

EASTBOURNE

Borough Council



PRINCES PARK

Management Plan

2011 - 2021



Foreword

Princes Park is located on Eastbourne's seafront and since the Friends of Princes Park (FoPP) was formed in 2005, Eastbourne Borough Council has been working closely with this group to improve the park and its facilities. A successful partnership has developed and evolved with the Friends and there has been considerable investment to improve the priority areas that the local community identified including the two play areas and the replacement of the main entrance archway.

Further, significant funding has been identified by Eastbourne Borough Council to invest in Princes Park and there are opportunities to introduce new features and landscaping to improve the popularity of this park. The FoPP have also directly raised funding for the park and attended Cabinet and other Council meetings to put forward their proposals for improvements.

There are still many further aspirations for Princes Park and a Development Plan was undertaken during 2012, through consultants. This plan is being worked through along with the Green Flag judges' recommendations to further develop and enhance Princes Park for future generations. A successful Coastal Communities Fund grant bid has enabled the high priority works to proceed in 2016 and included the café refurbishment and new seafront entrance plaza.

The Management Plan sets out how Princes Park is currently managed and includes proposals for the future. The Development Plan links with this but with a more detailed focus on future projects.

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John Henderson

**Acting Chair – Friends of
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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Plan

The primary reason for developing a management plan is to aid the efficient and effective management of Princes Park and form a framework for working with other Departments of the Council, the FoPP and other agencies, such as the Environment Agency and the Police. The document enables all to have an understanding of how the park is managed. The plan links closely with the local community and other park users in their expectations of what the park should provide. The plan has been written to the criteria provided for of the Green Flag Award, which is a quality award for parks and open spaces and is increasingly becoming a measure of performance and standards.

Under the headings of the Green Flag Award, the management plan follows the principals for the future management of Princes Park.

A Welcoming Place – *ensure the site is properly signed and described with accurate location information, to promote use of the site and deter anti social behaviour*

Healthy, Safe and Secure – *increased usage to deter anti social behaviour, contract documents to ensure areas are safe*

Clean and Well Maintained – *ensure all interested parties agree to standards and that the prescribed standards are delivered by the incumbent grounds maintenance contractor*

Sustainability – *to select products that are made from recycled materials or re-use on site materials, wherever possible. To plant species that will be suited to the environment and require minimal maintenance, such as excessive pruning or watering. Regularly review work practices to improve sustainability wherever possible.*

Conservation and Heritage – *to preserve the heritage of the park, such as the oak tree planted by the Prince of Wales and any appropriate buildings or structures.*

Community Involvement – *to resolve conflicts of interest, to promote interest and support, to encourage community involvement*

Marketing – *increase the marketing of Princes Park, external signage, press reports and events (community and commercial).*

Management – *to involve all stakeholders, officers and elected members, to guide future management and ensure continuity, to define clear objectives, to review the performance of the management and understand the requirements to meet objectives, to monitor and assess any changes and to identify external factors that may affect the site.*

We have been working towards the principal of ownership by inclusion whereby the Council liaises fully with FoPP and the community take more of an interest and can influence and advise how this important park is managed now and for the future.

1.2 Commitment to the Plan

1.2.1 Policies

Princes Park is identified within the Eastbourne Borough Plan (2001-11) as an area defined as amenity space and playing field. The area defined as The Oval and the Princes Park football pitches are covered under Policy LCF2: Resisting Loss of Playing Fields which states that "Proposals which result in the net loss of playing fields will not be permitted. In exceptional circumstances planning permission will be granted for a development which would result in the loss of playing fields". This then describes the need to identify alternative provision, off site provision or enhancement of the existing provision for wider community use. The remainder of the site is covered under Policy UHT8: Protection of Amenity Space which states that "Development which would result in the loss of important areas of public amenity space shown on the Proposals Map will not be permitted."

The Local Development Framework is being created to supersede the Borough Plan and although not finalised or adopted, offers Princes Park the same levels of protection as the previous Borough Plan. An excerpt of The Local Development Framework Evidence Document, Open Space Assessment, is attached (Appendix A), which carried out a qualitative assessment of sites at this time and also referred to the Councils Performance Plan (2007), which is still relevant to entering quality awards, such as the Green Flag Award.

The creation of Princes Park as the first Green Flag Award in Eastbourne will further raise the profile of this park.

A report was presented to Cabinet, on the 15th December 2010, proposing sites to enter into the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge and Princes Park was put forward, as one of these. The nomination

was successful and Princes Park is permanently protected as a tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Eastbourne is very proud of its horticultural heritage and has been successful in a number of quality awards, over the years, from "In Bloom" to our contractors successfully submitting BALI (British Association of Landscape Industries) Awards. Although Eastbourne was synonymous with bedding pelargoniums, the gardens have evolved and they now have a greater variety of architectural and sustainable species. More recently, within the BVPI (Best Value Performance Indicator) 199e, for 2006/07, Eastbourne scored 86% (Upper Quartile), which rated people's satisfaction with parks and open spaces.

