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Foreword

As a councillor and executive member for the environment for Chesterfield Borough Council and living locally to Poolsbrook Country Park, I am pleased to be given the opportunity to say a few words about the park and our application for Green Flag.

The park was the second country park to be created in the borough during the early 1990’s following opencast coal extraction. Since its early beginnings it has grown into a popular venue for visitors both local and from afar to come and enjoy the many varied facilities and activities available.

These range from a warm friendly café, multi-use play areas, lakeside views, fishing, walks and wildlife protections areas.

Also in recent years the development of a caravan site has truly put Poolsbrook Country Park on the map.

To crown it all a survey carried out this summer has shown that 99% of the visitors to the park were satisfied with the park and its facilities.

My appreciation and thanks goes out to all those people who have been involved either as interested members of the public or the friends group who have helped to achieve this overwhelming praise for the park.

With the various ongoing projects and actions set out in the plan for the future I feel assured that the park reaches the highest standards required now and in the future that a discerning public look for and all those required by the Green Flag awarding body.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved workers, individuals, organisations and professionals who have enabled this management plan to be put together.

Cllr Chris Ludlow

Executive Member for the Environment.
Introduction

The management plan is written in five sections.

The first section looks at the current management of the park which details the many different aspects of the park and what is involved in the maintenance and management of a large country park. In this section one can clearly see all the numerous and sometimes conflicting activities that go on in the park. All of which require careful management to ensure the smooth running of the park.

The second section – The Way Forward looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the park. In this section the park is described using the green flag criteria. Under each heading the current approach/action is discussed and where appropriate an indication is given of how we are meeting the criteria and what needs to be done to improve on it to meet the requirements.

The third section - The Action Plan, here is where to find the work and timescales set out that builds upon the discussion in the way forward and presents to the reader what is required to maintain the high standards in the park and achieve green flag status.

The fourth section – The Achievement of Objectives is a list that provides details of how we can measure our success overtime via the measures set out in the action plan and discussions with our partners and stakeholders.

The last section sets out where Chesterfield sits within the broad context of national policy on greenspaces, and the local aspects within which come the challenges the council faces on a daily basis in providing high quality parks and greenspaces to the public of Chesterfield. It is under this umbrella of policies, procedures and strategies laid down by government and the council that the parks and greenspaces are managed.
1.0 Current Management

1.1 Site Name

Poolsbrook Country Park.

1.2 Site Introduction

Poolsbrook Country Park is one of two country parks owned and managed by Chesterfield Borough Council. The park was created during the 1990s and it is the largest recreation facility in the borough of Chesterfield.

The old spoil tips of the former Ireland Colliery were landscaped to mimic a natural landform of a lake/river valley, which was subsequently planted with trees and wildflower seed.

The park is a popular venue for play, angling, horse riding, caravanning and walking. Local people value the site for the extensive footpath network, wildlife habitats and children’s play facility.

1.3 Site Location

The park is situated on the eastern fringe of the borough of Chesterfield with a central grid reference of SK436767. Vehicles can reach the park from Junction 29A of the M1 or from the A617 Chesterfield to Worksop road. The main entrances for the site are on Pavilion Drive and Erin Road.

1.4 Site Description

Poolsbrook Country Park extends to 165 acres and lies between the town of Staveley and the villages of Poolsbrook, Duckmanton and Woodthorpe.

The park consists of new plantations, mature woodland, species-rich wildflower meadows, lakes, ponds and visitor facilities including play areas and a visitor centre. Poolsbrook Country Park occupies a man-made wooded valley centred around Markham Lake and two smaller water bodies lying between 50 and 100 metres above sea level.
The watercourse Pools Brook enters the park at its southern fringe before flowing into Markham Lake. The watercourse then reforms at the outflow of Markham lake heading north to the confluence of the Pools Brook with the River Doe Lea.

Poolsbrook Country Park lies within a landscape typical of the Derbyshire Coalfield area, which consists of mixed agricultural land, former heavy industrial sites, new light industrial estates, commercial units and housing estates.

### 1.5 Political Representation

The park lies within the borough council ward of Poolsbrook and Middlecroft. This is currently represented by the Labour Party’s Cllr Chris Ludlow and Cllr Donald Parsons.

The lead member for the Environment is Cllr Chris Ludlow and the lead member for Leisure is Cllr Amanda Serjeant.

The Derbyshire County Councillor for the area is Cllr John Williams who represents the Labour Party. Cllr Williams is Shadow Cabinet Member for Regeneration as well as a member of the county council's Finance, Management and Regeneration Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.

The entire park lies within the parliamentary constituency of Chesterfield, which is currently represented by Toby Perkins MP of the Labour Party.

### 1.6 Legal Considerations

#### 1.6.1 Tenure

The site is owned in its entirety by Chesterfield Borough Council. The majority of the site is registered with the Land Registry with the exception of a small area of Markham Lake, which is currently unregistered.

#### 1.6.2 Designations

There are no statutory designations for the park but the park is designated under the council’s local plan.

An area of species-rich grassland and riparian woodland on the southern limit of the park is designated as a County Wildlife Site under policies EVR4 & EVR5 due to its conservation importance.

Pools Brook Flash consists of a small area of reed and swamp at the north east point of the park, which is also designated as a County Wildlife Site.
The Pools Brook watercourse is subject to policy EVR13 of the local plan, which protects river and canal corridors.

### 1.6.3 Licenses & Leaseholds

A three-year lease is in place for the operation of a café facility within the pavilion between the Council and Neil Butkeraitis. A ten-year angling licence on Markham, Ireland and St John’s Lake is held by Poolsbrook Country Park Anglers Club.

The Caravan Club lease a large area of land within the north east corner of the park, which is occupied by a caravan site. The long-term lease attracts a gross fee of £217,000.

### 1.6.4 Byelaws

Byelaws for all council owned parks and greenspaces are currently under review although none currently apply to Poolsbrook Country Park as the byelaws pre-date the park’s creation.

### 1.6.5 Public Rights of Way and Access Arrangements

A public footpath enters the park on the east side of the nature reserve area, which then heads north through the site. The definitive line of the public right of way has not been altered since the reclamation of the site from coal extraction as the route passes through the centre of the lake.

The borough council provides a number of concessionary bridleways and footpaths around the site. Informal open access is encouraged throughout the site.

Vehicle access to the park is restricted during the hours of darkness with car park gates locking at the varying times of dusk throughout the year. The locking and unlocking of gates is undertaken by a security contractor.

### 1.7 History of the park

Poolsbrook Country Park was created from the site of the former Ireland Colliery and associated pit tips.

Before the sinking of the colliery shafts and the construction of the colliery buildings the area consisted of farmland set in an essentially rural landscape.

The spoil heaps of the former Ireland Colliery were reclaimed by Derbyshire County Council during the early 1990s with European development funding. The ownership
and management of the park was transferred to Chesterfield Borough Council in 1997 who invested a significant sum in adding infrastructure such as the pavilion and tarmac roads at the time.

The park was officially opened in July 1999.

1.8 Natural Environment Management

1.8.1 Landscape and Ecological Value of the Park

The park is a significant landscape component, acting as a buffer between urban housing, industrial sites and refuse tips and the surrounding countryside.

The trees within the woodland plantations are beginning to attain a height necessary to screen neighbouring industrial units and housing. As the planting within the park matures it is envisaged that the local landscape will develop an increasingly natural appearance and the visual impact of the industrial sites will lessen.

The two high-voltage electricity pylons present within the park, and the lines they support, are landscape detractors. A run of low-voltage power lines passes through the park and nature reserve but Central Networks have commenced work to bury these, which will be of benefit to the landscape.

Poolsbrook Country Park’s high ecological value can be attributed the extent and diversity of habitats present on the site.

The large open water bodies of Markham Lake, St John’s Pond and Ireland Pond are central landscape features of the park. These water bodies are valued for their coarse fisheries and contain a variety of coarse fish species including common carp, roach, perch, tench and bream.

Unfortunately the margins and banks of Markham Lake and St John’s Pond are quite steep and, as such, little emergent vegetation has established around the fringe of these waterbodies.

Markham Lake is frequented by wildfowl including mallard, Canada geese, great crested grebe, mute swan, coot and moorhen. Occasional visits to the lake are made by rare wildfowl and raptors, such as Osprey.

The watercourse Pools Brook provides an important aquatic habitat frequented by water voles. Pools Brook enters an area of wet woodland, which is a scarce habitat across the county, before flowing into Markham Lake.

Woodland is an obvious and significant habitat in the park. This habitat includes semi-natural riparian woodland along the Pools Brook and large, mixed plantations of native broadleaves and exotic conifers and broadleaves associated with the reclamation of the former colliery spoil tips.

The current age, density and species composition of the plantations are ideally suited to certain resident and migratory birds.
The southern section of the park is designated as a county wildlife site under planning policy and incorporates the Pools Brook, wet riparian woodland, a large pond and several acres of species rich semi-natural grassland. The grassland in this area is in prime ecological condition and features a diverse community of ground flora.

The Derbyshire Red Data Book species Pepper-saxifrage was recorded within the grassland in 1999 but has not been noted since.

A small area of lowland swamp can be found in the north east corner of the park, which also forms part of a designated county wildlife site. Common reed and reedmace dominate this area, important for its ornithological interest, specifically for breeding marshland birds including water rail and little grebe.

The park is a significant component in the local landscape and links to other ecologically importance sites through the riparian network of the River Doe Lea catchment area.

*(See Appendix 2- Species List)*

### 1.8.2 Funding for Environmental Management

The Environmental Services Section secured a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship (HLS) agreement with Natural England in 2010. This grant scheme provides funding for targeted conservation work on the borough council’s country parks and nature reserves in addition to funding through annual budgets.

The HLS grant contributes towards five hectares of grassland management and three hundred and fifty metres of hedgerow restoration within Poolsbrook Country Park.

### 1.8.3 Tree and Woodland Management

The park's tree cover consists of semi-natural broadleaved riparian woodland, recent mixed plantations, species rich hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

The riparian area of wet, semi-natural broadleaved woodland that encloses the southern section of Pools Brook consists of an upper canopy of crack willow and common alder. The ground flora in this area features common nettle, great willowherb, wild Angelica and meadowsweet. The woodland contains species that place it within W6 group of the National Vegetation Classification system.

This area of woodland is designated as a County Wildlife Site and is surveyed periodically by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust under a service level agreement with the borough council.
Following the reclamation of the site from the former coal mining operation a whole site landscape restoration scheme was implemented including the establishment various plantations and hedges, planted for landscape improvement and wildlife.

Species planted include natives such as Common Alder, Pendunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Rowan, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Holly and Common Ash along with other species such as Scots Pine, European Larch, Norway Maple, Silver Maple, Common Lime.

Alder was included in the planting mix for its nitrogen fixing qualities to improve the impoverished soils of the former colliery tips.

Planting sites were ploughed, using a winged tine, to create a ridge and furrow for planting and to aid drainage. Planting was undertaken in blocks designed to imitate the shape of natural woodland and the plantations are now undergoing first selective thinning.

Woodland management is guided by the Council’s GIS-based forestry plan. The principal objectives of the forestry plan are:

- To ensure the ecological value of Council-owned woodland is conserved and enhanced.
- To provide a venue for informal public recreation and relaxation through the promotion of access.
- To preserve the visual amenity value of the woodland estate and its contribution to the local landscape.
- To generate income through traditional woodland products and through new initiatives where compatible with ecological, landscape and recreational objectives.

The thinning policy is to favour well formed, windfirm stems whilst retaining a diverse species mix of natives and exotics. There is the potential to grow good quality timber trees from the current crop.

Resultant stumps from thinning operations are allowed to regrow to provide an understorey. Stumps may be treated with herbicide or extracted where there is a specific reason for this.

Existing dead wood, whether in the form of lying branches, standing dead stems or attached aerial branches, is retained where it is safe to do so to provide micro-habitats for invertebrates.

Arising brash, cordwood and timber is either, processed and sold as firewood to the public, utilised in projects within the park, chipped and removed to the borough council’s nursery for storage and reuse as low grade amenity shrub mulch or left as dead wood where safe and appropriate.

Tree and woodland management is undertaken by park rangers and outside contractors.

*(See Woodland Map- Appendix 1)*

### 1.8.4 Tree Safety
The tree stock within the park is routinely inspected by greenspaces officers who are trained and qualified in arboriculture and forestry.

Trees along main access routes, adjacent to buildings and around other areas of high public use are inspected bi-annually in accordance with the tree survey risk assessment (see Appendix 5).

Individual trees are assessed for safety using the Visual Tree Assessment method and pruning or felling prescribed based on the evidence of visible significant defects and the location of the tree.

The site staff report obvious hazards to the greenspaces officers for action by an arboricultural contractor or will make safe trees themselves where they are able to do so.

### 1.8.5 Hedgerow Management

Several hedgerows can be found within the park. One of the hedges separates Markham Lake from Ireland Pond and extends to three hundred and fifty metres. Another hedge extends to eighty metres and is located on the nature reserve area to the southern tip of Markham Lake.

Both hedges were planted when the park was reclaimed from colliery tips and have recently been layed, using the traditional Derbyshire method, by the park staff under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

A further, long hedge marks the boundary of the park with Inkersall Road.

*See Hedgerow Map- Appendix 1*

### 1.8.6 Conservation Grassland Management

Poolsbrook Country Park’s nature reserve area includes two meadows of botanical interest, which fit within the National Vegetation Classification System group MG5 for species-rich grassland. The former ‘ski slope’ to the south of the pavilion is being converted to species-rich grassland.

The species rich grassland was tested for nutrient content prior to entry into Natural England’s Environmental Stewardship (Higher Level) Scheme. The grassland is managed by cutting after 1st of August, baling and removing. Wildflower seed has been broadcast on certain fields followed by chain harrowing to improve the botanical interest.
An early spring cut and removal of cuttings is occasionally undertaken on certain fields.

At present conservation grassland management is carried out by an external contractor. There is potential to introduce seasonal grazing within the nature reserve paddock.

