

Walverden Park Management Plan

January 2020 Update

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Walverden Park Management Plan

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Walverden Park Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Summary

The Council made a commitment through their Parks Strategy 2007 – 2017 to develop and introduce individual Management Plans for all of Pendle's Parks. The Council recognises that all parks are unique and need different management and maintenance regimes employed within them.

Pendle has a mixture of urban and rural settlements with the distinct geographical nature of the borough reflected in the wide variety of parks in evidence. To enable flexibility and adapt parks management to tie in with a specific parks needs and characteristics and the people it serves, individual management plans have been introduced for the management and development of parks that can be shared by staff at all levels and by different park user groups.

The aim of this Management Plan is to outline how Pendle Borough Council will develop, maintain and manage Walverden Park. The implementation of the action plan will be done in collaboration with key stakeholders and other partners to ensure the full involvement of the local community and create a sense of ownership from users.

The plan is reviewed and updated on a bi-annual basis. However, it is not seen as the finished article and is intended to be a live, working document that management are flexible with, and as such is subject to change as appropriate.

In addition to contributing to the Council's wider corporate objectives, Environmental Services aims and objectives and the park issues most pertinent to the local community, this Management Plan has also been produced with a view to achieving Green Flag Award Status for Walverden Park, and as such, the management and development of the Park is in accordance with the key criteria of the Green Flag Award as specified by Keep Britain Tidy.

1.2 Process to produce plan

This Management Plan has been driven and developed principally by a core working group. The Group steer the plan's development, implementation and review, and consists of:

Kieron Roberts, Green Spaces Manager (PBC Environmental Services)
Lee Johnson, Senior Park Keeper/Tree Officer (PBC Environmental Services)
Keith Higson, Senior Parks Officer (PBC Environmental Services)

During the development process, the following persons or outside sources were

consulted and have had some degree of involvement:

Friends of Walverden Park

Landscape Maintenance Officers & Supervisors (PBC Environmental Services)

PBC Accountancy & Audit Services

PBC Legal Services

Liberata - Property & Estates Management

The majority of the above persons/outside sources will be consulted with and involved in, the annual review process of this Management Plan to be undertaken between October and January of each year.

A list of all key stakeholders can be found in Appendix 1.

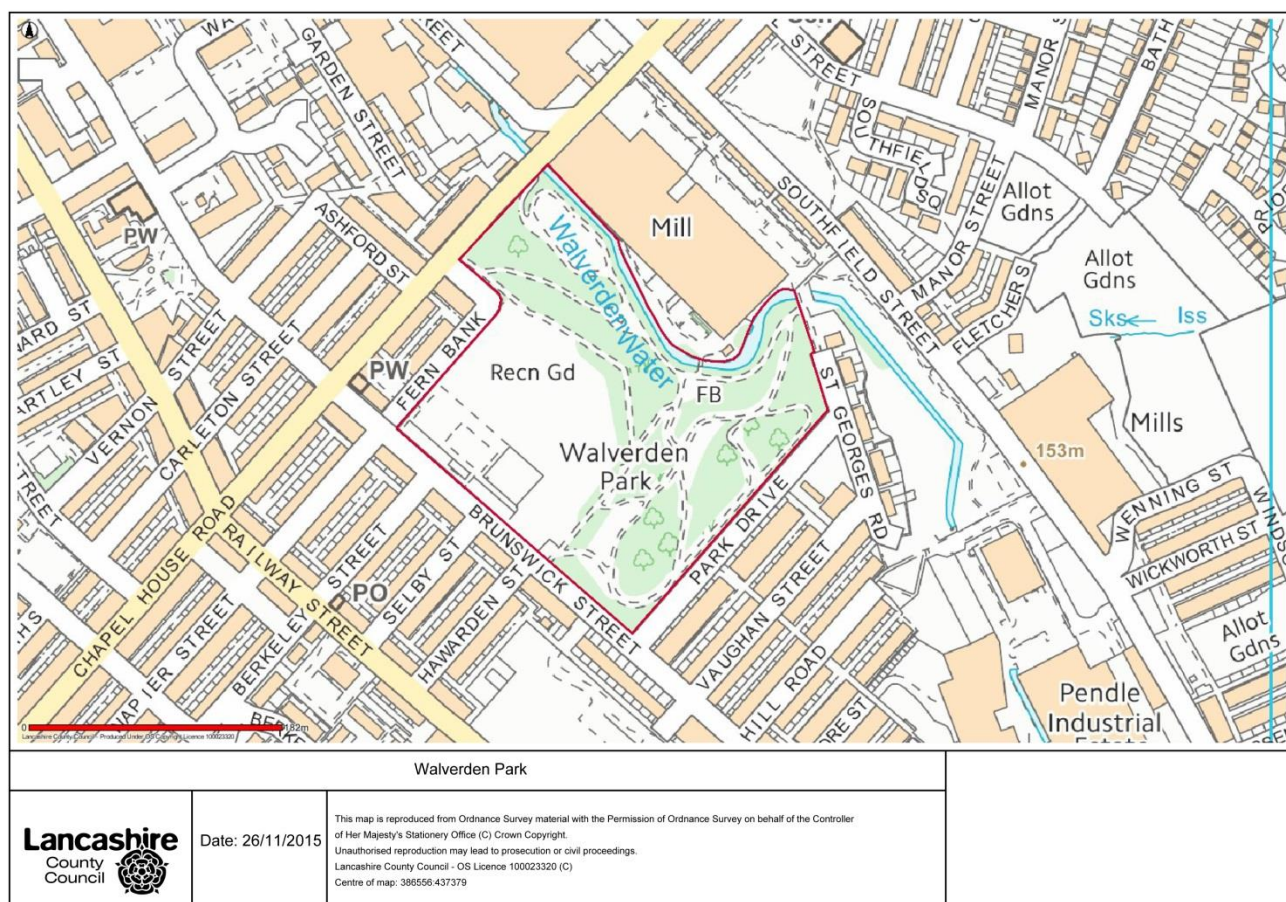
2.0 Where are we now?

The aim of this section of the Management Plan is to give a brief introduction to Walverden Park, its facilities, existing management of the park and also the strategies, corporate policies, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), licences and covenants that may affect the management of the park both at present and in the future.

2.1 Site Description

2.1.1 Ownership

The following plan shows the precise area of the Park, boundaries and area of PBC ownership.



2.1.2 Grid Reference & Area Size

OS Grid Reference: 386535 437335

Area Size: 5.08 Hectares

[Location of Walverden Park on Google Maps](#)

2.1.3 General

Walverden Park is recognised by Pendle Borough Council (PBC) as a Local Park

and offers a valuable expanse of green space in the midst of an urban area. The park represents an important open space for PBC and is used for recreation and leisure activities. The park does not feature in the National Register of Parks and Gardens.

Walverden Park stands above Walverden Water, a river that runs through the park on the eastern edge. The park, although urban in nature, is very much of woodland character. It creates an informal natural impression through its undulating densely wooded land. The park contains some formal aspects such as the play areas and the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on the Brunswick Street Elevation.

2.1.4 Current Uses

Walverden Park is used extensively by the local community for a variety of different reasons including informal recreation and games, dog walking, children's play, as a shortcut and thoroughfare for local residents, as a meeting place for young people and for relaxation and well-being purposes, e.g. exercise.

2.1.5 Facilities & Features

Walverden is a Local Park. The park contains large areas of undulating densely wooded land which is recognised as one of its attractive features. The park also includes a toddler/junior children's play area catering for 0-11 year olds and an adventurous children's play area catering for 8-14 year olds, a floodlit MUGA, Walverden Water, a wetland area, story-telling area, four carved wooden sculptures, some informal grassed areas and an abundance of wooded walkways amongst other features.

2.1.6 Access

Local Users - The park is situated half a mile south east of Nelson Town Centre and three quarters of a mile south west of Marsden Park. It is accessed by entrances from Chapel House Road, Brunswick Street, Park Drive or St George's Road. Although these entrances are for pedestrians only, the entrances from Park Drive and Chapel House Road are wide enough to accommodate a vehicle. However, there is no Car Park provided within or near to the park. Users tend to be local who live within close proximity of the park.

