

Victoria Park

Management Plan

January 2020 Update

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Victoria Park Management Plan

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Victoria Park Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Summary

The Council have 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 will be 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 Victoria 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 will be reviewed and updated on a bi-annual basis. However, it should not be seen as the finished article and is intended to be a live, working document that management need to be flexible with, and as such will be 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 Victoria 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 was set up to 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 Victoria Park

Victoria Park Pavilion Community Interest Company (CIC)

Landscape Maintenance Officers & Supervisors (PBC Environmental Services)

Environmental Action Group (EAG)

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.

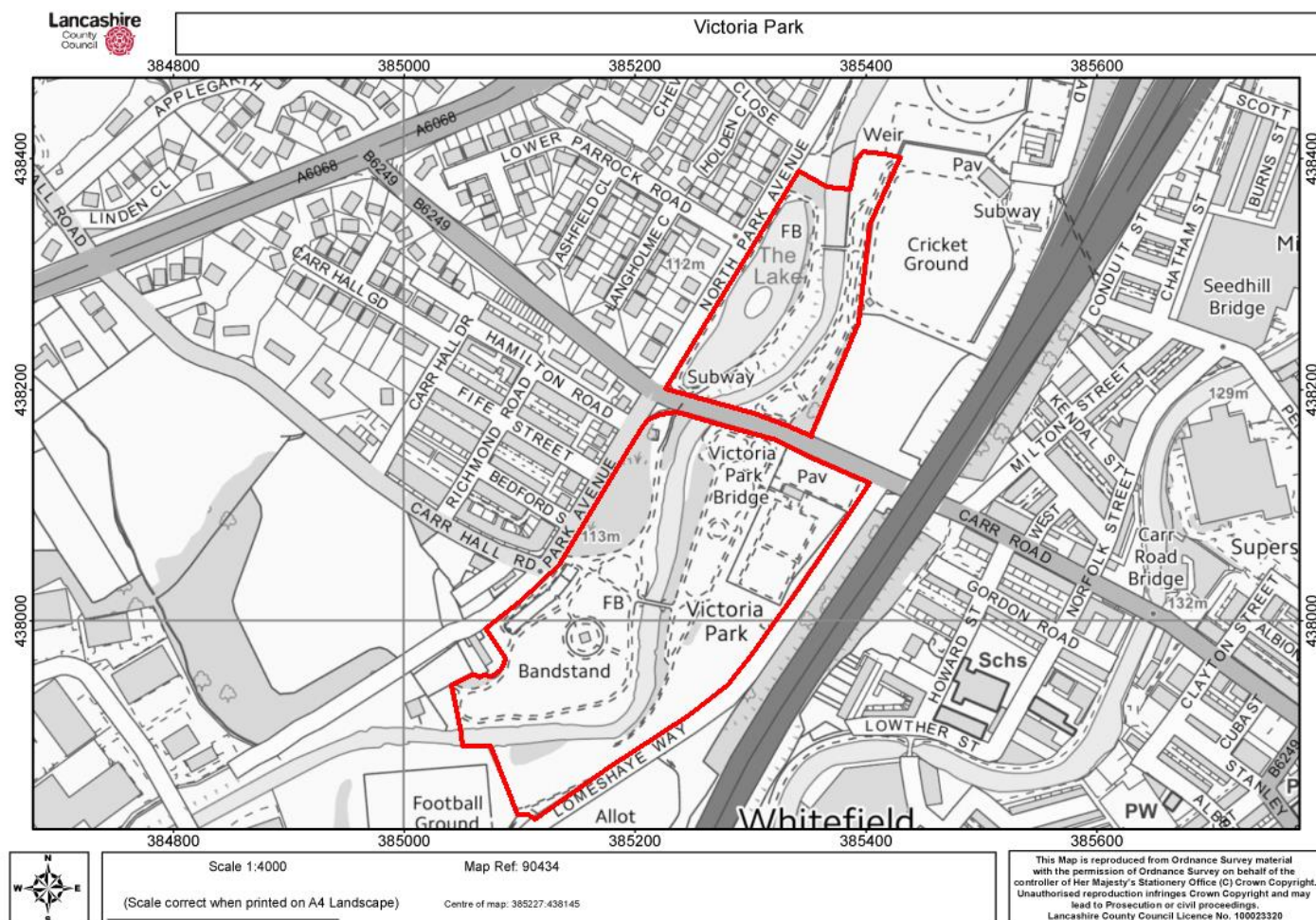
2.0 Where are we now?

The aim of this section of the Management Plan is to give a brief introduction to Victoria Park, its facilities, existing management of the park and also the strategies, corporate policies, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) and 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.



2.1.2 OS grid reference & area size

Grid Reference: SD 8535 3812

Area Size: Approximately 11 Hectares

2.1.3 General Description

Victoria Park is recognised by Pendle Borough Council (PBC) as a District Park. Situated off Carr Road, the park represents an important open space used by local people for quiet recreation and leisure activities. The park does not feature in the National Register of Parks and Gardens.

2.1.4 Current uses

Victoria Park is primarily used by local people for quiet recreational pursuits such as walking, exercising dogs and informal games.