(See Species-rich Grassland Map- Appendix 1)

1.8.7 Lake and Watercourse and Management

The character of Poolsbrook Country Park is defined by the three lakes and ponds that are central to the park.

Markham Lake is the most significant waterbody on the site covering 16.2 acres. Markham Lake benefits from angling platforms on the eastern and northern banks to facilitate coarse fishing, which are maintained by Poolsbrook Angling Club. The lake is also popular with visitors interested in ornithology, general relaxation and ‘feeding the ducks’. Groups occasionally book the use of Markham Lake for kayaking during the summer months although there are currently no organised watersports facilities.

Markham Lake and the southern dam wall are periodically inspected under the Reservoirs Act.

The man made nature of the lake, artificial structure of the banks and size of the surface area results in problems with localised erosion of the bank sides. Stone and timber bank reinforcements have been created over recent years to prevent further erosion although more work is required on the western bank of the lake.

Markham Lakes features a small island to its southern reaches, adjacent to the inflow of the Pools Brook. The island is dominated by a stand of crack willow trees and is gradually eroding away from the effects of the Pools Brook inflow. The erosion is exacerbated by the grazing of bank side vegetation by wildfowl, exposing the island’s soil. Gabions have been placed at the southern tip of the island to reduce the worst effects of the erosion.

The island is valued by the local visitors to the park as a nesting place for birds but is limited in conservation value being dominated by Canada Geese and escaped domestic fowl.

A small settling pond is located adjacent to the Markham Lake inflow, which acts as a silt trap for water feeding from a drainage grip into Pools Brook.

The northern outflow of Markham Lake passes under the Erin Road bridge and into St John’s Pond. St John’s Pond covers two acres and has steep bank sides along with weirs at the inflow and outflow. Consequently the pond is of little value for wildlife but is utilised for coarse angling.
Ireland Pond is situated to the eastern side of the park, adjacent to Poolsbrook Farm, and extends to three and a half acres. This pond is fed by grips draining from plantations and meadows within the park. The broad, shallow banks and lower inflow and outflow of water has allowed more emergent vegetation to establish on the pond.

The conditions in Ireland Pond are ideal for carp and the angling club reserves the pond for this type of coarse angling. The angling club have installed two floating islands within the pond to act as refuges for fish fry from cormorants and grebes.

The borough council works with the angling club to ensure structures such as angling platforms are maintained to a suitable standard and bank side vegetation is appropriately managed. The Environment Agency provides advice on fishery management to the council and the angling club. Fish species include tench, bream and some very large specimens of carp.

The nature reserve area on the southern tip of the park features a pond of around one and a half acres, known as the Nature Lake. This pond has diverse marginal and emergent vegetation including a large stand of common reed.

(See Appendix 2- Species List)

This pond is not used for angling but is managed for its conservation value.

Management of the conservation aspect of the lake is undertaken by greenspaces officers and park rangers.

### 1.8.8 Water Safety

Swimming is not permitted in the lake.

Liferings are positioned at specific points around the lake where their use is practicable. These are checked daily by the greenspaces staff. Signage warning that swimming is not permitted is installed at three points around the lake.

The greenspaces staff who undertake work to the water body are able to swim and are trained in small boat handling.

Low-impact watersports, such as kayaking, are permitted when organised groups pre-book the use of Markham Lake. There currently no facilities for the public to take part in watersports on an individual basis.

An open water risk element is addressed in the site risk assessment. (See Appendix 3)

### 1.8.9 Ecological Monitoring
Ecological monitoring is undertaken by the greenspaces unit and Natural England to gauge the effectiveness of the grassland management under HLS.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust undertakes periodic ecological assessments of the County Wildlife Sites areas under a service level agreement with the borough council's planning department.

1.9 Recreation and Amenity Management

1.9.1 Current Recreational Uses

Poolsbrook Country Park is an important centre for recreation and exercise for the local community. The park is popular with walkers, cyclists and equestrians for the extensive path network and links to the Trans-Pennine Trail and wider countryside.

Angling is an important activity on the park and is run by a well-organised resident angling club.

Ornithologists and those with a general interest in natural history value the park for the diversity of habitats and the range of wildlife to be seen.

An orienteering course is established within the park and is used by individuals and groups.

Poolsbrook Country Park is a venue for Parkrun and the regular Saturday morning organised runs attract between one hundred and two hundred participants.

The park is used as a venue for events run by external groups or the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park. The pavilion building includes a community room, which is hired by various groups for courses, meetings and activities.

The following table contains details of recent events and bookings:
<table>
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<th>Organiser</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Regularity of Event</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Amaze</td>
<td>School activity sessions</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>School Term Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staveley Town Council</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brimington Scout Group</td>
<td>Scout Activities</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield Walk This Way</td>
<td>Walk Leader Training Sessions</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>3 or 4 times a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Company Army Cadets</td>
<td>Camping – Part of the Duke of Edinbrugh Award</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derwent Valley Orienteering</td>
<td>Come and try orienteering event</td>
<td>Park &amp; Community Room</td>
<td>3 or 4 times a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Party</td>
<td>Birthday Party</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One or Two a year</td>
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<td>Private Booking</td>
<td>Funeral Wake</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One off</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lonestar Re-enactment Group</td>
<td>Pre Season meet and display</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary Club of Worksop</td>
<td>Meeting and discussion of the park</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One off</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCC Canoe Club</td>
<td>Canoeing on the Lake</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Weekly throughout summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers Educational Society</td>
<td>Learning and looking at the wildlife through the park</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staveley Armed Forces and Veterans Association</td>
<td>Large public event and regular meetings</td>
<td>Park and Community Room</td>
<td>Regular meetings and yearly event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staveley Art Exhibition</td>
<td>Art exhibition and private sales</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One off</td>
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<td>Baby Sensory Group</td>
<td>Baby development class</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<td>Fire Brigade</td>
<td>Information Stall</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
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<td>Charity Fundraising Event</td>
<td>Charity cycle event</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Once a year</td>
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<td>Macintyre Charity</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>Series of one off meetings</td>
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<td>Inkersall Primary School</td>
<td>Tour and talk by Rangers of the park</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherthorpe School</td>
<td>Sponsored Walk</td>
<td>Park</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park</td>
<td>Children’s Event</td>
<td>Park and Community Room</td>
<td>Twice a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartstart Training Group</td>
<td>Training Session</td>
<td>Community Room</td>
<td>One off</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.9.2 Amenity Grounds Maintenance

Amenity grassland within the car park areas are mown, approximately, fortnightly during the growing season by the greenspaces staff subject to the weather conditions. Arising cuttings are not removed.

Grass that flanks the edges of the paths and bridletracks around the site is cut fortnightly by the greenspaces staff using a tractor mounted flail. The grass around litter bins, benches and signage is strimmed as part of the same operation.

1.9.3 Sports Development

Poolsbrook Country Park has been identified as a key site for cycling, given its connectivity with the Trans-Pennine Trail and the wider network of trails and countryside sites in the North Derbyshire area. Sport Derbyshire are working with the Borough Council to develop a centre for mountain biking within the park and are currently investigating funding options for the project.

1.9.4 Events Booking and Allocation

Externally organised events, activities and room bookings are subject to council approved fees and charges, which are agreed annually. Prospective organisers of events in the park must submit an application form for consideration and, in the case of large events, a specific event plan.

The greenspace development team leader, within the greenspaces unit, is responsible for event bookings.

1.9.5 Angling Facilities
The angling rights on Markham Lake, Ireland Pond and St John’s (Jack’s) Pond are leased to Poolsbrook Angling Club on a twenty-five year license. The angling club maintains the pegs on the waterbodies.

The club has approximately four hundred and eighty full members and also issues day tickets to visiting anglers, which are purchased from a local angling shop.

Poolsbrook Angling Club provides voluntary bailiffs who check permits and rod licences. The bailiffs also enforce club rules, litterpick and prevent misuse of the lake and ponds.

Markham Lake and St John’s Pond are stocked with tench, bream, roach and perch whereas Ireland Pond is largely reserved for carp.

The club are proactive in obtaining grant aid for projects.

1.9.6 Play Facilities Development

In the Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Poolsbrook Country Park is classified as a Borough Park and as such is seen as a destination site where a range of facilities’ to meet the needs of all sections of the community should be provided.

The existing play equipment was installed over two stages. The original play area was installed around the time of the pavilion construction and features play equipment of the style of the time. The original play area cost in the region of £50,000.

In 2010 the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park secured funding from Biffa, Viridor and Derbyshire County Council for the construction of a play area with equipment suitable for toddlers.

Chesterfield Borough Council ran a scheme in parallel for the creation of a play area designed for older children and young teenagers. This scheme was funded through the Big Lottery awards scheme and through a Viridor grant.

All the play areas are extremely popular with the public and are well-used during weekends and school holidays.

1.9.7 Visitor Services and Information

A key role of the greenspace service is interaction with visitors to the park. This includes the provision of visitor information, patrolling and supporting events.

The existing interpretation for the park consists of one information panel on the side of the pavilion. This information panel features a basic graphic map of the site and limited visitor information. A
visitor information enclosed notice board is situated outside the pavilion but is in a very poor state of repair.

Information on angling is displayed on signs in the Erin Road car park.

Additional signage displaying the seasonal locking times for the car parks is installed in prominent positions.

There is currently no specific leaflet on the park in print.

The council’s website features a specific page on Poolsbrook Country Park along with the option to download the management plan.

The pavilion has great potential for the improvement of visitor services. Whilst acceptable in appearance, there is scope to create an attractive information point for visitors.

A master plan for the park was commissioned in 2006 and was undertaken by the consultancy TEP. The master plan was informed by visitor surveys and the document has been referred to in completing this management plan.

1.9.8 Refreshment Facilities

The café is operated by a private catering and events enterprise on a three-year licence, which attracts a rent of £8,000 per annum. The café provides quality coffee and refreshments is valued visitor facility. The café opens extended hours in the summer and school holidays with restricted hours during the winter months.

1.9.9 Car Parking

Car parking is currently available off Pavilion Drive, to the west of Markham Lake, off Erin Road to the east and off Inkersall Road on the western boundary of the park.

The Pavilion car park will accommodate up to fifty ordinary cars. There is designated parking for up to three horse boxes/transporters.

The Erin Road (Anglers) car park will accommodate up to forty vehicles. Horse transporters are not permitted to use this car park. A box-steel height barrier restricts entry to vehicle under two metres in height to prevent fly-tipping and caravan access.

Inkersall Road car park can accommodate twenty cars. A height barrier restricts access by commercial vehicles and caravans to prevent fly-tipping and illegal camping.
Access to all car parks is controlled by gates, which are locked at dusk throughout the year, with locking times displayed on specially designed signage.

1.9.10 Caravan Site

In 2007 the Caravan Club agreed a long-term lease with Chesterfield Borough Council for the development of a state-of-the-art caravan site on a former area of grassland within the park.

The Caravan Club’s investment was in the region of £1.8m. The annual rent/income share received by the Council varies from a minimum of £6,000 up to £9,500 per annum and is index linked.

The site boasts eco-features such as grey & rain water recycling, solar panel heating, photo voltaic cells, wind turbine & ground source heat coil.

The site provides pitches for up to eighty six caravans along with the associated facilities.

1.10 Structures and Surfaces Management

1.10.1 Roadways, footpaths, and associated structures

Poolsbrook Country Park has approximately six kilometres of surfaced footpaths and bridleways.

Path and tracks within the park are inspected by the greenspaces unit and repairs arranged as necessary.

Crushed limestone is used for small repairs on some paths while road planings are utilised for large scale resurfacing.

1.10.2 Bridges

The Pools Brook is spanned by a concrete bridge at the southern tip of Markham Lake. This bridge features tall, timber parapets designed to protect equestrians from the bridge edges.

The outflow of St John’s Pond is spanned by a bridge of concrete and steel construction.

A timber and steel bridge can be found within the park at the east side of Ireland Pond, which enables passage over a deep drainage grip.

Bridges are informally inspected by the park rangers on a routine basis and by the council’s structural engineers on request.

Repairs are undertaken by the council’s facilities maintenance section.
1.10.3 Fencing, Access Structures and Benches

All fencing, gates and benches are inspected regularly by greenspaces unit and repairs or replacement are undertaken as necessary.

There are a number of A-frame motorcycle barriers and horse hops around the site, which were originally installed to prevent vehicular trespass. These barriers are no longer effective or required due to changes in land use and reduction in vehicular trespass.

1.10.4 Play Equipment

Poolsbrook Country Park features a range of play equipment, targeted at different ages, which is situated to the east of the pavilion overlooking the lake. The play area is bordered by steel fencing.

The play equipment within Poolsbrook Country Park is inspected weekly by an Environmental Services technician, who undertake repairs and removes any hazards. Play equipment also inspected biannually by qualified engineers.

(See Visitor Facilities Map- Appendix 1)

1.10.6 Buildings

The pavilion was constructed of sandstone with an aesthetically pleasing design. The pavilion is partitioned into a café, community room, offices, storage rooms, toilets and a kitchen.

A walled yard and double garage are located to the rear of the pavilion, which are both utilised by the park ranger staff for machinery and material storage.

The buildings are served by broadband telephone, mains electricity, water and mains drainage. Heating is provided by electric heaters and hot water by an emersion system.

Building structure maintenance and improvements are arranged by the council’s facilities maintenance section.

The pavilion is redecorated externally and internally on a ten-year cycle.
1.10.7 Fire Safety

A fire alarm is installed within the pavilion and garages, which links to an alarm control company who contact the fire brigade in the event of activation. An evacuation plan and fire extinguishers are provided within the building in compliance with fire regulations. The extinguishers are checked and alarm tested periodically by an independent contractor.

1.10.8 Building Security

An intruder alarm covers the pavilion and garage. This is monitored by a company who contact a private security contractor to respond to alarm activations outside office hours.

1.11 Waste Management

1.11.1 Cleansing and litter collection

The ranger service is responsible for the collection of loose litter and the emptying of litter bins within the park.

The litter bins within the car parks are of the open top design and are in need of replacement with larger bins with closing lids.

