raid Precaution Control and Report Centre, Central Cross Drive

This was built by S C Morris & Son Ltd. in 1942. Following the war it was occupied in turn by the Parks Department as a store, by the Parklands Community Centre and as a Scout Hut from 1982 to the present day. The building is functional but it is part of the park's history during the Second World War and performs an important function in the community providing a facility for young people.

3.3.4 Character Areas 4 & 7 - Agg Gardner Recreation Ground

Recreation grounds

On the 31st August 1887 the council agreed to purchase a plot of land for the purpose of creating a recreation ground for the working classes. On the 5th May 1888 Mr (later Sir) James Tynte Agg-Gardner MP offered a gift of £3000 to cover the cost of the new recreation ground. The recreation ground is next to what is now the St Pauls Conservation Area which was developed in the latter half of the 19th century predominately to house the town's artisan workers and consists of high density terraced houses.

The west half of the recreation ground was purchased in 1900 to extend the recreation ground to relieve overuse. It has also been used for allotments, a grassed seating area and now accommodates a play area, MUGA and flood defense works.

The Caretakers Lodge

The Caretakers Lodge was built in 1888 in a gothic style to house the Caretaker of the Recreation Ground. The lodge carries a granite plaque commemorating the gift of the recreation ground by Mr Agg-Gardner. It is now used by Cheltenham Borough Homes for accommodation.

Footpath to Marle Hill House

On the north side of the Recreation Ground is an old footpath that can be seen on the 1810 map. The footpath runs from the entrance at Marle Hill Parade to the bridge across the lake and north to where Marle Hill House once stood. The old footpath has been preserved and new trees planted in 2012 alongside as part of the Woodland Trust's Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

3.3.5 Character Area 5 - The Lower Lake

Pleasure grounds

In 1892 the council purchased the Marle Hill lake and extended it to create a boating lake and to make the land on each side of the water into public pleasure ground with walks and drives for the public. The west side of the park contains many fine trees, some planted when Marle Hill House was built, some when the council created the park and others over the years which contribute to the attractive views in the park and compliment the views out to the Cotswold Hills.

The Boathouse

As part of the works to the Lower Lake a timber boathouse, designed by the Borough Surveyor, was built in 1894 to house the ten boats that were purchased at the time for the lake.

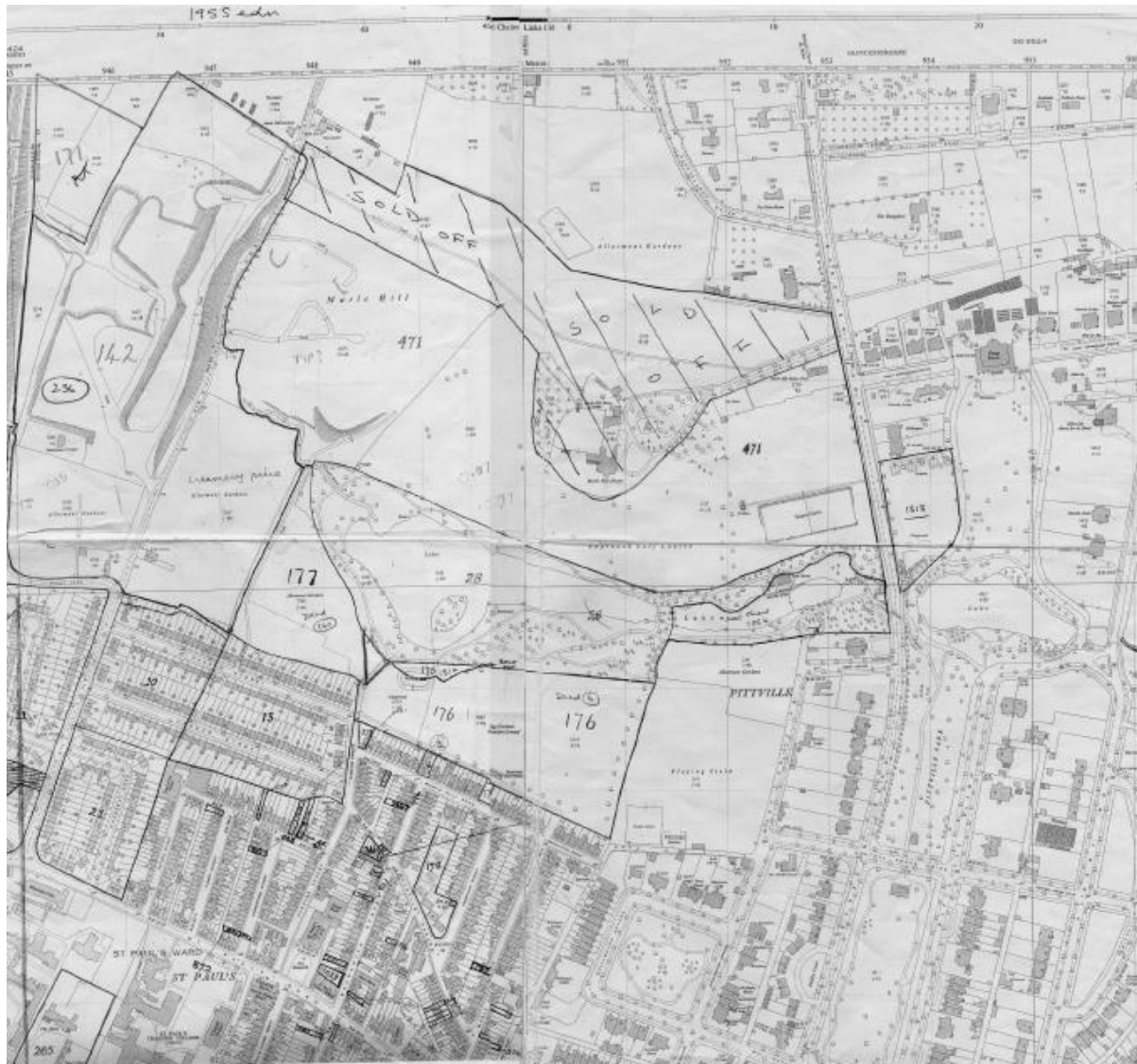
Photo 3.4 The Old Mill



The Old Mill House

There had been a corn or flour mill at the west end of Capper's fish pond from at least 1834. Long disused in 1894 it was re-roofed and used as a tool shed and then a summer house. It was probably demolished around 1945 and the rockery extended at the western end of the lake. Just downstream there is a low bridge across Wyman's Brook.

Figure 3.5 - 1955 ordnance survey map



Community Bridge

Since 1801 there was a bridge across the Wyman's Brook and in 1892 when the lake was extended a bamboo bridge was built across the lake. By 1974 the bridge was considered unsafe and removed. In 1983 a wooden bridge was constructed by the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Engineers, however in 2004 it was burnt down. In 2012 residents and local school children were consulted on a new bridge and asked 'what the park means to me'. A new galvanized steel bridge was built and the ideas from children and residents interpreted in steel by artist Christopher Lisney.

Subway

In 1892 a subway was built beneath the Evesham Road and was lined with glazed tiles which can still be seen on the west entrance. The subway was later lined with concrete to cope with the increased traffic loading. In 1905 a turnstile was installed at the Marle Hill end to prevent users of the west side gaining free access to Pittville Gardens; it was removed in 1954.

3.3.6 Character Area 6 - Marle Hill

Approach golf course and tennis courts

In 1931 the council purchased 41 acres of land which included Marle Hill House and the remainder of the estate. In 1964 14.78 acres of this land to the north of the golf course was sold for housing.

In 1945 a large tract of land on either side of Tommy Taylors Lane as far as the Honeybourne Railway Line was purchased by the council. The land comprised allotments, a clay pit, the former Folly Lane Brickworks and a number of cottages. On part of this land was built the Cheltenham Leisure Centre and the Prince of Wales Stadium. The old clay pits were used for the disposal of rubbish from 1945 until 1964 when they were capped and grassed over.

3.3.7 Character Area 9 - Pittville Gates (the Grand Entrance)

Improvements were made to the streets running northwards from Cheltenham High Street in 1829 and Winchcombe Street was chosen by Pitt for the 'Grand Entrance' to Pittville. Before the trees matured it would have led the eye up to the new Spa building. The gates were designed by the architect Robert Stokes, had six stone pillars with lamps and cast ironwork consisting of a central screen, two pairs of carriage gates and two pedestrian gates. The gates were painted to look like weathered bronze, near to the bluey-green shade, a recognized Regency colour. The lamps would have been oil lamps as gas lighting did not reach the Pittville Estate until 1839.

Cabs and horses waited at the gates and it prompted the Cheltenham Ladies Society for the Protection of Animals to offer a granite horse and dog trough to be set up in front of the gates. The council accepted and it was installed in 1883. The gates were part of the estate bought by the council in 1891.

1897 saw Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and the Prince of Wales was to honour a long-standing invitation to visit Cheltenham. The council decided to change the lights to electric and to erect an over-mantle with the town crest and the words Pittville Park to mark the occasion.

By 2010 the gates had deteriorated, the carriage and pedestrian gates having been removed in the 1920's, and were in need of urgent repair. The FoP raised £290,000 to restore the gates which was completed in 2014.

3.3.8 Character Area 10 - Wildlife area

Land bought by the council in 1945 that had been allotments and clay pits from the Folly Lane brickworks was used as a tip for the rubbish of Cheltenham and closed in 1964. It was capped and grassed over, and gasvented and burnt. It was used for part of the pitch and putt course but has now been planted with a number of trees, and is mainly a wildlife area. Paths are mowed in the grass and used for dog walking and cyclo-cross.

