

Report of the Executive Director

BROXTOWE PARKS STANDARD1. Purpose of report

To update Members on the outcome of the latest consultation and site assessments relating to the Broxtowe Parks Standard.

2. Background and detail

The Corporate Plan, as one of its priorities, is to protect the environment for the future. One of the targets associated with this priority is that 100% of parks and open spaces meet the Broxtowe Parks Standard. Having a uniform standard across all the sites is seen as a fair and positive way of improving the quality and visitor experience of the parks and open spaces. Appendix 1 details the questions asked as part of this standard.

Since the standard was approved in 2014 all the parks and open space have been assessed on a number of occasions and a report to the Environment and Climate Change Committee in February 2021 identified 1 site not achieving the standard. Appendix 2 details this site together with the outcome of the consultation reassessments in late summer/early autumn 2021. In addition, the appendix lists the outcomes of consultation and site assessments of a further 20% of sites that previously met the standard to make sure they were still achieving the quality targets. Consultation took place using an online questionnaire and 577 responses were received. The questionnaire was promoted on the Council's website and through social media. All sites are also inspected by officers from the Parks team to assess any concerns raised through the consultation process and to check that the scores achieved are a true reflection for the sites.

3. Financial implications

No costings have been included in this report but some of the issues identified have already been actioned and others will be prioritised through both capital and revenue budgets for improvements to the Borough's parks/open spaces.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Site Assessment

1. How welcoming is the park?
2. How effective is signage?
3. Standard of cleanliness
4. How clean is the site in terms of dog fouling?
5. Accessibility
6. Standard of grass cutting
7. Standard of shrub beds/flower beds maintenance
8. Standard of the tree maintenance
9. Play facilities provided
10. Sports facilities provided
11. How are the issues with violence and anti-social behaviour dealt with?
12. Nature and wildlife management
13. Overall impression of the park/open space

Options

Very good/very well
Good/Well
Fair
Poor/not very well
Very poor/not at all
Don't know/not applicable

APPENDIX 2

Sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard in 2020

To achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard sites must score at least 85% of marks in the fair and above category and at least 45% of marks in the good and above category. Detailed below is the 1 site not achieving the standard in 2020.

Less than 85% Fair and Above

Beauvale Park, Greasley

82%

Less than 45% Good and Above

All sites achieved this standard

Analysis of the 2021 Survey Work

In late summer/early autumn 2021 the 1 site failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard was reassessed together with 13 other sites previously assessed as achieving the standard. These additional 13 sites were selected at random across the borough from the sites that had not been assessed in the last 3 years. The scores are shown below.

Area	Name of site	Fair & Above 2021	Good & Above 2021
Attenborough	Long Lane Recreation Ground	91% P	71% P
Beeston	Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground	91% P	70% P
Beeston	Weirfields Recreation Ground	89% P	67% P
Bramcote	Alexandrina Plantation/Sandy Lane	89% P	59% P
Chilwell	Inham Nook Recreation Ground	87% P	57% P
Eastwood	Coronation Park	85% P	56% P
Eastwood	Mansfield Road Recreation Ground	87% P	61% P
Greasley	Beauvale Park	87% P	52% P
Kimberley	Hall om Wong	86% P	61% P
Kimberley	The Stag Recreation Ground	87% P	45% P
Stapleford	Central Avenue Recreation Ground	85% P	46% P
Stapleford	Hemlock stone Open Space	86% P	48% P
Stapleford	Queen Elizabeth Park	84% F	51% P
Toton	Banks Road Open Space	91% P	57% P

P = Pass F = Fail

Based on this round of assessments there is only 1 site failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard.

Less than 85% Fair and Above

Queen Elizabeth Park, Stapleford

84%

Less than 45% Good and Above

All sites achieved this standard

Site specific comments on the sites assessed

Attenborough – Long Lane Recreation Ground. Positive feedback across all areas, the play area continues to be well received. Too early to assess the impact of the changes taking place to the sports pavilion.

Beeston – Dovecote Lane Recreation Ground. Another high scoring site with the new play area opened in Spring 2021 getting lots of praise. Positive comments about the new tree planting that has taken place on the park. Suggestions about the possibility of a skate park near the children's play area.

Beeston – Weirfields Recreation Ground. The links that the site provides to the Big Track Multi user route and Attenborough Nature Reserve were some of the positive comments. Request for margins around the site to have a more relaxed regime in terms of grass cutting and this offers potential for summer 2022.

Bramcote – Alexandrina Plantation/Sandy Lane. A lower score than some of the previous sites which is slightly surprising given that it has a Community Green Flag. The comments however were all positive, particularly in relation to its status as a Local Nature Reserve, volunteer involvement and lack of vandalism. Concern expressed about ongoing proposals for housing development adjacent to the site.

Chilwell – Inham Nook Recreation Ground. The changes undertaken in recent years relating to relaxing the grass cutting in certain areas and the introduction of annual wildflower areas were well received. The park was noted as a good community facility with a wide range of sports and play facilities.

Eastwood – Coronation Park. Whilst the park comfortably achieves the standard in the good and above category, there were concerns about dogs on the park and issues with dog fouling and littering. Anti-social behaviour was perceived to be a problem but no specific issues identified. There was positive feedback received relating to tree cover and accessibility.

Eastwood – Mansfield Road Recreation Ground. The park scores consistently well across all areas. Problems with the car park not being clearly marked with spaces for drivers with disabilities have now been addressed. The trees on the park were well received and with the new COVID-19 Rainbow Tree Planting undertaken in December last year, hopefully this will generate more positive comments in the future.

Greasley – Beauvale Park. This site is managed by Greasley Parish Council. It was the only park last year failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard, hence to reason for its reassessment this year. There has been an increase in the fair and above category from 84% to 87% which compares favourably with a lot of other sites. The main concerns last year related to the lack of surfaced paths in the children's play

area and the need to improve gates and fencing. Both these were addressed with Section 106 funding received for this site and are reflected in the revised scores.

Kimberley – Hall om Wong. The works to the path network and the improvements to the children's play area in 2020 are reflected in the scores for this site. Overall the site was felt to be well maintained and managed positively in terms of nature conservation. Some comments about issues with fires in the wood. Work has been undertaken to try to resolve this working with the fire service.

Kimberley – The Stag Recreation Ground. This site is managed by Kimberley Town Council and whilst the scores are at the lower end of the range to achieve the standard, there were no really negative comments about the site. Suggestions made about increasing the range of children's play equipment. This is not really achievable given the space constraints.

Stapleford – Central Avenue Recreation Ground. A site that has in the past failed to achieve the standard. Again whilst it scores at the lower end in both categories it is only a very small site. Requests for improvements in terms of controlling dog fouling.

Stapleford – Hemlockstone Open Space. Felt to be welcoming and accessible with positive comments about cleanliness and the management of trees. Comments about refurbishing an area of steps up to the "trig point" at the top of the open space. This work has now been scheduled.

Stapleford – Queen Elizabeth Park. The only park this year failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard. Although a creditable pass in the "good and above" category a score of 84% in the "fair and above" category was 1 point below the required standard. The main criticism related to the children's play area which had equipment that had not been replaced. Since the survey was undertaken a new large item of play equipment has been added using funding from the 2021/22 Pride in Parks Capital Allocation. Hopefully when the site is reassessed in Summer 2022 this will be reflected in the score. The play area is also identified in the Capital Programme for 2023/24 for a full refurbishment.

Toton – Banks Road Open Space. Generally positive feedback across all areas with good comments on overall maintenance, management of trees and environmental management. Suggestions that the play area is ready for some improvement works and again this is a site identified in the Capital Programme for 2023/24.