Although the park was not directly included within the Seafront Gardens Best Value Review (2001), the best practice conclusions and findings have been applied to the park. The Seafront Strategy, also identified and promoted a style of strong architectural planting, partially softened by flowering perennials, to set the scene for Eastbourne to adopt the outdoor "café culture", being heavily promoted at the time.

The seafront strategy identified a style of planting for the seafront gardens which has extensively used Mediterranean, South African and New Zealand species, which, with the milder winters and periods of drought in summer, are a more sustainable type of planting for Eastbourne. This approach has encompassed the findings of the Seafront Gardens Best Value Review, which identified a reduction of seasonal bedding and an increase in sustainability.

These principles are being applied to Princes Park, with the planting of more exotic plants linking to the theme and identity of the other Seafront Gardens. Seasonal bedding areas were removed in 2004, being replaced with perennial schemes in 2005. The Green Flag judges' comment in relation to modernising old styles of planting has also been advanced since 2012 with, for example, new sustainable structural and perennial plantings.

The permanently planted areas are not watered and moisture is retained in the soil by the use of mulches such as wood chip or pea shingle, which also inhibit weed growth. Composting bays have been installed so that some of the green waste generated in the park can be recycled without ever leaving the site.

Some of the more exotic plants used recently within Princes Park include *Cordyline australis* (New Zealand Cabbage Tree or Torbay Palm), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm), *Chamaerops*

humilis (European Dwarf Palm), and other types such as Canna lily, Yucca and Phormium (New Zealand flaxes).

1.2.2 Strategies, Plans and Reviews influencing Princes Park

The Corporate Plan (Appendix B), 2016 – 2020, identifies the Council's priority themes and aims for 2015. A number of these themes and aims directly link with the work The Council is undertaking within Princes Park and these are:

Prosperous Economy

- Eastbourne will be a nationally recognised outstanding seaside destination and gateway to the South Downs National Park
- Eastbourne will have an exciting and wide range of cultural activities combining opportunities for learning, participation and shared experiences for residents and tourists
- A wide programme of events and activities

Quality Environment

- Eastbourne will have a high quality built and natural environment which highlights the cultural heritage and tourist offer of the Borough
- Our public spaces will be distinctive, high quality, well maintained and create a sense of belonging
- Our open space will increase in quantity and quality
- We will continue to develop the seafront and coastal links as a unique and outstanding natural resource for the community and tourists, in a way that ensures development enhances our cultural heritage and is beneficial to the environment

Thriving Communities

- Families and young people will be supported and have access to a wide range of activities and facilities to help them reach their full potential
- Our communities will have the resources they need to achieve high levels of volunteering and involvement in managing our neighbourhoods

Sustainable Performance

- Service excellence and innovation
- A sustainable asset base
- A valued partner across the public, private and voluntary sectors
- A high performing local authority evidenced by sustained improvement

Sustainable Performance - Customer and outcome focussed
- Service excellence and innovation

The work within Princes Park and the Council's relationship with the FoPP has led to all projects naturally becoming customer and outcome focussed.

The sustainability of the park itself has improved considerably. The majority of the plants chosen for schemes have low water requirements and permanently planted areas are not artificially watered. Newly planted trees are watered during the first two years with water extracted from the Crumbles Sewer (river) adjacent to Princes Park. The planted areas, being free draining, have recycled composted grounds maintenance waste and wood chip applied to increase the organic matter content and retain moisture. Some of the more exotic plants used more recently within Princes Park include *Cordyline australis* (New Zealand Cabbage Tree or Torbay Palm), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm), *Chamaerops humilis* (European Dwarf Palm), and other types such as Canna lily, Yucca and Phormium (New Zealand flaxes).

All new furniture and features are considered for their longevity and recycled materials are used wherever possible. Some examples include the formal seats (recycled aluminium, plastic and wood) and other seating, picnic tables and information notice boards (recycled plastic).

Both play areas have been entirely re-designed and modernised providing excellent play opportunities and the paddling pool has been redeveloped as a splash pad. Princes Park provides all the Council's mini football pitches for the local football youth teams.

1.2.3 Funding

There has been a recent commitment to improving Princes Park with grant and capital investment identified to improve the dated facilities. The Government's Play Pathfinder programme grant which was specifically created to improve play opportunities for children throughout the country was used to improve both play areas in Princes Park to the sum of £100k. These improvements were supplemented in 2010 with £68k of Council investment to further enhance the play facilities in Wartling Road Play Area. A new Splash Pad, costing £120k, has replaced the old paddling pool in Channel View playground.

The council has committed in excess of £180,000 to partly match-fund the Coastal Communities Fund bid under the banner of 'Drive Devonshire Forward'. The Princes Park component of this wider project amounts to over £900,000 and is scheduled for completion by 2017.

The FoPP have been fully informed and involved with the developments and changes within Princes Park and been involved in volunteer projects, with planting, clearance and the successful organisation of the annual funday to raise funds for Princes Park.