Driving directions from M65 - The park is situated just off Brunswick Street and is approximately 1 mile from Junction 13 of the M65. From Junction 13 of the M65 eastbound, take the Scotland Road exit (signposted Nelson Town Centre). Continue on Scotland Road for approximately 0.5 miles, through one set of traffic lights and a mini roundabout. After the mini-roundabout, the road becomes Sagar Street. Turn right at the mini-roundabout on to Netherfield Road. Then take the first left on to Brunswick Street. Follow the road up the hill for approximately 0.5 miles and the top end of the park (children's play areas and MUGA) is on your left.

Postcode for GPS use is BB9 0TA.

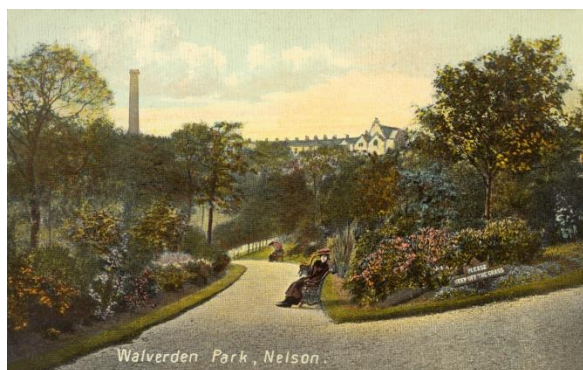
2.2 Brief History

From 1870, Walverden Park formed part of the Chapel House Estate until 1895 when Mr Edward Carr purchased seven acres of land from the estate of Richard Ridehalgh. Walverden Park was procured as a secondary park so that people at the Walverden end of Nelson did not have to travel far for recreation. Coulton's Almanac 1917 details the opening of Walverden Park on the 30th May 1900. The name 'Walverden' means 'Wolves Den' and possibly stems from an early Wolves Den on the site. The Park is on the site of an old sand pit and at one time the lower field next to the river was a playing field.

2.3 Existing Management & Maintenance

All maintenance tasks in the park are identified in the Landscape Maintenance work programme which covers all aspects of landscape maintenance (including highway tendered work) across the Borough of Pendle.

We have a dedicated Landscape Maintenance Parks team that maintain all Parks across Pendle. They are based at the Fleet Street Depot in Nelson.



Although mobile teams carry out maintenance work in the park, there is a lot more flexibility in relation to one off jobs and we regularly deviate away from the schedule to ensure that the park is maintained to a high quality with a large amount of input from Officers, landscape maintenance staff and the Friends Group.

Maintenance of the interior and exterior of buildings within the park is the responsibility of the Council with technical advice, when needed, sought from the Council's partner Liberata via its Property Services. The Council's Waste Services section has been charged with the responsibility of emptying all litter and dog waste bins across parks and outdoor recreation sites providing us with new bins if any are damaged. All other maintenance tasks are the responsibility of the Landscape Maintenance Team.

Task	QTY	Unit	Frequency	Unit
Grass Cut Medium Maintenance	33997	m ²	8	per annum
Edge maintenance (Hard) - strim	5303	m ²	1	per annum
Formal hedge cut (Type 3) - Both sided and top	29	Linear metre	2	per annum
Sweep paths and steps	8347	m ²	12	per annum
Sweep playground surface	1652	m ²	26	per annum
Inspect playgrounds	2	No	52	per annum

Sweep playground surface (MUGA)	650	m ²	52	per annum
Inspect playground (MUGA)	1	No	52	per annum
Empty litter bins	11	No	104	per annum
Leaf clearance	3000	m ²	1	per annum
Clean gullies	50	No	2	per annum
Litter pick site	1	No	52	per annum

2.4 Strategic Context

This section of the management plan provides a summary of information contained within a variety of strategic documents and policies that are relevant to, and may have a potential impact on, the management of Walverden Park.

The following local and national strategies were taken in to account in the writing of this management plan. This section also outlines where Walverden Park sits within the strategic context of the Council and how the park contributes to the overall aims and objectives of the Council.

Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020

The Council's Strategic Plan 2018-20 sets out what the Council are doing about the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also lists the major issues/actions the Council will be looking at during this period. The plan shows how the Council will contribute to the eight agreed priority outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy and provides headline actions for the year ahead. The headline actions come under the Council's four key objectives, these are:

- Working with partners, the community and volunteers to sustain services of good value.
- Helping to create and sustain jobs with strong economic and housing growth.
- Helping to create and sustain resilient communities.
- Maintaining a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation which is digital by default.

Walverden Park's Management Plan can make a contribution to actions under the first and third strategic objectives.

[Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy](#)

The Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy was formally adopted by the Council on the 17th December 2015. The Strategy is the key Development Plan Document (DPD) that will form part of the new Local Plan for Pendle.

It sets out the strategic planning policies the Council will use to help guide development to the most sustainable places over the 15 year period between 2015 and 2030.

All other planning policy documents must build on the principles set out in the Core Strategy regarding the development and use of land in the Borough. Its strategic objectives accord with the goals established in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

A broad framework for the protection and enhancement of our natural and historic environments (including nature conservation and open space sites) is to be looked at as part of the development of the Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy.

The Council has previously adopted a number of documents that consider the provision of open space, parks, sports and recreation, and biodiversity in the Borough. These include:

- Pendle Open Space Audit (2019)
- Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- Parks Strategy 2007 – 2017
- Children's & Youth Play Area Strategy 2006 – 2016
- Park Management Plans
- Biodiversity Audit 2010

It is proposed that the GI Strategy will bring together much of the contents from these documents in order to take a more integrated and strategic approach to the provision and management of green space in Pendle.

There will be numerous actions and policies set out within the document that will relate to or will have implications for Walverden Park.

Pendle Equality Plan

The Council is committed to ensuring that it continues to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Environmental Services contribute to the Council's Equality & Diversity objectives taking in to consideration all aspects of equality and diversity that may impact upon service delivery, e.g. Race, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion, etc.

The Service Area endorses and adheres to the corporate commitment and has incorporated this in to any developments, plans, policies and practices to enable better equality of opportunity and improved access for all parks related services.

Environmental Services Service Plan 2019/20

Within the Service Plan, there are priorities and actions relevant to all parks. The actions outlined below directly affect/impact upon all Green Flag Parks in Pendle.

Environmental Services	Environmental Services
Continue to work with Town and Parish Councils during the transfer of services, particularly transfer of Parks, to ensure we provide good value services that meet the needs of our Town/Parish	Implement the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) in Pendle's parks and recreation facilities.

Council clients.	
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Pendle's Parks Strategy 2007 – 2017

This document ceased to exist at the end of 2017 and there are no plans to develop a new one due to the fact that all of Pendle Borough Council's Parks are due to be transferred to more localised Town/Parish Council's in 2020 and 2021.

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020

The Borough of Pendle supports the creation of low carbon communities and is striving to be more energy efficient. As a response to the ongoing climate crisis the world is currently experiencing, a Climate Emergency action plan has been recently developed by the authority.

Environmental Services have specific actions set out in the Council's action plan that we must deliver in relation to reducing carbon emissions, energy usage and adaptation.

Wildlife Surveys

A wildlife survey of Walverden Park was undertaken in 2001 by the Wildlife Trust to identify opportunities for environmental enhancement of the park and to increase community involvement in relation to future design, implementation and maintenance. The report identifies a number of potential projects and recommendations.

The Park needs to be surveyed again in the short/medium term but this may not happen until it has been transferred to Nelson Town Council.

Quantified Tree Risk Assessments and Surveys

A Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) of Walverden Park's trees was undertaken in 2013. A detailed survey and management plan was produced with an action plan detailing trees to be removed (in order of severity of risk) and recommendations pertaining to tree planting and maintaining a healthy tree population in the Park.

The QTRA was carried out by a local independent specialist and findings acted upon during the course of the last 4-5 years.

QTRA's across Pendle green space sites were carried out by a local independent specialist in 2019. The surveys for Walverden Park & Lomeshaye Marsh identified that there were 2 red ratings (high risk) trees, 22 trees recognised as amber (medium risk) and 7 trees recognised as yellow. The red trees will need to come out in the short term and monitoring of the 22 trees (amber) will ensue over the next year by the Tree Officer.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Biodiversity Duty)

Local authorities in England and Wales have a key role to play in the conservation of biodiversity and this is now recognised and formalised within Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, where:

“Every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”

With this in mind, any works carried out within Walverden Park or indeed any of Pendle’s Parks, should not be to the detriment of the local biodiversity and where possible should include an element to the scheme that would improve the environment for future generations.