The cleaning of the pavilion is undertaken by the building cleaning section of the council whilst the exterior public toilets are cleaned by the cleansing section.

1.11.2 Dog Waste

There are several dog waste receptacles within the car parks and the entry points on the perimeter of the park.

The bins are emptied by the council’s cleansing service weekly.

1.11.3 Waste Disposal
All collected waste is deposited within a lockable skip, which is removed to landfill.

Dog waste is stored in purposely designed bags, which are taken to landfill for disposal.

1.12 Personnel and Physical Resources

1.12.1 Personnel

Poolsbrook Country Park is the base for the east area park ranger service. The east area team currently consists of one Park Ranger and one Park Warden.

The team’s principal focus is Poolsbrook Country Park but they also cover the satellite sites of Norbriggs Flash, Ringwood Park, West Wood along with a variety of smaller woodlands and other green spaces.

The ranger team’s duties are described at 1.5 Park Management Structure.

1.12.2 Vehicles, Plant and Tools

The east area team has a crew-cab pickup and an electric all-terrain vehicle at its disposal. The ranger service has access to a pool of plant such as a compact tractor, flail attachments, ride-on brush cutters, rotivators, woodchippers, stump grinder, larger trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles, trailers and boats for water maintenance.

The team have an on-site tool store consisting of fencing equipment, wood working and joinery tools and forestry equipment, such as chainsaws and brushcutters.

1.12.3 Work Standards


Grassland and hedgerows are managed in compliance with Natural England’s specification and general good agricultural practice.

1.12.4 Programmed Maintenance Schedule
### Operation Time(s) of Year When Undertaken Frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Time(s) of Year When Undertaken</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amenity Grass cutting</td>
<td>April to September</td>
<td>Fortnightly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay making</td>
<td>From 31st July to early September</td>
<td>Once per annum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain harrowing and wildflower seed drilling</td>
<td>From July to October following hay cut.</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedgerow laying, coppicing and gapping up</td>
<td>From October to early March</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantation thinning and coppicing</td>
<td>From October to early March</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree surgery</td>
<td>Usually from June to early March unless urgent</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and structure maintenance</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path and track maintenance</td>
<td>From March to September</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter bin emptying</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog waste receptacle emptying</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose litter collection</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge inspection and repair</td>
<td>As required</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation cut backs from access routes and furniture</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>As required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play equipment inspection and repair</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 1.13 Developments and Improvements

The following table contains details of works and improvements to the site over recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Improvement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Track improvement</td>
<td>Track resurfaced from Poolsbrook Flash to St John’s Pond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Building reorganisation</td>
<td>Ranger office swapped with café storage room to bring rangers into ‘front of house’ position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Hedge laying</td>
<td>Hedge layed between Markham Lake and Ireland Pond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Track Repair</td>
<td>Track around Markham Lake resurfaced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Woodland work</td>
<td>Plantation around play area thinned out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Erosion control</td>
<td>Stone and timber erosion, wave breaks installed at North end of Markham Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Visual Amenity</td>
<td>Friend group build raised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Play Facilities</td>
<td>Completion of new play facilities outside the pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Biodiversity Management</td>
<td>HLS scheme commenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Events Area</td>
<td>Events area rolled to level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Woodland work.</td>
<td>Selective thinning of nature reserve plantation carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Construction of Caravan Club site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.14 Community Interaction**

### 1.14.1 The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park

Chesterfield Borough Council encourages public involvement in the management of its parks through the formation of ‘Friends’ groups. Friends groups exist for all the principal parks in the borough and are active in running events, accessing external funding for projects and assisting the council in managing the parks.

The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park were formed in 2004 by an interested group of park users and Derbyshire County Council’s community development workers.

Today the Friends Group consists of thirteen members led by the Chairman, Mr Joe Roberts.

The Friends group set up a café facility in 2004 running from the pavilion within the park. All profits from the café are put back into the park by the Friends group through the provision of events or the purchase of site furniture.

The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park’s recent achievements include the successful application to Derbyshire Environmental Trust for a grant of £15,000 to resurface a track within the park. The Friends group have also purchased new seating and bedding planters, along with improving the café facility.

### 1.14.2 Volunteers
A small group of volunteers regularly assist the rangers with estate maintenance tasks. Other voluntary opportunities are provided to local schools to assist in the teaching of environmental studies.

**1.15 Visitor Survey**

The park has now been established for a number of years and throughout this time a survey of the public’s opinion on the park and its facilities had not been undertaken by the council.

The decision of the borough council to raise the profile of the park through application to the Green Flag scheme highlighted a need to tap into the public’s view of the park via a visitor survey.

The survey of the park’s visitors was conducted in May 2012 with a view to gaining a better understanding of the public’s opinion of the site, its management and their view on how the park should develop in the future.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain information to inform present and future management decisions. Data was collected on the following:

- Site usage
- Visitor concerns
- Visitor desires and aspirations
- Facilities ratings
- Travel to the park
- Litter
- General satisfaction

**1.15.1 Survey Methodology**
The survey consisted of eleven questions designed to provide information on subjects from the mode of transport used by visitors, how people use the park through to the public's overall satisfaction with the park.

An equality monitoring section on the survey form collected information of visitor age, gender, disability, ethnic group, religion and sexual orientation.

The responses to the questions were to inform the park management of whether we are meeting the public's aspirations for the site and how we can improve the park for visitors in the future.

In order to get a good cross section of the public's views the survey was conducted over a period of fourteen days in May 2012. In total 218 people responded to the visitor survey.

1.15.2 Survey Results

To assist the reader in understanding the survey results, each question posed is followed by a summary that highlights the most popular responses.

1. How far have you travelled to the park today?

62% of visitors had travelled less than 5 miles to reach the park.

2. How did you arrive at the park today?

72% of visitors travelled to the park by car. Only five survey respondents used public transport to reach the park. The remainder walked, cycled or rode to the park.

3. How frequently do you visit the park?

9% of visitors came to the park on a daily basis. 33% visited weekly and 27% monthly.

4. When do you normally visit the park?

54% of respondents visited the park in the afternoon, 41% in the morning and 5% in the evening.

5. What's your purpose in visiting the park?

The vast majority of people visited the park for walking and general relaxation. Enjoying nature and walking the dog were also popular reasons for visiting.
6. **What facilities would you like to see in the park in future?**

Of the several options given the most popular were public canoeing, visitor information, mountain bike trails, adventure activities and more events.

7. **What concerns you about the park?**

The majority of respondents had no concerns with the park. Those that did raise problems were concerned about dog fouling and uncontrolled dogs.

8. **Visitors were asked to rate the following facilities:**

- **Toilets**: 54% of visitors rate these Good/Very Good, 9% rated these as poor/very poor
- **Paths and Tracks**: 86% of visitors rate these Very Good/Good
- **Cafe**: 76% of visitors rated the cafe Very Good/Good
- **Site Furniture**: 92% of respondents rated this as Very Good/Good
- **Cleanliness of the park**: 91% of visitors thought this was Very Good/Good
- **Play Facilities**: 92% of visitors thought these were Very Good/Good
- **Site Maintenance**: 92% of respondents though the site maintenance was of a very good/good standard.

9. **What is your overall impression of the park?**

99.5% of visitors surveyed were either very satisfied or satisfied with the park overall.

10. **How safe do you feel?**

99% of visitors felt either safe or very safe when visiting the site.

11. **Do you have any other comments?**

This question gave the respondents the opportunity to express their feelings on any aspect of the park.

Some examples of comments made by visitors:

*I would like to see an outdoor gym around the lake. These are at Norton opposite a school, which we find beneficial.*
“Ideal location to stop off on a bike ride, good links to the Trans Pennine Trail.”

“Baby changing facilities needed, accessible to men and women.”

“We loved the children’s play areas. We attended the armed forces day- a great day out.”

“Keep it as it is!”

“The café should be open more often.”

“Rowing or pedal boats would be nice.”

The comments relating to the park were generally very positive and the majority of respondents are pleased with various aspects of the park and its management.

Frequent suggestions concerned the proximity of the children’s play area to the lake and the need for a physical barrier.

The comments relating to the café were also very positive, however several people commented on the limited number of hours it opens and stated that it should be open more frequently.

Equality Monitoring

46% of visitors surveyed were male and 53.8% female. There was one transgender visitor.

25% of visitors were aged between 25 and 44. 63% of visitors were over 45 years old.

Around 21% of visitors considered themselves disabled.

As can be seen the survey has provided an excellent snapshot of the public’s view on all aspects of the park. This valuable information will be used to inform the next stage of the plan, The Way Forward.

2.0 The Way Forward
2.1 Park Evaluation

Poolsbrook Country Park has developed over the past two decades from a landscape-detracting colliery spoil heap to an important landscape component, linking the urban housing and industrial areas of Staveley to the wider countryside.

The visitor survey indicates that there is already a high level of visitor satisfaction with the park and the facilities present. The positive attitude of the public using the facility shows the value of the park.

The majority of users tend to live within five miles of the park and use the site for quiet recreation.

Visitors expressed their desire to see the use of the park broaden to include adventure activities, mountain biking and watersports. This desire will have to be balanced against the existing aspects of the park valued by visitors and management must seek to integrate the provision of adventure sports with wildlife conservation, retention of tranquil areas and established recreation.

The provision of adventure sports may draw visitors from a wider area and encourage use of the park by young people who are under-represented in the visitors surveyed.

The limited opening hours of the café was highlighted by the survey respondents and ways of extending these should be investigated.

Some visitors were concerned about the proximity of the children’s play area to Markham Lake and, whilst the current safety arrangement may be deemed satisfactory, there is an obvious need to address the public perception of the hazards present in the area.

The original infrastructure and facilities have been refurbished over recent years. An improvement programme for the paths and car parks across the site has commenced.

The existing visitor information and marketing is inadequate for a country park of this size.

The fabric of the visitor centre building is in good condition although redecoration and some minor repairs would enhance the appearance of the facility.

2.2 The Vision

“The continuing development of a safe, attractive and vibrant Country Park offering a variety of visitor experiences consisting of woodland, lakes, meadows and high quality built facilities. This will deliver positive improvements to the Park and aid the regeneration of the Staveley area, providing a wealth of cultural, economic, health and educational opportunities for successive generations in a setting that balances human activities with the needs of the environment.”

The park will now be assessed against the criteria set by the Green Flag scheme. This will include, where appropriate, the results of the visitor survey which will help to identify the strengths and
weaknesses of the park and provide the council with a focus on the future objectives for management.

Any recommendations/requirements will form part of the action plan for the park.

The criteria for the Green Flag award are:

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Management

2.3 A Welcoming Place

2.3.1 Welcoming

Poolsbrook Country Park has several access points, the principal ones being Pavilion Drive car park and Erin Road (anglers) car park).

Pavilion Drive
This is the main car park for the site, being located adjacent to the visitor centre, café and play facilities. Pavilion Drive provides an attractive, welcoming gateway to the park and adjacent Caravan site.

The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park fabricated some timber raised-planters in 2010 and these are maintained by the group. They flank the entrance to the car park and are an attractive floral feature.

The approach to the car park passes an ornate colliery winding wheel, set in sandstone displaying the park name.

The car park is flanked by bands of broad leaved and coniferous trees with broad areas of mown grassland.
Poorly maintained shrubs beds were removed adjacent to the pavilion in recent years and restored to amenity grassland, which surrounds established trees providing an attractive, landscaped aspect.

A derelict post and wire fence forms the southern boundary of the car park and the adjacent grassland area. The existing furniture consists of an aging timber bench, timber knee rails and litter bins. These items will require replacement to enhance the welcoming nature of this entrance.

New litter bins will be purchased to replace the existing open-topped bins of poor condition. The timber bench will be replaced with a modern bench of recycled-plastic construction and the knee rail refurbished.

Aside from car park locking times signs there is a noticeable lack of signage. Directional signage, informing visitors of the location of café toilets and play facilities, will be installed.

**Erin Road**

This deceptively large car park approached from Erin Road, adjacent to Poolsbrook Farm. A decorative colliery winding wheel set in sandstone flanks the entrance to the car park.

The western aspect of the car park features an attractive vista over Markham Lake.

A double width, box-steel height barrier and gate form the entrance to the car park, both of which are unsightly and in a poor state of décor. The existing barrier and gate will be refurbished to provide an attractive entrance.

The car park itself consists of a large expanse of rutted and potholed crushed limestone surfacing flanked by broad areas of amenity grassland. Vehicles are contained within the surfaced area by rustic, timber posts and box steel gates, both of which are in need of replacement or refurbishment.

The car park surfacing is very rutted and uneven. Resurfacing of the area using road planings or tarmac is required.

Signage consists of a car park locking sign and an angler’s notice board. The remains of a former interpretation panel lectern can be seen in the centre of the car park.

Reinstatement of the interpretative panel and installation of directional signage is now necessary.

**Other Entrances**

The envisaged use of the site and escalating popularity will increase the demand for visitor car parking. The car park on Inkersall Road will be landscaped, surfaced and reopened.

There is currently no public parking available on the St John’s side of the park, which will be necessary to service new facilities. Planning consent will be sought for the creation of an additional car park adjacent to St John’s Pond with spaces for 30 – 40 vehicles.
There are numerous pedestrian access points onto the park, including a link to the Trans-Pennine Trail. These access points will be subject to appropriate maintenance to improve the ‘gateways’ to the park.

2.3.2 Good and Safe Access

Poolsbrook Country Park is crossed by over three miles of surfaced tracks and paths with a large number of unsurfaced paths where vegetation is periodically cutback. The vast majority of these routes are concessionary bridletracks and footpaths.

The vast majority of paths within the park are in a good state of repair and the visitor survey demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the condition of tracks on paths. These paths are easily accessible to people of different abilities and wheelchair users.

The path from Tom Lane to the southern tip of the nature reserve becomes impassable during bad weather and measures will be taken to improve this route.

The routes of the two statutory footpaths that cross the park are in need of review as their definitive routes are no longer passable since the reclamation of the land from coal mining operations.