1.2.4 Monitoring

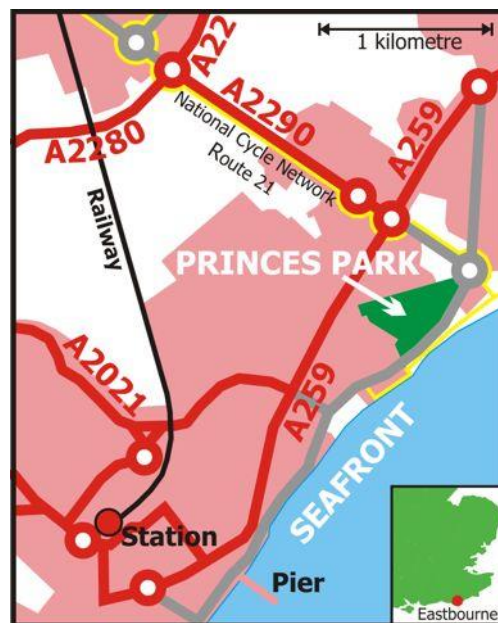
There is an annual audit carried out with EBC open space Specialist Advisors, Neighbourhood First, the FoPP and the incumbent grounds maintenance contractor during which the entire site is visually inspected and the findings are recorded. This is a full quality appraisal where existing standards and future proposals are suggested by all attendees, discussed and noted. All the work within Princes Park has been proposed and discussed with the FoPP prior to it being ordered and programmed which allows them to inform their members to limit any undue criticism. Temporary laminated signs are also posted, just prior to the works to both inform people and provide them with the opportunity to raise any issues. A list of works agreed with the FoPP is included within the Development Plan.

The Management Plan sets out objectives for Princes Park and this includes a timetable for review as a statement and commitment to improving and maintaining the park. The Development Plan has identified the future development of Princes Park. The council and FoPP continue to work together to identify future funding and other opportunities.

Section 2 Background

2.1 Site Location

Princes Park is located in a prominent position towards the east end of the Edwardian part of Eastbourne seafront. It is about 1.75 kilometres east of the pier and adjacent to Royal Parade the main seafront road. Its proximity to this road, beaches and other tourist facilities makes the Park well known to visitors aside from local residents.



Based on Ordnance Survey mapping © Crown Copyright Eastbourne Borough Council LA100025879

The boundary of Princes Park has its perimeter with Channel View Road, The Oval, Wartling Road and Royal Parade. It does not include Five Acre Field, which stands alone as an individually named site, geographically and physically separated from Princes Park by Wartling Road and Lottbridge Drove. The Oval, being immediately adjacent to Princes Park, is included within the scope as a part of Princes Park. The total area of land managed is approximately 13 hectares (Princes Park 11 hectares and The Oval 2 hectares).

A nearby post code for the Park is BN22 7PY. Alternatively the Park can be found at National Grid Reference TQ 628 004.

2.2 Introduction to Princes Park

Princes Park is one of a number of larger public parks within Eastbourne. In size it ranks third at approximately 13 hectares, with only Shinewater Park (65 hectares which is jointly managed between the Eastbourne Borough Council and East Sussex County Council) and Hampden Park (34 hectares) being larger.



Princes Park aerial view from the south-east (2006)

The landscape is largely manmade although it is dominated by Crumbles Pond which is a formalised lake on the site of a pre-existing natural pond. The whole Park is underlain by natural shingle deposits built up as shingle storm beaches in preceding centuries. Overlying this is a layer of imported soil and other materials of varying depth that have been used to create changes in level across different areas of the grounds. This has also enabled the cultivation of lawns, sports fields, shrubberies, flowerbeds and trees expected of a traditional parkland landscape.

The park includes a newly remodelled café, toilets, mini football pitches (area used for circus, funfair and other events in closed season), a lake, two playgrounds, splash pad, sensory garden, rose garden, shrub planting and bowling greens. There is a senior football pitch within The Oval. Eastbourne United Affiliated Football Club (EUAFC) manage the pitch and clubhouse directly.

Eastbourne United Affiliated Football Club, the model boat clubs and bowls club are all long term tenants of the grounds. The refurbished café will be retendered so the new operator will be able to occupy and trade following completion of the works. The Crumbles Pond is regularly utilised by Buzz Active, a County Council run watersports training facility. Their headquarters is in a small building overlooking the Park from the nearby seafront promenade.

Recent years have seen new investment in the form of enhanced playground facilities, rebuilding of walls and other hard landscaping, tree and shrub planting and the creation of the aromatic herb garden assisted by the Friends of Princes Park. Around the football pitch enclosure in The Oval a new hedge is currently being established to screen the fencing and a new wild flower meadow is being created by reducing the mowing and enhancing some areas with wild flower seed.

2.3 Princes Park History Timeline

Over the centuries, Princes Park has evolved from an area of shingle deposit to a well used public park with many traditional features. A time line of the most significant dates in the park's history is listed here. A more detailed history is included in appendix D.