Public Health – Pendle Health & Well-being Group

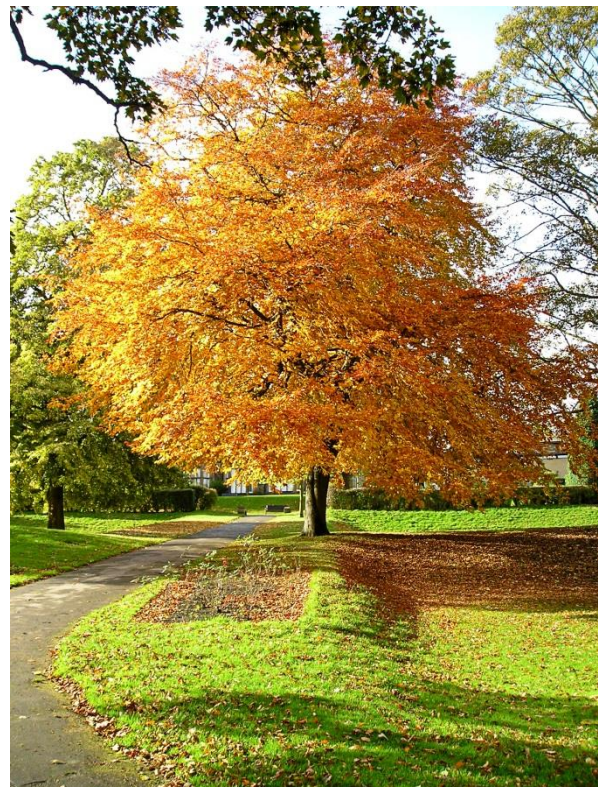
A new Pendle Health & Well-being Partnership has been set up to replace the Pendle Health & Well-being Group that was established in 2015. The new group meets bi-monthly and the Chair alternates between Pendle Council and the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The Partnership will play a crucial role in helping to improve public health in Pendle and tackling the wider detriments of health.

Environmental Services main aim is to encourage greater use and access to green spaces for the positive benefits of improved mental health, physical activity and relaxation (to deal with stress related problems).

2.5 Bye-Laws

The Borough of Pendle has bye-laws for pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces in relation to Parks, Cemeteries, Outdoor Recreation and Open Spaces. The bye-laws incorporate rules pertinent to Walverden Park. The most recent bye-laws were developed in accordance with national guidelines and came in to operation from 1 June 2009.

The existing bye-laws have been reviewed and will be incorporated in to the new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO’s) that we will be implementing across all Parks from February 2020.



Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were brought in under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

PSPO's specify an area where an activity is taking place that is likely to cause nuisance or be detrimental to the community's quality of life. The order also imposes conditions or restrictions on people using that area.

The Council committed to placing PSPOs on all play areas and MUGAs outside of parks during the 2016/17 financial year. From February 2020, the Council will introduce and enforce PSPOs within recreational and parks sites. The existing bye-laws and some new ones have been included in the new Parks PSPO's.

2.6 Leases, licences and covenants

There are no leases, licences and covenants relevant to the Park at the current time.

2.7 Recent Developments

This section of the document provides a brief summary of works carried out and/or improvements/progress made within the park during the life of the management plan.

- Planting of hedge around 2 sides of substation.
- Installation of interpretation boards to the fence of the substation.
- Installation of new path from Brunswick Street entrance to play areas.
- Installation of senior play area.
- Creation of marsh area.
- Closure and landscaping of redundant footpath.
- Installation of marsh area interpretation board.
- Planting of Jubilee Oak tree.
- Installation of story-telling area and bark path.
- Wildflower meadow.
- Installation of health walks.
- Installation of interpretation board at Day Street entrance.
- Commissioning of tree survey and tree management plan.
- Installation of picnic area at Brunswick Street entrance.
- Planting of 250 trees.
- Installation of hand rails to steep paths.
- Drainage works to riverside path.
- Installation of replacement Sparrow Hawk sculpture.
- Installation of replacement Wolf sculpture
- Re-alignment and extension of handrail on steep path that leads from Brunswick Street Picnic area towards the wetland area on the lower level.
- New barrier installed as a replacement for bollards at the St Georges Road entrance to the Park.
- Upgrade of entrance path off Chapelhouse Road.

- Funding secured by the Friends Group (via the Mayoress' Charity) from a local business to pay for a community orchard at the top end of the Park.
- Replacement of flower beds on the Brunswick Street elevation with an avenue of cherry blossom trees.
- Installation of 'Welcome to Walverden Park' signs at three main entrances including new ethos for Park sign at the Brunswick Street entrance.
- Three new litter bins to replace corroded ones.
- Ongoing tree works in line with the Park's Tree Management Plan including removal of trees due to disease and poor health and for strategic reasons.
- Drainage works to improve flooding on the path directly below the top field. These works have had a positive impact on the lower level of the park and the story-telling area as the water used to flow down the hill and flood this area.
- A new interpretation board has been added to the existing boards that are affixed to the sub-station railings at the Brunswick Street entrance to the Park.
- Painting of all benches throughout the Park

Developments during the last review period include:

- Green Flag Flagpole has been serviced and repaired.
- Worked in partnership with Walverden Primary School regarding the creation of new bird and bat boxes for the Park. These have been erected around the wooded area of the Park.
- Upgrade of some existing paths particularly on steep sections.
- Further planting of 50 mixed fruit trees in the orchard.
- Undertaken QTRA for Walverden Park. As a result, some tree work has been completed.
- Implemented the Parks PSPO's.

Restructure (that was implemented from April 2019)

The Council went through another restructure exercise in 2019. Neighbourhood Services was abolished at the end of March 2019 with the Green Spaces strategic and outreach staff moved in to the Environmental Services section to join the administration and operational functions (Landscape Maintenance).

This in effect brings it back full circle to how we operated approximately 4 years ago, thus we hope it will provide stability and a more joined up approach to managing Parks and other green space sites for the future.

Financial and operational implications for Environmental Services

Over the last 5 years, a significant amount of savings have been made in relation to the management of Parks and Recreation sites. In addition, Capital schemes have been significantly reduced to a point where there is more or less no Capital Programme.

The Chief Executive and the Corporate Director continue to ask all Managers of the

Service Groupings to reduce their operational costs on an annual basis. As such, all staff are being asked to come forward with money saving ideas for their particular section and the Council in general.

In view of the financial position of the Council and the impending transfer of Parks to Town and Parish Councils, Officers have reduced action plans to a more manageable size. The lack of finance has seriously affected some of our plans for parks in recent years and as such we have continued to work with the Friends Groups in working up action plans that are more realistic and less ambitious than previous.

We also continue to put the onus on Friends Groups to be more proactive in sourcing external funding and initiating/carrying out small scale projects through the advent of volunteer time. Officers will continue to work with the Friends Groups and other volunteer groups to source funding and develop small scale projects in the parks until that time when they officially transfer over to their respective Town/Parish Council.

Transfer of Services to Town/Parish Councils

In order to reduce operating costs, shed liability and to contribute to meeting the target savings needed to enable the Council to survive and function in the medium term, the Council have (and continue to) transferred a number of services to Town and Parish Councils over the past 3-4 years. This process begun in 2015 with the transfer of community halls and public toilets.

In 2016/17, play areas and MUGAs outside of parks were transferred along with bus shelters, on-street seating and CCTV.

Most notably though is the decision by Senior Management and Councillors to look at the transfer of its parks to Town/Parish Councils between 2017 and 2021 financial years.

Three Pendle Parks transferred to their respective Town/Parish Councils in 2018, these were:

Valley Gardens, Letcliffe Park & Victory Park – Barnoldswick Town Council

Alkincoats Park transferred to Colne Town Council in Jan 2020.

Barrowford Park is due to transfer to Barrowford Parish Council in April 2020.

The remaining six Parks still under Pendle Council ownership are due to be transferred in 2020/21. However, this is dependent upon their respective Town/Parish Councils agreeing to this.