2.1.5 Facilities & features

The facilities and features for Victoria Park are as follows;

- Play area
- Sunken Garden
- Bandstand
- Play Area
- MUGA
- Fitness Equipment
- Lake
- Pavilion Café (which is the base for the Victoria Park Pavilion CIC) including car park
- Health Walk Routes
- Sculpture Trail (Vicky Witch Trail)
- Boggart Wood including storytelling area
- Two bridges crossing Pendle Water
- Subway
- Paths suitable for people with low mobility
- Two Shelters
- On site interpretation

2.1.6 Access

Local users

Victoria Park is located approximately 650 metres North West of Nelson Town Centre. The site can be accessed off the car park located on Carr Road (OS grid reference SD 8535 3812). The Park can also be accessed from the other entrances listed below;

- Carr Road Entrance (War Memorial Side) – SD 8532 3815
- Lomeshaye Way Entrance (Footpath 212) – SD 8523 3791
- Lomeshaye Way Entrance (Footpath 211) – SD 8515 3786
- Park Avenue South Entrance (Adjacent to Corn mill) – SD 8508 3800
- Park Avenue South Entrance (Near Carr Hall Road) – SD 8513 3805
- Park Avenue North Entrance (South-East Lake) – SD 8523 3822
- Park Avenue North Entrance (North-East Lake) – SD 8533 4383
- Footpath 209 Entrance (Adjacent to the Cricket Ground) – SD 8542 3839
- Carr Road Entrance (Lake Side) – SD 8533 3816

Driving directions from the M65

Come off the M65 at Junction 13. At the roundabout, take the first exit on to the A6068, Barrowford Road. Follow this road for approximately 600 metres crossing the roundabout. Turn right at the first

junction on to the B6249 Carr Road. Follow this road for approximately 430 metres. Turn right into Victoria Park Car Park.

Postcode for GPS use

BB9 6DG

2.2 Brief History

Victoria Park dates back to a time when it was a Corn Mill during the 18th century. The pond, sunken garden and sump hole were part of the diverted river system that fed the mill on the site.



The corn mill was once the main attraction of the park, and can still be seen on the Southwest boundary of the park.

The first 14 acres of the park were purchased in 1875, with a further 20 acres being bought from Thomas Edward Every Clayton in 1886.

The bandstand was erected at its current site at around the turn of the century, and 1903 saw the introduction of the bowling greens.

There have been several monuments which have been placed in Victoria Park and then later moved, the most recent being a Boy Scouts Statue which has been relocated to Nelson Town Centre and was originally erected to commemorate the young men of the boy scouts movement who died in the first world war.

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 good quality with 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 all green space sites. All other maintenance tasks are the responsibility of the Landscape Maintenance team.

Grass Cut Medium	13286	m ²	8
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Grass Cut Fine Turf	29758	m ²	12
Edge Maintenance (Hard) – Weed kill	3895	m ²	2
Edge Maintenance (Soft) - Edging	4603	m ²	1
Edge Maintenance (Soft) - Shear	4603	m ²	2
Edge Maintenance (Hard) - Strim	3895	m ²	1
Hedge Formal Cut	283	Linear Metres	2
Shrub Bed Maintenance – Dig/Mulch Area	3091	m ²	1
Shrub Bed Maintenance – Hoe & Weed	3091	m ²	6
Shrub Bed Maintenance – Prune	3091	m ²	1
Herbaceous Bed Maintenance – Dig & Manure	257	m ²	1
Herbaceous Bed Maintenance – Prune	257	m ²	1
Herbaceous Bed Maintenance – Hoe & Weed	257	m ²	6
Herbaceous Bed Maintenance – Cut Back Area	257	m ²	1
Sweep path & steps	11928	m ²	6
Weed kill hardstanding	3779	m ²	1
Sweep playground surface	199	m ²	26
Inspect playground	1	No.	52
Sweep playground surface (Ball Court)	650	m ²	26
Inspect playground (Ball Court)	1	No.	52

Empty litter bins	16	No	104
Leaf clearance	15000	m ²	1
Clean gullies	70	No.	1
Litter pick site	1	No	52
Former bowling green area – grass cut medium	1107	m ²	8
Former bowling green area – Hedge Cut Sides & Top	50	Linear Metres	1

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 Victoria Park.

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

Pendle Borough 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.

Victoria 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 Victoria 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 Council clients.	Implement the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) in Pendle's parks and recreation facilities.

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 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 look to deliver in relation to reducing carbon emissions, energy usage and adaptation.

Wildlife Surveys

A wildlife survey of Victoria 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 (QTRA) and Surveys

As part of a risk management process a decision was taken by the Risk Management Working Group to carry out a QTRA across all our parks in Pendle with the exception of Walverden Park which has a more detailed survey and management plan instigated by their Friends Group.

QTRA's were carried out by a local independent specialist in 2019. The surveys for Victoria Park revealed that there were no red ratings (high risk) but there were a number of trees recognised as amber and some trees recognised as yellow. The amber trees will need monitoring over the next year by the Tree Officer. No immediate work is necessary at the current time.

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 Victoria 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 Victoria 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

The Council holds a [Premises Licence](#) that allows us to provide activities in Victoria Park. The Council are licensed, through the Premises Licence, to provide activities such as:

- A performance of a play
- An exhibition of a film
- A performance of live music

The Licence authorises the carrying out of these activities between the hours of 10.00am and 11.00pm.

The Council also pays an annual fee to the Performing Rights Society for a music licence in the Park.

Victoria Park Pavilion CIC has a long term lease (25 years) for the pavilion building. This was signed in September 2014.

A section of the park is also leased for the purpose of running a radio controlled car racing facility.

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.