3.4 Restoration

The restoration of the park is following the Proposals set out in section 6 of the CMP. The CMP refers to "the east park moving on from being a private estate and pleasure grounds to a public open

space. The process of repairing and enhancing the grounds should be sympathetic evolution rather than a historically accurate restoration” which is a realistic approach given the number of people that use and enjoy the park today. Restoration however has to be carried out within the Grade 2 listing for the park and the Grade 1 listing for the Pump Room and its historic setting.

The west side of the park was created by the council for recreation and as pleasure grounds for the people of Cheltenham to enjoy and it retains the same layout, use and character today.

The CMP recommended the restoration of several historic features and improvements to both sides of the park. A number of these have been completed, are being worked on, or are in the planning stage. These are described further in Section 5 - Management and Development of the park.

3.5 Research

Research on the park for the CMP was written by Dr Stephen Blake, historian and lecturer and former Museums and collections Manager at the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

In 2014 a small group of FoP volunteers formed the Pittville History Works Group to research the history of the Pittville Estate and its residents. They have a website www.pittvillehistory.org.uk.

Two members of the Cheltenham Local History Society transcribed the Pump Room Subscription Book 1830 - 1852 and have produced a searchable DVD.

Members of FoP are searching for information on the park, particularly character areas 1 and 2, to aid restoration. A new leaflet ‘Pittville Pump Room – A brief history’ has been written to accompany the two leaflets previously written on the history of the east and west sides of the park.

4.0 Vision

The vision for Pittville Park is set out below and linked to the Green Flag Award criteria – the national standard for quality in green space management.

The Vision of the Green Space Development team and its partners are:

“Pittville Park will be known to all, available to all and loved by all that use it. It will be a special and distinctive place for pleasure and education.” (CMP 2008))

| Green Flag Criteria | The Vision for Pittville Park |
|---|--|
| 1. Welcoming Place | A welcoming park that is accessible to all sections of the community to play, explore, participate, learn and relax. |
| 2. Health, Safe and Secure | A healthy, safe and secure environment for all visitors. |
| 3. Well Maintained and clean | A clean and well maintained park that is an attractive and enjoyable experience for all visitors |
| 4. Environmental management | A park that is managed, maintained and developed in a way that minimises the impact on the environment. |
| 5. Biodiversity, landscape and heritage | A park where biodiversity is promoted and developed. A park where the heritage value of the site is conserved and enhanced through its character zones, views, vistas and historic buildings for the enjoyment of visitors. |
| 6. Community Involvement | A park where there is an inclusive approach, involving all sections of the community, in contributing to the management and development of the park. |
| 7. Marketing and communications | A park that is promoted as an asset to Cheltenham, to the people who live in the town and to visitors. |
| 8. Management | A park where there is a co-ordinated and joined up approach to the management, maintenance and development of the park. |

5.0 Management and Development of the park

5.1 The management team

The council's Green Space Development Team (GSDT - see figure 2.3) is responsible for the management of the park, its maintenance and development. This includes liaising with other council departments, Ubico, the general public, volunteers and a number of other organisations.

Inspection and general maintenance of the park is carried out in accordance with the schedule in Section 7 Inspection and Maintenance. The work is carried out by staff from the GSDT, other council departments, Ubico, and FoP volunteers. For more specialist inspections, maintenance and development outside contractors are employed.

A lot of work has been carried out on the park following the commissioning of the CMP (for details see the Management Plan reviews in Appendix A). The park has become more popular, with many more visitors from a wider area, particularly since the rebuilding of the play area, and this increases the need for maintenance and creates increased demand on facilities. The use of the park has particularly increased since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.2 Character areas

The CMP, Section 6 – Proposals, divides the park into a number of character areas (see figure 3.3) and the current management and proposed development of each area is described. There are a number of management issues that are covered in Section 6 Qualitative Analysis which are not necessarily repeated in this section.

The CMP suggests sympathetic evolution rather than historically accurate restoration and to consider contemporary use as a key factor. However the Pump room is Grade 1 listed and the park Grade 2 listed and there will need to be a careful balance in the work carried out as Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission will need to be obtained for some of the works.

A number of general issues were raised at the start of Section 6 – Proposals in the CMP that are relevant to a number of character areas

Access and circulation – it is planned to resurface the footpaths in the east side of the park when they need to be replaced and funds are available. The type of surfacing needs to have a durable yet visually soft finish in keeping with the character and setting of the park. It was planned to carry out a trial area of a new surfacing in 2020 but this has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic until 2021.

Informal paths have been created in the west side of the park following desire lines and these have been covered with bark that has where possible been produced in the park but the paths need additional bark adding each year.

Security – shrub areas have been pruned to give clear views and tree canopies thinned and raised as necessary to prevent places to hide.

Notice, welcome and interpretation boards – a new large notice board and welcome board has been erected near the west bridge on the upper lake to complement the other boards in the park. It is hoped to increase the number of interpretation boards in the park over the next 2–3 years.

Tree management – The council's Tree Officer carries out regular inspections in accordance with the inspection schedule. Trees are pruned or if necessary removed and replacements provided.

Planting – shrubs are pruned by volunteers or Ubico in accordance with the maintenance schedule.

Education – the first phase of the Learning Resources was completed and feedback and liaison with schools sought. Unfortunately there was no response from local schools but the Learning Resources are on the FoP website for park users and it is hoped to add to them over time. A Bio-blitz was held in 2018 by the University of Gloucestershire with the Community Ranger. Results can be viewed on this website. <http://gloucestershirebio.wixsite.com/pittville-bioblitz/results> .

Public consultation - users of the park were interviewed before the Green Flag Award was applied for in 2015. A further consultation will take place as required before a grant application is made for improvements to Character Area 1.

Park Furniture

There were separate bins for general rubbish and dog waste. It was found the park users would put which ever waste in the nearest bin despite its designation. It was decided that new double black rubbish bins would replace both rubbish and dog waste bins and could be converted for recycling when the council could provide this service. A number of bins have been replaced with these double bins although some of the new bins are suffering damage from dog urine. The council are carrying out a recycling trial in 2021 and a set of recycling bins have been installed near the children's play area. The result of this trial is awaited.



A black metal bench has been chosen for the east side of the park which is the more formal side and a metal framed bench with wooden slats for the west side of the park which is more informal. The benches are part of a commemorative bench scheme and provide seating around the park.



Photo 5.2 – East side bench



Photo 5.3 – West side bench

Linking the east and west sides of the park – in the CMP traffic calming was proposed on the Evesham Road near the subway. The road has been narrowed but due to the volume of traffic it was decided to introduce two traffic light controlled pedestrian crossings, one near Central Cross Drive and the other near Albemarle Gate and West Approach Drive. The majority of people crossing between the east and west sides of the park use the subway which is well lit.

5.2.1 Character Area 1 – Pump Room Lawns

The Pump Room, which is Grade 1 listed, dominates the landscape in the east side of the park from which there are views across the lake and lawns. The lawn is surrounded by paths and an important collection of trees which provide the landscape character. The grass is mown regularly so the lawn provides a valuable amenity space.

During 2018 maintenance work was carried out on the exterior of the Pump Room which included the painting of the woodwork. The interior of the dome was painted at the beginning of 2019. Repair work has been carried out in 2020 to repair leaks in the roof.

It was recognised in the CMP that the area around the Pump Room was not in keeping with the historic setting and the hard bitmac surface unattractive. In 2017 Illman Young Landscape Design were appointed to carry out an 'Analysis and Proposals' for Character Areas 1 and 2. This was received in February 2018. The objective was to review each of these areas, identifying the current issues and proposing a range of works which could be carried out. Detailed drawings for the steps in front of the Pump Room and the entrance gates have been drawn up together with a cost estimate for the work. Planning permission for these works were granted in 2021.

https://www.Cheltenham.gov.uk/downloads/file/6484/pittville_park_study

There are railings and gates that will be painted as part of a rolling maintenance programme.

To the rear of the Pump Room is a car park for 150 vehicles which serves park users and users of the Pump Room. Charges for the use of the car park were introduced in 2021. Surrounding the car park is extensive planting of shrubs and trees, much of it on a large bank, which had been left to grow unchecked. Reducing the planting to a state where it could be maintained on an annual basis was started in 2017 and is continuing with work by FoP and Ubico.

The bandstand needed extensive repairs and the council's Property Department carried out these works in 2021.

The play area was rebuilt and the aviaries refurbished and adjacent landscape improved in 2016. They are proving to be very popular and these are being maintained in accordance with the schedule in section 7.

Photo 5.4 – New play area



Photo 5.45 – Mayor Bernard fisher opening the Changing Places accessible facility



There is a refreshment kiosk run by 'In the Park' next to the play area. Also next to the play area are public toilets and the Changing Places facility which are maintained by Ubico. The Changing Places facility was opened by the Mayor in 2018. Further landscaping was planted in the spring of 2019 and a number of Silver Birch trees were planted in the winter of 2019.

5.2.2 Character Area 2 – Upper Lake

The Wyman's Brook flows into the lake via the Residuum which collects the silt and rubbish to prevent it entering the upper lake. There were plans to remove silt from the Residuum in early 2020. The Urban Greening Project was carried out in 2021 – see Appendix B.

The lake contains two artificial islands which were built to improve water quality and provide a refuge for birds. One of these has floated away from its original mooring and obstructs the view of the Pump Room. This will be repositioned when maintenance works on the lake take place.

Several fish species live in the lake including roach, perch, carp and pike. A water aerator was installed in the lake in 2018 to prevent a depletion of oxygen and a 'fish kill' similar to the 2013 event. Water quality is regularly checked and the number of fish in lake kept to a sustainable and healthy number. No fishing or boating is allowed in the upper lake except for management purposes.