The pavilion car park has a sleeping policeman installed at the entrance to control vehicle speed.

Lockable gates and associated fencing is used to prevent vehicle access to the park during the hours of darkness to prevent misuse of the park.

Access to the park from the existing car parks is considered safe. However, the planned development of the St John’s side of the park would increase the number of pedestrians crossing Erin Road. As this road has a 40mph speed limit, and is used by haulage vehicles, investigations will be undertaken with Derbyshire County Council into the feasibility of installing a pedestrian crossing.

2.3.3 Signage

Brown, tourist highway signs guide visitors from the nearby A619 to the park.

Current welcome signage is limited to the ornate colliery winding wheels with ‘Poolsbrook Country Park’ engraved into the supporting masonry. Whilst these features have historical significance they are inadequate as means for welcoming visitors.

Bespoke welcome signs will be installed at the main access points displaying the site name, available facilities and the corporate logo.
The existing interpretation panels are dated and in need of revision. A corporate theme for park interpretation panels has developed over recent years at Holmebrook Valley Park and Somersall Park. A fresh design, incorporating this theme and creative mapping, will be obtained.

Car parks have signs indicating when the park closes and the car park gates are locked.

The existing water safety signage is suitable for purpose.

There is a need for directional signage within the park and finger posts are to be installed at strategic locations to direct visitors to main facilities and control access by equestrian users.

2.3.4 Equal Access for All

Visitor survey results showed that only 21% of users considered themselves disabled, tackling this issue and encouraging more usage of the site by this group will form part of a study in the action plan for the park.

Upgrading and maintenance of paths is an ongoing process and is carried annually and as required. Upgrading work will take into consideration the needs of physically impaired visitors and families with young children in prams and pushchairs.

Reinstatement of a damaged sewer by Yorkshire Water led to the resurfacing of an access track from St John's Pond to Poolsbrook Flash in March 2012. Resurfacing of the remaining tracks in this area will be required to support the increased use of this part of the park.

The principal track around Markham Lake was resurfaced in 2010 under a grant scheme with Derbyshire Environmental Trust. Recycled road planings were used for resurfacing material.

Disabled toilets are available and disabled parking is located immediately outside the visitor centre.

There are a number of wheelchair accessible angling pegs and disabled anglers are able to access the bankside with vehicles.

The play equipment adjacent to the visitor centre has been designed so as to be accessible to all.

2.4 Healthy, Safe and Secure

2.4.1 Safe Equipment and Facilities

All structures and buildings within the park are inspected periodically by park staff or specialist engineers to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose. This system of proactive inspection has proved to be effective due to the very low frequency of recorded accidents associated with park structures.

Externally organised events, where the expected number of participants exceeds two thousand, are asked to provide risk assessments as part of the events plan submitted by the organisers. Smaller
externally organised events are not currently required to submit a risk assessment but this may change following a review of the council’s letting procedure.

The play equipment within Poolsbrook Country Park is inspected weekly by a Environmental Services technician who undertake repairs and is also inspected twice annually by qualified engineers.

The visitor centre is fitted with a fire alarm and intruder alarm. Alarm activations are responded to by a security contractor.

Vehicular access to the park is restricted during the hours of darkness through the locking of gates by a security contractor. Cars are restricted to designated car parks during the day to prevent conflict with users of the park.

The current water safety measures are deemed to be appropriate for the site and the uses of the lake, however the visitor survey highlighted a concern over the proximity of some play equipment to the lake. To allay these concerns in may be necessary to install some fencing in the area.

Regular ranger patrols and the posting of ‘thin ice’ signs during the winter months are implemented to help prevent similar incidents.

All operations undertaken within the park by council operatives and contractors are subject to a risk assessment produced or approved by the borough council’s health and safety officers.

Letting of the community room within the visitor centre is subject to terms and conditions which cover fire procedure and safe use of the facility.

2.4.2 Personal Security

The vast majority of respondents to the 2012 visitor survey stated that they felt safe or very safe whilst visiting Poolsbrook Country Park.

The few reported incidents occurring within the park every year concern low-level anti-social behaviour and minor thefts from the service yard. The park rangers report all incidents to the police along with any damage caused.

The park ranger team regularly patrol the site and assist in deterring misuse by providing a uniformed presence in the park. This coupled with their maintenance duties in the park help to maintain the public’s view of the park being a safe place to visit. The park rangers are successful in resolving most incidents of misuse but contact the local police for all crimes.

The police are not regularly seen in the park, or car parks, and contact will be made with local officers to discuss the provision of an occasional, uniformed presence.

2.4.3 Dog Fouling
Dog fouling was a main concern of visitors in the 2012 although, in the experience of site staff, the levels of dog fouling are relatively low.

Another major concern of the public was the risk posed by uncontrolled and dangerous dogs, which is a concern highlighted in the visitor survey conducted at Holmebrooke Valley Park on the west of the borough.

The recent empowerment of the park rangers to issue fixed penalty notices and advertisement of these powers has led to a reduction in dog fouling within the park.

### 2.4.4 Appropriate Provision of Facilities

The 2012 visitor survey has brought the aspirations of visitors to the park into focus. There is a great desire amongst the visitors to see the development of facilities for outdoor adventure activities, which are absent in the park at present.

The creation of extensive mountain bikes trail, of various grades, will be implemented. The trails will make use of the park’s topography and plantations, emanating from the visitor centre and the proposed Erin Road car park. Local mountain bikers will be consulted on the types and design of trails and features.

Respondents to the visitor survey requested cycle parking facilities to the front of the pavilion.

A permanent climbing ‘boulder’, of resin construction, will be installed to provide informal adventure activities unique to the locality. This feature would be complimented by outdoor gym equipment to encourage healthy lifestyles and could be located adjacent to the Markham Lake track, a popular route for joggers.

The feasibility of opening parts of Markham Lake for public canoeing will also be investigated.

A key requirement for visitors with young children is a baby changing unit. This facility will be incorporated into the existing toilet block with unisex access.

Visitors were generally pleased with the existing café and valued its presence. Some survey respondents would like to see extended opening hours and the potential for this will be investigated.

The Friends group have identified a need for further outdoor seating in connection with the café. An extension to the existing block paving and installation of picnic benches will be undertaken.

### 2.4.5 Quality of Facilities
There is currently no independent system of inspection in place for gauging the quality of facilities present within the park. It is envisaged that the Green Flag will be used for internal and external assessment of facility quality in the future.

Further visitor surveys are to be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the management policy and the visitor’s satisfaction with the facilities provided.

Poolsbrook Angling Club will submit grant aid applications for the refurbishment of angling platforms and associated bank protection work.

2.5 Clean and Well Maintained

2.5.1 Litter and Waste Management

Litter and dog fouling are not major problems at Poolsbrook Country Park but the visitor survey highlighted that it remains the main concern of the public.

There are four dog waste bins situated within the park, one in the visitor centre and anglers car parks, one adjacent to the play area and one near the Markham Lake inflow. These bins are deemed sufficient to service the requirements of dog walkers and are emptied twice a week by an employee from the Council’s cleansing section.

There are twelve general litter bins located within the car parks, around the café and next to the play areas. This number is adequate for normal use of the park as visitors are encouraged to take their litter home. The bins are routinely emptied by the park ranger service.

The park is on a haulage route to nearby refuse tips and suffers from loose litter blowing onto site in windy conditions. Loose litter throughout the park is collected by the park ranger team on a daily basis.

The park ranger staff are authorised to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering and these powers are advertised on site to deter offenders.

2.5.2 Grounds Maintenance and Horticulture

Since the restructuring of the Greenspaces Unit the majority of grounds maintenance work within the park is now undertaken by the park rangers including mowing of paths and maintenance of amenity grassland within car parks. This change has improved standards with the vast majority of visitor survey respondents rating grounds maintenance as either good or very good.

The Friends group is responsible for the annual maintenance of the floral planters on the entrance to the car park, which is undertaken to a high standard.
2.5.3 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

The exterior and interior maintenance of the visitor centre is undertaken by the Facilities Maintenance section of the council, currently outsourced to Kier Ltd.

The growing number of visitors to the park will increase the use of the visitor centre and raise visitor expectations. Redecoration of the exterior and interior of the building is required along with minor repairs and levelling of exterior paving.

The Friends group are responsible for certain aspects of building maintenance through their lease of the café, office and storage.

Machinery is maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations and is regularly inspected by users before operation to identify faults.

2.5.4 Equipment Maintenance

The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park have purchased a large number of recycled plastic benches over recent years to replace the decaying timber furniture, originally installed when the park was created. Although majority of benches have been replaced a small number remain and this work is ongoing. The new benches are situated on paving slab bases to minimise problems with vegetation maintenance. 

The park ranger team inspect park furniture and equipment monthly for potential problems and the results are recorded along with the remedial action taken. In addition to this the Facilities Maintenance section undertakes an inspection of the park infrastructure every three years.

Play equipment will continue to be regularly inspected by a Environmental Services technician with any repairs immediately undertaken. Independent inspections will continue to be undertaken every six months.

2.6 Sustainability

2.6.1 Environmental Sustainability- energy and natural resource conservation, pollution

The Pools Brook flows through the lake system of the country park, which is a tributary of the Doe Lea, which ultimately feeds into the River Rother. The lake system plays an important role in the hydrology of the landscape, buffering the effects of heavy rainfall on the Doe Lea.
The council’s green purchasing policy is applicable to all plant and material purchased for use on the park. Recycled materials are used wherever possible and some timber harvested from forestry operations on the council’s land holdings is also utilised.

Large scale path and track resurfacing is undertaken using recycled road planings as this is more environmentally sustainable than quarried limestone and creates a better quality surface.

Energy and water usage within the pavilion is closely monitored by the council’s facilities maintenance section and system improvements are undertaken as necessary.

A desktop feasibility study has been undertaken into the potential of harnessing wind power within the country park through the installation of a wind turbine. Further investigations are required in order to take the project forward.

Chesterfield Borough Council holds EMAS accreditation and is externally audited to ensure that it’s facilities and operations comply with environmental best practice.

2.6.2 Pesticides

Pesticides are rarely used within the park. The exceptions to this are the use of glyphosate herbicide to control weeds within the tarmac car parks and the occasional use of glyphosate to treat injurious weeds within the species rich grassland, such as creeping thistle and broadleaved dock. Timbrel is sometimes used to poison broadleaf tree stumps where regrowth is not desired and mechanical stump extraction is not possible.

2.6.3 Peat Use

The council does not permit the use of peat or peat based products on any of its sites. Cell and container grown tree planting stock is sourced from nurseries that use minimal peat in their operations.

2.6.4 Waste Management and Minimisation

Arising green wood waste is recycled for use within the park as dead wood habitat wherever possible. Excess and waste material from operations such as fencing is stored and used in other projects where possible.

Grass arising from hay cutting operations is baled and removed from site. The hay is then sold on/donated by the agricultural contractor to local hill farmers in the peak district. All other grass arising are left to rot down in situ.
2.6.5 Arboriculture and Woodland Management

The plantations within Poolsbrook Country Park will be subject to a programme of selective thinning over the next five years. The objectives of the thinning will be to encourage the development of windfirm stands containing trees of good form, to optimise the plantations for wildlife, particularly woodland birds and to harvest firewood for sale to the local end-user market.

Following first thinnings formative pruning of potential high-grade final crop trees may be undertaken to remove co-dominant stems and compression forks. The intention is to develop the final crop to have good form and volume to take advantage of future timber markets.

Standing and lying deadwood will be created during the course of thinning operations.

Although native species will be favoured in thinning operations a good population of non-invasive exotic trees will be retained for diversity, landscape value and to increase the ‘robustness’ of the plantations to the possible effects of climate change.

Trees along main access routes and around play areas, car parks and adjacent to buildings are to be inspected bi-annually for safety and potential future veteran trees identified and protected to increase the diversity of habitat on the site. The inspection of trees is in accordance with a tree survey risk assessment. (See appendix 5).

Where removal of individual trees is necessary replacement planting will be undertaken where practical.

Opportunities will be sought to involve the public in woodland and hedgerow management through the provision of volunteer task days led by the rangers.


2.7 Conservation and Heritage

2.7.1 Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora

The objectives for wildlife conservation within the park are to preserve and enhance existing habitats of ecological value.

A program of species rich grassland restoration is prescribed under the HLS scheme. This will involve the application of locally native wildflower seed to fields with potential for restoration followed by the management of the grassland using hay cutting and grazing techniques.

The indicators of success for the grassland restoration project are:
The soil phosphate index remains below 1.

Two years after the commencement of restoration, at least two high value indicator species for the target biodiversity action plan (BAP) grassland habitat should be occasional in the sward.

Five years after the commencement of restoration, at least two high value indicator species for the target BAP grassland habitat should be frequent and two occasional in the sward.

Cover of wildflowers in the sward (excluding undesirable species but including rushes and sedges) should be between 20% and 90%. At least 40% of wildflowers should be flowering during May-June.

Other than established blocks of scrub, cover of invasive trees and shrubs should be less than 5%.

Cover of bare ground should be between 1 and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.

The objective for the management of hedgerows is to create thick, species rich hedges, which provide cover for birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

Hedges are to be layed, coppiced and planted up as necessary in the traditional ‘Midland Bullock Fence’ fashion, which is the local style.

Woodland management will include coppicing, to create varied growth stages as favoured by invertebrates and birds. Thinning techniques will be tailored to the requirements of woodland birds. Resultant broadleaf stumps from plantation thinning operations will be allowed to regrow to create an understorey.

Standing and lying dead wood will be retained and created where it is safe to do so for invertebrate habitat.

2.7.2 Conservation of landscape features

Aside from the high-voltage electricity pylons, the landscape value of the park is significant in an urban-fringe environment. The lake and surrounding woodlands contribute to aesthetic value of the area and vistas should be maintained from various points around the park and from the public highway.

A shelterbelt-style plantation of trees will be established between the Anglers car park and the neighbouring Poolsbrook Farm to provide a screen and improve the visual amenity of the area.