1611 'Cronble pond' shown on John Speed's map of Sussex.

1695 'Cromble pond' shown on Robert Morden's map of Sussex.

1813 'Crumble Pond' shown on 1st edition Ordnance Survey.

1908 24th June Mr. Davis-Gilbert leases approximately 11 hectares to the Corporation as a recreation ground. Ground called Gilbert's Recreation Ground during this period.

1922 15th August the recreation ground and some adjacent areas conveyed to the Corporation for £22,000.

1925 Crumbles Pond shown in its current form on large scale Ordnance Survey maps. Sports facilities also evident within The Oval.

1927 Eastbourne and District Model Yacht Club formed and based in park.

1931 30th June Prince of Wales, later to be Edward 8th, visited the park and planted an evergreen oak. The name of the ground changed to Princes Park at about this time.

1934/5 Bowling greens and putting green constructed along with ancillary buildings including the café.

1947 The Oval becomes the home ground of The Eastbourne Comrades Football Club. First match played here 30th August 1947.

1951 Eastbourne Model Powerboat Club formed and based in park.

1952 Eastbourne Rovers Athletic Club base headquarters at The Oval. New running and cycling tracks opened by the Duke Of Edinburgh. Vacate this site to go to Eastbourne Sports Park in 1999.

1955 Eastbourne United clubhouse opened 3rd September.

1958/59 The Oval floodlit for the first time.

1975 18th March Eastbourne Model Railway Society granted consent for club building.

1998 20th April Bowls club granted the lease of their greens.

1999 New rose garden planted on lawn near seafront road.

2005 Local residents form the Friends of Princes Park.

2006 Friends and the council collaborate on the funding of a new herb garden and the replacement of the main entrance arch.

2008 £100,000 investment in new play equipment for the park.

2008 Major rolling programme of lakeside wall rebuilding begins.

2011 Princes Park awarded Green Flag status.

2012 New splash pad facility replaces old paddling pool

2015 Successful Coastal Communities Funding bid

2016/17 Completion of new entrance and refurbishment of café (autumn)

2.4 Restoration works

There have been a number of projects carried out within Princes Park to return the park to its former glory. The most iconic of these works was the replacement of the main entrance archway, the original of which had deteriorated to an unsafe condition. The structure was photographed, measured and drawn to scale to enable the original design to be replicated, but in galvanised metal with a powder coated paint finish to create a longer lasting and more sustainable structure.

Other works include the replacement of the equipment in two play areas and creation of a splash pad, the rebuilding of the walls around the old rose garden and evolving it into a sensory garden, the creation of a new rose garden, the rebuilding of the walls around the lake, the removal of some plantings and their replacement with modern, sustainable planting, the removal of diseased hedges, the planting of new hedges, limited repairs to pathways, fence replacement and tree planting. Where suitable, mature vegetation has been retained for its nature conservation value.

2.5 Demographics

Based upon existing data Princes Park is situated near to the most deprived ward within Eastbourne, Devonshire Ward. Devonshire, Sovereign and Saint Anthony's, Wards abut the park with a total population of around 29,000.

Of the three wards surrounding Princes Park it is Devonshire ward that has the least affluent community. Devonshire ward has the highest unemployment rate, the highest number of students, low household income and the highest number of income support claimants in the Borough. Linked to this over a third of households are classified as in poverty. The three wards together account for over 36% of the towns child benefit claimants. Low car and van ownership is probably a reflection of low income. Low income and a lack of personal transport place a high importance on the provision of nearby free services such as the availability of recreation space to which everyone has access regardless of income.

Recent well founded research shows that access to well maintained public open space brings with it health and social benefits that may be one factor able to improve the well being of the community if utilised to its greatest advantage in this area of Eastbourne.

2.6 Current Management

Princes Park is owned and managed by Eastbourne Borough Council through the Specialist Advisors and Neighbourhood First teams within Customer First.

Formerly the Parks and Gardens Group consisted of a team of five, in the following roles – Parks and Gardens Manager, Horticultural Officer, Contracts Officer, Parks and Gardens Officer and Park Ranger. Since March 2013 a fundamental reorganisation of the Council labour force has reallocated day to day management responsibilities to two 'Specialist Advisors' (open space) and one officer who deals with contract and legal issues. Close support comes from a new 'Neighbourhood First' team and there is ongoing skills and knowledge transfer so they become more familiar with expected horticultural standards.

The existing officers continue to liaise closely with the Friends of Princes Park as has been the case since 2005.

2.6.1 Other Council Groups

Certain facilities and tasks, outside of grounds maintenance, within Princes Park are currently managed by other groups within the Council:

Licences and Leases – Estates

Café – Tourism Development

Toilets and Enforcement – Neighbourhood First and Specialist Advisors

Football bookings – Leisure & Communities

Commercial events – Events

Community events – Specialist Advisors

2.6.2 External Agencies

Crumbles Pond, within Princes Park, is fed by the Crumbles Sewer which is an integral part of Eastbourne's drainage provision. There is an outlet sluice gate that is owned by Eastbourne Borough Council but operated by the Environment Agency. It is opened in periods of high rainfall to alleviate flood risk and also when the pond basin is cleared; it is used to lower the water level, to enable the removal of rocks and debris. The sluice gate was replaced as a partnership project between Eastbourne Borough Council and the

Environment Agency in 2011 following deterioration and leakage by the old structure.