- Events held in conjunction with the Friends of Victoria Park and the Beacon Centre
- Planting of a Jubilee Woodland adjacent to the football ground. Trees obtained from the Woodland Trust by the Friends of Victoria Park.
- Installation of Interpretation board adjacent to lake.
- Installation of interpretation board at the woodland.
- Installation of health walks trails in partnership with Walk 4 Miles, Pendle Leisure Trust.
- Redecoration of Victorian Bridge.
- Reconditioning of footpath 212 entrance.
- Installation of barrier at Lomeshaye Way entrance.
- Replanting of the Sunken Garden with herbaceous planting scheme.
- Installation of cycle racks in front of the Café Pavilion.
- Refurbishment of war memorial.
- Installation of new play area.
- Installation of MUGA.
- Installation of fitness equipment.
- Landscaping of former toilet block site.
- Trees added to Jubilee Wood.
- Social Enterprise partnership establishment in pavilion.
- Improvements to railings around car park.
- Installation of the Vicky Witch Trail.
- Installation of new flower bed to car park.
- Mural painting of the subway.
- Refurbishment of pavilion.
- Planting of fruit trees to surrounds of former bowling green.
- Vicky Witch themed events.
- Removal of gates to bandstand area.
- Tree Risk Management Appraisal.
- Art based events - Colne Youth Theatre, Pendle Youth Orchestra, and Super Slow Way Dance Tour.
- Installation of extra fencing to prevent dogs getting in to the play area.
- Cycle path lines throughout Park re-marked/lined.
- Lake Management Survey and Report completed.
- Demolition of concrete shelter close to the bridge and replacement with new shelter that incorporates access for wheelchair users. The old shelter was an eyesore and was attracting anti-social behaviour. The new shelter is more open and the sight lines are better. Consultation was undertaken to ascertain what park users preferred when replacing the old shelter.
- Supported the Pavilion CIC in upgrading the building including new roller shutters, intruder alarm and car park improvements.
- Recycling bins have been moved from the car park area to another site.
- Use of bandstand for a number of outdoor events during the summer, e.g. UK Music Day, Church Events, Dementia Walk, Rallies, etc.
- Installation of two new feature benches in the storytelling area of the Vicky Witch Trail. Also, installation of additional wooden boggart sculptures in Boggart Wood.
- Joint Working with Pendle Leisure Trust and Lighthouse Tai –Chi to put on a number of free Tai Chi sessions in the Park. These were regularly attended by 40-50 people per

session. We have committed to supporting this again in 2018.

- Tree works including
 - Removal of Lime tree at car park entrance due to disease
 - Removal of Ash tree on the lake side due to it being in a dangerous condition (showing signs of ash dieback)
 - Removal of Sycamore tree adjacent to highway on lakeside due to it being in a dangerous condition
 - Remedial prune of Hornbeam tree adjacent to highway on the lakeside due to some dieback in the crown. Monitoring to see if it survives/improves.

Developments during the last review period include:

- Green Flag Flagpole has been serviced and repaired.
- Undertaken QTRA for Walverden Park.
- Implemented the Parks PSPO's.
- Installation of larger capacity litter bins in car park area to provide a solution to overflowing bins at busy periods during summer and the school holidays.
- Re-establishment of the Friends of Victoria Park (FOVP) group.
- Lighthouse Tai-Chi provided four free Tai Chi sessions in the Park during August 2019. These were regularly attended by 90 people per session on average. We have committed to supporting this again in 2020.
- Use of the Park by Pendle Youth Orchestra and Stage Door Youth Theatre during the summer months for practice sessions and performances.
- Supported and contributed to developments the Pavilion CIC has pursued during 2019 including the re-development of the garden area at the back of the pavilion and improvements to the external façade of the front of the building.
- Replenished the paths with bark chipping in Boggart Wood as part of two volunteer working days in co-ordination with the FOVP.
- The FOVP planted and tended to the four summer flower beds during 2019. The summer bedding had been cut from the Grounds Maintenance schedule as a result of budget reductions – see 'Transfer of services to Town/Parish Councils' section for more information.

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/Pavilion CIC/Other Organisations in working up action plans that are more realistic and less ambitious than previous.

We also continue to put the onus on Friends Groups/Pavilion CIC 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 was the decision by Senior Management and Councillors to look at the transfer of its parks to Town/Parish Councils between 2017 and 2021.

Three Pendle Parks transferred to their respective Town/Parish Council 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 Victoria Park, Nelson Town Council only agreed to pay 44% of the total cost in 2019/20 for their half of the Park with a further 25% contribution from Pendle Council. Barrowford Parish Council only contributed £7,000 (which equated to 26.83%) for their half with a further 25% contribution from Pendle Council. As such, the Grounds Maintenance (GM) schedule was reduced by 48.7% during the current financial year. This meant that £20,556.39 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
- Grass high maintenance – Cut 10-20 reduce frequency from 16 to 12
- Edge maintenance (Hard) – Shear Length reduce frequency from 6 to 2
- Hedge Formal – Cut sides and top reduce frequency from 2 to 0
- Herbaceous bed maintenance – Dig and manure reduce frequency from 1 to 0

- Herbaceous bed maintenance – Prune reduce frequency from 1 to 0
- Herbaceous bed maintenance – Hoe and weed reduce frequency from 6 to 0
- Herbaceous bed maintenance – Cut back reduce frequency from 1 to 0
- Hard Surface - Cleanse Gullies reduce frequency from 2 to 1
- Litter picking (general) reduce frequency from 156 to 52
- Bin emptying reduce frequency from 156 to 104
- Bowling Green Surface maintenance – Scarification reduce frequency from 6 to 3
- Bowling Green Surface maintenance – Aerate Slit tine reduce frequency from 6 to 0
- Bowling Green Clean Gully reduce frequency from 12 to 6
- Bowling Green Surface maintenance – Apply summer fertiliser to greens reduce frequency from 1 to 0
- Bowling Green Surface maintenance – Apply winter fertiliser to greens reduce frequency from 1 to 0

We have not had confirmation of what Nelson Town Council and Barrowford Parish Council are going to 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 will only be able to 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 Victoria Park. The Council recognise the importance of Victoria 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 Victoria 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 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 Victoria 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/Pavilion CIC, 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 Victoria 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

Victoria Park is well used by people from the locality of the park but also attracts people from outside the area.

Victoria Park can be approached by a variety of transport methods. Its proximity to the motorway also makes it ideal for people from outside the environs of the borough. However, there are currently no directional signs on the approach to the park. This is something that could be looked at in the short term.

A programme of installing brown tourism signage should be investigated at the earliest opportunity. This could include signs directing people from Nelson Town Centre, the A6068, the M65 and the roundabouts at junction 13.

A description on how to get to the park by car and public transport can be found in section 2.1.6 of this document.