For the three Barnoldswick Parks that transferred in 2018, it was agreed that the Council's Landscape Maintenance Team continue to undertake the maintenance of the Parks for at least the next 2 years. The Town Council will pay Pendle Council an annual fee to carry out this work. This is due to be reviewed in March 2020.

Once Barrowford Park is transferred, the Parish Council have agreed to pay Pendle Council to continue maintaining it for 2020/21.

Until the remaining six Parks are transferred over to the Town/Parish Councils, they have been asked to pay 100% of the total Grounds Maintenance costs in 2020/21 to maintain the Parks on an annual basis.

In respect of Walverden Park, Nelson Town Council only agreed to pay 44% of the total cost in 2019/20 with a further 25% contribution from Pendle Council. As such, the Grounds Maintenance (GM) schedule was reduced by 31% during the current financial year. This meant that £7,942.97 had to be cut from the budget.

Consequently, the following reductions in GM were made:

- Grass medium maintenance – Cut 20 – 70 reduce frequency from 12 to 8
- Shrub bed maintenance – Dig Area reduce frequency from 1 to 0
- Shrub bed maintenance – Hoe and weed reduce frequency from 6 to 0
- Shrub bed maintenance – Prune area reduce frequency from 1 to 0
- Sweep Playground surface reduce frequency from 52 to 26
- Litter picking (general) reduce frequency from 156 to 52
- Bin emptying reduce frequency from 156 to 104

We have not had confirmation of what Nelson Town Council will commit financially to the Park in 2020/21 as yet but we are hopeful that it will at least remain the same as last year (this will mean that they have to put in an extra 25% compared to last year as PBC will not be contributing anything). If they do commit to this, then maintenance levels will keep the same but if they don't then maintenance levels will be reduced even further.

Consequently, all of the above changes will have an enormous impact upon the delivery of Parks across Pendle and it will be dependent on each individual Town or Parish Council as to whether they continue to be involved with the Green Flag accreditation scheme.

As a result of the transfers, the two Park Keeper roles (that were previously in the now defunct Neighbourhood Services) were lost at the end of March 2018 (these members of staff were re-deployed to other sections within Environmental Services). This has had a significant negative impact upon the Green Spaces section and has reduced our resources in so much as that we can only do limited volunteer working days at the remaining six parks under our control.

3.0 Where do we want to get to?

3.1 Vision

Pendle Borough Council are committed to providing a safe, well-maintained, diverse, vibrant and accessible network of quality parks across the Borough that builds on and respects the traditional roles and heritage, whilst encouraging a modern forward thinking approach to all aspects of the management and development of parks.

The Council is also committed to satisfying the needs of all members of our community, ensuring the parks meet current and changing demands and improving our social, environmental and economic well-being whilst positively contributing to the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' Liveability agenda and corporate vision of establishing Pendle as a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

Management aim to positively contribute to this vision for all parks, through the development of a good quality management plan for Walverden Park. The Council recognise the importance of Walverden Park as a local resource and aim to get more usage and involvement from local residents. We want a park representative of the local area's needs, that instils people with a sense of pride and which establishes a greater degree of ownership from all sections of the community.

3.2 Site Assessment & Analysis

To enable us to achieve our vision and realise our aspirations, we need to assess Walverden Park's current position in relation to the key criteria laid down by the Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award Scheme. As part of the Green Flag Award assessment, judges produce a feedback report (for formal judging and mystery



shop) detailing strengths and weaknesses and provide recommendations as to what we can improve upon, from both a management plan and parks based point of view, in the future.

Subsequently, we need to analyse the information derived from both these assessments, identify where we have gaps, weaknesses and issues that need to be resolved, and then develop an action plan to address those issues.

During November and December, several site visits are made to Walverden Park by the Management Plan's author and the Council's own fully trained Green Flag Award judge. The aim of this exercise is to use the Green Flag Award Assessment Scoring sheet to determine how the park measures up to the criteria as set out by Keep Britain Tidy.

This assessment, in addition to taking in to consideration comments made by independent Green Flag Award judges, issues raised by the Friends Group, past experience and working knowledge of the park (through our internal Officer's Working Group), informs the production of the action plan.

The following section looks at Walverden Park's current status and highlights aspects of the park that need to be improved in accordance with Green Flag Award key criterion.

3.2.1 A Welcoming Place

Walverden Park is a Local Park of approximately 5.08 hectares, located half a mile south east of Nelson Town Centre. The park was opened on 30 May 1900 as a secondary park so that people at the Walverden end of Nelson did not have to travel far for recreation. It is now owned and managed by Pendle Borough Council.

Although the park is close to the town centre it is also only a few hundred metres away from areas of open countryside. Walverden is a popular park and still looks much as it did at the start of the 20th Century. The park itself borders the south side of Walverden Water, and occupies the northeast facing valley slope with another small valley running southwards from the river. It is largely covered with mature trees, with paths running through, and with two significant areas of open grass, one bordering the river and the other above the wooded hill slope near the play areas.

Access to the park can be gained through a number of entrances with the main formal entrances being off Brunswick Street. This entrance requires works to make it a focal point of the park as highlighted in the Masterplan. In total there are six recognised entrances around the perimeter of the park, although certain areas, such as the grassed areas at Fern Bank and the Brunswick Street elevation are also used informally by local residents to access the park. The ethos behind having more formal entrances is to provide an attractive and enticing entrance point where visitors to the park feel welcome and gain a sense of the park being well cared for.

Park users do not have any designated car parking and thus tend to park on adjacent streets.

There are no bus route services from Nelson Town Centre that stop around the perimeter of the park. There is a bus stop at Southfield Street which is approximately 5-10 minutes' walk from the park.

There are currently no cycle racks provided in, or within close proximity to, the park. This needs to be addressed with a view to encouraging more people to cycle to the park.

There is no lighting within the park. The Council and Friends Group agreed collectively not to pursue any lighting in the Park due to it being cost prohibitive and not fitting in with the ethos of the Park.

The majority of pathways in the park are of a reasonable quality and are suitable for wheelchair users and mobility scooters although some of these are extremely steep and can become slippery during the winter months. There are some very steep gradients on a number of paths that lead down from Park Avenue and Brunswick Street to the lower level of the park that have become problematic from a Health & Safety point of view. The paths become especially precarious during the winter months due to their steepness and propensity for the recurrence of moss growth making them extremely slippery.

As there is no set resurfacing programme in place (and no capital programme) thus an audit of existing pathways has been done. A list of path works has been identified on a priority-led basis and work is carried out on paths as and when money becomes available. We have been successful in securing small amounts of money from the Council's Nelson Area Committee Capital Programme over the past couple of years which has allowed us to upgrade small sections of paths in need of repair but there are still sections of path need upgrading.



A Capital Programme bid has been put in for 2020/21 for £10,000 to enable us to undertake some further path works in 2020. We will find out if we have been successful in late February 2020.

The Council is committed to ensuring equal access for all and making the park 'user friendly'. Both of the children's play areas contain at least two items of play equipment that can be accessed by children with a disability. All facilities and services are promoted on the Council's website (www.pendle.gov.uk/parks).

There are currently four interpretation boards installed within the park. These boards are at the following locations:

- At the Day Street entrance
- At the Brunswick Street entrance
- At the Park Avenue entrance
- Next to the wetland/marsh area (this provides information on 'Ponds & Marshes')

The sign at Brunswick Street includes a changeable notice board. The notice board contains a lockable window section that allows for promoting parks events, Friends meeting notifications, the Green Flag Award certificate, general parks news, etc. as well as including literature from other local voluntary and community organisations.

There is no directional signage to the park within the surrounding area. As it is a Local Park, management feel that the park does not warrant the installation of brown tourism type signage.

A general parks leaflet has been produced containing information on all eleven parks across Pendle. As such, Walverden Park is included.

3.2.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

The Borough of Pendle recognises the importance of ensuring that Walverden Park is a safe and secure site for staff, visitors and the local community as well as contributing to improving the health and well-being of Pendle and developing a better quality of life for its residents.

The park offers free and accessible recreational provision to all sections of the community and can contribute to improving the health and well-being of local people and develop a better quality of life for its residents.

The park is an important green space for people that live in the locality. The reasonable quality, hard surfaced paths encourage people to spend time walking in the park and surrounding area although some of the steep tarmac paths can become mossy, slippery and dangerous during the winter months.