The Markham Lake island is valued by the local community and efforts will be made to prevent further erosion damage.
2.7.3 Conservation of building and structures

The pavilion is of recent construction and is not of historical or architectural significance. The conservation of built heritage is not a factor in the park.

2.8 Community Involvement

2.8.1 Community involvement in management and development, including outreach work.

The Friends group forms the principal mechanism for engagement with the community. The group are very active in sourcing funding and contributing to management decisions within the park.

The provision of practical work opportunities for teenagers through local schools will continue and management will seek to expand this initiative through the organisation of events, educational visits and further volunteer task days.

2.8.2 Appropriate provision for the community.

The recent visitor survey provided a means for those visitors who are not involved with the Friends group to ‘have their say’. This is useful information as members of Friends groups tend to have specific interests or views about a park whilst the casual user of a facility can provide opinions or ideas from a different, more detached perspective.

With this in mind a visitor survey should be undertaken every two to three years to gauge the view of the casual user.

2.9 Marketing

2.9.1 Marketing and promotion.

Poolsbrook Country Park has relied on repeat visitors, word-of-mouth and limited advertising through events for promotion.

The site lies in close proximity to other country parks, such as Rother Valley and Thrybergh, which benefit from high-profile marketing and diverse facilities. The development of Poolsbrook Country Park’s facilities and infrastructure will allow for competition for visitors with other local sites but this must be complimented by appropriate marketing and promotion.
New interpretative material for the park will be used to form the basis of a visitor information leaflet for distribution at tourist information centres and neighbouring countryside sites.

Whilst the Friends group have a dedicated website, the coverage of the park on the council’s website is insufficient at present and a separate page covering the park is required. This is now under construction with dedicated sections on each park and a user-friendly layout.

The creation of new facilities will be publicised through the Council’s publicity section in local press and media to attract a broader range of visitor.

2.9.2 Provision of appropriate information.

Brown tourist signage to the park is already installed from the surrounding main roads.

The ornamental colliery wheels providing the existing entry signage are insufficient. Purpose-built welcome signs are required, incorporating directional signage to facilities and attractions.

Revision of the existing interpretation panels is necessary to provide more detailed and attractive information points for visitors.

The design and publication of a visitor leaflet will follow the review of the interpretation panels to include a plan of the site and visitor information presented in a uniform style.

2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational interpretation/information.

Along with the revised interpretation panels internally organised events, such as ranger led guided walks, are required to introduce visitors to some of the less obvious features of the park, its ecology and history.

It is envisaged that the foyer of the pavilion will be redesigned to act as an information point for visitors including educational material.

2.10 Management

2.10.1 Implementation of the management plan

The management plan will be implemented by the Environmental Services section through the Greenspaces unit.

Assistance with implementation of the plan and securing of grant aid will be sought from the Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park, local councillors, the community forum, park users and the wider public.

The ranger team at the park will forge new relationships with the local police and further support will be sought from them in the delivery of a safer site.
External partners in the management of the site include Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Derbyshire County Council.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England assist in the implementation of the plan through their continued support and monitoring of the ecology of the park.

The current management plan is approaching the end of its term and a new management plan will be written during 2015 following consultation with park users and the Friends Group.

### 2.11 Summary

The results of the visitor survey indicate that Poolsbrook Country Park is already highly regarded and valued by the public as a site for informal recreation and relaxation.

Evaluating the provision and quality of facilities and services available to the public, against the Green Flag criteria, has identified where the park is performing well along with areas where improvements are required.

This evaluation, coupled with the desires and aspirations of visitors highlighted in the visitor survey, will inform the following plan of operations for the next five years. The plan of operations will ensure delivery of the vision for the park.

The main strengths of the park are community involvement, standards of maintenance, conservation value and the landscape of the site.

The dedication of the Friends group in hosting events and generating funding for the site is paramount to the success of the park. The partnership between the Friends group and the Council will be vital in delivering the future developments planned for the park.

Development of wider visitor facilities, improvements in infrastructure, on-site education of visitors and targeted marketing of the park will be the objectives of management over the coming years and this will be reflected in the plan of operations.

The Council will seek to preserve and expand the community involvement with the park into the future.

Annual application to the Green Flag award scheme will be made to ensure the standard of management of the park is peer-evaluated by an external body.
3.0 The Plan of Action

3.1 Action Plan

The actions detailed below are linked to the appropriate Green Flag themes for ease of benchmarking and to ensure compliance with Green Flag criteria.

The plan of action is set out for the next five years but will be reviewed with the rest of the management plan in response to changes in conditions to ensure the management plan remains a ‘living and working’ document.

The overall responsibility for undertaking the management of the site lies with Chesterfield Borough Council. However the council recognises that, to fulfil the aspirations for the site, help from our partners and the public is essential.

Actions highlighted in Green are routine maintenance operations funded through park revenue budgets.

Actions highlighted in Blue are funded through grants already secured.

Actions highlighted in Red will only proceed once external grant aid has been secured.

The table below details which of the partners in the parks management are to be involved in completing each action.

Partners Key:

- **GST** - Greenspaces Team
- **FMS** - Facilities Maintenance Section
- **FG** - The Friends Group
- **CF** - Community Forum
- **PS** - Publicity Section
- **CPT** - Community Payback Team
- **DWT** - Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- **CSP** - Community Safety Partnership
- **DCC** - Derbyshire County Council
- **NE** - Natural England
- **SP** - Environmental Services ‘Spire pride’
- **BC** - Building Cleaning
- **PBAC** - Poolsbrook Angling Club
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Flag Theme</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>Target Completion Date</th>
<th>Partners Involved</th>
<th>Lead Partner</th>
<th>Estimated Cost &amp; Source</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Welcoming Place</td>
<td>Visitor Centre Car Park</td>
<td>Remove derelict post and wire fence and replace with earth bund</td>
<td>Fence replaced by bund</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Replace open top litter bins for bins with closing lids</td>
<td>Bins replaced</td>
<td>August 2013</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£2,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Refurbish knee rails</td>
<td>Knee rails painted</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Install directional signage</td>
<td>Signage installed</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Install bespoke ‘Welcome’ signs</td>
<td>Signage installed</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resurface stone parking bays with tarmac</td>
<td>Existing limestone bays resurfaced with tarmac</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST</td>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reorganisation of disabled parking bays</td>
<td>Two new disabled parking bays created</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST</td>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>£12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Road Car Park</td>
<td>Refurbishment of height barrier and gates</td>
<td>Height barrier removed and gates repainted and repaired</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>Completed April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resurfacing of car park with planings complete with kerb edgings</td>
<td>Car park resurfaced and edged</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST, PBAC</td>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Replace bollards</td>
<td>Bollards replaced</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>FMS, FMS</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>Responsible Bodies</td>
<td>End Date</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
<td></td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Install directional signage</td>
<td>Signage installed</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td></td>
<td>£800</td>
<td>Completed November 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create new St John’s car park</td>
<td>Car park operational</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>FMS, GST, PBAC</td>
<td></td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Pending grant funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment of pedestrian access points</td>
<td>Clear of vegetation and</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td></td>
<td>£700</td>
<td>Old A-frame barriers removed and entrances upgraded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locking and unlocking of car parks</td>
<td>Gates opened and dawn and</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td></td>
<td>£6,000 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of a pedestrian crossing point on Erin Road</td>
<td>Appropriate crossing point</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>DCC, CF, GST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pending DCC approval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directional signage for equestrians</td>
<td>Signage installed at key</td>
<td>January 2013</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td></td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>Installed January 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Flag Theme</td>
<td>Action Description</td>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td>Responsible Authority</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy, Safe and Secure</td>
<td>Weekly inspection of play facilities and repairs effected.</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>£1,500 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly ongoing. Play equipment in good condition and safe for use.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Six-monthly inspection of play equipment by RoSPA engineer</td>
<td>Six-monthly inspection of play equipment by RoSPA engineer</td>
<td>Six-monthly</td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>£70.00 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play equipment in good condition and safe for use.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly inspection of park furniture and infrastructure by park rangers</td>
<td>Faulty furniture repaired/replaced before summer each year.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£1,500 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faulty furniture repaired/replaced before summer each year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three-yearly inspection of park furniture, buildings and infrastructure</td>
<td>Furniture and structures in good condition and safe for use.</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
<td>GST, FMS</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Furniture and structures in good condition and safe for use.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrol of waterbodies and display of thin ice signs during freezing temperatures</td>
<td>Deterrents in place at key times.</td>
<td>Every winter</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deterrents in place at key times.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge new relationships with local police</td>
<td>Park staff make contact with local police officers.</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ranger service aware of and liaise with local beat officers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park staff make contact with local police officers.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog fouling and littering enforcement</td>
<td>Dog fouling and littering offences reduce.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dog fouling and littering offences reduce.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of a unisex-access baby changing facility</td>
<td>Baby changing facility open for use.</td>
<td>November 2012</td>
<td>FMS, GST, FG</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
<td>Completed-Facility open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baby changing facility open for use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of multi-grade mountain bike trails incorporating ski slope</td>
<td>Routes created and open for public use.</td>
<td>August 2015</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>£4,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Routes created and open for public use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Expended by</td>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and St John's plantations</td>
<td>Bike racks installed</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>£600</td>
<td>Bike racks installed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of cycle parking facilities to the café side of the visitor</td>
<td>Boat racks installed</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>£8,000</td>
<td>Pending funding application</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of outdoor gym equipment</td>
<td>Gym installed and open for use</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>GST, FG</td>
<td>£17,000</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Pay and play’ kayaking sessions during school summer holidays</td>
<td>Kayaking available during summer months</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Provider not yet found.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of refreshments to customers.</td>
<td>Either increase in café opening times or provision of vending facilities.</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>FG, GST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Café operating times extended by licensees.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension of block paving to front of café and installation of picnic</td>
<td>Block paving extended and picnic benches installed</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>FG, GST</td>
<td>£9,000</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment of angling pegs and associated bank protection work</td>
<td>Pegs repaired and gabions installed around banking</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>PBAC, GST</td>
<td>£29,000</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean and Well Maintained</td>
<td>Dog waste receptacles and litter bins emptied frequently.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>GST, SP</td>
<td>£1,500 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public toilet cleaning</td>
<td>Toilets cleaned</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>GST, BC</td>
<td>£5,000 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task Description</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Costs</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose litter collection</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>GST, CPT</td>
<td>£2,000 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowing of one metre either side of path edges</td>
<td>Fortnightly during growing season</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£3,000 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strimming around signs and furniture</td>
<td>Fortnightly during growing season</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£500 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting back of vegetation encroaching onto paths</td>
<td>Monthly during growing season</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£500 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of raised floral planters</td>
<td>Monthly throughout the year</td>
<td>FG</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redecoration of visitor centre exterior and interior</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td>Completed April 2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair of existing block paving</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST</td>
<td>£400</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbishment of storage container within the main car park</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>GST, CPT</td>
<td>£500</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair of interior light fittings and tidy up of electrical wiring</td>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>FMS, GST</td>
<td>£400</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car parks mechanically swept</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>SP, GST</td>
<td>£700 per annum</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sustainability**

- **Undertake 30% Plantations line**: March 2014 | GST | GST | £3,000 per annum | Completed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selective thin of Ski Slope Plantations &amp; thinned retaining mix of Scots Pine, Pendunculate Oak and Ash final crop with diverse understorey</th>
<th>Routine inspection of trees within falling distance of main paths, roads and visitor attractions &amp; Annual safety inspection of trees within falling distance of high target areas</th>
<th>Annually</th>
<th>GST</th>
<th>GST</th>
<th>£250.00 per annum</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creation of deadwood habitat piles utilising forestry arisings. &amp; Habitat piles in situ where appropriate.</td>
<td>Conservation and Heritage</td>
<td>September 2015.</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay cutting undertaken annually on conservation grassland in late summer with occasional early spring cuts where necessary &amp; Hay making completed annually.</td>
<td>Chainharrowing/discing of conservation grassland followed by broad casting of wildflower seed and light rolling following hay cut. &amp; Achievement of Natural England’s indicators of success and botanical improvement of grassland.</td>
<td>As required in late summer.</td>
<td>GST, NE, DWT</td>
<td>GST</td>
<td>£1,000 per occasion</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct survey of wildlife site area.</td>
<td>Conduct survey of wildlife site area.</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>DWT, GST</td>
<td>DWT</td>
<td>£300 per occasion SLA (Forward planning budget)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

49
| Green Flag Theme        | Provision of volunteer work days on practical tasks organised in liaison with the Friends group. | Volunteering opportunities are organised every quarter. | June 2013 | GST, FG | GST | £2,000 per annum | 4 volunteers days per year are hosted
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| **Community Involvement** | Further public consultation through visitor surveys and recruitment to the Friends Group | Completion of a further visitor survey and increase in members of the Friends group | September 2014 | FG, GST | FG | £3,000 | Deferred until summer 2015
| Investigate opportunities for external funding for capital projects such as path resurfacing. | Securing of further external grant funding. | September 2014 | FG, CF | FG | £400 | Deferred until summer 2015
| Marketing | Redesign of the parks section on the council website to include more information on Poolsbrook Country Park. | Redesign of parks section and greater information on Poolsbrook Country Park online. | May 2013 | GST, SLT, FG | GST | £2,500 | More information provided- further redesign to link with corporate website improvement.
| | Design and publication of site specific visitor leaflet. | Publication of leaflet | July 2014 | GST, PS, FG | PS | £2,000 | Deferred until summer 2015.
<p>| | Introduction of ranger-Walks take place | July 2013 | GST, FG | GST | £500.00 per | Guided walks |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>led guided walks around the park and the locality.</td>
<td>every quarter.</td>
<td>provided with links to Chesterfield Walking Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redesign of visitor centre foyer area to act as a visitor information point.</td>
<td>Foyer lay out altered.</td>
<td>November 2013, GST, FG, GST, £400.00, Completed November 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hold annual park management meetings with representatives of all partners and user groups to discuss action progress and arising issues.</td>
<td>Minuted meetings held.</td>
<td>GST, FC, PBAC, £300.00 per annum, Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of management plan actions.</td>
<td>Plan reviewed.</td>
<td>£200.00 per annum, New 5-year plan to be completed during summer 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate and secure any appropriate grant aid/external funding.</td>
<td>Appropriate funds secured.</td>
<td>£200.00 per annum, Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge new relationships with local police officers</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Financial Plan

3.2.1 Financial Forecast

The following table details the projected expenditure for Poolsbrook Valley Park over the next three financial years based on known and estimated income and costs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Covered by Revenue budget</td>
<td>Secured grant funding</td>
<td>Un-secured grant funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structures and furniture capital items</td>
<td>£6,250</td>
<td>£34,600</td>
<td>£19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity, structures and furniture maintenance</td>
<td>£19,870</td>
<td>£19,870</td>
<td>£19,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and forestry capital items and maintenance</td>
<td>£3,250</td>
<td>£3,500</td>
<td>£3,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing, educational and promotional materials and services.</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£6,100</td>
<td>£1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£31,370</td>
<td>£38,100</td>
<td>£48,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.2 Financial Strategy

Planned amenity grounds maintenance, tree safety work, site furniture, path, track and infrastructure repair operations are mainly funded through the internal parks revenue budget.