Water leaves the upper lake at the west end of the lake over a weir and grill, which needs to be kept clear of debris, before entering the culvert under Evesham Road.

The area around the lake was part of the Illman Young Landscape Design 'Analysis and Proposals' 2018.

The main proposals for Character Area 2 on the north side are:

- Reinstall the east and west rockeries;
- Remove overgrown, inappropriate trees and plants and keep suitable trees and plants as the backbone for new planting;
- Create a visual connection between the lake and the play area and upper paths and reinstall views of the Pump Room;
- Create settings for the bridges.

FoP working parties have cleared shrubs and ivy from the west end of the rockery and trees have been removed and roots grubbed up where possible. Rocks have been retrieved from the lake and

repositioned in the rockery and in 2020 planting started. It is intended to carry out similar work on the east end of the rockery.

Photo 5.5. The newly planted west end of the rockery



The main proposals for Character Area 2 on the south side of the lake are:

- Provide better connectivity/accessibility to the lake edge by removing railings, repairing the lake edge, clearing out unsuitable trees and vegetation, and building new paths to promote circulation around the lake.
- Open views across the lake to the Pump Room.
- Use the islands for art installations, either temporary or permanent.

In 2020 the Urban Greening Project was started on the south east bank of the upper lake with the clearing of trees and scrub within the railings. However work was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic but completed in 2021.

There are railings and gates that will be painted as part of a rolling maintenance programme.

5.2.3 Character Area 3 – Pittville Lawns

Pittville Lawns were originally built for walking and socialising and have a similar function today and are used as a corridor for walking to and from the centre of Cheltenham. The lawns consist of short-mown grass, in which are planted crocus and daffodils adjacent to Evesham Road, and contain some of the most important trees in the park. The grass is used as an amenity space and is maintained in accordance with the schedule in section 7. There are a few beds that contain shrubs that need some renovation.

The two lawns are separated by Central Cross Drive, on the north side of which is a cafe in the old entrance and refreshment lodge, which is run by 'In the Park'.

In the CMP the future of the Scout Hut was questioned but it is continuing to provide an important venue for the local scout troop and its part in World War 2 as an ARP HQ recognised. It has now been painted in a dark green paint that blends into the background with the surrounding shrubs and makes less impact on the landscape. The CMP states that it interrupts the views between the lawns however the views would have previously been partially interrupted by the hedges that surrounded the lawns.

The FoP decided to redesign and rejuvenate the bed in the south west corner of Pittville Lawns, (Bed 38) with the agreement of the council, which involved clearing the weeds, pruning the existing yew tree, planting three new cherry trees and a range of shrubs.

Photo 5.55 Bed 38 with the new cherry trees and shrubs.



5.2.4 Character Area 4 – Agg Gardner Recreation Ground

The recreation ground consists of short mown grass to accommodate the football pitch and amenity area and is maintained in accordance with the schedule in section 7. The pavilion is used as changing rooms for the football teams, also one room for FoP to store tools and another room by the nearby St Pauls Church. It is maintained and operated by Ubico.

The council hold an annual Urban Paint festival in Cheltenham and two walls of the pavilion are painted each year. These make an attractive addition to the park and hopefully reduce the incidence of graffiti.

Photo 5.6 - Pavilion - Urban Paint Festival



A community garden was started along the south boundary of the recreation ground by the St Pauls Residents Association with help from FoP. Some of the planting has survived but some has failed to grow. Whips obtained from the Woodland Trust were planted in this area in winter 2019.

In the CMP it was proposed the Hudson Street entrance be improved with a community garden. It is proposed to paint the entrance structures and tidy the area and to consider more long term plans for the area with key stakeholders.

The footpath and trees along the east boundary are maintained annually by FoP; consideration will need to be given to thinning the woodland trees over the next 2-3 years. An area adjacent this path has been fenced off as a wildlife area and for protection of an active badger sett following consultation with the local badger group

Photo 5.7 – Newly fenced area containing badger sett



5.2.5 Character Area 5 – Lower Lake

The lower lake, which covers 5 hectares, is a major landscape feature in the west side of the park. The lake is crossed by a metal bridge, referred to as the Community Bridge, and there is a circular path around the lake. The lake is fed from the upper lake via a culvert under Evesham Road that flows into a concrete lined channel. The channel is crossed by two oak railed bridges before flowing into the head of the lake. Around the lake is variety of (mainly native) trees.

Within the lake is a natural island, used by a breeding pair of swans, and an artificial island also used by birds but built to help improve water quality. Bank vegetation is allowed to grow during the summer months to help provide nesting protection for the wildfowl which include mallards, coots, moorhens and grebes. The vegetation is cut down in autumn/winter to prevent it drifting into the lake. Three water aerators were installed in the lake to prevent oxygen depletion. Fish species and management are similar to the upper lake.

The lake is used for a number of recreational purposes including fishing, for which a licence is needed, boating and other events such as Dragon Boat racing. The water in the lake is under the control of the Environment Agency.

Water flows over a weir at the west end of the lake, where the old mill used to be, and cascades over a rockery and continues downstream as Wyman's Brook over which the footpath crosses via a small concrete bridge. The bank at the west end of the lake near the waterfall is being washed away and tree roots exposed. This bank has been reinforced as part of the Urban Greening Project but work started to replace the white fence by the boathouse between the children's section of the lake and the main lake has been delayed due to planned works for the Urban Greening Project.

There is an entrance and path into the west side of the park from the Evesham Road, to the side of which is the snowdrop bank which contains primroses, snowdrops and a variety of wild flowers which are maintained by FoP. The railings and gates need maintenance and will be part of the rolling programme of maintenance of fencing Shrubs in this area, which includes the entrance to the underpass, are kept low to provide light and views into the park.

5.2.6 Character Area 6 – Marle Hill

This area contains the tennis courts, the skate board park, the 9 hole pitch and putt course and the Boathouse Cafe run by 'In the park' from where boats can be hired for the lower lake. This part of Marle Hill is mainly short mown grass and an amenity area.

To the north, entered from Albemarle Gate, is a bitmac surfaced car park for 50 cars for park users. To the north there is a tall Sequoia in the park and five additional 10-year old trees were planted in 2021. Adjacent stands a Cedar of Lebanon which would have been planted in the grounds of Marle Hill House at least 150 years ago and is an important component of views of the park. There is an avenue of beech trees which would have led to Marle Hill house through which there is an informal footpath.

The west end of this area was part of the old refuse tip and the surface is uneven due to settlement. It has been planted with a wildflower mix of seeds and provides some colour in the summer and food for birds in the winter. It also increases the biodiversity of the park. There is a desire line through this area for local residents walking into Cheltenham and this has been turned into an informal path and covered in bark.

There are very fine views of the park, the Cotswold Hills and Cheltenham from this part of the park that are maintained.

The Wyman's Brook runs from the lower lake through in a natural stream into a culvert, which crosses under Tommy Taylors Lane. At the entrance to the culvert is a grill, from which debris is removed by the Council, to prevent flooding.

5.2.7 Character Area 7 – Agg Gardner west

This area is an extension of the recreation ground and includes a small but well equipped play area, a Multi-Use Games Area and some adventure play equipment. In this area a flood bank was constructed by the Environment Agency, following the floods in 2007, to protect the Leisure Centre. These have been planted with trees by the Cheltenham Tree Group and the grass on the bank is left long to encourage bio-diversity.

5.2.8 Character Area 9 – Pittville Gates

The gates, together with the hard and soft landscape, were restored in 2014. The soft landscape is maintained by FoP and the hard landscaping is the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council as the Highway Authority.

5.2.9 Character Area 10 – Wildlife area

This area to the west of Tommy Taylors Lane was part of the Folly Lane brickworks and used as a refuse tip and is prone to settlement. A number of trees have been planted on the area by the Cheltenham Tree Group and FoP. The grass is generally left long with some planting of native wild flowers. Paths are mown to facilitate dog walking and cyclo-cross events.

There is a greater number of birds recorded in this area by the Cheltenham Bird Group as this area contains untended areas with brambles and other vegetation that provides good nesting sites and is an area less used than the rest of the park. It is hoped in the future to erect an interpretation board in the area and the University of Gloucestershire intend to devise a nature trail.

6. Qualitative Analysis

6.1 Welcoming Place

The feel of the park is welcoming as you enter, on the east side there is the Central Cross cafe which is a social hub and the Pump Room which is the venue for many social and cultural occasions and is open to the public Wednesday to Sunday when not let for events. On the west side is the Boathouse which is a cafe, meeting place and the centre for boating, golf, skate boarding, football, tennis and fishing.

Photo 6.1 - Boathouse café



Pittville Park is a large park, over 34 ha, divided by the A435 Evesham Road. Sections of the park are enclosed by railings with entrance gates or by neighbouring fences. Other sections are open to the surrounding road network. There are two car parks in the park with charges having been introduced for the car park to the north of the Pump Room and there is free parking on the roads around the park, although limited to 4 hours. There is a bus route (D) on Evesham Road with a stop for the park.

There are a number of welcome, interpretation and notice boards in the park to help visitors. They help with orientation, provide information on facilities in the park and on the heritage of the park. The notice board allows the council, police and charities in Pittville to inform visitors of matters concerning the park and local charitable events.

The play area in the east park has been refurbished and the aviaries improved with a new cafe and picnic tables for families which has increased the popularity of this facility. Social inclusion for all ages, abilities and social groups in the park is important to the council. The play area was designed for all abilities and a 'Changing Places' facility was opened in 2018.

All pathways are Equality Act 2010 compliant and are generally in good condition; wheel chairs and mobility scooters are often seen in the park. The pathways are well used by walkers, cyclists, joggers and dog walkers.