The car park is of a good size and is well maintained. We have in recent years improved the look of the car park through the installation of a central bed, the creation of disabled parking bays, installation of some cycle racks, provision of additional litter bins and the refurbishment/painting of the perimeter railings.

Entrances

There are nine entrances to the park of which most are of a reasonable standard. However, improvements can still be made to make the park more attractive to visitors. As each entrance is individual in its appearance issues should be dealt with on an individual basis as detailed below:

Carr Road Entrance (War Memorial Side)

This is a wide entrance giving a good sight line in to the park. This could be greatly improved with signage and a review of the planting next to the gate to further improve the sight lines.

Next to the entrance is a sign board where the Leisure Trust displays publicity material for its venues. This is made of plywood attached to the fencing with posters pasted on to it. This looks untidy and detracts from the overall feel of the park. A few yards from this entrance is an interpretation board.

- Review planting scheme adjacent to this entrance to improve sight lines in to the park. Any works carried out should not detract from the overall feel of the park.
- Work in conjunction with Pendle Leisure Trust to remove publicity board and replace with a display system that is of good quality.

Carr Road Entrance (Lake Side)

This entrance is very similar to the one directly across the road from it. Although, this has a more 'closed in' feel to it due to the shrub planting on either side.

This entrance has no interpretation board or welcome sign.

There is a cycle route sign at this point and the line marking for the cycle route has recently been re-marked.

- Review planting scheme adjacent to this entrance to improve sight lines in to the park.
- Affix 'Welcome to Victoria Park' sign on railing at the side of the entrance point.

Lomeshaye Way Entrance (Footpath 212)

Although this is not an official entrance to the park it could be used to access it. The steps and path are of poor quality and there is no interpretation/signage installed at this point. This footpath connects with footpath 211.

- Work in conjunction with the Public Rights of Way Officer to improve this entrance to the park.
- Refurbish steps.
- Install 'Welcome to Victoria Park' sign.

Lomeshaye Way Entrance (Footpath 211)

This footpath is of good quality as it forms part of the cycle route. Again there is no definition of where the park begins or ends. This entrance also has no interpretation so additional signage is needed.

Park Avenue South Entrance (Adjacent to Corn mill)

This is a small entrance that is very rarely used. It is quite narrow. Running adjacent to this entrance is a hedge that is of extremely poor quality and would benefit from improving. No interpretation installed at this entrance.

Park Avenue South Entrance (Near Carr Hall Road)

This entrance is one of the busiest as it serves all the houses in the Carr Hall Road area of the park. It is a wide entrance with a removable bollard and low wall at either side offering extremely good sight lines in to the park. There is no interpretation installed at this entrance.

There is also evidence that wrought-iron fencing was in place.

- Install interpretation/welcome board

Park Avenue North Entrance (South-East Lake)

This is a wide open entrance to the park. It also tends to be quite popular as visitors are able to park on the road side outside the gate. This entrance consists of quite a steep short path down to the lake side making it unsafe for people in wheelchairs and unsuitable for people with low mobility. The fencing around this area of the park appears to be in reasonable condition although it would benefit from renovation. There is an interpretation board installed at this entrance.

Park Avenue North Entrance (North-East Lake)

This entrance is very similar to the South-East Lake Entrance although this appears to be used very little. This provides a much more appropriate entrance to this area of the park for people in wheel chairs or with low mobility as it is level. There is no interpretation installed at this point. A welcome sign needs to be affixed to the railings at the side of the entrance.

Footpath 209 Entrance (Adjacent to the Cricket Ground)

This entrance forms part of the cycle route and the surface is of reasonable quality. It consists of a narrow gate way into the park and some overgrown vegetation. There is no interpretation installed at this point.

This has been identified as a short term tidy up project whereby an interpretation board will be installed, the vegetation cut back and an attempt made to make the entrance more attractive to people accessing the park from this route.

Lighting

There is lighting currently installed on the car park and additional lighting installed on the external façade of the Pavilion Cafe.

Internal Signage

There are no directional signs showing people directions to facilities.

At the Carr Road (War Memorial) entrance there is an interpretation board that is in a poor state and needs replacing. Incorporated in to the board is a lockable display panel where the Friends Group/Pavilion CIC and parks staff display information. There is also a board depicting the route of the health walks affixed to the railings.

In addition to this there is an interpretation board installed by the Park Avenue North (South-East Lake). This depicts wildlife information and gives advice on feeding ducks.

A fourth board is installed at the bandstand and depicts the history of this feature.

The installation of additional interpretation boards and/or welcome signs should be pursued in the short-medium term. These elements of park furniture should be of good quality design and not detract from the overall feel of the park.

Footpath Surfaces

Victoria Park's footpaths are of reasonable quality although drainage is a problem in some locations, particularly close to the lake. The footpaths are all tarmac surfaced and are generally flat. Therefore the park is highly suited to people with low mobility or in a wheelchair.



A programme of drainage works associated with the affected paths should be produced and acted upon on a priority basis when funds allow.

Disabled Users

The park has appropriate facilities in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This includes surfaces suitable for wheelchairs.

Subway

The subway consists of a narrow path through a rockery that is shaded by standard trees. This then becomes a dark narrow tunnel where the path meets Carr Road. The roof and side walls of the subway are painted with a mural based around the Vicky Witch Trail characters. This area could be seen as a hot spot for anti-social behaviour and is not very welcoming. The addition of low level lighting would greatly improve this situation and as such should be looked in to.

Shelters

The park currently has two shelters. One of these is of concrete construction and is aesthetically unpleasant to look at. Due to its design, it can create hiding spots leading to anti-social behaviour (which has been experienced in this part of the park). It is of 1970's design and detracts from the overall feel of the park. We may look at demolishing this and replacing with something new, more contemporary and which would be designed in a way that would manage out any anti-social behaviour issues in the future but this would be dependent upon securing external funding.