Woodland, conservation grassland and conservation hedgerow management are funded through the internal Woodland/Conservation budget, which is supplemented by external grant funding through Natural England’s Higher-level Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

Capital items such as installation of new site furniture and major track resurfacing works may be partially funded through internal budgets but will require significant external funding. This will be raised through profits from the Friend Group-run café and through grant applications.

Potential sources of funding will be investigated by the Friends Group and other user groups and every effort will be made to assist stakeholders in securing funding not available directly to local authorities.

4.0 Achievement of Objectives

4.1 Indicators of Success

The principal method for gauging the effectiveness of the management described in the plan will be the achievement and retention of the Green Flag award.

The performance measures indicated within section 3.1- Action Plan will inform management of the day-to-day progress made towards each element of the Green Flag criteria.

Other indicators of success, in addition to the Green Flag criteria, are those specified under Natural England’s Environmental Stewardship Scheme. Achievement of these objectives will demonstrate that the site is managed to the highest standards of wildlife conservation.

The final, and most important, indicator of success will be a high level of visitor satisfaction with the park and its facilities.

4.2 Monitoring Progress and Review

Progression towards achieving each objective will be monitored in three ways.

Operations and actions will be scheduled in accordance with the work plan and completion checked against the timescales set.

An annual meeting will be held with all partners and stakeholders to discuss progress, review the management plan and discuss amendments.
A visitor survey will be conducted every three years to gauge the public's opinion on the management of the park, the quality of the facilities and their desires and aspirations for the park in the future.

5.0 Context and Policy

5.1 The National Context

The vital role that greenspaces play in the public perception has been highlighted by a number of reports from government over the last decade such as the 2002 report titled *Living Places- Cleaner, Safer*, based upon the recommendations of the 2001 Urban Green Spaces Taskforce, which was set up to improve parks and open spaces nationally.

The report called for various government departments to work together on improving Green Space and, as a result, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) set up CABE Space in 2003.

CABE Space assists local authorities and green space managers nationally in the development of strategies.

Following on from this in July 2004, central government announced a new public service agreement target to lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, greener public spaces and improve the quality of the built environment, in deprived areas and across the country, with measurable improvement by 2008.

Two indicators measure the improvements to green spaces-

1. The achievement of Green Flag status for parks and open spaces.
2. The public's satisfaction with their local parks based on visitor surveys.

In March 2006 the National Audit Office (NAO) published its value for money study on 'enhancing urban green space' and concluded that Government's programmes, since 2002, had halted the decline of parks and open spaces and the challenge now is to embed progress and spread the benefits more widely.

5.2 Regional Context

Chesterfield is the largest town in the administrative county of Derbyshire. The borough of Chesterfield is the smallest district in Derbyshire by area, being a relatively compact, predominantly urban area. It includes the settlements of Chesterfield, Brimington and Staveley which together had a population of 103,800 at the time of the 2011 Census.
The town centre of Chesterfield is a sub-regional shopping and service centre for the whole of north eastern Derbyshire. It has excellent rail services to London and other regions and the M1 motorway runs adjacent to the borough’s eastern boundary with road links via the A617 and A619 to junctions 29, 29A and 30.

Chesterfield lies on the River Rother and its tributaries which flow from south to north through the borough. The environs of these rivers and the Chesterfield Canal, which runs parallel to the Rother for much of its length within the borough, offer major opportunities for further improvement. The urban areas of the borough are defined by “green wedges” of open countryside which help to retain the separate identity of communities. Chesterfield is also contained to the north, west and south by the North East Derbyshire Green Belt.

The borough is part of the North Derbyshire/North Nottinghamshire coalfield area which has been subject to major industrial structural change resulting from the closure of deep mines and the decline in heavy engineering industries both in the borough and the surrounding districts of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire.

The East Midlands Regional Plan requires local authorities to put together green infrastructure studies or plans which identify key infrastructure assets.

Chesterfield Borough Council produced its Green Infrastructure Study in 2009 and within this study Poolsbrook Country Park is described as a multi-functional green infrastructure asset sited in the wildlife corridor of the River Doe Lea.

5.3 Local Context

The Borough had a total population of approximately 103,800 in 2011. The number of people over retirement age is slightly higher than the national average and the number of people of 16 years and under is slightly lower than the national average.

The population of Chesterfield Borough is predicted to rise by 10.5% during the period 2010 – 2035. Generally the population of Chesterfield Borough is an ageing one. There will be a greater proportion of people over retirement age in future years.

Chesterfield Borough is relatively deprived ranking 91st out of 326 English local authority areas in the 2010 English Multiple Index of Deprivation (1 is the most deprived). For more in-depth analysis England is divided up into 32482 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) which are ranked 1 as the most deprived and 32482 as the least deprived in various measures.

Five fall within the top 10% of most deprived areas in England and 12 fall within the top 20%.

Many areas of the Borough have dense built areas often with intermixed housing and industrial/commercial areas. Houses in these areas often have no or only small gardens.
Unemployment rates in Derbyshire (3.1% at October 2012) remain lower than in England (3.8%), however Chesterfield Borough has the highest unemployment rate in the administrative county of Derbyshire at 5.6%. In some areas of the Borough the rate is much higher e.g. Rother at 10.9%. The council has been investing in the restructuring of the town’s economy in order to attract new manufacturing industries and service based businesses. It is committed to working in partnership with the private sector and local and regional organisations to promote the regeneration of former industrial areas which lie derelict. This will enable the borough to meet both its future housing and employment needs from the redevelopment of brownfield land within the urban area, thereby avoiding any further peripheral expansion of settlements on to greenfield land.

The Borough of Chesterfield is fortunate to have over 400 ha of public open space of recreational value in or immediately adjacent to the built areas of the Borough. This includes parks, greenways, public playing fields, small areas of open space in local areas, separate woodlands within the built areas, and urban fringe woodlands and countryside sites with public access.

### 5.4 Chesterfield Borough Council Structure

The Council is composed of 48 councillors elected every four years. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. The overriding duty of councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. Councillors have to agree to follow a code of conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Standards and Audit Committee trains and advises them on the code of conduct.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Meetings of the Council are normally open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council’s overall policies and set the budget each year.

The Cabinet is the part of the authority which is responsible for most day-to-day decisions. The Cabinet is made up of the Leader and eight councillors appointed by the full Council. Before major decisions are to be discussed or made, these are published in the Cabinet’s forward plan in so far as they can be anticipated. These major decisions are called "key decisions"

There is a Scrutiny Board, Informal Review Panels, and the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel who support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. They allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern.

The Scrutiny Bodies may also be consulted by the Cabinet or the Council on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy.

Members of Council usually belong to a political party. Currently Chesterfield Borough Council is made up of 14 Liberal Democrats and 34 Labour Party members.

Until 1999, the Council operated through a Committee system which had been unchanged for over 100 years. Since 1999, an executive decision making structure has been in place which separates the decision-making role from the other roles of members, making the system more efficient, open and accountable to local people.
The Council adopted a formal constitution on May 8, 2002. The constitution is a statutory document, containing details of how the council's decision making process works.

The Borough Council is responsible for providing a wide range of local services in Chesterfield including housing, planning, economic development, estate management, public health, refuse collection and leisure facilities including parks and sports centres. The day to day delivery of these local services is carried out by various staff through the Council’s Management Structure, which is detailed in Part 7 of the constitution.

The senior management structure is headed by our Chief Executive, Huw Bowen. He has overall responsibility for managing the council and as part of the Corporate Management Team helps deliver our vision, aims and priorities set out in our Corporate Plan.

Huw Bowen is supported by two executive directors who oversee the various service areas.

### 5.4.1 How Decisions Are Made

Our constitution governs how decisions are made, how we operate and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

- Decisions on issues affecting the Council and its services are taken by elected members through the Council and its committee meetings, most of which are open to the public.

- Full Council is made up of all 48 councillors and is responsible for deciding on the Council's overall budget and policy framework and setting the budget each year.

- Many of the day-to-day decisions are taken by the executive decision making arm of the Council known as the Cabinet. Cabinet members have specific responsibilities for particular services and take decisions within the budget and policies agreed by the full Council.

- Before major decisions are to be discussed or made by the Cabinet, these are published in the Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated. These major decisions are called "key decisions".

Councillors who are not on the Cabinet also have important roles in the Council’s business. They may be members of one of the Regulatory Committees or undertake Overview and Scrutiny activities.

- Our Scrutiny Board, Informal Review Panels, and the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. They take a closer look at our policies, decisions and performance and ensure that the Cabinet is held to account. They also look in depth at areas of concern or special interest to Chesterfield people and in doing so help to improve the way the Council does things.

- Our Planning Committee has overall responsibility for planning decisions, listed building consent and the regulatory planning functions of the council.
Licensing matters are considered by our Licensing Committee and Appeals & Regulatory Committee while the conduct of individual councillors is overseen by our Standards and Audit Committee.

An important part of our decision making structure are our four Community Assemblies which together cover the whole of the Borough. The Forums are made up of councillors and local people and deal with matters of local interest and concern to local communities. Forum meetings are held every 2 months at community venues and members of the public are actively encouraged to attend and get involved.

**Chesterfield Borough Council Management Structure**

### 5.4.2 Corporate Plan 2012-2015

The borough council's corporate plan details the corporate aims and objectives for the period 2012 to 2015 and highlights key projects for individual years, which will assist in achieving the corporate objectives.

The six corporate aims for 2012 to 2015 are:

- A Sustainable Community
- An Accessible Community
- A Living Community
- A Working and Learning Community
- A Safer, Healthier and Active Community
- A High Performing Council with Productive Partnerships

The outcomes that are specific to greenspaces are:

- The quality and biodiversity of our parks and open spaces will be improved
- There will be improved community use of our parks
- Participation in sport and recreation will have increased.

The benchmarks to indicate that the council has achieved its desired outcomes for greenspaces are:

- Number of parks that have Green Flag status. Target 3 by 2013
- Satisfaction with Parks and Open Spaces. Target 77% by March 2015
- % of people participating in sport and active recreation. Target: above regional average by March 2015

Key greenspaces projects for the financial year 2012 to 2013 identified in the corporate plan are:

- Secure Green Flag status for Poolsbrook Country Park by summer 2013.
- Submit a stage 2 bid for Heritage Lottery Funding for the redevelopment of Eastwood Park.
- Commence the review of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy including an audit of provision.
- Create a new woodland within the borough as part of the Jubilee Woods project.

5.4.3 The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Chesterfield Borough Council has taken a positive approach to parks and open space provision in the Borough. This is reflected in higher standards of maintenance than nationally, an absence of the decline in the condition of parks which has occurred elsewhere, the recent development of two major Borough parks and investment in local play and sports facilities as far as resources have permitted.

The first Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was prepared concurrently with The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report, Green Spaces, Better Places and published May 2003.
A new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was written in 2014 and a consultation exercise is being held with a view to formally adopting the new strategy in 2015.

The vision for the new strategy is:

To ensure that Chesterfield has an accessible network of high quality parks and open spaces which puts good health and an excellent quality of life within reach of everyone who lives in and visits Chesterfield.

To achieve this Vision for Chesterfield’s parks and Open spaces we will:

- Improve the quality of existing open spaces
- Rationalise the quantity and accessibility of open space
- Promote our spaces and engage our communities to maximise use and benefits
- Improve biodiversity and sustainable landscapes
- Maximise the efficient use of resources to achieve our priorities
- Improve partnership working to achieve joint objectives such as getting more people more active.

A assessment of site typology, quality and catchment areas was undertaken to inform the strategy. The assessment identified areas of the borough with a deficiency of accessible greenspace coupled with multiple deprivation.

Based on consultation with communities, partners and Friends Groups to identify our key issues, the main priorities of future parks management are:

- Rationalise quantity of provision and improve quality
- Identify key needs/investment priorities and deliver in partnership through external funding and capital receipts
- Maximise the efficient use of resources to achieve our priorities
- Understand the needs of partners and deliver shared objectives
- Increase community engagement and ownership
- Make sites safer
- Promote green spaces for health, physical activity and to increase use
- Increase access to nature and improve biodiversity
- Improve site links via multi-user routes and out into the wider countryside
- Offer a diverse and attractive programme of events and activities
- Realise the full potential of green space in terms of tourism, lifelong learning and economic development
- Seek to provide new facilities or improve quality of existing facilities through new development
5.4.4 Planning Policy and Green Infrastructure

The Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan adopted in June 2006 sets out the local planning authority's detailed policies and proposals for the development and use of land within Chesterfield borough, including Staveley and Brimington, until 2016.

The plan is vital for the development and regeneration of Chesterfield over the next ten years and will help the town become a safer, cleaner, greener and more thriving place to live and work.

Whilst helping to create the conditions in which the community and economy can thrive, the plan continues to provide the means to protect and improve the natural and built environment of the borough.

This plan looks forward to 2016. However the social economic and environmental challenges and opportunities in the borough will not stand still.