Within the park there are beautiful views of the Grade 1 listed Pump Room, the lakes, and the attractive collection of trees. From the park there are views of the Cotswold Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty, and views of parts of the town of Cheltenham and its Regency and Victorian architecture.

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 residents. The council promotes and facilitates a programme of events aimed at encouraging the maximum use of parks and open spaces for the whole community.

Policy and process – the council has overall Health and Safety Policies for its parks. The council takes a proactive and comprehensive risk assessment approach to the management of health and safety in parks.

The Community Ranger is assisted on security by Park Watch and members of the public who report any anti-social behaviour. There is a good working relationship with the Neighbourhood Policing Team. A PCSO is regularly seen in the park on his bicycle. The Community Ranger receives regular updates from the police about any incidents in the park and informs the police about any concerns.

Staff are employed by Ubico to carry out daily maintenance, emptying bins, checking and cleaning toilets and other maintenance duties. They are a regular presence on site and report any problems.

The three cafes are open daily and are a focal point in the park for the public and staff will report any issues on safety and security. Before any contractor can begin work on site they are vetted and required to provide details of their insurances and provide a risk assessment for the work to be carried out.

Anti-social behaviour - Pittville Park is a large urban park but does not suffer greatly from vandalism, anti-social behaviour or significant community safety problems. Some anti-social problems have arisen in the park but appropriate action has been taken by the council and the police and measures put in place to try and prevent further occurrences. Occasionally a rough sleeper may be found in the park and the organisation P3 in Cheltenham, who help rough sleepers, are notified.

The park at night - it is not possible to lock the park at night due to the open boundaries around the park. There is limited path lighting from adjacent roads and there is lighting on the path from Pittville Lawn through the underpass, which is lit, to Tommy Taylors Lane and the lighting is maintained by Gloucestershire County Council.

Dog control – The council have adopted dog control orders as part of the Public Spaces Protection (Cheltenham) Order 2020 under 59 and 63 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Dog control orders replace the previous system of byelaws for the control of dogs.

The dog control order regulations cover the following offences:

- failing to remove dog faeces and not having a receptacle to remove faeces
- not keeping a dog on a lead
- not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, such as play areas
- no one person may take more than 4 dogs on public land

For further information

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/69/animal_issues_and_advice/299/dog_control/2

Vehicles in the park - vehicles driven within Pittville Park are restricted to council staff, maintenance staff and suppliers of In The Park. All vehicles should be driven no faster than 5mph, have hazard lights on, and give way to pedestrians.

Toilets - there are toilets in the east park by the play area. Access to the toilet facilities are disability friendly with a toilet designated for disabled/children changing. There is also a 'Changing Places' facility adjacent the play area. When the Pump Room is open to the public there are toilets that can be used by the public.

Defibrillator - there is a defibrillator available for emergency use at the Kiosk Café adjacent to the play area in the east side of the park and one in the telephone box adjacent the Scout Hut that was donated by the Lions.

Lakes - the council have carried out a water safety audit on the lakes and have produced a risk assessment which is available on request. They have concluded that life belts are not necessary for the lakes and the likelihood of vandalism would make them unavailable.

Events - to hold an event in the park the organiser needs to complete special event forms together with a risk assessment and to submit them to the council for consideration. Environmental Health will ensure that the impact on local residents and park users is kept to a minimum. Conditions are attached to the permission stipulating the hours of operation and noise levels permitted.

Photo 6.2 - Dragon boat racing on the lower lake.



6.3 Well maintained and clean

Litter and waste management - a programme of replacing the existing waste bins, both dog and rubbish bins, is underway and new black double bins are being introduced. These bins provide extra capacity and can be altered to collect recyclable waste and non-recyclable waste, including dog waste, when the council is able to separate the waste. Ubico staff and FoP volunteers carry out litter picking in the park and the bins are regularly emptied by Ubico. A trial is in progress with a set of four recycling bins in the east side of the park.

Park inspections and maintenance - inspections and park maintenance are carried out in the park on the buildings and infrastructure as set out in the schedules in section 7.

Trees - the Tree Officer undertakes a detailed inspection of the trees in Pittville Park in accordance with the schedule in section 7.

Grass - there are large areas of the grass in the park that are maintained by mowing and the cut grass left as mulch on the grass. In areas that are planted with spring bulbs the foliage is allowed to die back before the area is cut. The grass is allowed to grow longer in dry periods.

Wildflower meadow – a new scheme has been introduced in 2020 which has increased the planting areas, introduced new plant varieties and revised the maintenance schedule. ([See CBC urban greening project](#))

Shrub and other planted areas – there are a number of shrub areas in the park and these maintained in accordance with the schedule in section 7.

Over the last few years a range of native plants and bulbs have been planted in the west park including primroses, cowslips, green wild garlic, snowdrops and anemones to increase the bio-diversity in the park. This programme has had mixed success but is starting to work.

The park has a small number of hedges and there are some in neighbouring properties. The hedges consist of both mixed and single native species and maintenance is carried out as required.

Lake vegetation is limited to a few species due to the number of wildfowl present. Yellow Flag *Iris pseudacorus* is the dominant species around the lower lake edge. The upper lake has no submerging vegetation at present but will change with the Urban Greening Project ([See CBC urban greening project](#))

Utilities - any service issues are reported to the relevant public utility provider and they carry out the work to an agreed timescale.

Pest control - the council's pest control officer carries out monthly inspections of the 'hotspots' for pests and action is taken if required.

Surfaces - hard surfaces, paths, bins and seating are regularly inspected by the infrastructure officer and minor repairs carried out immediately to maximise availability of facilities. Graffiti is removed as soon as possible.

Buildings - the exterior maintenance and decoration of buildings in the park is the responsibility of the council's Property Department except the former Air Raid Precaution Control and Report Centre (Scout Hut) which is leased to the 10th All Saints scout pack and for which they are responsible.

The interiors are the tenant's responsibility except the Pump Room, which is leased to the Cheltenham Trust, which remains with the council due to its Grade 1 listing. The schedule of maintenance for the Pump Room is set out in an Appendix in the CMP. The three cafes are leased to 'In the Park' who are responsible for internal maintenance.

The pavilion, both internally and externally, is maintained by the council's Property Department. Opening, closing and cleaning is carried out by UBICO.

The toilets, both internally and externally, are maintained by the council's Property Department. The daily routine opening, closing and cleaning of the toilets is carried out by Ubico.

The bandstand is checked visually twice a year by the council's Property Department.

An inspection of the stone bridges on the upper lake takes place annually by a member of the council's Property Department.

Equipment Maintenance - play equipment including play surfaces, the skate park and MUGA and other equipment used by the public are inspected regularly to ensure cleanliness, maintenance and safety of equipment on a regular basis.

Cleanliness - a clean park is often perceived as a safe park and all efforts are made to maintain the park to excellent standards.

6.4 Environmental management

The council's [Environmental Service Strategy](#) and Climate Change Strategy are available on the council's website. They guide projects designed to improve environmental performance and meet broader sustainability objectives.

In 2019 the council declared a Climate Change Emergency – See review in Appendix B.

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, during 2020, 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. Unfortunately, the trial was affected and delayed due to COVID-19. Results identified a need to continue minimising use of glyphosate, however alternative measures were found to have limited efficacy. 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

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 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.

There is no boxed grass mowing and all green waste is taken to the council's depot for composting.

Wildflower arising's cut and collected are left on site west of Tommy Taylors Lane as a compost habitat pile.

Water - the water used on site is from a mains supply and is used for toilet facilities, aviaries and by the cafes for catering. Water use is limited but there is an abstraction licence to take water from the lakes for watering in very dry weather.

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

Ubico is at present unable to fully recycle any waste collected in litter bins across Cheltenham. A planned recycling update due in 2020 has been delayed due to COVID-19. A trial has been started in several locations.

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

The café operators 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 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.

Pittville Park 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

Arboricultural management - Pittville Park and the surrounding estate have an important collection of ornamental trees including Cedar of Lebanon, Wellingtonia, horse chestnut, oak, cedar and sycamore. Many of the older trees provide suitable tree habitats and landscape character. Sympathetic management of these trees increases their longevity. The tree management regime is to leave trees to take their natural shape and minimise pruning unless there is a safety issue.

Standing deadwood is retained where possible and does not pose a risk to public safety which becomes excellent habitats for a range of wildlife.

In terms of enhancing the landscape, additional opportunities are sought for tree planting over and above replacement. Tree species are chosen for the location and site suitability.

6.5 Biodiversity, landscape and heritage

East side of the park - is the more formal side of the park due to its history with the Pump Room and pleasure gardens and lake. It is also the most heavily used part of the park as it contains the play area and two cafes. Most of the east side is close cut grass and with a wide range of trees and limited amount of shrubbery.

Recent desilting work has the potential to reduce flooding downstream by slowing the flow of water, reducing bank erosion and improve water quality and wildfowl and aquatic habitats. The silt removed from the lake has been utilised on site to provide an area for marginal wetland flora and associated invertebrates and other fauna to thrive, whilst negating the carbon footprint and expense related to removing the silt from the park.

West side of the park - is the more diverse side of the park with mown grass, pockets of un-mown vegetation, wildflower meadows, a good corridor of tree canopy and bank vegetation around the lake. As part of the CMP a Phase Habitat Survey was carried out. The survey identified a number of BAP habitats and Priority species:

- Standing open water and wood pasture, parkland and veteran trees;
- Protected species in form of abundant bat foraging activity and possible bat roosts;
- Breeding priority species of birds, six species recorded, at least three confirmed breeding in the park.

Another protected species known to be present on site are badgers, with a large, active sett near the eastern end of the Agg Gardner football pitch. This area has now been fenced to provide protection for the sett and safety of park users.