We demolished the other concrete shelter by the contemporary bridge in 2018 and replaced it with a more modern shelter that has seating and room for a wheelchair to access. The shelter chosen was a result of consultation undertaken with park users who frequent the pavilion café. They felt that some kind of shelter was needed but wanted it to be more modern and accessible. We feel this has been achieved and we hope to replicate this for the other 1970's shelter in the future.

As we couldn't afford to replace both shelters, we spruce up the concrete shelter on an annual basis. It was deduced from the consultation we did in late 2017 that park users do use this shelter and that they would like to see it stay until a new one can be afforded. As such, we have decided not to demolish it yet and wait until we have the requisite money to be able to replace it fully.

Pavilion

The pavilion was built in the early 1980's. The building was originally used as a café for the park and a centre for the bowling club. The bowling club folded in the early 2000's and eventually the pavilion closed and began to deteriorate. In 2014 the Council were approached by two former employees that wished to open the pavilion as a social enterprise café. The Pavilion Community Interest Company (CIC) secured funding to renovate the pavilion and bring it back in to use. The re-opening of the pavilion means that there are public toilets in the park when the Café is open.

The Pavilion CIC has gone from strength to strength and has been a real catalyst for the improvement of this area of the Park. The pavilion and play area close by are a thriving area throughout most of the year. As such, we try and support any initiatives the CIC may have over the year and are always willing to help them if it means attracting new people to the Park.

A defibrillator is affixed to the building facing the car park. This is encased by a cabinet that needs a code to access it. The defibrillator is checked on a weekly basis.

Design & Layout

The design and layout of Victoria Park is pretty much the same as it was at the time of its initial construction.

Up to the 1980's the park had a recreation ground attached to it that increased the parks size. However, this land was taken during a compulsory purchase agreement for the construction of the M65. In order to compensate for the loss of the recreation ground the car park, bowling greens and pavilion were built and brought in to the park proper.

3.2.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

Health and well-being

Victoria Park contributes to the health and well-being of local residents and visitors alike. Aspects include;

- The park is used as a through route by locals to Nelson Town Centre.
- The park is extensively used for dog walking.
- It is possible to walk a circular route around the park taking in all four corners.
- A cycle route runs through the park.
- The grassed areas surrounding the bandstand are extensively used for informal sports such as football and cricket.
- There is plenty of seating offering views across the park and down to Pendle Water helping to combat the stresses of day to day life.
- There is a play area for children and a small ball court with fitness equipment for teenagers.
- The park has three self-guided 'health' walks.
- The park has a 'Vicky Witch' sculpture trail aimed at families. The trail encourages families to get out in to the park and be more active and creative.

However, this could be further improved by pursuing the following works below:

- **Cycling** – Encourage people to cycle to the park by promoting the cycle path and adjacent routes and encouraging parks staff to use bikes as part of their routine work.
- **Walks** – Promote the park as an area for walking and quiet relaxation. Explore the possibility of creating a circular walk linking up with Barrowford, Lomeshaye Nature Reserve, etc.

Smoke Free Playground Initiative

The Council secured funding from the Health Inequalities budget to provide signage in all play facilities managed and maintained by the Council across Pendle i.e. Play Areas, Multi Use Games Area's and Skate Parks.



The signs encourage users to regard the facilities as smoke free areas and also provide smokers with details of how to access support to stop smoking where appropriate. The Council are working to protect children and young people from the effects of second hand smoke and to denormalise smoking, particularly around children.

The initiative was developed in partnership with NHS East Lancashire and Smoke Free Families.

Equipment & facilities

Originally there were toilets in Victoria Park but as part of a review by the Council, these were removed. Toilets are available in the Pavilion only when the cafe is open.

Regular inspections of the park are carried out by the Park Keeper and Landscape Maintenance staff. Any faults, damage or instances of vandalism are reported to the relevant council officer to be actioned as soon as possible.

Safety & Security

Pendle Borough Council takes Health and Safety of all those affected by its operations very seriously. The Senior Park Keeper carries out a structured patrol on a regular basis and reports instances of damage, vandalism and instances of anti-social behaviour to relevant Council Officers. In addition to this, litter operatives, the playground inspector and landscape maintenance staff also report instances they may come across. 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 we aim to repair the defect in 48 hours of assessment. For urgent defects, we aim to repair defects within 24 hours.



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

Consideration has also been given to carrying out specific risk assessments on the lake and river areas of the park. These water features are included in the 'open water on Council land' risk assessment.

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 to study.

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.

All staff are uniformed and vehicles are sign-written.

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

Control of dogs

There are dog waste bins located around the park. These are emptied on a regular basis by the Council's Environmental Services. Litter bins can also take dog waste (these are usually stickered informing people that both dog and normal waste can be deposited).

The Council's Environmental Crime Team (ECT) was established in 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.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Park does not attract too much anti-social behaviour but if something does occur there are processes in place to deal with problems.

If anti-social behaviour is witnessed by Pendle Council staff or we are informed of ASB by the public, Friends Group/Pavilion CIC, 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.

3.2.3 Well Maintained & Clean

Litter & waste management

As with all parks and open spaces, litter presents a large problem. However, the Council are committed to dealing with the issue quickly and effectively.

Victoria Park has an appropriate number of litter bins throughout the park. These are emptied on a regular basis by Environmental Services. The officer carrying out this role also clears dropped litter from the site and reports instances of damage, vandalism and instances of anti-social behaviour that may occur.

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 did 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. We have tried to alleviate this in and around the car park area by increasing the capacity of bins and adding more bins.



Any Green Waste generated by landscape maintenance operations is removed from site and taken to the nearby Depot off Park Avenue where it is composted down and used on beds and borders in the boroughs' parks.

Large waste from tree work is also chipped on site and removed to the nearby 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.

Landscape Maintenance

The Council recognises 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 programme.

The contract includes all landscape maintenance tasks, playground maintenance and sports facility management. Details of the maintenance schedule for Victoria Park can be found in section 2.3 of this document.