2.6.3 Other Clubs and Groups

A number of different clubs use the park and these include:

Royal Sovereign Bowls Club

Eastbourne & District Model Yacht Club

Eastbourne Model Power Boat Club

Eastbourne United Association Football Club

The Specialist Advisors (open space) and Neighbourhood First team are in regular liaison with these clubs and continue working with them to enhance and improve their facilities and areas.

Section 3 Vision for 2020

Princes Park, as a key park within a prime location in Eastbourne, has been heavily invested in with more funding identified and agreed for future years. It has been well maintained over the years and when the park became the responsibility of the former Parks and Gardens Group, a lot of works were programmed to further improve both the infrastructure, such as walls and paths and also the planting, in terms of the removal of diseased and over mature shrubs and re-planting with new species. This initial work has been well received and the improvements appreciated, but with further funding available, there is the opportunity to be more creative and innovative and to improve Princes Park for future generations. The Council outsourced the production of a Princes Park Development Plan, so external expertise and experience was used to produce and develop the future plan for Princes Park. Coastal Communities funding has enabled some parts of the Development Plan to be actioned with the creation of a new entrance plaza and complete modernisation of the café being undertaken in 2016. It is planned to develop a Heritage Lottery bid to assist with funding further works that include the restoration of the lake and its surroundings.



New entrance plaza (2017)

3.1 The Aim

Princes Park will require further investment and marketing and the aims of the Management Plan, which links in with the Development Plan are:

- To continue to work in close partnership with the Friends of Princes Park
- To maintain Green Flag status
- To promote the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge status
- To improve the appearance of Princes Park
- To achieve, measure and maintain a clean and well maintained park
- To increase the usage and popularity
- To increase the use of the park as an events venue
- To work to an agreed Management Plan

3.2 The Vision

The Vision for Princes Park for 2020 is to create a protected parkland environment with innovative landscape design and features which provide a wide range of high quality sporting and leisure opportunities to meet the needs of the local community and visitors within a sustainable, clean, safe and appealing landscape setting.

Section 4 The Park

4.1 Welcoming People to Princes Park

- There have been a number of improvements to the main entrances within Princes Park and these include new and improved signage and the removal of vegetation to create open and inviting vistas. A new main entrance plaza has recently been created that links more directly with the seafront promenades and offers easy and level access to the heart of the park. Other entrances from Wartling Road and medical centre were poor with high vegetation growing tight to the pathways and to the rear of this, dense vegetation. With selective thinning and removal, more open vistas have been created to “invite” people into Princes Park and these changes have been welcomed by the local community. The condition of the infrastructure and maintenance standards will provide visitors with their first impression and it is important that they are not met by failing infrastructure, graffiti or litter. The maintenance standards are high but there has been considerable investment to the infrastructure, as a number of the internal paths and the natural stone walls were failing. The overall impression for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting.



Queen Elizabeth II Field commemorative boulder with plaque

4.1.1 Good and safe access

- There has been an ongoing programme of vegetation thinning and the planting is being rationalised, especially where there was tall vegetation immediately adjacent to paths. The more open vistas reduce the perceived threat of crime and create a more open, welcoming recreation space with good visibility and improved views of the lake and park generally and part of the park is covered through CCTV coverage from a column located on the Wartling Road boundary, where the new residential development has been built. There have been problems with some hedges in Princes Park, especially *Euonymus japonicus*, which has succumbed to the *Euonymus* scale insect (*Euonymi unaspis*). Hedges that have become diseased are being managed through their removal and disposal. Where hedges are replaced, different species are used and these are managed at a lower height to maintain good visibility throughout. A new highway crossing linking the seafront promenades directly to entrance plaza has been created using part of the Coastal Communities Fund grant.

4.1.2 Good signage

A Seafront signage strategy has been agreed and was implemented during 2012. The signage is pedestrian wayfinding signage and used to promote attractions, the towns heritage and facilities along the seafront including Princes Park. Within the park, the signage has been updated and improved considerably in recent years. There are a number of signs located at key entrances, but it is important to create a balance where there is sufficient relevant and informative signage without creating too much, which will be detrimental to the aesthetic appeal of the park and overwhelming to visitors. Each main entrance is provided with a standard "Welcome to" sign, including the entrances from Wartling Road.

The main seafront entrance at the junction of Channel View Road and Royal Parade has had the cast iron archway, naming the park Princes Park, replaced with a galvanised metal, powder coated sign, to the same design in 2007 through a joint funding initiative from the FoPP and Eastbourne Borough Council. The original structure was removed before corrosion had rendered it unsafe. Informative maps are mounted on a recycled plastic sign for longevity within the park and the Friends have funded finger posts. The byelaws for the park are currently dated and these should be updated in the future with all of Eastbourne's other parks.