Planting and maintenance on both sides of the park is considered for its benefits to biodiversity and the overall landscape and heritage of the park as a whole. With native wildflower introductions and area expansions and recent native and non-native tree planting reflecting this approach.

Wildlife area - the area west of Tommy Taylors Lane provides an excellent area for conservation. In 2016 a degree student from the University of Gloucestershire carried out a survey to identify and record species of insects as part of her internship module of her course. The area was included in the University of Gloucestershire Bio-blitz in 2018. Bat walks took place in 2019. The Butterfly Trust undertook a butterfly talking in the wildlife area.

Future Plans – 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.

6.6 Community involvement

Pittville Park is the largest and most popular park in Cheltenham and in the county of Gloucestershire, and is used by a wide cross-section of the population. It is bounded by one of the most affluent areas in Cheltenham and by one of the most disadvantaged.

Friends Group – FoP have over 300 members. Some members are very active and others simply provide support through their small membership fee because they appreciate the park. The FoP is run by Excom, 12 trustees are elected annually at the AGM, and it is a registered charity. FoP has a website: www.friendsofpittville.org.uk

FoP produces a newsletter for members four times a year; two of these newsletters are circulated to most of the residents in Pittville ward. FoP also carries out a number of activities that support restoration of the park, eg. the Entrance Gates and research into the history of the park and estate.

The FoP are a treasured asset of the park and have a close and ongoing relationship with the council's green space team and they hold working parties on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month working with the Community Ranger and Ubico. Work schedules are agreed together and tools, tool talks, work equipment, a first aid kit and advice are readily available from the attending Ranger. See schedule in section 7 for the work carried out.

The FoP have been awarded the Queen Award for Voluntary Services for their work in the park and fundraising for improvements to the park.

The St Pauls Residents Association was established in 2008 to provide an effective way to capture and address common concerns of the community of St Pauls. A small number of their volunteers have joined the FoP working parties in the past.

Photo 6.3 - FoP volunteers enjoy coffee and mince pies Christmas 2021



6.7 Marketing and communications

Cheltenham is known as Cheltenham Spa and 'The Garden Town of England' on account of its fine parks, gardens, open spaces and tree lined streets with over 150 parks and open spaces.

Pittville Park is a well-known and attractive venue situated close to the centre of the town. The Pump Room holds a large number of events including Cheltenham Horticultural Society shows, antique auctions, cultural events such as performances during the music festival, a season of concerts, bands in the park, weddings, arts and craft fairs and business events. The Pump Room is also open to the general public from Wednesday to Sunday when not booked for events. There are volunteers on duty (when available) to show visitors around the Pump Room and to explain the history. A new double sided A4 sheet with a tour of the Pump Room has been written for visitors in 2019. A new leaflet on the history of the Pump Room was written in 2020 and is available in paper form or digitally.

There are a wide range of events in the park from the weekly Park Run, tri-weekly buggy-fit, and FoP special events, Military keep-fit, cyclo-cross as well as all the sporting and leisure activities. Two of the most popular activities are dog walking and jogging.

The council have a tourism website for Cheltenham: www.visitcheltenham.com

Details of events being held in the park and at the Pump Room are sent to the public and staff through the media, social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Flyers and posters are employed in schools, outlets and notice boards. The FoP newsletters also publicise events in the park.

The Cheltenham Trust, who operates the Pump Room, are developing their website for the Pump Room; some information is given on: www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk

The Cheltenham Trust are due to publish their 5 year plan for the Pump Room. The FoP formed a sub-group PRAG to work with the Cheltenham Trust on this project. This group has now become an independent group called 'Pittville Pump Room Revival'.

The BBC produced a programme 'Cheltenham a Regency Town', introduced by Dr Alice Roberts, that was shown in 2018 which featured the Pump Room and the park.

A notice board is located near the play area on which local charities and the council can advertise events and there is a notice board on the boathouse.

FoP has produced 'Learning Resources' for visitors to the park which are available on the FoP website.

6.8 Management

The council's management structure is described in section 2.5.

This 10 year Management Plan 2016 – 26 contains an Action Plan in section 10. It provides a tool to monitor how well the plan is implemented.

7. Inspection and Maintenance

The tables below are a summary of the Inspection and Maintenance responsibilities of organisations that look after the park.

7.1 Buildings and other structures

The Inspections are carried out by the council's Property Department who appoint contractors to carry out maintenance and specialist inspections. All buildings are inspected in the same way.

| Inspection | Frequency |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Roof coverings | Quarterly |
| Gutters | 6 monthly |
| Windows and doors | Quarterly |
| External walls | Quarterly |
| Fire doors | Weekly (also by Cheltenham Trust) |
| Decoration | Annually |
| Water and drainage | Annually |
| Spa water | Monthly |
| Mechanical services | Annually |
| Heating | Annually |
| Fire-fighting equipment | Annually |
| Electrical | Annually |
| External fixtures and fittings | Annually |
| 2 stone bridges upper lake | Bi-monthly |

7.2 Play area and equipment

The inspections are carried out by the council's GSDT. They carry out routine maintenance but appoint contractors to carry out specialist work.

| Inspection/maintenance | Frequency |
|--|-----------|
| Community Parks Officer – Visual inspection | Weekly |
| Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer – Operational inspection | Monthly |
| External independent inspection and report | Annually |

7.3 Infrastructure

The inspections are carried out by the council's GSDT's Parks and Playgrounds Technical Officer who carries out most of the maintenance work but may also use specialist contractors.

| Item | Frequency |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Community bridge | Bi-monthly |
| Pillared gateway | Bi-monthly |
| Golf nets | Bi-monthly |
| Railings | Bi-monthly |
| Gates | Bi-monthly |
| Footpath surfaces | Bi-monthly |
| Benches – wooden and metal | Bi-monthly |
| Waste bins | Bi-monthly |
| Interpretation boards | Bi-monthly |
| Welcome boards | Bi-monthly |
| Noticeboards | Bi-monthly |
| Underpass | Bi-monthly |
| Steps | Bi-monthly |
| Lake edge | Bi-monthly |
| Tree plaques | Bi-monthly |
| Bollards | Bi-monthly |
| Car parks (2) | Bi-monthly |

7.4 Soft landscape

Ubico are contracted to the council under the direction of the GSDT to carry out regular maintenance of the soft landscape areas in the park.

| Item | Frequency |
|------------------------------|---|
| Close cut grass | 2 weekly in the growing season |
| Lake edge vegetation removed | Annually (winter) |
| Mound vegetation | Annually (winter) |
| Play area grass | 2 weekly |
| Pitch and putt greens | Weekly (April to September) |
| Hedges | Annually (winter) |
| Football pitches | 2 weekly in the growing season |
| Shrub areas | Annually (winter or spring) depending on species |
| Longer grass areas | Grass paths cut monthly through longer vegetation |
| Wildflower areas | Cut, cleared and seeded annually |
| Car park shrubberies | Annually (winter) |
| Pathways swept | Monthly (frequency increased in Sept./Oct) |
| Car parks swept | Monthly |
| Skate ramp swept | Annually or more if required |
| Tennis courts | Annually |
| Toilet block | Cleaned daily |
| Litter bins emptied | Daily (summer twice a day) |

7.5 Trees

The Trees Officer undertakes a detailed inspection of the trees in Pittville Park generally every 2 – 3 years and on Pittville Lawns every 18 – 24 months. A report on condition and any remedial works are carried out by a tree surgeon. Trees are also checked after high winds for damage and any necessary remedial works carried out.

7.6 Pests

The council's Pest Control Officer makes monthly visits to the site to check hotspots for brown rats and takes any appropriate necessary action.

7.7 Green Space Volunteers

The FoP arrange for a team of volunteers (an average of 26) to work in the park on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month under the supervision of the Community Ranger. They carry out a range of activities, depending on the skills and physical abilities of the volunteers. Some tasks are carried out on a regular basis and some on an 'as required' basis. None of the tasks involve the use of power tools or chemicals.

| Task | Frequency |
|--|---------------------|
| Litter picking | Every working party |
| Sweep the underpass | Every working party |
| Tidying area around entrance gate | Every working party |
| Tidy up beds by the aviary | 3 monthly |
| Clean benches, notice boards etc. & bins | 3 monthly |
| Prune shrubs | Annually |
| Minor lifting of tree canopies | As required |
| Clear rubbish from the lakes | Annually |
| Add bark to paths in the west side of the park | As required |
| Remove epicormic growth from trees | 2 yearly |
| Maintenance of young woodland trees | Annually |
| Tidy and weed the snowdrop bank | 6 monthly |
| Remove self-sown trees and weed areas | As required |

The volunteers also take on projects such as painting the scout hut, painting the underpass and restoring the rockery by the upper lake and the recreating of Bed 38. The volunteers also raise money for projects to restore the park.

7.8 The aviaries

These are inspected on a daily basis by a Ubico operative who cleans the cages and feeds and provides water for the animals. The animals are inspected by a vet periodically.

8. Finance

The council does not disaggregate the parks and landscape budgets on a per park basis. However the costs for Pittville Park are broadly divided into main areas – management and maintenance. FoP continue to raise additional money for restoration and development and where appropriate maintenance money can be used for restoration.

Those using the park for commercial activities pay a fee to the council which goes to the parks and landscape budgets although some may be used in Pittville Park for restoration.

Budget cuts have been imposed on the department which has meant a small reduction in the overall amount allocated for the management and maintenance of Pittville Park. This has to date not significantly impacted on the maintenance standards in Pittville Park.

9. Monitoring and Reviews

9.1 Customer satisfaction

In 2014 FoP undertook a park user survey before submitting for the Green Flag Award and Green Heritage Site Accreditation and the council carried out consultation before building the new play area. A further survey may be carried out before submitting for grants to carry out the work on Character Area 1.