Parks are protected in the Replacement Chesterfield Borough Local Plan (2006) under policy POS 1: Existing Parks and Open Spaces. This means the only type of development allowed on the parks would be that relating to recreation or the maintenance of the park itself (e.g changing rooms, play areas, etc).

Parks will be allocated as a key green infrastructure asset in the borough's Core Strategy (the replacement for the Local Plan, which is expected to be adopted in 2013) and have the same protection as under the existing local plan.

5.5 Park Management Structure

The Environmental Services headed by Mel Henley. The section incorporates the grounds maintenance, cleansing operations, greenspace, bereavement services and support services units.

The Greenspaces unit was formed by amalgamating the outdoor leisure management section with the parks and open spaces management and arboricultural services under the Environmental Services section.

The Greenspaces unit is responsible for the management of country parks, urban parks, nature reserves, allotments, woodlands, arboriculture and the park ranger service within Chesterfield.

Other duties include the provision of arboricultural advice to other sections of the council and the letting of facilities in parks for events and sports.

The park rangers and wardens are organised in three areas covering the east, central and west areas of the borough based within the principal borough parks of Poolsbrook Country Park, Queen’s Park and Holmebrook Valley Park respectively.
The park rangers and wardens undertake a range of site maintenance tasks including woodland and grassland management, hedgerow maintenance, access improvements and the maintenance of fencing and site furniture.

Other duties of the rangers and wardens are leading volunteer tasks and guided walks, liaising with the public, providing visitor information, supporting events and deterring misuse of sites. This includes dog fouling and littering enforcement.

External contractors are also employed to undertake specialist services such as arboricultural works and wildflower meadow maintenance through hay cutting etc.

Parks policy and landscape development strategies are also formulated by officers within the Greenspaces unit.
5.6 Training and Continued Professional Development

Chesterfield Borough Council is committed to the professional and personal development of its employees. This is demonstrated through the council’s involvement in the Investors in People scheme. Employees have annual personal development reviews with their line manager where training needs are highlighted and performance reviewed.

5.7 Budgets and Revenue

The Environmental Services Section have responsibility for the overall budget for the service. This is split into the various budget heads with an allocation of approximately £1 million for parks and greenspaces.

An essential part of the management role is to maximise grants and external funding for works to greenspaces where possible to augment budgets. This can come from a variety of sources, the most recent being a grant from SITA Trust for £55k, which enabled the creation of Norbriggs Flash Local Nature Reserve.

Significant funding of over £110,000 has recently been secured in the form of a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Grant from Natural England, which will fund important wildlife conservation work on the borough’s country parks and nature reserves over the next decade.

Important sources of revenue are generated from a number of areas such as sports pitch lettings, angling club leases, organised events, café leases and room lettings in park buildings.

5.8 Marketing and Promotion

Chesterfield Borough Council promotes its parks and open spaces through the council’s in-house public relations section and the award winning tourist information centre based at New Square in Chesterfield town centre.

Promotion of green spaces, and events taking place within them, is undertaken through a variety of media including the council’s website, articles in the council publication ‘Our Town’ and press releases in the Derbyshire Times and other local publications.

The park ‘Friends’ groups are also active in marketing their respective parks with many organising and promoting events. The Friends of Poolsbrook Country Park and the Friends of Holmebrook Valley Park have taken their marketing a step further with the launch of their own website providing information on the park and the activities of the group.
5.9 Sustainability

5.9.1 Biodiversity

Chesterfield Borough Council has recognised the importance of biodiversity for a long time and in conjunction with our partners Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust launched the revised Greenprint for Chesterfield in 2006. This is a biodiversity action plan for the Borough that helps to co-ordinate our approach to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the Borough and to preserve our wildlife for current and future generations.

Targets are set, and progress monitored, using the national Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS).

5.9.2 Local Wildlife Sites

Chesterfield has twenty nine Local Wildlife Sites, of which two are local nature reserves.

The results of an assessment undertaken between April 2004 and March 2009 found that twelve of the sites had received positive management within the period covered by the assessment.

41.38% of Local Wildlife Sites are under positive management.

5.9.3 Green Purchasing Policy

Chesterfield Borough Council’s environmental purchasing policy is incorporated within the Corporate Procurement Strategy.

The aim of the policy is to improve our environmental performance by procuring environmentally preferable goods and services whilst ensuring that we obtain value for money.

A two part procedure has been developed, purchases are identified as either significant or standard purchases. The aim of this approach is to ensure that purchases that have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment are given more consideration than small day to day purchases.

In order to determine if you are making a purchase with a significant impact a series of thresholds have been developed. The basic principles of the policy are outlined below, and there is also a banned product list which you should refer to.

What is Significant?
Any purchase the value of which is over £25,000
Any purchase which has significant Health and Safety implications
Electrical equipment rated at 1kW or higher
Heating or hot water equipment with an input rating in excess of 35 kW
Any vehicle powered by fossil fuel

Requirements for Significant Purchases
Significant purchases are not every day events and they warrant a degree of thought and effort to ensure we get it right.

This process is aided and documented by the completion of a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Form. The Sustainability Officer will help you complete this form.

Standard Purchases
Any item which doesn't fall into the significant category is called a Standard Purchase.

For these day to day purchases of less significant items you must consider environmental issues (see below) but you're not obliged to document your thinking.

Questions to ask yourself when making a standard purchase
Is the product energy and resource efficient?
Does the product use the minimum amount of virgin materials and make maximum use of post consumer materials (e.g. recycled)?
Is the product non or less polluting to air, water or land than alternatives?
Is the product durable, easily upgraded and repairable?
Is the product reusable and do markets and the infrastructure exist for recycling the product at the end of its life?
Is the product supported by additional information to demonstrate its environmental preferability?
Is the product fit for the purpose and economically advantageous?

5.9.4 Banned Product List

1. Ozone depleting substances

Chesterfield Borough Council will not buy products which contain ozone depleting substances or have used these substances in their production or packaging.

The substances can be categorised as:
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), halons, 1,1,1, trichloroethane and any other ozone depleting substances.

2. Tropical hardwoods not independently certified as coming from a well managed and sustainable source

3. Wood preservatives or wood treated with preservatives containing pentachlorophenol (PCP), lindane or tributyltin oxide

Council Directive 79/117/EEC dated 21 December 1978 prohibits the placing on the market and the use of plant protection products containing certain active substances which, even if applied in an approved manner, could give rise to harmful effects on human health or the environment. The UK government has added several active substances banned in the UK.

The complete list is available on-line at :Pesticides Safety Directorate under annex B

5. Certain cleaning materials

Chesterfield Borough Council will not use products which are petroleum-based, or contain foaming agents NTA or EDTA, optical brighteners, chlorine bleaches, enzymes, synthetic perfumes, colourings or have been tested on animals.

6. Peat for soil amelioration purposes

7. Materials containing Genetically Modified Organisms

5.9.5 Environmental Management System

The borough council operates a form of environmental audit for the council’s operations and facilities to ensure minimal impact on the local and wider environment.

5.10 Health and Safety

5.10.1 Health and Safety Policy

Chesterfield Borough Council acknowledges its statutory duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all associated legislation, to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its employees and the health and safety of any other person who may be affected by its undertakings.

In respect of its employees, this includes the provision of:-

(i) A safe place of work.
(ii) A safe and healthy working environment.
(iii) Safe plant and equipment.
(iv) Safe systems of work.
(v) Adequate information, instruction, training and supervision.
(vi) Adequate welfare arrangements.
(vii) Adequate arrangements for handling, storing transporting and using articles or substances at work.

(viii) Suitable and sufficient risk assessments undertaken in accordance with all statutory provisions.

(ix) A full consultation framework consisting of a Health and Safety Committee arranged quarterly with representatives from the employers and employees sides in accordance with The Safety Committee and Safety Representatives Regulations 1977. (For terms of reference see Section 3.25)

The Health and Safety policy, supported by instructions, procedures and organisational arrangements, is to be applied to all the Council's undertakings.

To ensure the successful implementation of the Policy, all Elected Members, the Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, Heads of Service, Service Managers, Supervisors and all other employees are committed to fulfilling their health and safety responsibilities.

The Council is committed to continual improvement in meeting its health and safety objectives by reducing, so far as is reasonably practicable, the number of accidents at work and incidents which may have a detrimental effect on health and safety.

The Council's undertakings will be regularly monitored through inspection and audit to ensure that the objectives for health, safety and welfare, set out in this Corporate Health and Safety policy are achieved.

Any changes to existing legislation may require changes to the policy implementation arrangements. These changes will act as an amendment to this policy document until a revised document can be produced.

The policy shall be reviewed biennially and amended, as necessary, to ensure that any objectives, methods, responsibilities and/or recording requirements meet the standards required by statutory provisions.

5.10.2 Risk Assessment

The health and safety policy details the procedure and methodology for producing and revising risk assessments for the council's operations, property and activities that take place on its land.

5.10.3 Water Safety
The council maintains lifebuoy installations on all its main publicly accessible waterbodies, which are inspected regularly by the park ranger team.

Warning and prohibition signs are erected in prominent locations around waterbodies to deter misuse and injury or death.

The park ranger staff display ‘thin ice’ signs on waterbodies during the winter months when the temperature drops below zero Celsius.

5.11 Waste Management, Street Cleansing and Enforcement

The council is committed to improving the cleanliness of the borough and a key project under the corporate plan for 2012 – 2015 is delivering the streetscene improvement plan with a focus on dog fouling, grass cutting and litter.

5.11.1 Dog Fouling

Dog excrement receptacles have been installed on streets and public greenspace across the borough for use by the general public. The receptacles are emptied by Environmental Services cleansing operatives a minimum of once a week with high use receptacles being emptied more frequently.

The borough council takes a proactive stance on reducing dog fouling and have trained dog wardens, housing rangers and park rangers to issue fixed penalty notices to people whose dogs foul public spaces and then fail to clean up after them. The Council has recently increased the penalty for dog fouling in Chesterfield from £50 to £80.

5.11.2 Litter

Routine and reactive litter collection is dealt with by the Environmental Services cleansing operatives. Teams are despatched on specific routes through streets and public open spaces to collect loose litter and empty litter bins routinely.

The park ranger service also undertakes litter collection duties in specific parks and open spaces across the borough.

The borough council takes a proactive stance on reducing littering offences and have trained dog enforcement officers, housing rangers and park rangers to issue fixed penalty notices to people who are witnessed dropping litter.
5.11.3 Green Waste

Waste generated from arboricultural or woodland operations are dealt with in four ways.

Timber, cordwood and brash are left on site to provide a dead wood habitat for invertebrates and mammals.

Brash and cordwood are chipped and taken to Hasland Nursery for storage and reuse as mulch on low grade amenity shrub beds. The nursery has a waste transfer license from the Environment Agency to permit this activity.

Timber and cordwood is taken by the contractor to offset the cost of operations if of marketable value.

Other arising green waste, such as collected amenity grass cuttings, is disposed of at a local green composting site.

5.12 Pest Control

Rodent and invertebrate control is undertaken by the borough council’s Environmental Control section.

Invasive vascular plant species, such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed, are controlled through planned herbicide spraying programmes.

5.13 Building Maintenance

Buildings are maintained by the council’s facilities maintenance section. Repairs and inspection are undertaken on both a programmed and reactive basis.

5.14 Play Facilities

Chesterfield Borough Council manages 92 play spaces that provide for a diverse range of play opportunities for children and young play in the Borough.

In 2007 the Council along with the neighbouring local authority North East Derbyshire District Council produced a Play Strategy that sought to raise the profile of Play in the area. Good quality play provision is a key part of the Councils vision because it helps to develop healthy, confident, creative, tolerant and culturally aware children and young people.

Through the Play Strategy the Council will further improve on existing work to ensure
better provision for children’s play.

Key outcomes for the Play Strategy are:

- Make effective use of funding
- Complements and informs other key strategic plans and initiatives
- Sustain play provision over the long term
- Improve public spaces as an environment for play
- Improve children’s access to safe places to play and socialise
- Provide more and better local and inclusive play opportunities where they are most needed.
- Promote longer term, more cross-cutting partnership working
- Develop strong leadership and support for play
- Promote and develop commitment to play at a strategic level
- Promote and develop inclusively
- Enhance decision making and service provision

OUR KEY THEMES

Informed by the audits and consultation and linking into key strategic documents and priorities, a series of Play Strategy Themes have been developed. These set out the core objectives for the Play Strategy to develop and implement the needs and aspirations of children and young people in Chesterfield and have been a reference point for all action and delivery plans arising from the strategy.