Building and infrastructure management & maintenance

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/Pavilion CIC 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.

Liberata's Property Services organise repair works on the pavilion building in the Park in co-ordination with the Green Spaces Manager. Other health & safety related checks and repairs, such as weekly Legionella testing, defibrillator checks, monthly meter readings, etc. are carried out by the Council's Hall & Sports Pavilion Keeper.

Equipment maintenance

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.

All playground equipment and those items that the public have access to are inspected as per the landscape maintenance work programme.

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. Victoria Park is no different in that it does require 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 use 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 operatives and is disposed of via the municipal waste systems.

All our green waste from Victoria 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.

Any instances of fly tipping and the abandonment of vehicles in parks are reported to, and disposed of, by Environmental 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. Victoria Park building is included in the work we are doing around this.

3.2.5 Conservation & Heritage

Victoria Park is an excellent and valuable corridor for wildlife. There are areas of woodland, open water and grassland. However, improvements can be made to further increase its potential for attracting a greater range of species and improving the biodiversity of the local area. The Council recognise this and seek to improve the site, for wildlife, further still.

Victoria Park was surveyed in 2001 by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. No such survey has been undertaken since 2001, thus the Park needs to be surveyed again in the short term but this may not happen until it has been transferred to Nelson Town Council.

Water bodies

One of the main features of the park is the lake. This is extremely valuable to wildlife with Pochard, Tufted Duck and Goosander all migrant visitors. However, the lake has an extremely high Mallard and Black Headed Gull population, which in addition to the Feral Geese can cause the lake to become eutrophic and decrease its value.

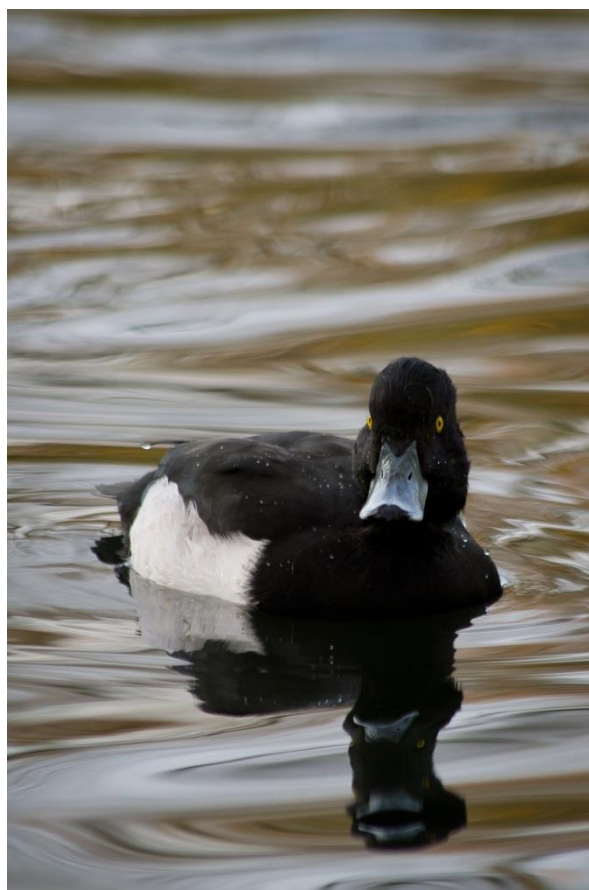
A specialist water management consultant was engaged in 2016 to survey and then formulate a separate management plan for the lake. This document provides us with a starting point to further improve the lake and its wildlife habitat.

Due to a lack of resources, the recommendations outlined in the report have not yet been actioned or pursued further although the Friends Group are keen to pick this project up in 2020.

The removal of the feral geese and limiting the numbers of Mallard and Black-Headed Gull is one proposal that has been mentioned for future consideration. As part of the lake management plan, there are also proposals for carrying out improvement works to the island.

The other main feature of the park is Pendle Water. This river runs the full length of the park effectively dissecting it. This stretch of river is extremely useful for wildlife with Dipper, Kingfisher and Grey Wagtail all being present.

The Council need to engage and work with outside agencies such as the Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and River Ribbles Trust to



improve the river for wildlife, e.g. reviewing the planting scheme along the river banks to create wildlife corridors.

Woodlands & Trees

Victoria Park has a relatively high number of trees. Unfortunately, a lot of these are over mature and coming to the end of their life with very little or no under planting.

The trees in the Park are now managed on a proactive basis.

The decision was taken by the Risk Management Working Group to carry out a Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) across all our parks in Pendle with the exception of Walverden Park.

QTRA's were carried out by a local independent specialist in 2019. The surveys for Victoria Park revealed that there were no red ratings (high risk) but there were a number of trees recognised as amber and some trees recognised as yellow. The amber trees will need monitoring over the next year by the Tree Officer. No immediate work is necessary at the current time.

Towards the end of 2011, the Friends of Victoria Park expressed a wish to plant a woodland to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The group obtained trees from the Woodland Trust and planted them on the land adjacent to Nelson Football Club. In addition to this a number of standard trees have also been planted in recent years to create a woodland that would mature at different rates.

Grasslands

There are currently no wildflower meadows in Victoria Park. Consideration should be given to creating some wildflower areas throughout the park.

Rotting Deadwood

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 particularly in the Boggart Wood area.

Conservation of the Built Environment

There is very little left of Victoria Park's heritage. However, what is left needs protecting and/or developing for future generations.

War Memorial

The current war memorial consists of a stone slab with dates carved in to it.

In reality, the war memorial is a feature of the park that has never been finished and is rather disappointing to look at. In the past photographs came to light that showed a completed memorial on the site and it was believed that these photographs were 're-touched'. During 2012, information was received that the photographs were genuine but due to the expense of construction, a temporary memorial was built out of wood until funds could be found to construct one from appropriate materials. The funds were never found and the temporary structure removed.

Ideally, this should be replaced or developed further possibly with a sculpture that commemorates those people that have fallen in all wars.

