

## Report of the Strategic Director

**BROXTOWE PARKS STANDARD**1. 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 the Leisure and Environment Committee in January 2019 identified 4 sites not achieving the standard. Appendix 2 details these sites together with the outcome of the consultation reassessments in summer 2019. 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 during late summer/early autumn 2019 using an online questionnaire and 236 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 social media.

3. Financial implications

No costings have been included in this report but it is proposed to use some of the issues identified to prioritise funding proposals for future capital programmes for improvements to play areas and parks/open spaces.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to NOTE the report and the proposal to increase the visits by the Neighbourhood Wardens and the Cleansing teams at Archers Field Recreation Ground, Stapleford.**

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 2018

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 4 sites not achieving the standard in 2018.

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%

Analysis of the 2018 Survey Work

In summer 2019 the four sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard were reassessed together with 11 other sites previously assessed as achieving the standard. These additional 11 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 2018 are shown below.

Area	Name of site	Fair & Above 2018	Good & Above 2018	Fair & Above 2019	Good & Above 2019
Awsorth	The Lane Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	88% P	74% P
Beeston	Broadgate Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	90% P	62% P
Beeston	Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	90% P	77% P
Brinsley	Brinsley Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	93% P	76% P
Chilwell	Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground	76% F	41% F	85% P	45% P
Eastwood	Greenhills Road Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	86% P	45% P
Eastwood	Hall Park	Not assessed	Not assessed	88% P	50% P
Greasley	Colliers Wood	Not assessed	Not assessed	86% P	72% P
Greasley	Smithurst Road Open Space	Not assessed	Not assessed	87% P	62% P
Kimberley	Knowle Park	83% F	38% F	83% F	50% P
Kimberley	Flixton Road Open Space	Not assessed	Not assessed	92% P	50% P
Kimberley	Millfield Road	83% F	33% F	87% P	59% P

Area	Name of site	Fair & Above 2018	Good & Above 2018	Fair & Above 2019	Good & Above 2019
	Open Space				
Stapleford	Archers Field Recreation Ground	Not assessed	Not assessed	75% F	30% F
Stapleford	Judson Avenue Open Space	Not assessed	Not assessed	90% P	69% P
Stapleford	Pasture Road Recreation Ground	79% F	47% P	91% P	56% P

F = Fail

P = Pass

Based on this round of assessments there are 2 sites failing to achieve the Broxtowe Parks Standard.

Less than 85% Fair and Above

Knowle Park, Kimberley 83%  
 Archers Fields Recreation Ground, Stapleford 75%

Less than 45% Good and Above

Archers Fields Recreation Ground, Stapleford 30%

Site Specific Comments on the 15 Sites Assessed

Awsworth – The Lane Recreation Ground. Mainly positive comments. Improvements to the bowling green and cricket facilities well received. Better signage was suggested on a number of occasions.

Beeston – Broadgate Park. New play area attracted many positive comments. Good scores for cleanliness but concern that sometimes at the weekend due to the popularity of the park there are accumulations of litter.

Beeston - Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground. New play area attracted many favourable responses. Suggestions for additional footpaths. Positive comments on cleanliness and grass cutting.

Brinsley – Brinsley Recreation Ground. The Pride in Parks improvement works undertaken in 2018 have influenced the high scores for this site as have the paths around the site which provide good access.

Chilwell – Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground. An area failing to achieve the standard last year but has seen improved scores for both Fair and Above and Good and Above categories. Positive feedback on improvements relating to lack of dog fouling and good comments on trees. The new junior football goals erected have also improved the site’s facilities.

Eastwood – Greenhills Road Recreation Ground. Good scores in terms of cleanliness, absence of dog fouling and grass cutting has helped this site achieve the standard.

Eastwood – Hall Park. Generally positive scores throughout. Some concern about anti-social behaviour and work needed to improve the footpaths which has now been addressed.

Greasley – Colliers Wood. This Green Flag site scores very well in the Good and Above category and is much appraised by both local residents and visitors to the area. Concerns about frequent washout on the stone footpaths.

Greasley – Smithurst Road Open Space. A popular site offering a wide range of facilities. The refurbished play area was popular. Concern about washout on some of the paths which needs addressing. Cleanliness of the area and absence of dog fouling helped the site achieve the standard.

Kimberley – Knowle Park. An area failing to achieve the standard in 2018 and again last year. Whilst there have been positive improvements in the Good and Above category the site still just falls short in the Fair and Above category. The consultation was however undertaken prior to the new young children's play area being installed as part of the Pride in Parks programme. This should help to improve future scores. The absence of a path around the site also influenced the lower score.

Kimberley – Flixton Road Open Space. The play area scored very well as did the general maintenance of the overall site. Some concerns about vandalism.

Kimberley – Millfield Road Open Space. A big improvement on last year's score with the improvement works to the play area having a strong influence. The site's accessibility, cleanliness and standards of grass cutting helped the site once again achieve the standard.

Stapleford – Archers Field Recreation Ground. This site scored the lowest scores in both the Fair and Above and the Good and Above categories, failing to achieve the standard in both areas. A list of the negative reports concerning anti-social behaviour with related issues such as litter and dog fouling influencing the low scores. The nature conservation and tree areas did score well but there is a clear requirement to work with the Neighbourhood Wardens to help address these issues. Additional litter picks will be undertaken by the Cleansing teams and there will be regular use of social media to highlight the problems and to encourage positive and responsible use of this green space.

Stapleford – Judson Avenue Open Space. Strong scores all round for this small local open space. The improvements to the play area and wildlife areas have been well received.

Stapleford – Pasture Road Recreation Ground. Another site showing big improvement on 2018. High scores for improved signage, grass cutting and cleanliness helped this site achieve the standard again. The path around the site scored very well as did the maintenance of the trees. The play area was identified for improvements and this has been recognised in the play strategy.