We have improved certain sections of paths (in steep areas) in recent years to ensure the safety of users when walking in the Park.

The Park has a health walk trail with three different routes of difficulty.

The park has an informal grassed area below the children's play area. This is used for informal recreation such as ball games. The grassed area next to the river is a storytelling area including seating area, bark paths and wildflower meadow. This area of the Park is due to be re-developed in 2020.

The Council appreciate that users have different perceptions of their own health and safety, thus officer's work closely with stakeholders and the local community to address issues and fears.

The Council's Environmental Crime Team (ECT) was established in October 2010 to deal with all enforcement matters. The team is made up of three Environmental Crime Officers. All three staff members carry out regular patrols around Pendle's parks and public land and have the powers to issue fixed penalty notices, or fines. 40% of their working time is dedicated to green space sites.



District Enforcement also work closely with the ECT as they have been secured on a 12 month pilot project to provide presence mainly in town centre areas but will also spend some of their time at green space 'hot spot' sites where we have issues with dog fouling and control and litter.

We work closely with ECT and provide information to them on any 'hot spot' areas in relation to high levels of dog fouling, litter or anti-social behaviour at our sites. The ECT record any fixed penalties issued and prosecutions.

As part of the PSPO's for Parks, the control of dogs has been looked at. Measures include a traffic light system for dog control whereby dogs are not allowed in red areas, have to be on a lead in amber areas and can be off lead in green areas.

We have also produced a number of Health & Safety/Educational awareness posters around the implications of dog fouling, food waste and litter in parks.

All staff are uniformed and vehicles are sign-written to provide a highly visible presence.

The Council also manages a twenty-four hour emergency call out rota. This service can be obtained by ringing an out of hour's emergency number that is operated via a control room. This emergency number is displayed on the interpretation board and

will be put on any future marketing materials.

Pendle Council takes Health and Safety of all those affected by its operations very seriously. The Senior Park Keeper carries out patrols on a fairly regular basis and reports instances of damage, vandalism and anti-social behaviour to relevant Council Officers. In addition to this, the Playground Maintenance Inspector and Landscape Maintenance staff also report damage and instances of anti-social behaviour. All incidents of damage are assessed and either made safe immediately, removed or programmed for repair depending on the severity of the risk that they present.

For any play facility defects (as a result of wear and tear or vandalism), the playground inspector will assess the defect and decide whether it is a minor or urgent defect. For all minor defects the Council aim to repair the defect in 48 hours of assessment. For urgent defects, the Council aim to repair defects within 24 hours.

All service activities are risk assessed by competent, qualified staff who works in the field of the task that is being carried out. The Council also has lone working policies in place, complete with a traceable monitoring system should an officer require assistance.

All staff are issued with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the tasks that they carry out as part of their day to day duties. In addition to this, staff are trained to use, inspect and maintain any tools and machinery that they require to complete their roles. All tasks are individually risk assessed and the assessments are freely available to staff. Both hard copies and electronic copies of all risk assessments are available at the main depot at Fleet Street.

If anti-social behaviour is witnessed by Pendle Council staff or we are informed of ASB by the public, Friends Group, residents within the Park, etc. then we forward details on to the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator who then liaises with the Police and the local PCSO's.

The Council recognises the importance of having staff with a broad skills base. With this in mind, the Council encourages its staff to undertake personal development through professional qualifications and vocational training in line with the service area needs and demands.

3.2.3 Well Maintained & Clean

Pendle Borough Council recognise that the quality of a visitors experience and increasing the levels of usage of a park or green space is greatly impacted upon by the standard of maintenance and cleanliness of the site. A well maintained site leads to an overall feeling that the site is cared for and encourages return visits by park users.

The Council has a dedicated Landscape Maintenance Section that carries out all of the regular landscape maintenance tasks throughout the parks in Pendle. Their work is guided by the Landscape Maintenance Work Programme which is a frequency based, single, all-purpose system.

The Maintenance Work Programme includes all landscape maintenance tasks, and playground maintenance. Details of the maintenance schedule for Walverden Park can be found in section 2.3 of this document.

The maintenance of built structures and the infrastructure of the park are managed on an annual basis. Revenue budgets are in place to undertake any repairs and improvements as and when they occur. Work is generally reported through staff and Friends Group members to the relevant Officers, who then organise repairs either through internal services or external contractors. This system works well with anything reported being repaired in a quick and efficient manner.



Walverden Park's bins are emptied twice a week and it is litter picked once a week. This has reduced in recent years due to cuts in maintenance budgets. We used to litter pick and empty bins three times a week.

Litter is removed from the site on completion of the employees round and is transported back to Fleet Street Depot to be disposed of at the end of the day.

There are currently no recycling facilities available on site. Although the current system of litter collection works well, it does not allow for recycling. Therefore, consideration should be given to the replacement of some existing bins with recycling units.

The loss of the Park Keepers in April 2018 means that additional litter picking work that they carried out whilst doing regular patrols of the Park will not be forthcoming. In periods of heavy footfall, e.g. summer holidays, good weather, etc. in the Park, the Park Keepers were asked to keep an eye on bins in the Park to ensure that these do not overflow and become unusable. Unfortunately, we do not have this service anymore so we regularly have occasions where we are faced with overflowing bins and litter on the floor nearby after a busy weekend, etc.

Any green waste generated by landscape maintenance operations is removed from site and taken to the Victoria Park Depot where it is composted down and used on beds and borders in the boroughs' parks.

Large waste from tree work is chipped on site and removed to Victoria Depot for storage where it is then used as an alternative footpath surface or as mulch on beds.

Smaller waste from tree works is on occasion, used to create valuable habitats for wildlife by the construction of habitat piles or to help alleviate instances of erosion by the use of dead hedging.

All equipment, tools, machinery and vehicles are regularly checked for safety. Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) monitors are used on all relevant machinery/equipment used. Individual operatives are responsible for regular checks and if faults occur reporting to their Supervisor or Line Manager.

3.2.4 Sustainability

The Council are working towards providing services and facilities that have minimal impact on the environment, are cost effective and provides for future generations. The Council is committed to tackling social, economic and environmental problems affecting parks whilst implementing new initiatives to further enhance sustainability across all of them. Any future parks improvements will adopt the principle of not being pursued at the expense of the interests of future generations.

Although the use of pesticides and chemicals are contentious with most members of the public, it is necessary in most parks to use them. Walverden Park is no different in that it does use these substances to control weeds although we are endeavouring to limit the use of them and where possible find non-chemical solutions.

The types of chemical that are used by the Council are as follows:

- **Herbicides** – Herbicides are used mainly for the control of weeds on hard surfaces and on sports surfaces such as bowling greens. Trained staff carry out regular checks on herbicide products and uses chemicals that have a minimal risk to the environment or the operator
- **Timber Preservatives** – The majority of timber preservatives used are pre-applied by the supplier as tanalith pressure treatment. Any additional timber preservatives tend to be water based and have a very low risk to the environment.
- **Other Chemicals** – Any other chemical is only used on the completion of a COSHH risk assessment and after every other method has been explored.

Pendle Borough Council has a policy in place whereby plants and bedding bought in from outside contractors use only peat-free compost.

The Council attempts to minimise waste at source, thus reducing the need for recycling and the use of landfill. Parks produce three main types of waste, these being litter, green waste and refuse and fly tipping. Waste generated by visitors to the park is generally put in to the litter bins provided. The waste is wide and varied and often contains sharp objects and animal waste. As a result, this type of waste is not sorted due to the risk to the litter pickers and is disposed of via the municipal waste systems.

All our green waste from Walverden Park, e.g. tree clippings, grass cuttings, etc. are recycled and placed in a variety of bays at Victoria Park Depot and are re-used as

mulch on flower, rose and shrub beds throughout the year in all parks.

We also use bark chippings for woodland paths in some of our parks (including Walverden).

Any instances of fly tipping and the abandonment of vehicles in parks are reported to, and disposed of, by Waste Management Services unless the waste is minimal or is green waste which is then dealt with by our own staff. The Environmental Crime Team will assist in investigating fly tipping instances.

The Council supports the creation of low carbon communities and is striving to be more energy efficient. Subsequently, a Climate Emergency action plan has recently been developed by the authority.