Information sign provided by the Friends of Princes Park

4.1.3 Equal Access

Within the last five years, the following improvements have been made within the park:

- All entrances have been improved. In particular the new entrance plaza has been designed to conform to the latest equalities requirements and is wide and level. All the playground gates have been modernised with the slam shut latch gates replaced with soft closure gates, in bright yellow to clearly define where they are located. A number of picnic tables are the type with extra long table slats to enable wheelchair access. The new playground equipment has been designed along the principals of inclusive play. A sensory garden has been planted, with the help of the Friends of Princes Park, where an old rose garden was planted. New ramps have been provided to allow wheelchair access between the higher and lower walkways surrounding the lake. The main field area has mini pitches provided for junior football. A community funday is held once a year, during August and other commercial ventures use the field throughout summer, such as the fair and circus. It is used as a start/finish point for the Eastbourne half marathon.



Princes Park annual funday

4.2 Keeping People and Facilities Safe and Secure

- Princes Park is managed to create an area that is safe for people to visit and use. The contract documents include a number of clauses that place the onus on the Contractor to report site problems and hazards as they occur and, in addition to this, Eastbourne Borough Council carry out quarterly risk assessments. Further site visits mean there are far more inspections throughout the year which supplement those on the fixed programme. The contractors have agreed with the Council to assign a full time gardener to this park and this has been well received by the local community, in terms of there being a presence on site and also a person to raise issues or ask for information. Certain areas are inspected more regularly, such as the play areas, and football pitches to ensure they are as safe as may be expected. Vehicle bollards and stone blocks have been installed to prevent non authorised vehicles entering the site and a more secure gate was installed during 2008 to deter travellers using the main field, which has occurred in the past. Particularly important issues are:

4.2.1 Equipment and Facilities

There are a number of facilities within Princes Park that are inspected and managed according to the usage they receive. These include the following:

1. **Play Areas** – the play areas within Princes Park, Channel View Road and Wartling Road, have had their dated equipment removed and the areas have been heavily invested in with new equipment installed during 2009/10. All the equipment has been installed to BS EN 1176/ 1177 and as a part of the installation contract, the contractor arranges for a post installation report by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). The grounds maintenance contract specifies that each playground must be inspected daily by a competent person (trained/ qualified as Register of Play Inspectors International – RPII) and in addition to this an independent annual inspection is carried out by a RoSPA Inspector, generally during June of each year, so any failing equipment may be addressed through the Councils Service and Financial Planning Process. The play areas are also inspected through Neighbourhood First who have RPII accreditation. Any offensive graffiti is removed on the day it is observed.
2. **Splash Pad** – the splash pad is in operation between the last weeks in May and September. The area is monitored by the on site gardener and jet-wash cleaning is carried out periodically.
3. **Putting Green** – the putting greens are closed, pending re-design of this area.
4. **Football Pitches** – the six mini pitches are inspected by the contractors to ensure that they are fit for play, prior to the week-end and again on the day of the matches including by the referee. The soil is free draining so there is minimal risk of them becoming waterlogged and the seafront location results in the ground remaining largely unfrozen.
5. **Toilets** – the toilets are managed through Neighbourhood First and these are cleaned twice a day through their contractors, with other inspections carried out by council staff, monthly and annually. The toilets have been modernised as part of the café refurbishment included in the Development Plan.
6. **Furniture** – litter bins are emptied each day so a visual observation is made of their condition at this time. The condition of seats and picnic benches is observed through regular inspection and the use of other materials than wood has resulted in less casual vandalism. Signs are also regularly

inspected and their condition noted. Seats, picnic benches and litter bins are being standardised to provide a corporate image within the Councils parks and gardens.

7. **Lake** – the usage of the lake is leased to the local model boat clubs and Buzz Active. There is a responsibility for them to carry out water testing to ensure it is safe for their use, as sailing dinghies and wind surfers carry the greater risk of someone falling in and accidentally swallowing water.
8. **Café** – the café has been refurbished and will be re-let and opened again as soon as possible after completion of the works.
9. **Events** – all commercial and community events are managed through licences to ensure that all relevant legislation is adhered to. The area where the event is hosted is inspected prior to and post event to ensure that the organisers fund any remedial works that may be required.
10. **Public telephone** – there is a telephone situated adjacent to the main entrance off Channel View Road.

4.2.2 Health and Safety

Princes Park is also risk assessed quarterly, but in addition to this there are many more informal inspections throughout the year carried out by the Council, the contractor and as a direct result of enquiries that are received from visitors.

The grounds maintenance contract has a number of clauses that place the onus on the contractor to immediately make safe any hazardous areas they observe during work tasks or inspections and report these directly to the client.