**Theme 1**  RAISE AWARENESS OF PLAY

**Theme 2**  RAISING THE QUALITY OF PLAY PROVISION

**Theme 3**  IMPROVING THE RANGE OF EQUIPPED PLAY PROVISION

**Theme 4**  EXTENDING THE RANGE OF PLAY OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION

**Theme 5**  PROVIDING MORE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP PLAY OPPORTUNITIES
APPENDIX 1
MAPS

- Map 1- Park Boundaries
- Map 2- Visitor Facilities
- Map 3- Species-rich Grassland
- Map 4- Woodlands
- Map 5- Hedgerows
APPENDIX 2
Species List

Ground Flora & Aquatics

Great Willowherb
Common Nettle
Wild Angelica
Common Ragwort
Meadowsweet
Greater pond-sedge
Common spike-rush
Yellow Iris
Gypsywort
Purple-loosestrife
Water mint
Common club-rush
Greater Spearwort
Water dock
Fringed water-lily
Water starwort
Rigid hornwort
Spiked water-milfoil
Common-spotted orchid
Common bird’s foot trefoil
Common knapweed
Ragged-robbin
Yellow rattle
Common reedmace
Common Reed
Southern Marsh Orchid
Meadow Crane’s Bill
Tufted vetch
Ribwort Plantain
Meadow vetchling
Betony
Lesser Stitchwort
Devil’s Bit Scabious
Woodsage
Common Sorrel
Bulbous buttercup
Meadow buttercup
Selfheal
Cowslip
Lady’s bedstraw
Pignut
Common Knapweed
Yarrow
Oxeye daisy

Grasses

Common bent
Sweet vernal-grass
Crested dogstail
Fine-leaved sheep’s fescue
Sheep’s fescue
Slender Creeping red fescue
Smaller Cat’s tail
Yorkshire fog
Meadow foxtail
Cocksfoot
Perennial rye-grass

Birds

Grey Partridge
Pheasant
Woodcock
Wood pigeon
Great Crested Grebe
Little Crested Grebe
Black backed Gull
Cormorant
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Mallard
Yellow hammer
Robin
Wren
Chaffinch
Bulfinch
Great tit
Blue tit
Crossbill
Green woodpecker
Song thrush
Mistle thrush
Coot
Moorhen
Starling
Tree Sparrow
Reed warbler
Gold finch
Heron
Dunnock
Long-tailed tit
Pied wagtail
Buzzard
Kestrel
Sparrowhawk
Magpie
Jackdaw
Carrion Crow
Jay

**Mammals**

Water vole
Brown Hare
Rabbit
Grey squirrel
Brown rat
Field vole
Mole
Stoat
Hedgehog
American Mink
Roe Deer

**Trees**

Pendunculate Oak
Red Oak
Scots Pine
Corsican Pine
European Larch
False Acacia
Ash
Small-leaved Lime
Yew
Aspen
White Poplar
Crack Willow
Norway Maple
Common Alder
Italian Alder
Field Maple
Goat Willow
Silver Birch
Crab Apple
Pillar Apple
Hawthorn
Hazel
Holly
Dogwood
Guelder Rose
APPENDIX 3

- General Risk Assessment for the Park
- COSHH Risk Assessment
- Tree Inspection Risk Assessment
## C.B.C. RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SELECT ASSESSMENT TYPE. DELETE TYPE N/A.</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT TITLE</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT NO.</th>
<th>DIRECTORATE:</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WORKPLACE:</td>
<td>Chesterfield Borough Council Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TASK:</td>
<td>Poolsbrook Country Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT NO.</td>
<td></td>
<td>P002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT DATE:</td>
<td>Initial Assessment:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION:</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSESSED BY:</td>
<td>Barry Tomlinson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVIEW DATE:</td>
<td>01/09/2010</td>
<td>20/09/2012</td>
<td>01/09/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSULTATION:</td>
<td>Unison</td>
<td>Tony Bryan</td>
<td>G.M.B</td>
<td>Stephen Heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECTION HEAD:</td>
<td>Rod Cook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK:

L/M/H = LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH

NB: USE RISK RATING SHEET TO DECIDE RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKPLACE/TASK /EQUIPMENT. ASSESSED</th>
<th>HAZARDS IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>WHO IS AT RISK</th>
<th>EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES</th>
<th>RISK RAT. (L/M/H)</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES</th>
<th>RES. RISK (L/M/H)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paths</td>
<td>Slips, Trips &amp; Falls</td>
<td>Employees Public</td>
<td>Paths are routinely inspected and issues highlighted</td>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
<td>Path plan to highlight specific areas to be produced with document inspections recorded</td>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steps</td>
<td>Slips, Trips &amp; Falls</td>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Vegetation is routinely cut and maintained to keep steps clear.</td>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance work is carried out periodically to re-surface, re-instate and repair the step.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Steps are taken out of use if unsafe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>Structural Failure</td>
<td>Employees</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Bridges are inspected on an annual basis by structural engineer.</td>
<td>Medium (4 * 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridges are inspected on quarterly basis by competent person.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bridges are closed if any structural / safety concerns are raised.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Warning notices are displayed at various locations around the lake.</td>
<td>Medium (5 * 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Life Bouys are located at various locations around the lake.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The lake is a no swimming or boating lake.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benches</td>
<td>Collapse</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Benches are routinely inspected and issued highlighted.</td>
<td>Low (2 * 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact Injury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance work is carried out periodically to repair or replace broken benches.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Benches are taken out of use if unsafe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Fish Pegs** | **Collapse** | **Public** | **Fishing Pegs** are routinely inspected and issues highlighted  
Maintenance work is carried out periodically to repair or replace broken Fishing Pegs  
Fishing Pegs are taken out of use if unsafe  
Anti-slip surface on top of Fishing Pegs  
All banks / paths leading to Fishing Pegs are routinely inspected & repaired as required | **Medium**  
5 * 2 | **Medium**  
5 * 2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Impact Injury** | **Impact Injuries** | **Public** | **Play Area**  
All play equipment is inspected annually by independent engineer & also by insurance  
Play equipment is maintained on a weekly basis | **Medium**  
4 * 2 | **Medium**  
3 * 2 |
| **Drowning** | **Trap Injuries** | **Employees** | **Trees**  
Trees are routinely thinned out as required.  
All obstructing over hanging branches are removed as required  
Trees are routinely inspected by qualified staff and any necessary safety work arranged. | **Low**  
2 * 2 | **Medium**  
3 * 3 |
| **Slips, Trips & Falls** | **Slips, Trips & Falls** | **Public** | **Horses**  
Specific routes are highlighted around the park for horses  
Paths are routinely inspected and issued highlighted and repaired  
Horses limited to walking and trotting on concessionary routes - no cantering, galloping or jumping. | **Medium**  
3 * 2 | **Medium**  
3 * 2 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inappropriate Motor Vehicle Use</th>
<th>Collison</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Car park are closed dusk till dawn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Damage to Environment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Barriers block off access to the park in various locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>Speed limits are in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Speed humps are installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rangers patrol public areas during daytime hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. &amp; security company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dogs</th>
<th>Dog Fouling</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Bins are provided at various locations around the park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dog Attack</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Warning signs regarding dog fouling are displayed around the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enforcement officers visit the park on regular occasions during the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rangers have been trained and are qualified to issue fines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dog owners are encouraged to keep dogs on lead in densely populated areas or when events are taking place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Public Safety</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>All events are booked through the Council &amp; are recorded on booking system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflicts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Event booking plans are required for all events including insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Notices are displayed around the park notifying public of any change to the area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Medium (5 * 2)                 | Medium (4 * 2) | Dogs to be kept on lead signage to be erect around lake area & around children’s play areas |

<p>| Low (2 * 2)                    |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Public Safety</th>
<th>Injury &amp; Incident</th>
<th>Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car park are closed dusk till dawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices are displayed at main public entrances stating parks opening &amp; closing times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting is kept on at night around pavilion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangers patrol public areas during daytime hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional staff are on duty when events are taking place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anti Social Behavior</th>
<th>Physical Injury</th>
<th>Employees Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rangers patrol public areas during daytime hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area is patrolled during evening hours on occasional basis by local P.C.S.O. &amp; security company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff are required to report ALL incidents in accordance with departmental procedures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phones supplied to each team &amp; can raise issues direct to Police on Helpline Number 0845 1233333 or 999 in Emergency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anti Social Behavior</th>
<th>Psychological Injury</th>
<th>Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff to be provided with training in dealing with Anti Social Behavior issues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices to be displayed asking public to report any issues relating to anti social behavior</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (3 * 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sharps</th>
<th>Puncture Wounds</th>
<th>Employees Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rangers patrol the park on a regular basis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangers are trained to collect sharps &amp; all incidents are reported</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (4 * 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sharps</th>
<th>Blood born Viruses</th>
<th>Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium (4 * 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Water Quality | Various Health Issues | Employees | Public | Water samples are taken on a weekly basis  
Warning notices are displayed around the lake area if any minor issues to public safety  
Lake area is fenced off if any major issues to public safety | Medium (4 * 2) | Medium (4 * 2) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Burns &amp; Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Damage to the Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees &amp; Contractors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park</strong></td>
<td>The park is not used for camping purposes &amp; barbequing &amp; fires are not allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Building</strong></td>
<td>Poolsbrook Country Park depot has had a fire risk assessment completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All electrical equipment is Portable Appliance Tested annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poolsbrook Country has a Break Glass alarm system fitted in the ranger office &amp; associated building, verbal notification is required in garage area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fire alarm &amp; smoke detectors are tested on regular basis by Technical Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALL staff are aware of the Fire Action Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fire extinguishers are provided &amp; are serviced on an annual basis by Chubb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual fire safety training is given to all staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full fire drills / evacuations to be carried out every 6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Medium | (5 * 2) | Medium | (5 * 2) |
| Missing / Lost Children | Employees Public | Staff / Child ratio guidelines following dependant on age of children
Register taken at start of activity, during any breaks & at end of activity
As soon as you become aware that a child is lost or missing you must:
  - Inform the Group Supervisor immediately
  - Check when / where the child was last seen
  - Check all areas of the building / site – use all available staff
If the child cannot be found:
  - Contact the child’s parent and emergency contact to see if the child has returned home.
  - Contact the police | Medium (4 * 2) | Medium (4 * 2) |
## RESIDUAL RISK RATING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVERITY</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
<th>LIKELIHOOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO INJURY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>VERY UNLIKELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINOR INJURY</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>UNLIKELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVER 3 DAY INJURY</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>POSSIBLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAJOR INJURY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>LIKELY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEATH</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>VERY LIKELY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL

SEVERITY \( \times \) LIKELIHOOD = RISK RATING

**EXAMPLE**

MINOR INJURY (2) \( \times \) UNLIKELY (2) = 4

## RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK RATING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK RATING</th>
<th>RESIDUAL RISK RATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 5</td>
<td>LOW RISK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 12</td>
<td>MEDIUM RISK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 – 25</td>
<td>HIGH RISK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**COSHH Risk Assessment No:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directorate: Environment</th>
<th>Establishment/Section: Environmental Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Describe the activity or work process. (Include how long and how often this is carried out and the quantity of substance used) | Storage of Chemicals and Fuel at Poolsbrook Country Park |
| Location of process being carried out? | Rangers’ garage |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify the persons at risk:</th>
<th>Employees (including trainees)</th>
<th>Contractors</th>
<th>Public (including students)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Name the substance involved in the process and its manufacturer. (A copy of a current safety data sheet for this substance should be attached to this assessment) | Unleaded fuel | Roundup herbicide |

**Classification (state the category of danger)**

### OLD SYMBOLS

- Very Toxic
- Irritant
- Extremely Flammable
- Toxic
- Sensitizing
- Highly Flammable
- Corrosive
- Biological
- Flammable
- Harmful
- Oxidising
- Environment

### NEW SYMBOLS

- Explosive
- Danger
- Sensitiser, Carcinogen, Mutagen or Teratogen
- Warning
- Oxidiser
- Corrosive
- Aquatic Toxicity
- Flammable
- Compressed Liquefied Gas

**Hazard Type**

- Gas
- Vapour
- Mist
- Fume
- Dust
- Liquid
- Solid
- Other (State)
### Route of Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Inhalation</th>
<th>Skin</th>
<th>Eyes</th>
<th>Ingestion</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs)

*please indicate n/a where not applicable*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Limits (WELs)</th>
<th>Long-term exposure level (8hrTWA):</th>
<th>Short-term exposure level (15 mins):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### State the Risks to Health from Identified Hazards

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

### Control Measures

*for example extraction, ventilation, training, supervision.* Include special measures for vulnerable groups, such as disabled people and pregnant workers. Take account of those substances that are produced from activities undertaken by another employer’s employees.

### Is health surveillance or monitoring required?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

### Personal Protective Equipment *(state type and standard)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Dust mask</th>
<th>Visor</th>
<th>Respirator</th>
<th>Goggles</th>
<th>Gloves</th>
<th>Overalls</th>
<th>Footwear</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td></td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td></td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td></td>
<td>[x]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First Aid Measures

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disposal of Substances &amp; Contaminated Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(If Other Please State):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Is exposure adequately controlled? | Yes | ☐ | No | ☐ |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Rating Following Control Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT ASSESSMENT TYPE. DELETE TYPE N/A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKPLACE:</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT DATE:</th>
<th>SECTION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield Borough Council Areas</td>
<td>Initial Assessment: N/A</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK:</th>
<th>ASSESSED BY:</th>
<th>SIGNATURE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree Inspection</td>
<td>Barry Tomlinson</td>
<td>Bill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK EQUIPMENT:</th>
<th>REVIEW DATE:</th>
<th>CONSULTATION:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tree Inspection | 09/11/2011 27/07/2012 01/07/2014 | • Unison  
• G.M.B  
Tony Bryan  
Stephen Heath |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK RATING &amp; RESIDUAL RISK:</th>
<th>SECTION HEAD:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L/M/H = LOW / MEDIUM / HIGH</td>
<td>Rod Cook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NB: USE RISK RATING SHEET TO DECIDE RISK RATING & RESIDUAL RISK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKPLACE/TASK/EQUIPMENT ASSESSED</th>
<th>HAZARDS IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>WHO IS AT RISK</th>
<th>EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES</th>
<th>RISK RAT. (L/M/H)</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES</th>
<th>RES. RISK (L/M/H)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Trees | Impact Injuries from Falling Objects | Employee | Public | Trees in high use areas/ on high use routes are formally inspected by qualified and experienced staff and any works required are recorded. Quick visual inspections of trees along high use routes/areas are undertaken following any severe weather conditions.  
• Detailed inspections are carried out on any trees that are noted to have significant defects or symptoms of disease.  
• Works order organized for any prescriptions arising from individual inspections  
• Inspection frequencies vary according to site use and age/condition of tree stock. | Medium (2 * 4) | Survey results are recorded on GIS data storage system. | Low (1 * 4) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park rangers &amp; Ground maintenance staff have working knowledge of trees &amp; report any obvious defects as they encounter them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Inspection carried out by qualified staff on site after reported issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public can report &amp; perceived dangerous trees through the council's call centre, these are logged on central system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inspection carried out by qualified staff on site after reported issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All overhanging branches obstructing access routes are removed as required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RESIDUAL RISK RATING

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### RESIDUAL RISK LEVEL

SEVERITY $\times$ LIKELIHOOD $=$ RISK RATING

**EXAMPLE**

MINOR INJURY (2) $\times$ UNLIKELY (2) $=$ 4

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