The public liaise with the Community Ranger, who is regularly in the park, and pass on comments about the park. FoP work in the park and their members use the park on a regular basis and pass on concerns and suggestions for improvements.

9.2 Reviews

A major review is carried out on the 10 Year Maintenance Plan 2016–26 on an annual basis where the document is reviewed by the council and stakeholders with particular emphasis on the Action Plan.

The CMP was adopted in 2008 and the council followed the plan until 2015. However a 10 Year Maintenance Plan mentioned in the CMP was not written until 2015 to start in 2016. The summary of the review for 2008 – 2015 and the annual summary review from 2016 until last year are contained in Appendix A.

An annual meeting is held at the GSDD depot to which the council invites the stakeholders to meet and discuss progress and other issues concerning the park.

10. Action Plan

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| CBG | Cheltenham Bird Group |
| CLHS | Cheltenham Local History Society |
| CP | Community Payback |
| CPO | Community Parks Officer |
| CR | Community Ranger |
| CT | Cheltenham Trust |
| FoP | Friends of Pittville |
| GSDM | Green Space Development Manager |
| GSDO | Green Space Development Officer |
| HWG | FoP History Works Group |
| PD | Council Property Department |
| PPRR | Pittville Pump Room Revival |
| PPTO | Parks & Playground Technical Officers |
| SR | Senior Ranger |
| TCT | The Cheltenham Trust |
| TO | Tree Officer |
| Uni | University of Gloucestershire |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|-------------------|--|
| 10.1 Welcoming place | A welcoming park that is accessible to all sections of the community to play, explore, participate, learn and relax. | Review park interpretation boards | Identify subjects and sites for new interpretation boards Replace cracked/aged interpretation boards on East side | Design, Purchase and erect interpretation boards Improve legibility of park information boards | Spring 2022 Spring 2022 | GSDO, FoP | Funding secured from GCC for 2 new boards 2022 Replacement boards produced ready for installation |
| | | Inform visitors | History of the Pump Room Add QR codes to welcome boards | Produce leaflet All welcome boards | Winter 2019 Autumn 2020 When boards are re-printed | PPRR GSDO, FoP | History of Pump Room online leaflet produced QR codes added to 3 boards |
| 10.2 Healthy, safe and secure | A healthy safe and secure environment for all visitors | Minimise hazards | Ensure Risk Assessments are up to date | Carry out a review of all assessments | Spring 2020 and ongoing | GSDO | Up to date 2022 |
| | | Ensure all contractors work to H&S guidelines | Before contractor commences work ensure all paperwork correct | Ensure contractor has correct systems in place | Before each contract starts | GSDO | |
| | | Report any incidents and maintain records | Carry out regular inspections on infrastructure including play equipment | Complete inspections, report faults and resolve | As per inspection regime | PPTO, CR | |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 10.2 Healthy, safe and secure continued | | Prevent problem behaviour | Manage vegetation to facilitate natural surveillance | Reduce hiding places in the park | Maintenance as required | FoP | |
| 10.3 Well maintained and clean | A clean and well maintained park that is an attractive and enjoyable experience for all visitors | Maintain park free of litter | Carry out litter picking | A litter free park | Weekly or as required | Ubico, FoP | |
| | | Eliminate graffiti | Remove graffiti | Remove within a max. of 3 days | As required | Ubico | |
| | | Remove fly tipping | Remove any fly tipping | Remove within a max. of 3 days | As required | Ubico | |
| | | Continue to replace old bins | Trial of recycling bins | Carry out trial and assess trial | Ongoing | GSDO, Ubico, FoP | Results pending |
| | | Repair and paint all railings and gates | Continue with painting and repair programme | Complete painting and repair | Ongoing | GSDO, Contractor, CP | |
| | | Maintain trees in the park | Inspect the trees, carry out maintenance and plant trees as necessary | Maintain the tree collection in the park | Ongoing | TO | |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| 10.3 Well maintained and clean continued | | Ensure the surfacing in the skate park is safe | Skate ramps | Paint ramps | Annually | PPTO | |
| | | Maintain shrubs and other planting | Carry out pruning weeding and mulching | To keep all plants in good condition | In accordance with schedule | CR, Ubico, FoP | |
| | | Wildflower meadows | Cut and collect, scarify and reseed as necessary | Make attractive display and increase biodiversity | Ongoing | CR | |
| | | Funding secured from ERDF for de-silting the lakes | Carry out de-silting work | To maintain the residuum & lakes in good condition | Spring 2021 | GSDO | Completed 2021 |
| 10.4 Environmental management | A park that is managed and maintained and developed in a way that minimises the impact on the environment | Reduce the environmental impact of each operation | Work in accordance within the council's environmental policy for green spaces (development in process) | Reduction in climate change | Ongoing | All | Discussion paper written on Climate Change (See Appendix 3) |
| | | Reuse natural materials within the park where possible | Shred wood material on site and use as mulch or for paths. Where feasible use leaves for mulch | Minimise materials leaving the park | Ongoing | CR, Ubico | Bark storage area established on site |
| | | Recycle green waste and surplus leaves | Take to council recycling centre for composting | Recycle materials that can't be used on site | Ongoing | CR, Ubico | Compost heap established on site for arisings from wildflower meadow |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 10.4 Environmental management continued | | Recycle waste from bins | Trial of recycle bins | Progression of council trial | Ongoing | Council | Results pending |
| | | Reduce the use and effect of herbicides and pesticides | Trial new products | Promote best practice and reduce effect on the environment | 2021 | GSDO, CR | Pesticides are being phased out where possible |
| 10.5 Biodiversity, landscape & heritage | A park where biodiversity is promoted and developed | Where appropriate increase the biodiversity of the park | Identify areas for habitats improvement Carry out surveys before improvements start and on completion Carry out a Bio- blitz with the University | Produce proposals for areas including species Produce data on wildlife in the park and modify scheme Obtain information on wildlife in the park and involve the public | Ongoing Summer 2023 Summer 2018 | GSDO, CR CR CR, Uni | Wildflower meadow sowing done, areas for expansion being considered Carried out Summer 2018. Potential for 2022 surveys |
| | | Funding from ERDF for improving habitat around the lakes | Carry out the works | Improve diversity in the lakes | Spring 2021 | GSDO | Desilting, bank protection, bank vegetation improvements completed 2021 |
| | | Continue to promote the tree collection | Produce new tree leaflet Continue with tree walks | Leaflet available in cafes and on website Arrange and publicise | Spring 2019 Annually | TO TO, FoP | Completed |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----------|------------------|----------|
| | | Investigate the wild bird population in the park | Carry out monthly surveys | Ensure wild bird population is diverse and healthy | Monthly | CBG | |
| | | | Retain observed kingfisher habitat areas | Maintain habitat provision for notable park residents | Ongoing | FoP, CR | |
| 10.5 Biodiversity, landscape & heritage continued | | Monitor the health of the fish in the lakes and remove any surplus fish | Trap and examine fish in both lakes | Remove any unhealthy fish and reduce numbers to a sustainable level | Annual | GSDO, contractor | |
| | | Aerate the lake to prevent lack of oxygen | Install 3 aerators in the lower lake and 1 in the upper lake | Prevent a fish kill | Ongoing | GSDM | |
| | A park where the heritage of the site is conserved and enhanced | To understand the historical integrity of the park | Continue the research on the park and Pittville Estate | Make this information available in a variety of ways, interpretation boards, leaflets, walks, talks and on the FOP website | Ongoing | FoP, HWG | |
| | | | Continue with Heritage Open Days | Inform the public about the Pittville Estate | Annually | CS, FoP | |
| | | Ensure the significance of the park is recognised in Council documents | Liaise with all council departments particularly planning | Significance of the park included in all relevant documents | Ongoing | GSDM | |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|---|--------|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| 10.5 Biodiversity, landscape & heritage continued | | Collect living memories of the park | Interview people who have lived in Pittville along time | Collect information on the park | Ongoing | CLHS | |
| | | To improve Character Areas 1 and 2 | Employ Illman Young Landscape Architects | To produce analysis and proposals | Spring 2018 | GSDM, FoP | Completed Planning granted Autumn 2021 |
| | | Restore steps in front of the Pump Room and hard standing | Employ a Landscape Architect to produce detailed plans and costings | Plans and costings available | Spring 2020 | GSDM, FoP | Completed 2020 |
| | | | Raise money through grants and events | Money available to proceed | Summer 2022 | GSDM, FoP | |
| | | | Appoint a contractor | Steps and hardstanding improved | Spring 2022 | GSDM, FoP | |
| | | Provide new entrance gates at East and West approaches to the Pump Road | Employ a Landscape Architect to produce detailed plans and costings | Plans and costings available | Spring 2020 | GSDM, FoP | Completed 2020 |
| | | | Raise money through grants and events | Money available to proceed | Spring 2023 | GSDM, FoP | |
| | | | Appoint a contractor | Gates restored | Summer 2023 | GSDM, FoP | |
| | | Improve the East border | Agree detailed works to be carried out | Improve the border | Review 2023 | GSDM, FoP, TO, Ubico | |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10.5 Biodiversity, landscape & heritage continued | | Restore the rockery on the north side of the upper lake | <u>West side</u> Clear the rockery of most of the shrubs and selected trees, grub up roots | Clear enough to replace rocks | Spring 2019 Maintenance ongoing | GSDM, FoP, Ubico, contractor | Complete |
| | | | Lift rocks from the lake and store | To allow rocks to be selected for placing in rockery | Summer 2019 | GSDM, Contractor | Complete |
| | | | Replace the rocks in the rockery and add soil | To allow for planting | Spring 2020 | GSDM, contractor | Completed |
| | | | Plant out the rockery | Complete the rockery | Ongoing | GSDM, FoP | Part complete |
| | | | <u>East side</u> Clear the rockery of most of the shrubs and selected trees, grub up roots | Clear enough to replace rocks | Ongoing 2022 | GSDM, FoP, Ubico, contractor | Started January 2022 |
| | | | Lift rocks from the lake and store | To allow rocks to be selected for placing in the rockery | To be reviewed 2022/23 | GSDM, contractor | |
| | | | Replace the rocks in the rockery and add soil | To allow planting | To be reviewed 2022/23 | GSDM, contractor | |
| | | | Plant out the rockery | Complete the rockery | To be reviewed 2023 | GSDM, FoP | |
| 10.6 Community involvement | A park where there is an inclusive approach | Continue to work with FoP and SPRA | Continue with the Depot meetings and other communications | Ensure best use of resources | Annual review meeting and project meeting when required | CR | |