3.2.6 Community involvement

The 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. Victoria Park is no exception to this and has an active re-established Friends Group, Pavilion CIC members and other volunteers. The Friends Group and the Pavilion CIC are consulted with, and get involved, for any key developments in the park.



The Friends Group meet on a regular basis and focus on park management issues, undertake small scale tasks and assist with, and organise their own, volunteer working days.

The Friends of Victoria Park are a constituted group with a good membership including local Councillors, local residents, park users, Pavilion CIC members, etc.

The Senior Park Keeper and Green Spaces Manager play a vital role as the points of contact between the Friends of Victoria Park and the Council. They 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 attend 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 Victoria Park would be significantly diminished.

The Friends of Victoria Park and the Pavilion CIC are invaluable assets to the park.

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 parks 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 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 Victoria Park is included.

On-Site Marketing

Victoria Park currently has four interpretation boards. Two boards consist of information regarding the park, its history and a map. A third board was installed to show the routes of the self-guided health walks and the fourth includes information with regard to the wildlife of the lake. The board at the main entrance also contains a lockable window section that will allow for event posters, meeting notifications and parks news. This board is in desperate need of upgrading.

Vicky Witch Trail

In 2014 the Council received some funding from a scheme to promote health and physical activity. It was decided that we would use the money to create an activity based sculpture trail throughout the park.

The mile long trail connects characters based on local legends. These are represented by wood chainsaw carved sculptures throughout the park. Between each sculpture is an activity station with a task for the family to carry out. The activities are based round the themes of creativity, activity and make-believe. The activity boards are designed in such a way that they can be changed with the seasons.

Due to a reduction in resources, we have been unable to develop the trail further over the past couple of years and as such we need to review our position and plan what we can and can't do around the trail in the short-medium term.

Some new sculptures are scheduled to be installed in Spring 2020. We aim to produce a leaflet for the updated trail prior to the summer.

Borough of Pendle Website

Information regarding Victoria Park can be obtained from the Borough of Pendle website www.pendle.gov.uk/parks/victoria

This webpage provides information on the history of Victoria Park, facilities available, wildlife in the park and a site map.

Links from this page go to the Green Flag Award Website, the Friends of Victoria Park, Outdoor Recreation pages, etc.

The Council also have a [Facebook page](#) and a [Twitter feed](#).

In addition, the pavilion café CIC has its own Facebook page and regularly provides posts about things going on in the Park including scenic photos of the landscape, lake, etc.

Press Releases

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 and maintenance plan will form the basis for the future management, maintenance and development of Victoria 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 Environmental Services although day to day management of parks is the responsibility of a team of Senior Officers from within Environmental Services. The Council also work with, and have support from, our partners in developing parks. These partners include; the Police, Parish/Town Councils, Area Committees, Schools, Pendle Leisure Trust, 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 Council.

Management have developed methods of self-assessment (Green Flag Award) and a procedure to measure improvements and effectiveness in the overall management of Victoria 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 Victoria 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 Victoria 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:	Volunteer working days					
Project Description:	Work with the Friends Group to organise at least four volunteer working days throughout 2020/21.						
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones				
High	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Victoria Park Friends Group, Victoria Park Pavilion CIC	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date	
Project Completion Date: 31/03/2021			1	31/03/2021	Completion of four volunteer working days.		
Existing budgets, staff time							
Project Outcomes: Small scale schemes completed; greater community involvement; better quality park							
Green Flag Criteria:	Healthy, Safe & Secure, A Welcoming Place, Community Involvement, Well-maintained & Clean						
Additional Information:							

Action Number: 2/4	Project Title:	Interpretation Boards					
Project Description:	Install additional interpretation and welcome boards at park entrances. Upgrade existing interpretation board at Carr Road site entrance near the car park.						
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones				
Medium	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Victoria Park Friends Group	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date	
Project Completion Date: 31/12/2020			1	31/12/20	Complete installation of interpretation boards.		
Existing budgets							
Project Outcomes: Improved interpretation and greater information for the public.							
Green Flag Criteria:	A welcoming place; marketing						
Additional Information:	Some of the less formal entrances need welcome signs including some interpretation.						

Action Number: 3/4	Project Title:	Vicky Witch Trail				
Project Description:	Install new sculptures and plan future work.					
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones			
Medium	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Victoria Park Friends Group, Victoria Park Pavilion CIC	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date
Project Completion Date: 31/12/2020			1	31/05/2020	Install new sculptures	
			2	31/12/2020	Plan future work	
Existing budgets, staff time						
Project Outcomes: Improved family attraction, enhanced park features						
Green Flag Criteria:	Marketing, Healthy, Safe & Secure, A Welcoming Place					
Additional Information:	Due to resource issues (finance and staff) we need to review our position in terms of developing this feature further.					

Action Number: 4/4	Project Title:	Paths/drainage around lake					
Project Description:	To work with the Council's Drainage Officer and EAG to improve the drainage around the lake and alleviate issues of mud and holding water on the paths near to the wooden bridge.						
Priority:	Key Officer(s):	Partners:	Project Milestones				
Medium	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper	Victoria Park Friends Group, EAG	Number	Due Date	Milestone Description	Completion Date	
Project Completion Date: 31/03/2021			1	31/03/2021	Complete drainage/path improvement works		
Existing budgets							
Project Outcomes: Improved drainage; improved health & safety; aesthetically more pleasing							
Green Flag Criteria:	Well maintained & clean, Healthy, Safe & Secure, A Welcoming Place						
Additional Information:							

