

Report of the Interim Strategic 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 2016-2020 has, as one of its priorities, to protect and enhance the environment for future generations. One of the targets associated with this priority is that 100% of parks and open spaces achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard. This standard was agreed by Cabinet in 2014. 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 the sites have been assessed on a number of occasions and a report to this Committee in January 2018 identified 3 sites not achieving the standard. Appendix 2 details these sites together with the outcome of the consultation reassessments in summer 2018. In addition, the appendix lists the outcomes of consultation and site assessments of a further 25% of sites that previously met the standard to make sure they were still achieving the quality targets. Consultation took place during late summer/early autumn 2018 using an online questionnaire and 232 responses were received. Notices were placed on all the sites being assessed asking for responses. The questionnaire was also promoted on the Council's website and through 'Email Me'.

3. Financial implications

No costings have been included in this report but it is proposed to include some of the issues identified in a future report to this committee which outlines funding proposals from the £125,000 allocated in the 2019/20 capital programme for improvements to play areas and parks/open spaces.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report and the issues identified.

Background papers

Nil

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.

Sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard in 2017

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 are the 3 sites not achieving the standard in 2017.

Less than 85% Fair and Above

Millfield Road Open Space, Kimberley	83%
Redbridge Drive Open Space, Nuthall	77%
Hickings Lane Recreation Ground, Stapleford	83%

Less than 45% Good and Above

Millfield Road Open Space, Kimberley	41%
Redbridge Drive Open Space, Nuthall	35%

Analysis of the 2018 Survey Work

In summer 2017 the three sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard were 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. These scores together with the previous assessments in 2017 are shown below. The scores are a combination of consultation responses and officer assessments.

Area	Name of site	Fair & Above 2017	Good & Above 2017	Fair & Above 2018	Good & Above 2018
Attenborough	Long Lane Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	92% P	64% P
Beeston	Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	90% P	67% P
Beeston	Weirfields Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	98% P	74% P
Bramcote	Bramcote Hills Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	96% P	80% P
Chilwell	Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	76% F	41% F
Eastwood	Coronation Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	86% P	55% P
Eastwood	Jubilee Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	85% P	46% P
Eastwood	Mansfield Road Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	86% P	54% P
Kimberley	Knowle Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	83% F	38% F
Kimberley	Hall om Wong Open Space	Not assessed	Not assessed	85% P	57% P
Kimberley	Millfield Road Open Space*	83% F	41% F	91% P	33% F

Nuthall	Redbridge Drive*	77% F	35% F	93% P	54% P
Stapleford	Hemlockstone Open Space	Not assessed	Not assessed	86% P	45% P
Stapleford	Hickings Lane Recreation Ground*	83% F	51% P	86% P	54% P
Stapleford	Pasture Road Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	79% F	47% P
Stapleford	Queen Elizabeth Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	87% P	51% P

F = Fail

P = Pass

* = Sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard in 2017.

Based on this round of assessments there are 4 sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard.

Less than 85% Fair and Above

Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground, Chilwell	76%
Knowle Park, Kimberley	83%
Pasture Road Recreation Ground, Stapleford	79%

Less than 45% Good and Above

Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground, Chilwell	41%
Knowle Park, Kimberley	38%
Millfield Road Open Space, Kimberley	33%

Site Specific Comments on the 16 Sites Assessed

Attenborough: Long Lane Recreation Ground – mainly positive comments, praise for the play area improvements.

Beeston: Hetley Pearson Recreation Ground – positive comments on the cleanliness of the site. Few issues raised about anti-social behaviour.

Beeston: Weirfields Recreation Ground – very good scores in both categories reflecting well on the site. Few issues about litter, particularly in the summer when the site is very popular.

Bramcote: Bramcote Hills Park – again very good scores in both categories with lots of positive comments. Issues raised about the lack of toilets and potential for refreshment facilities.

Chilwell: Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground – an area failing to achieve the standard in both the Fair and Above and the Good and Above categories. Comments about issues with anti-social behaviour and dog fouling together with issues relating to the football area. New goals were erected in the autumn of 2018 so this should help to

address this and additional work will be undertaken with the Neighbourhood Wardens to try to address the other issues.

Eastwood: Coronation Park – the largest park in Eastwood which has seen significant investment in recent years. This is reflected in the scores.

Eastwood: Jubilee Park – works to improve the play area undertaken in summer 2018 and this together with favourable comments on maintenance have helped achieve the standard.

Eastwood: Mansfield Road Recreation Ground – a range of good scores only let down by the comments relating to the play area. The survey was however undertaken prior to the recent Pride in Parks play area improvements and future surveys will hopefully reflect these works.

Kimberley: Knowle Park – another site failing to achieve the standard on both the Fair and Above and the Good and Above categories. Issues with dog fouling, broken and missing equipment on the play area together with anti-social behaviour were the main concerns. Kimberley Town Council are looking at the possibility of improving this play area as part of the Pride in Parks initiative. Further works needed to address dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

Kimberley: Hall om Wong Open Space – good scores in both categories. A range of comments on the tree works undertaken in 2017. Requests for provision of equipment for younger children in the play area. This is something that has been identified as a high priority in to Boroughs Play Strategy.

Kimberley: Millfield Road Open Space – the third site failing to achieve the standard. Whilst scoring well in the Fair and Above category the low score in the Good and Above range resulted in a fail. The works currently being undertaken to improve the play area and signage on the site will hopefully be reflected in the next round of surveys.

Nuthall: Redbridge Drive Open Space – this was one of the sites that failed to achieve the standard in 2017. However, following an upgrade of the play area and sports facilities, there has been a marked increase in the scores with high pass marks across both categories.

Stapleford: Hemlockstone Open Space – some reference to the work the Council is doing with the mountain bikes on the site and a few comments about litter but another site achieving the standard.

Stapleford: Hickings Lane Recreation Ground – a site that previously failed to achieve the standard but an increase in the scores this year has rectified this. The sports facilities score well but the children's play area attracted negative comments. The funding from the Pride in Parks initiative and WREN will address this later in the year.

Stapleford: Pasture Road Recreation Ground – a low score in the Fair and Above category resulted in the first fail for this site since the standard was introduced. The new paths were well received as was the standard of maintenance. Issues relating to the play area and anti-social behaviour were the main concerns. Opportunities to improve in these areas will be investigated.

Stapleford: Queen Elizabeth Park – good scores in both categories reflecting well on this popular park.