| CRITERIA | VISION | AIM | ACTION | TARGET | TIMETABLE | OFFICER | PROGRESS |
|---|---|---|--|--|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 10.6 Community involvement continued | | Support FoP working parties | Continue to promote working parties | Increase number and diversity of volunteers | Ongoing | CR | |
| | | Balance the number of events in the park with other park users and consider local residents | Communicate with stakeholders | Achieve a balance | Ongoing | All | |
| | | Promote alternative uses of Agg Gardner pavilion | Offer spare space to other local groups | FoP tool storage in one room and St Pauls church use another | Ongoing | CR | All space now utilised |
| 10.7 Marketing & communication | A park that is promoted as an asset to Cheltenham | Increase awareness of the park | Ensure the council's website shows the correct information | Correct information on the website | Ongoing | CR | |
| | | | Continue to promote the park & events on a range of social media | Regular updates of events | Ongoing | CR, FoP | |
| 10.8 Management | A park where there is a coordinated and joined up approach to the management, maintenance and development of the park | Retain the Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation awards | Review the 10 Year plan and submit application forms | Application submitted | February 2022 | GSDO, FoP, CPO | Completed |

11.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Summary Reviews

Summary of the 2021 Review

- The operation and use of the park has again been impacted by COVID-19 and the park heavily used during the year. The council staff and volunteers had to continue to work for much of the year in accordance with the revised risk assessment which took into account the pandemic.
- The Cheltenham Trust continued to run an outdoor cafe for much of the year but in October erected a temporary building adjacent the Pump Room. In the latter part of the year visitors were allowed into the Pump Room to view an exhibition about the history of the building and spa but opening was limited to only a few days a month.
- The Green Space Volunteers were able to start work again at the beginning of April, initially in accordance with the risk assessment taking into account the pandemic, but restrictions were later lifted. Initially there was catching up on maintenance work which included the two projects on the west end of the rockery and Bed 38. There were only 18 out of the 24 planned working parties but the volunteers completed 1027 hours with an average of 26 volunteers at each working party.
- The Urban Greening project was successfully completed. The wildflower meadow has not been cut due to machinery malfunction and delays due to COVID-19.
- Planning permission was granted for the restoration of the steps in front of the Pump Room and the replacement gates to the approach drives. Costs are being updated and funds being raised through charges for car parking at the Horse Racing festival and through grants.
- Trees continue to be planted in the park as replacements and also donated as memorial trees. Two generous donations were received and this enabled the tree officer to plant 5 Giant Sequoia around the 100 year old one in the west side of the park. General and emergency maintenance work has been carried out on trees in the park.
- A set of four recycling bins were placed in the east side of the park as a trial, the results and evaluation are awaited.
- Extensive repairs to the bandstand were completed.
- The subway was repainted with anti-graffiti paint as part of the Cheltenham Community Payback scheme. There are issues with the paint that are being investigated.
- Parkrun has recommenced in the park in October after an absence due to COVID-19.
- The female swan (Zelda) died during the year. The male swan (George) continued to raise the six signets.
- Restoration of the east end of the rockery was completed but requires regular maintenance, planning for the west end has started and work on site will commence early in the new year.
- A badger set was identified in the west side of the park near the Agg Gardner recreation ground and has been fenced off for safety.
- The volunteers have continued with planting and maintenance of Bed 38. They held a plant sale in the park to raise funds for planting in the park. Funds were raised for replacing the

interpretation board on the history of the east side of the park and the two boards at the gates and these should arrive in January.

- An application was submitted to the Gloucestershire County Council 'Build Back Better' fund to cover the costs for two habitat interpretation boards in the west park. The information on these boards is to be a joint project with the council, the University and volunteers.
- There were a series of talks given in the park during Heritage Open Days in September on the subject "These magnificent rooms - the season at Pittville Spa" by Pittville History Works/PPRR.

Summary of the 2020 Review

- Since March the operation and use of the park has been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and the number of people using the park has increased significantly. Council staff have operated in accordance with a revised risk assessment which had to take into account the pandemic.
- The Pump Room has not been able to admit the public but has run a socially distanced outdoor cafe together with music and dancing at the weekends which has been very successful.
- The Green Space Volunteers worked until March when they had to stop due to COVID-19. Working parties started again in June with restrictions in accordance with the council's risk assessment until December 2020. A lot of the usual maintenance work was carried out as well as work on two projects. The old yew tree was pruned, three new cherry trees and a number of shrubs planted in Bed 38. More planting took place on the west end of the rockery adjacent to the upper lake together with a lot of weeding. The volunteers managed to put in 900 hours in the year although 9 out of the 25 working parties were cancelled. The average number of volunteers attending each working party increased after the start of COVID-19. The average for the first six months of the year was 20 and for the second half 27.
- The Pittville Park Wildflower Meadow sowing took place in the winter, a new scheme that extends the extent of wildflower planting in the park. A new multi-functional machine was jointly purchased by Ubico and the council during the year that could plough new beds for planting. It can also cut the grass and wildflowers on the uneven areas and collect the arisings. The arisings are now being composted on site.
- The Urban Greening Project was due to start during the year but due to cost considerations and a redesign to keep the dredgings on site this was delayed to January 2021. A start was made on clearing one of the enclosed areas south of the upper lake in accordance with the Masterplan (Analysis and Proposals for Character Areas 1 & 2) which will be used for dredgings.
- Drawings for the planning application together with costings were completed for the restoration of the steps in front of the Pump Room and the replacement gates to the approach drives.
- A few new trees were planted in the land west of Tommy Taylors Lane and maintenance was carried out on woodland trees previously planted by volunteers. The Trees Officer carried out an inspection of trees in the west side of the park and arranged maintenance works. He has also had a number of new specimen trees planted in the park.
- Two sides of the pavilion were painted again as part of the Cheltenham Urban paint festival. There was an Art Project by a local artist with painted fairy doors for children to find.

- Improvements were made to the Adventure play area.
- Markers on the orienteering course were replaced and repaired.
- The cyclo cross course was extended and some obstacles built west of Tommy Taylors Lane.
- The experiment with a set of recycling bins, situated adjacent to the cafe next to the main children's play area, has been delayed due to COVID-19 now due start early in the new year.
- The campaign to save the 200 year Cedar of Lebanon tree immediately adjacent the west side of the park, part of an important view from the park, and which had been threatened with removal was successful.

Summary of the 2019 Review

- Progress has been made on implementing the 'Analysis and Proposals' for Character Areas 1 and 2. The detailed drawings and costings for the steps in front of the Pump Room and the replacement gates to East and West Approach Drives were completed by Illman Young.
- The soil has been cleared and rocks replaced in the west end of the rockery adjacent the upper lake and a planting plan produced.
- An average of 21 Green Space Volunteers turned up for each working party in the park, held on the first and third Thursday of each month, and put in 964 hours of work during the year.
- The railings on the Albert Road/residuum bridge have been painted and some of the railings on the south edge of the upper lake have removed.
- Trees obtained from the Woodland Trust have been planted in the Agg Gardner recreation ground.
- The orienteering course has been repaired and is available for local schools and visitors.
- A new double notice board and a welcome board have been erected in the east side of the park near the west bridge over the upper lake.
- Tree walks were organised by the Trees Officer, bat walks were organised by the University of Gloucestershire, and a butterfly talk and walk by the Butterfly Trust. Bird surveys were carried out monthly by the Cheltenham Bird Group and the health of the fish in the lakes continued to be monitored and some fish removed.
- The council's Tree Officer has produced a new 'Self-guided tree walk leaflet'.
- Two talks were given in the park on the 'Historic Landscape Features in Pittville Park' as part of Heritage Open Days by members of FoP and nearly 40 people attended.
- A third Urban Paint Festival was held in Cheltenham and two walls of the pavilion in the Agg Gardner recreation ground in the west side of the park were repainted.
- A new group has been set up called 'Pittville Pump Room Revival' with the aim of improving the visitor experience to the Pump Room. It meets with the CEO of The Cheltenham Trust, who operate the Pump Room, to discuss ideas to promote the heritage, the visitor experience and generate income.
- Park run is held in the park every Saturday morning and the Daily Telegraph included the run in its list of the 10 most scenic runs in the UK.
- The surfacing in the skate park has been improved.
- Funding has been secured for dredging of the residuum and the children's boating lake and some marginal planting in the upper lake to improve diversity in the lake. Clearance has started in the fenced off area on the south east bank of the upper lake