As Princes Park doesn't contain a large number of trees, we have planted additional trees in key areas to provide shade for the future, such as the Channel View Road play area and the periphery of the main boundaries to Princes Park field. An avenue of new trees border the recently completed main seafront entrance. In time the new tree planting will provide visitors and spectators the opportunity of sitting or standing in shaded areas as opposed to the full sun, which is presently the case, especially on the main field.

A lot of work has been carried out to reduce the risk to any visitors and this includes repairing paths, the lake edge beam, playground equipment, railings, fences and walls where they are deemed to be a hazard.

4.3. Clean and Well Maintained

Princes Park is maintained through the Parks & Gardens Grounds Maintenance Contract which commenced on the 1st January 2008 and is a ten year contract, due to expire on the 31st December 2017, with an option, if both parties agree, for a two year extension. The contractor who submitted the successful tender was Wyevale Grounds Maintenance, who were trading as Western Landscapes Limited. During March 2010, The Landscape Group acquired Western Landscapes Limited. During April 2015 *id verde* acquired the Landscape Group.

This is the first ten year grounds maintenance contract that has been tendered in Eastbourne and has the benefits of engaging a long term contractor who has adapted a partnership approach to delivering the service to the highest standards within the resource available. The contractors have also carried out a number of community projects, within Eastbourne, for groups and charities and have a good working relationship with the FoPP.

4.3.1 Contract performance and budget

The contracts are written to a performance or output based specification standard i.e. maintain the grass within a tolerance of 13-20 mm high rather than specifying the number of cuts per year, such as 18 cuts a year. This is less of a risk to the Council with virtual year round mowing increasingly becoming the norm. It also allows the Council to monitor the contractors output i.e. standards, without the need to inspect each frequency of cut.

The two playgrounds are currently inspected weekly by the contractors through certified playground inspectors and annually, independently, by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The junior football pitches are inspected by the contractors to ensure they are fit and safe for playing upon, each week. To reduce excessive wear in the season and vandalism, the nets are removed after each weekend which has improved the condition of the pitches for the youth teams. Informal pitches have been created elsewhere, so children still have the opportunity to play football without causing excessive wear and tear to the pitches which are booked and therefore, there is an expectation of a standard of quality.

The current cost of the maintenance of Princes Park is approximately £61k per year and this allows for all the routine grounds maintenance (grass cutting, litter picking, weed control, maintaining planted areas and hedges), sports ground, playground and splash pad maintenance.

4.3.2 Routine Grounds Maintenance

There are routine gardening and horticultural tasks that are carried out each year and throughout the year. These are specified within the grounds maintenance contract and although the operations cover a number of pages, they are listed below, with the time of year they are carried out:

The routine grounds maintenance seasonal works, throughout the year, are:-

- April - October - removal of all weed growth, remove dead, diseased and dying vegetation, "dead heading", grass cutting, sports pitch renovations (closed season), watering of first season planting, litter picking, path sweeping (especially lower tidal path around lake, playground maintenance, hedge cutting, rose bed and perennial plant maintenance.
- October - March - second cut for hedges, winter prune shrubs, mulch all permanently planted areas, late and early season grass cutting, sports turf maintenance, turfing or grass seeding, pond clearance, additional planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials.

There is an on site gardener within Princes Park, so other tasks will be carried out throughout the year such as daily litter picking and path sweeping as necessary. There is also a requirement to remove any dog faeces and any problematic areas are reported to the Neighbourhood Advisors.

4.3.3 Additional Works

In addition to the routine gardening and grounds maintenance tasks, there is the need to maintain the infrastructure of the park i.e. paths, walls and fences. There is a sum, managed directly by the Senior Specialist Advisor, which is used for these repairs or replacements, until they reach the expense where they require a Capital bid or other funding to repair or replace.

Recently this has provided an additional £1.25 million which has been spent by the Council (revenue and capital) on the infrastructure over the last six years, With further revenue funding invested since 2013/14 for path repairs and planting which amounted to £45k.

4.3.4 Arboricultural Works

All tree works are managed through the Specialist Advisor – Arboriculture and they regularly inspect Eastbourne’s tree stock and arrange any remedial work necessary. Over the last four years they have been extensively planting new trees for the purpose of screening and creating shelter and shade for the future. The new development that was built on the former coach park has had the greatest impact on the park boundary and the planting of pine trees will partly screen this development in the future.

The wood chips, as a result of tree works in Eastbourne, are composted and then returned, as a mulch to the planted areas within Eastbourne’s parks and open spaces. New trees are watered during the first two years with licenced water extraction from the nearby Crumbles Sewer (river).

4.4 Environmental Sustainability

The Best Value Review of the Seafront Gardens identified a number of improvements to implement to improve the sustainability of the service and these have, over the years, been introduced into Princes Park.

Through the Parks and Gardens grounds maintenance contract, there is a requirement to recycle and re-use all green waste and this is undertaken by our contractors.