Environmental Services have specific actions set out in the Council's action plan that we must deliver in relation to reducing carbon emissions, energy usage and adaptation. The main actions concentrate on cutting energy bills within buildings across our parks and outdoor recreation sites.

3.2.5 Conservation & Heritage

Natural Features

The Council are seeking to maximise the environmental potential of parks across Pendle, placing a greater emphasis on protecting and encouraging biodiversity and making sure appropriate management practices/regimes are implemented to allow natural and semi-natural habitats to flourish.

Walverden Park was surveyed in October 2001 by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The main principles and recommendations from this Survey are referenced and incorporated within this Management Plan. No such survey has been undertaken since 2001, thus it is the Friends Groups intention to repeat this exercise in the short term but this may not happen until it has transferred to Nelson Town Council.

There is a real desire from management and the Friends Group to increase biodiversity within the park. Although Walverden Park serves as a green oasis in a built environment and provides an important corridor to the nearby countryside it is relatively limited in its range of biodiversity. Increasing the parks biodiversity will in turn increase educational opportunities and bring about added interest for the park.

An orchard, containing an abundance of different fruit trees, was first created in 2017 on the periphery of the large grassed area at the upper level of the Park. This has been developed over the last couple of years through the advent of further trees being planted. The money to create the orchard was secured from a local business, Fort Vale, who wanted to put something back in to the local community. The Friends Group have held a number of volunteer working days whereby planting of new trees was carried out.

The trees/woodland management in Walverden Park is currently managed on a proactive type basis. As a result of a tree survey undertaken in 2012, a number of tree works have been carried out in accordance with recommendations made in the

final report.

The report gives detailed arboricultural advice on existing trees and provides specific recommendations on necessary arboricultural work in relation to health and safety and future management.

The survey highlighted issues with a limited range of species and lack of understory being prominent. As a result it is now common practice that any felling that takes place should be quickly followed up with planting to address these issues.

QTRA's were carried out by a local independent specialist in 2019. The surveys for Walverden Park & Lomeshaye Marsh identified that there were 2 red ratings (high risk) trees, 22 trees recognised as amber (medium risk) and 7 trees recognised as yellow. The red trees will need to come out in the short term and monitoring of the 22 trees (amber) will ensue over the next year by the Tree Officer.

The park has no formal flower beds anymore as the herbaceous beds on the Brunswick Street elevation were taken out and replaced with an avenue of cherry trees in early 2018. Unfortunately, these trees were vandalised and as such a joint decision between the Friends Group and the Council resulted in these not being replaced. Some formal sympathetic planting could be looked in the short term, specifically around the main entrances to the park, for example the Brunswick Street, Day Street and Fern Bank entrances, to create attractive and enticing gateways to the park.

Some new hedge plants were planted on the boundary of the Park near Day Street and Chapelhouse Road in 2016. This was to provide a natural border for the Park





and in the long term help in stopping litter blowing in to the Park from houses and streets above. There is an intention to plant more hedge plants along the Day Street and Fern Bank borders in the next couple of years to carry on the work started in 2016/17.

The grassed areas of Walverden Park are mowed on a regular basis as part of the landscape maintenance work programme. Mowing is kept to a minimum as the idea is to leave the

majority of the park in a semi-natural state to encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity.

Where possible, as not to cause a potential hazard or detract from the overall feel of the park, we allow instances of standing and fallen deadwood.

The Friends Group have also worked in co-ordination with the local Primary School, Walverden in making some bird and bat boxes for the Park. These have now been erected in the main woodland area of the park. They hope to pursue further joint ventures in the future.

Walverden Water runs through the park and has been the subject of regular clean-up operations from the Friends Group and other local community/voluntary groups in recent years. Although the cleanliness of the water has improved, the stretch of water within the park remains blighted by problems of tipping and general detritus being thrown in to the water. Ways of combating this and improving the water further need to be looked at in the future.

More work is also needed on investigating the wildlife value, history and physical conditions of Walverden Water in co-ordination with the Environment Agency.

Buildings & Structures

As a result of the park being less formal and more of a woodland environment, there are not many built structures within the park. The concrete plinth above what used to be the old changing rooms and the retaining walls at the Brunswick Street side of the park were removed and landscaped as part of Phase 1 of the Masterplan.

The only real issues, where a lack of investment and maintenance over a long period of time has had a negative impact on the aesthetic value of the park, is the retaining wall along Brunswick Street and Park Avenue and some stretches of railings around the perimeter of the park.

The retaining wall has been showing signs of instability and as such was the subject of a visual inspection by the Council's Engineering Services in 2017. The wall will be looked at on an annual basis to monitor its stability, look, etc. The railings were last painted in 2012 and there is a desire from the Friends Group to paint the railings

again in the near future when funds allow.

Since 2012, Capital monies have been significantly cut and we do not get funding for litter bins, dog bins and benches anymore. Subsequently, we have to rely solely on the use of revenue budgets for any repairs and for the purchase of new. Two new bins have recently been installed to replace old corroded ones.

An interpretation board has recently been erected on the sub-station fencing at the Brunswick Street entrance. It provides information on the history of the Park as well as about Nelson. The shrubs that provide a border around the sub-station were also cut back by United Utilities in 2019.

3.2.6 Community Involvement

Pendle Council is proud of its connections with the local community. Management heavily involves the local community in the design and implementation of its improvements for all parks across Pendle. Walverden Park is no exception to this and has an active Friends Group that is consulted with and gets involved in any key developments for the park.

The Friends Group meet on a regular basis and focus on park management issues, undertake small scale tasks, litter pick and assist in organising and running park events.

Although the Friends Group are extremely proactive, more work needs to be forthcoming on encouraging people of all ages to become active members of the group and to develop schemes that are of long term benefit to the improvement of the park.

In view of the financial situation at this time, it is especially important that the Friends Group begin to take on more responsibility and explore a wider variety of funding in order to supplement funds being put in by the Council. In addition, it is our intention to work in partnership with the Friends Group in getting them to carry out small scale projects in the park which will assist Council staff and contribute to the management plan objectives.

The Friends of Walverden Park are a constituted group with a good membership including local Councillors (who sit on the Borough Council and Town Council), local residents, park users, local police, etc.

The Senior Park Keeper and Green Spaces Manager play a vital role as the points of contact between the Friends of Walverden Park and the Council and as such attend every meeting. The Green Spaces Manager and the Senior Park Keeper also work closely with other community groups in the vicinity as well as other relevant Council Officers, such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, and attends meetings on behalf of the Council to disseminate information on any initiatives/issues within the park and pick up information on any issues brought up by local people pertaining to the park.

It is recognised by the Council that any key developments, short or long term, must involve the local and wider community and any interested parties. Without their involvement in the decision making processes, the chances of long term ownership and sustainability for Walverden Park would be significantly diminished.

The Friends Group have in the past held a series of park clean up events in conjunction with the Park Keepers, Environmental Services Tidy Team and other volunteers and are keen to organise and hold further similar type events/activities in the future.

We also initiate regular volunteer working days across our Parks and Green Space sites which have included specific projects in Walverden Park. These will continue but due to a reduction in resources, e.g. the loss of the Park Keepers unfortunately these will be few and far between in the future.

The Friends Group have secured funding to re-develop the storytelling area. They are working with the Council to develop a rock garden that will include the planting of wetland type plants, improvements to the existing paths and additional interpretation. Two new feature benches will also be provided. They are hoping to have this project completed in 2020.

3.2.7 Marketing

The marketing and promotion of parks has become an essential and necessary part of parks management. With this in mind, it is imperative to present a positive image of the parks services, facilities and events focussing on attracting new park users and retaining existing users through adopting a more co-ordinated and strategic



approach to the marketing of parks.

Marketing can allow the service area to achieve several key messages, these include:

- Promoting Council Services
- Promoting Council Facilities
- Education
- Attracting visitors
- Attracting economic regeneration
- Exploring tourism potentials

Currently, the Council employ a limited approach to marketing its parks mainly due to a lack of resources; therefore it is important to ensure, through annual review, that existing resources are being used effectively.

A general parks leaflet has been produced containing information on all eleven parks across Pendle. As such, Walverden Park is included. We also have an information leaflet regarding the health walk (downloadable and hard copy).