Suggestion	Priority	Timescale	Finances	Key Officer	Partner
Ensure notice boards are kept up to date with relevant information	Low	Continuous	Existing budgets, staff time	Senior Park Keeper	Victoria Park Working Group, Victoria Park Pavilion CIC
Undertake an audit of all pathways and associated drains.	Medium	Continuous	Existing budgets	Green Spaces Manager	
Review the planting scheme in the jubilee woodland area	Medium	Medium term	Existing budgets	Green Spaces Manager	Victoria Park Working Group
Carry out wildlife survey	High	Short term	External funding	Senior Park Keeper	Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Victoria Park Working Group
Encourage friends group to explore a wider variety of funding streams in order to achieve the aims of the management plan	Medium	Continuous	Staff time	Green Spaces Manager	Victoria Park Working Group, Victoria Park Pavilion CIC
Review planting schemes around park entrances in order to improve sight lines in to the park.	Low	Long term	Existing budgets	Green Spaces Manager	

Install lighting in to the subway. Explore the use of 'off-grid' systems	Medium	Medium term	Existing budgets, external funding	Green Spaces Manager
Review planting scheme along the river banks and park boundaries to create wildlife corridors	Low	Long term	Existing budgets, external funding	Green Spaces Manager, Senior Park Keeper

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.

This will subsequently feed in to the annual Service Planning process. Green Flag Award progress will also be discussed at the Friends Group's meetings and 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, Victoria Park Pavilion CIC)
- 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 Victoria 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 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 Victoria 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.

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

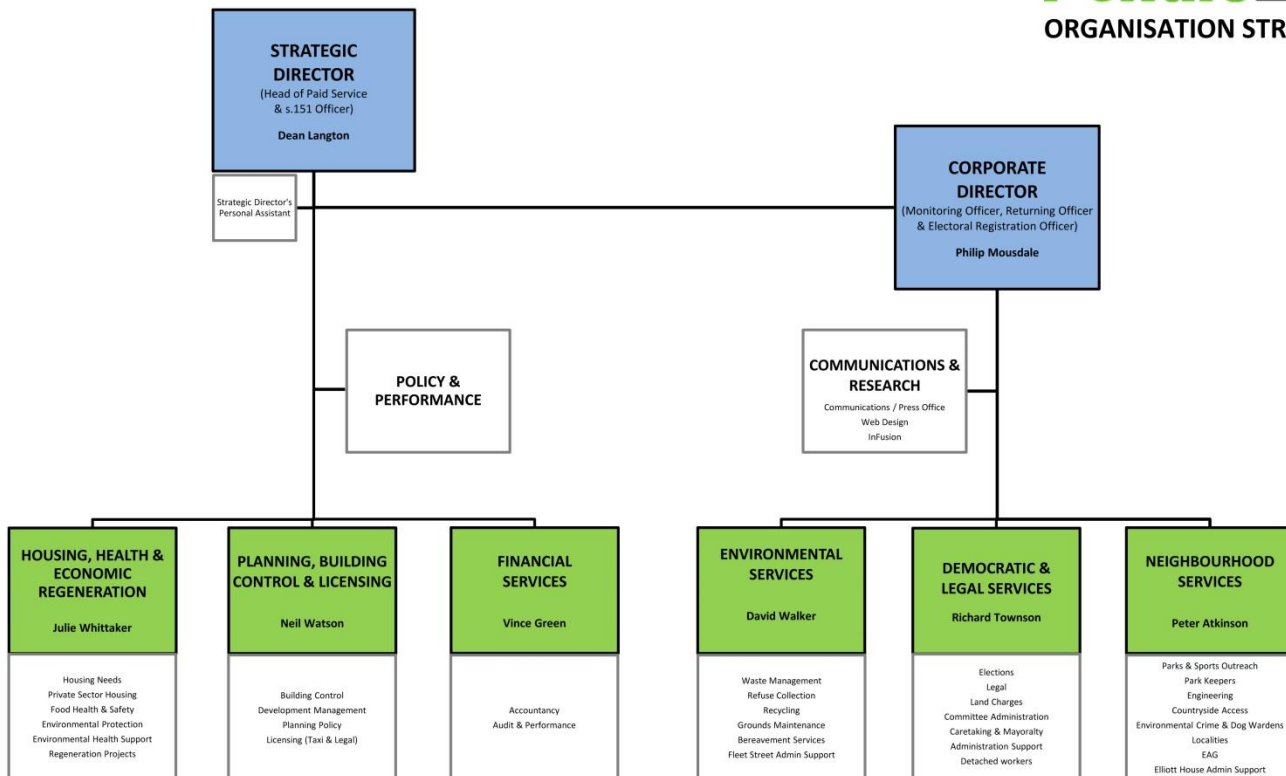
[The Friends of Victoria Park](#)

Chair: Robert Oliver

[Pavilion Café CIC](#)

Director: Rauf Bashir

Appendix 2 - Organisation Chart



Appendix 3 - Press Releases

[Nelson Pavilion sets to open its doors after £50k refit - Lancashire Telegraph, 8th January 2015.](#)

[Nelson park chosen as venue for new disabled 'help' programme - Lancashire Telegraph, 28th October 2014.](#)

[Pendle's Victoria Park in Bloom - Pendle Today, 10th April 2014.](#)

[Victoria Park Café reopens - Pendle Today 26th March 2015.](#)

[Chainsaw artist starts work on park magic trail - Pendle Today, 27th February 2015.](#)

[Witch Trail created in Nelson Park - Pendle Today, 13th February 2015.](#)

[Residents warned as river at record high in Barrowford - Pendle Today, 12th December 2015.](#)

[New Witch in Nelson - Pendle Today, 23rd April 2015.](#)

[Would be thieves target Nelson park art - Pendle Today, 13th May 2015](#)

[Pendle scoops Green Flag Park awards - Pendle Today, 28th July 2014.](#)

[Pendle park food dumping fears - Pendle Today, 1st September 2014.](#)

[Liz was a Pendle flood hero - Pendle Today, 31st December 2015.](#)

[Eight Pendle parks take Green Flag honour - Pendle Today, 29th July 2015.](#)

[memorial - Pendle Today, 22nd March 2015.](#)

[Photo of the day - Pendle Today, 9th November 2016.](#)