Summary of the 2018 Review

- The 'Analysis and Proposals' for Character Area 1 – Pump Room Lawn and Character Area 2 – Upper Lake were completed by Illman Young in Spring 2018.
Work was started on restoring the west end of the rockery adjacent the Upper Lake.
Fund raising continued with FoP operating the Albemarle car park during the March and November race meetings.
- Phase 1 of the 'Learning Resources' project to produce information for schools was launched in September by FoP and these are available on the FoP website.
- The 'Changing Places' facility was built adjacent to the play area, to help meet some of the specialised needs of people with complex disabilities, and was opened by the Mayor of Cheltenham on the 10th August.
- A defibrillator was located in the park on the kiosk near the play area.
- The second Urban Paint Festival was held in Cheltenham and two more walls of the pavilion in the west side of the park were painted.
- A Bio-blitz was held in the park on the 8th June by the University of Gloucestershire and the Community Ranger.
- An average of 20 Green Space Volunteers turned up for each working party in the park, held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday morning of each month, and put in over **1000 hours** of work during the year. Some of the work carried out:
 - Completed pruning and clearing the shrubs and trees around the car park at the rear of the Pump Room;
 - Painting of the inside of the underpass;
 - Spreading bark on informal footpaths;
 - Planting snowdrops;
 - Clearing the west end of rockery by the Upper Lake
 - Continued with usual maintenance jobs.
- No fishing signs erected in Upper Lake and guidance for skateboarders renewed.
- The garden adjacent the Boathouse cafe was improved with new surfacing.
- Tree walks in the park were held, bird surveys continued and the health of the fish in the lakes monitored and some fish removed.
- The FoP History Works Group has continued their research on Pittville and their website has been selected to be included on a national database.
- Channel 4 featured the Pump Room and Pittville Park in the series 'Britain's most Historic Towns'.
- The Cheltenham Trust has started a consultation process with key stakeholders on the future use of the Pump Room part of which is the visitor experience. FoP has formed a sub-group to liaise with the Trust. Volunteers have started acting as guides to welcome visitors and inform them of the history of the Pump Room.

Summary of the 2017 Review

- The project to improve the character landscape area around the pump room and upper lake is continuing:
 - the raising of funds is continuing, FoP operate the Albermarle Road car park for the November and March race meetings;
 - a local heritage landscape architect, Illman Young Landscape Design, has been appointed and is creating a Landscape Restoration plan;
 - a topographical survey of the areas was carried out in October 2017.
- FoP applied for and received a £1000 grant from the CBC Community Pride fund to produce an education pack for schools and this project is proceeding.
- During the summer FoP spoke to about 100 students, in groups, doing their National Citizenship Scheme (NCS) about the charity and how they work they do in Pittville benefits the community. A group of students took on the task of brightening up the duck grain dispenser on the upper lake and produced a poster to warn people against feeding bread to the ducks. The group met with FoP and produced a design which was then painted onto the dispenser.
- FoP was nominated by CBC for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service which they were awarded. A ceremony was held in the park on the 29 July when the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Dame Janet Trotter presented the award.
- An average of 22 Green Space Volunteers turned up for each working party and in total over the year put in 1028 hours of work.

Some of the work carried out:

- Painting the outside of the Scout hut;
- carried out an archaeological dig to investigate whether there were steps in front of the pump room, which have been indicated on historical maps, photograph and pictures. The remains of the steps were found;
- carried out extensive pruning and clearing of shrubs and trees at the rear of the Pump Room;
- planted 400 native trees (whips) supplied by the Woodland Trust in the land west of Tommy Taylors Lane;
- continued with the usual maintenance jobs.
- September 2017, Cheltenham had its first urban paint festival and the Agg Gardner Pavilion was transformed by 4 artists.
- Funding has been secured for the provision of a 'Changing Places' facility. A delay in the building of this facility has meant it is due to be completed by May 2018.
- The Pittville History Works Group has completed Phase 1 of their project to collect information about the residents of the original estate from the 1840's to the 1900's with details of over 10,000 individuals on their website.
- 'Hidden places in Pittville' was the theme for Heritage Open Days in September 2017.

Summary of the 2016 Review

- In 2016 the Council entered Pittville Park for the Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation awards which are administered by Historic England and Keep Britain Tidy. Pittville Park was successful in obtaining both awards which were presented to them in July 2016 at the annual award ceremony for Wales and the South West of England held at the Pittville Pump Room, Pittville Park.
- The annual review of the Management Plan for 2016 was held in January 2017 where the feedback from the judging was considered and many of the recommendations incorporated into the Management Plan. The objectives have been reviewed to ensure they are SMART and whether they are 'regular' or 'ongoing'.
- On completion of the new play area the Council and FoP sat down to start on the next major project to improve the park. This project is to improve the character area around the Pump Room and the upper lake. The brief for a heritage landscape architect is being prepared and the raising of funds has begun.
- The History Works Group has continued with research on the Pittville Estate and has recently provided information to the producers of the BBC television programme 'The Great Interior Design Challenge' on the history of the estate. The programme showed views of the park and particularly the Grand Entrance gates to a national audience which will contribute to marketing of the area.
- The walks in the park for Heritage Open Days have continued and visits to local houses adjacent to the park arranged which were well attended.
- The GreenSpace volunteers have continued to work in the park with attendance between 20 and 25 on a regular basis and they have contributed over 900 hours of work since January 2016.
- A grant has recently been obtained to build a new 'Changing Places' toilet in the park to provide disabled people who use the park with excellent facilities and it is hoped this will be completed in 2017.

Summary of the 2008 to 2015 Review

- The council adopted the Green space Strategy (GSS) in 2009. It sets out a 15 year vision for green spaces within the borough and refers to the CMP for Pittville Park.
- Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) have narrowed Evesham Road near the underpass and provided parking but declined to install the full traffic calming proposal in the CMP. Pedestrian crossing lights have been installed adjacent the approach to the Pump Room (2009).
- Some new footpaths have been created and/or improved to help access and circulation throughout the park (ongoing).
- A programme of minimising hiding places has been carried out by carefully raising branches of yew and holly and keeping shrubberies pruned to improve security (2014/2015).
- Two public consultations have been carried out, one by the Friends of Pittville for the GHSA application and the other by CBC for the new play area (2014 & 2015).
- A style for the waste bins and seating for the east and west sides of the park have been established. Many of the waste bins have been replaced and numerous benches provided through the Commemorative Bench scheme (ongoing).
- Part of the lake edges on the upper lake have been restored, footpaths south of the lake created and some restored using traditional binding gravel (2014).
- Fools Gate has been repaired and painted together with the adjacent railings (2015).
- Four new interpretation boards have been installed in the park regarding the heritage of park. An outline scheme has been drawn up for all signage in the park (ongoing).
- FoP has 300 members of which 20 are regularly active in the park twice a month for 2 hours per working party. The volunteers enhance landscape features and supplement routine maintenance operations in collaboration with the Community Ranger and Ubico. The total number of hours since 2009 is over 2000 (ongoing).
- Since 2014 the Pump Room has been leased by the Cheltenham Trust and meetings have been held with the Trust to discuss the link between the Pump Room and the park.
- Maintenance work has been carried out on the planting around the Pump Room and the East and West Approach gates painted by FoP (2015).
- Tenders have been let and planning permission granted for a new play area (£540K) to replace the existing play equipment and for the aviaries are to be refurbished. There is a new landscaping scheme for the area and a new small café will be built adjacent to the play area (due to be completed summer 2016).
- Stone finials on the upper bridge have been repaired and vegetation cleared from both bridges to improve the views of the bridges (2015)
- 100m³ of silt has been removed from the Residium area and small amount of tree work has been carried out to improve the habitat and water quality (2015).
- Regular testing has been carried out to ensure water quality is maintained (ongoing).
- The council are discussing with the Scouts the renewal of the lease for the Scout Hut in Pittville Lawns (ongoing).

- Letting of a new contract to run the Central Cross Café and Boathouse to 'In the Park' has created a social hub and subsequent improvement of service. A new Forest of Dean stone paved area in front of the Central Cross Cafe has provided additional seating for the café's customers (2015).
- Discussions have been held with St. Pauls Residents Association with regard to planting an edible hedge on the south side of the Agg Gardner recreation ground (2015).
- A football pitch has been marked out in the recreation ground (2009).
- The old footpath that runs along the east boundary of the recreation ground has been reinstated and 300 Woodland Trust whips planted and dead trees retained for wildlife (2010).
- A number of fishing platforms have been installed, three of these are suitable for disabled access with gravel paths leading to the platforms (2009).
- The waterfall, formerly part of now demolished old mill has been restored on the lower lake (2009).
- A new metal (community) bridge has been installed to replace the old wooden bridge that was demolished some years ago. Design workshops were held with young people to inspire the design for the bridge (2012).
- An Interpretation board has been installed at the east end of the lower lake (2012).
- Improvements have been made to the golf course on Marle Hill and the tennis courts resurfaced (2014).
- A new footpath from the Boathouse to the skate park was constructed (2014).
- The Boathouse now has internal seating, is open all year round and concerts have been held there on two occasions (2014).
- An Urban Meadow area has been established east of the tennis courts (2014).
- A new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been constructed to the west of the Agg Gardner Recreation Ground and the toddler play area refurbished (2009).
- New trees have been planted by the Cheltenham Tree Group at the rear of the Leisure Centre on the flood bank (2015).
- The Pittville Gates have been restored to their original condition and the paved and planted areas surrounding the gates improved together with new railings along Prestbury Road (2010 -2014).
- A horse trough has been returned and two interpretation boards installed next to the gates (2014).

Appendix B

Link to information about Pittville Park lake desilting and habitat improvements, including wildflower meadow creation.

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/33/parks_and_open_spaces/1495/urban_greening/4

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8314/pittville_park_desilting_and_planting_proposal.pdf

Appendix C

Link to The Carbon Neutral Cheltenham report, including video and further information

https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/info/61/sustainability/1622/climate_emergency/3