The park has four interpretation boards although only one (Brunswick Street entrance) has a lockable notice board that allows for the promotion of park events, Friends meeting notifications, general parks news, etc. as well as including literature from other local voluntary and community groups. There are an additional three interpretation boards in the park. Details of locations can be found in the 'A Welcoming Place' section of the Management Plan.

Information on Walverden Park can be obtained from the Council's website at www.pendle.gov.uk/parks/walverden. This web page provides information on the facilities available, biodiversity in the Park, a site map, etc.

There are also links from this page to information on the Green Flag Award and the Friends of Walverden Park pages. Strategic documents such as the Parks Strategy, Friends Meeting agendas and minutes, events and other Section information can be accessed from these pages.

There is also a Friends of Walverden Park Facebook page. In addition, a Friends of Pendle's Parks Facebook page has also been developed in recent years.

In addition to this the Council have a [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#).

Whenever an event or community led initiative takes place in the park, a press release is sent out to all local agencies.

3.2.8 Management

This management plan will form the basis for the future management and development of Walverden Park that can be shared by staff at all levels and by the different park user groups and external stakeholders.

A commitment was made by management and members, through the adoption of the Parks Strategy 2007 – 2017, that individual management plans be introduced and developed. It was recognised that Pendle had a wide variety of parks in evidence and thus to enable flexibility and adapt parks management and maintenance to tie in with a specific parks needs and characteristics and the people it serves, individual management plans would be introduced as live working documents.

The Corporate Director has ultimate responsibility for managing parks and recreation sites although day to day management of parks is the responsibility of a team of Senior Officers based in Environmental Services. The Council also work with, and have support from, our partners in developing parks. These partners include; the Police, the Community Safety Partnership, the Localities Team, Parish/Town Councils, Area Committees, Schools, youth groups, etc.



To be able to achieve targets and improve the park, management have designated lead officers who will primarily be responsible for delivering specific actions in Section Four. This provides staff at all levels with a clear sense of direction and recognises particular expertise and specialists within the Section.

Management have developed methods of self-assessment (Green Flag Award) and a procedure to measure improvements and effectiveness in the overall management of Walverden Park. This is looked at in more detail in Section Five.

The Council are striving to manage and maintain Pendle's parks to the best possible standards ensuring that money and resources being invested in parks are being used in the most effective way possible, whilst simultaneously being proactive in seeking new ways of securing additional sources of funding to build on existing Council resources.

Ownership of the Park is going to change in the near future and as such the current management and maintenance framework may change to something different and in line with what the Town Council aims/objectives are. We will endeavour to work with the Town Council to ensure that Walverden Park is kept to a good quality standard and any transfer runs as smoothly as possible.

3.3 Aims & Objectives

The aim of this section of the management plan is to outline the Council's main objectives in relation to the development and improvement of Walverden Park. These objectives take in to consideration issues highlighted in Section 3 and provide future direction for management and partners in all aspects of parks services to fulfil our overall vision for the park.

The action plan in Section Four, developed in accordance with the Green Flag Award's eight key criteria and in co-ordination with the Friends Group, will put forward a number of actions with a view to achieving the following objectives:

- Enhance and enrich the general quality of the park
- Ensure the park is safe, accessible and encourages equality of opportunity
- Encourage use of the park by all sections of the community
- Ensure the park is managed in a cost effective and efficient manner
- Create an attractive and welcoming park that promotes a positive image of the local area and Pendle
- Ensure the park is well used, appreciated and instils local people with pride
- Promote the value and raise the profile of the park as a means of improving the Environmental, Recreational, Social and Economic benefits to the local area and population
- Encourage and develop ownership and self-management of certain aspects of the park by the local community
- Promote and preserve the park's local heritage
- Ensure the park is managed to maximise and enhance its biodiversity
- Ensure sustainability in managing and developing the park
- Ensure the park meets the needs and aspirations of the local community, now and in the future
- A park that provides learning opportunities for all ages and abilities
- A park that has a shared vision from all its stakeholders
- A park that promotes health and well-being and increases the quality of life of the local community.

4.0 How will we get there?

4.1 Action Plan

The following section relates to the action plan and how the Council will address and respond to the weaknesses/gaps identified, issues raised and challenges facing the park in accordance with the eight key criteria as set out by the Keep Britain Tidy under the Green Flag Award.

The action plan is split in to two. The first action plan concentrates purely on the next 12 months and provides more detailed actions which management are seeking to deliver in the short term. These actions contain milestones and provide timescales for each milestone. This is to ensure that actions are progressed and hopefully completed within the prescribed deadline.

The main action plan is a continuation of the previous year's action plan and incorporates a mixture of short, medium, continuous and long term actions. Although the actions contained within this document do not have milestones and are not as detailed as the 12 month action plan it does not mean that they are less of a priority and will not be progressed in the short term. The 12 month plan identifies both priority actions and also actions that may be easily achievable due to them having no resource implications, etc.

For both action plans, the tables identify whether actions are of a high, medium or low priority, resource implications, who is responsible for overseeing the action and partners involved.

- Short term actions = 1-2 years
- Medium term actions = 2-5 years
- Long term actions = 5-10 years
- Continuous actions = throughout the 10 year life span

From October this document, specifically its action plan, will be reviewed. During the period of October to January, a process of review will ensue which will include the gathering of information from various sources. Information will be derived from:

- Green Flag Award feedback (Mystery Shop and Formal Judging)
- Local Community Group feedback
- Council Officers

The results of these exercises and the review of the action plans will then determine the points of action for the following year taking in to account staff levels, budgetary constraints and other commitments.

The monitoring and review process for the Management Plan is discussed in more detail in Section Five.

Action Number: 1/4	Project Title:	Interpretation boards				
Project Description:	Transfer existing interpretation board at Brunswick Street entrance to Park Avenue entrance and replace with new one at Brunswick Street (near patio area).					
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Senior Park Keeper, Green Spaces Manager	Friends of Walverden Park.	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
31/07/2020			1	31/07/2020	Transfer board from Brunswick St to Park Ave entrance and install new at Brunswick St	
Existing budgets, staff time.						
Project Outcomes: Improved interpretation and community involvement.						
Green Flag Criteria:	A welcoming place, community involvement, marketing.					
Additional Information:	There is a need for an interpretation board at the Park Avenue entrance as this is a busy entrance point to the Park.					

Action Number: 2/4	Project Title:	Hedgerows				
Project Description:	Continue to plant more hedgerows to Day Street and Fern Bank elevations.					
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones			
LOW	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park.	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
31/03/2021			1	31/03/2021	Source and plant hedgerow to Day Street & Fern Bank Elevations	
Existing budgets, external funding						
Project Outcomes: Improved biodiversity, more defined natural park boundary.						
Green Flag Criteria:	Clean & well maintained, conservation and heritage.					
Additional Information:	Issues with litter have long been a problem in Walverden Park. The majority of the litter blows in off the surrounding streets. The continuation of the planting of the hedge will re-instate and re-affirm the park boundary and also prevent litter from entering the park.					

Action Number: 3/4	Project Title:	Tree Work				
Project Description:	Carry out red (high risk) and amber (medium risk) tree work in the Park as a result of QTRA done in 2019.					
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones			
HIGH	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper/Tree Officer, Senior Parks Officer	Friends of Walverden Park.	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date: 31/12/2020			1	31/03/2020	Red flagged trees actioned.	
			2	31/12/2020	Amber flagged trees actioned/monitored.	
External funding.						
Project Outcomes: Improved health & safety in park.						
Green Flag Criteria:	A welcoming place, clean and well maintained, healthy, safe and secure.					
Additional Information:	There are a number of red and amber flagged trees that need dealing with during 2020.					

Action Number: 4/4	Project Title:	Story-telling and Wild Garden area improvements.					
Project Description:	Carry out improvements to the existing story-telling area and creation of wild garden area including drainage improvements, additional planting, re-barking paths, new interpretation board, etc.						
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones				
HIGH	Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date	
Project Completion Date: 31/12/2020			1	31/12/2020	Above works completed		
Existing budgets							
Project Outcomes: Improvements to the story-telling area and creation of wild garden area, more interpretation and improved drainage.							
Green Flag Criteria:	Conservation and heritage, sustainability, healthy, safe and secure, a welcoming place.						
Additional Information:	This area has been identified as a work in progress and we are hopeful that after the above works have been completed it will look more appealing to park users and as such be used more regularly by schools, etc.						

Action	Green Flag Criteria	Priority	Time Scale	Finances/Resources	Key Officer(s)	Partners
Work in partnership with appropriate agencies to combat youth nuisance e.g. Community Safety Team, local police etc.	Healthy, Safe & Secure.	Medium	Continuous	Staff time	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Police, ASB Co-ordinator
Carry out wildlife survey.	Conservation & Heritage	Medium	Short	Existing budgets	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park, Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Encourage Friends Group to explore a wider variety of funding streams in order to achieve the aims of the management plan.	Community Involvement	Medium	Short	External funding	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park
Forge closer links with Walverden Primary School and encourage their use of the park.	Community Involvement	Medium	Medium	Staff time	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park

5.0 How will we know when we get there?

5.1 Monitoring & Review Plan

The Green Spaces Manager will ultimately be responsible for monitoring the progress of the Management Plan and its subsequent action plan. Monitoring performance of the annual management and maintenance programmes will be undertaken in-house by relevant Officers. Officers will track progress and check that all components of the park are being managed and maintained as intended.

Green Flag Award progress will also be discussed at the Friends Group's meetings and at the internal working group meetings. All these meetings are aimed at promoting continued involvement and ownership from key users and to ensure the proposed actions are being delivered in line with the timescales outlined in the action plan.

The desired cycle is to PLAN – OPERATE – MONITOR – REVIEW – PLAN.

From October, this document, specifically its action plan, will be reviewed. During the period of October to January, a process of review will ensue which will include the gathering of information from various sources. Information will be derived from:

- Green Flag Award feedback (desk & field assessments)
- Local Community Group feedback (Friends Group)
- Performance Management & Quality tools (Green Flag Award)
- Council Officers (Departmental Management Team Meeting feedback)

The information gathered will be collated to produce an annual report that will allow us to analyse the work we have carried out over the last twelve months and what we need to do to improve in the forthcoming year.

The results of this exercise and the review of the action plan will then determine the points of action for the following year taking in to account staff levels, budgetary constraints and other commitments.

5.2 Measuring Performance & Quality

To measure how well we are performing and provide the public with evidence that management are maintaining levels of quality and the park is developing and improving on a continual basis, the following performance management tools will be used.

5.2.1 Green Flag Award Status

The Green Flag Award standard recognises the quality of individual sites and is generally recognised as the national standard for Parks and Green Spaces. To gain a Green Flag Award involves satisfying a rigorous and wide variety of criteria and Councils are strongly recommended to manage parks in accordance with the

standard.

The securing of a Green Flag Award for Walverden Park and the subsequent maintenance of Green Flag status is used as an annual independent external review mechanism for measuring performance management and the general quality of the park. As part of the annual Green Flag assessment undertaken by the Keep Britain Tidy, independent judges carry out desk and field research which involves scrutiny of the park's Management Plan and assessment of the park, against a set list of eight criteria, to obtain a combined final score.

Through successfully achieving a score sufficient enough to gain and then sustain Green Flag status for Walverden Park in the future, we are ensuring that sound management and maintenance practices are evident and continuous improvement is promoted in all aspects of the park. We also utilise the scoring system to establish a baseline figure for the park against which future progress can be measured annually.

5.2.2 Performance Indicators

We do not have any park specific local performance indicators at the present time. Performance indicators (PI's) and service statistics tend to be a broad brush set of indicators that measure general aspects of service delivery as opposed to indicators specifically centred around individual parks (e.g. playgrounds).

We will continue to look at the development of relevant and worthwhile PI's for all our parks in the future.

Appendix 1 - Current Stakeholders

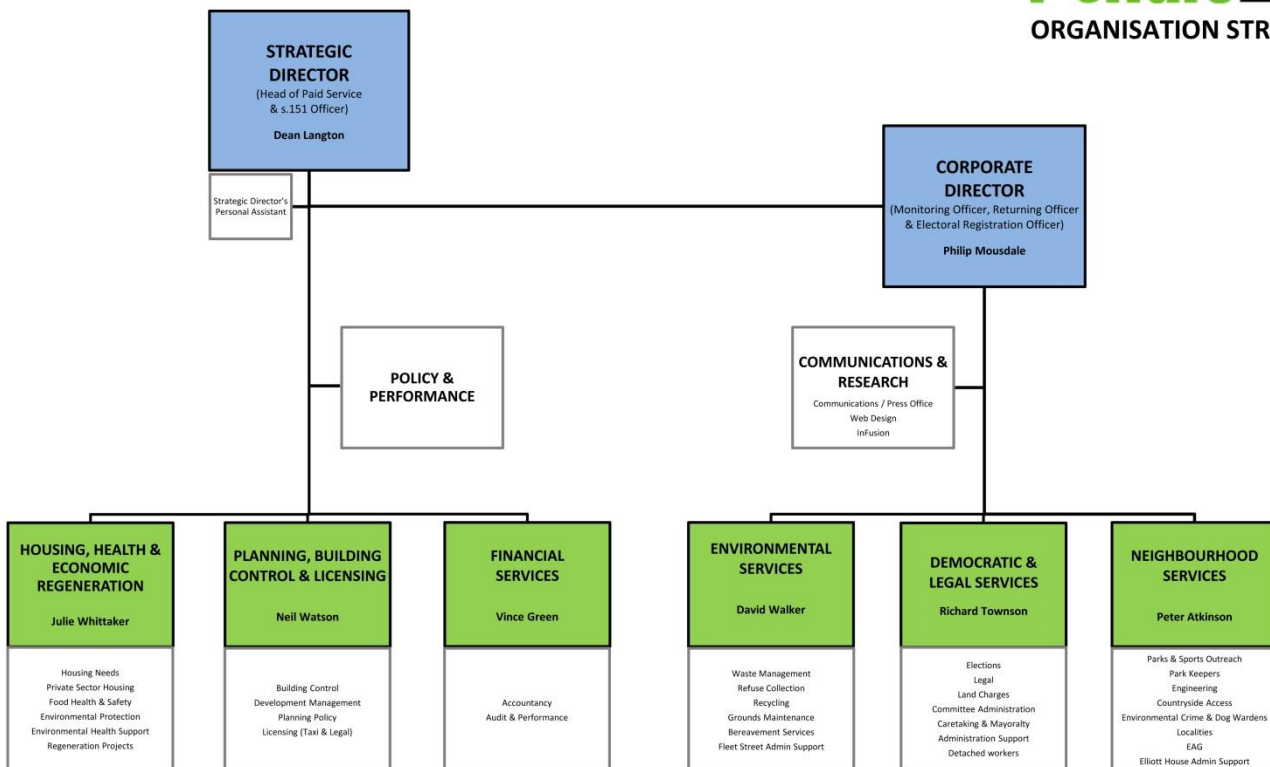
The Friends of Walverden Park

Chair: Keith Chadwick

Pendle Parks Forum

Chair: Kieron Roberts

Appendix 2 - Organisation Chart



Appendix 3 - Press Releases

[Nelson 'Green Flag Park' a no go area - Nelson Leader, Friday 18th September 2015.](#)

[Nelson Park 'No Go' Area: Friend group hit back - Nelson Leader, Friday 25th September 2015.](#)

[Tree felling in best interest of the park - Nelson Leader, Friday 30th January 2015.](#)

[Pendle scoops Green Flag park awards - Nelson Leader, Monday 28th July 2014.](#)

[Eight Pendle Parks take Green Flag honours - Nelson Leader, Wednesday 29th July 2015.](#)

[Diseased and ageing trees to be felled at park - Lancashire Telegraph, 30th January 2015.](#)

[Story place in park - Lancashire Telegraph, Tuesday 1st April 2014.](#)

Appendix 4 - Recent Developments

Action Number: 4/13	Project Title:	Focal Entrance point for Brunswick Street				
Project Description:	Work with Friends Group to design and develop a focal entrance point at the Brunswick Street entrance.					
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones			
MEDIUM	Green Space Development Officer, Senior Park Keeper	Friends of Walverden Park	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date: 31/03/2014						
Finances: Existing budget, external funding						
Project Outcomes: To provide a focal entrance point to the park with a communal aspect						
Green Flag Criteria:	A welcoming place.					
Additional Information:	Project completed.					