Other measures that have been implemented include:

- Fertiliser – use composted organic matter and grounds maintenance waste to minimise the need for fertiliser to be applied
- Only use fertiliser where absolutely necessary (if possible organic), where there are signs of mineral deficiencies.
- There is a minimal use of horticultural peat within Princes Park.
- Reduce herbicide use through good horticultural practice and cultural methods of weed control. Use soil mulches to suppress and inhibit weed growth. Design new schemes, if

practical to include a closed canopy or ground cover species. If there is no other alternative, use those herbicides that are currently identified as least harmful to the environment

- Watering – select low water requirement species, mulch areas with wood chip or pea shingle and the use of semi permeable membranes. Except trees no newly planted permanent plants are watered unless they show signs of stress.
- New planting – select species that will adapt to the soil type and micro climate within Princes Park and plant appropriately to minimise future maintenance operations i.e. don't plant fast growing, tall plants immediately adjacent to paths that will then require excessive pruning.
- Building materials – re-use existing materials on site wherever possible. All the walls that have been re-built within Princes Park have re-used existing natural stone and granite.
- The seasonal bedding has been reduced by the introduction of perennials and architectural type plants reducing both water usage and the high intensity maintenance of the bedding areas.
- Recycle all green waste from garden maintenance operations. The vast majority of grass cutting undertaken is through a "cut and let fly" operation and the green waste, once composted, is returned to the gardens. A location for a new on-site compost recycling compound has been created to simplify the reuse of green waste generated from works in the park. A separate off-site green waste recycling facility is approximately 4 kilometres away by road.
- Programme ongoing infrastructure repairs of paths, roads, walls, fences and railings and specify replacement materials with the greatest longevity.
- Effective work programming through our contractors to limit travelling between sites and implementation of on-vehicle tracking.
- All furniture and equipment to be selected for a long life span and recycled where possible i.e. Glasdon Stanford seats (recycled aluminium and plastic/ wood), Go Plastic (recycled benches, picnic benches and planters), litter bins and railings galvanised steel and playground equipment galvanised powder coated or wooden equipment from managed, sustainable sources.
- Reduce grass cutting frequencies in times of drought to maintain the grass in a green condition as long as possible
- Don't water general grassed areas but allow them to recover naturally, late summer/ early autumn with the cooler temperatures and wetter weather.

4.5 Conservation and Heritage

There are a number of features within Princes Park that give this park its unique character. These include the lake, the “ships wheel” design of the sensory garden, the model boat clubhouse, the bowls and golf pavilion, the café and the tree planted by the Prince of Wales in 1931 which led to the park being renamed from the Gilbert Recreation Ground to Princes Park in the early 1930s.

The main Archway, naming Princes Park, had to be removed as following around 80 years of typical coastal weather it became a hazardous structure through corrosion. This was replaced with an identical structure in 2006.

A vandalised pink granite drinking fountain, formerly located in The Oval, has been retained to see if it can be restored and re-introduced into Princes Park in the future. The Eastbourne United Association Football Club has a First World War Memorial located within its clubhouse.

Coping stones from Eastbourne’s promenade were salvaged at the time the coastal defences were modernised during the 1990s and these were re-used to protect the open boundaries to Princes Park field and deter unauthorised vehicles. Granite was also salvaged from Eastbourne’s coastal Napoleonic forts and although it has been used to define and protect other boundaries, there is the intention to return it to Princes Park as a feature, such as a granite garden, as this will link closely with Eastbourne’s coastal heritage. A new hedge and tree line has been established around these formerly vulnerable boundaries that will enhance and eventually replace the stone blocks currently in position.

The conservation and heritage will be further explored within the Princes Park Development Plan which includes the removal of a 1960s toilet block that ill matched the architectural heritage from the 1930s. A proposal to include Princes Park on the Dotto Train route is being developed and is an interesting link to the miniature tramway that once operated here in the 1960s.

Princes Park’s nomination was successfully accepted as one of several Queen Elizabeth II Fields within Eastbourne during 2011. Under the trusteeship of Fields in Trust this will enhance its heritage value for future generations and be protected in perpetuity.

Princes Park is not, at first sight, an obvious wildlife haven although it has several attractive attributes that make it valuable in this respect. The extensive shrub beds and hedge lines provide sources

of food and shelter for many insects and birds and the Crumbles Pond attracts many waterfowl.

Shrubs surrounding the new herb garden and areas bordering The Oval are relatively quiet and less intensively managed than other parts of the park. The herb garden itself contains aromatic plants that are an important source of nectar over a long flowering period each year. Mature trees here and elsewhere provide nesting sites and relative safety away from ground-based predators. Crumbles Pond is home to a resident population of mute swans, mallards and various gull species. However, its coastal location attracts migratory species during both the spring and autumn. Little egrets are probably the most unusual birds to be seen.

To the rear of the sensory garden a small, low level woodland walk has been created by thinning existing vegetation to make the area accessible. Where the Oval spectator stand was removed, native tree planting was undertaken, with the Friends who sourced 420 native tree saplings from the Woodland Trust.

Tree management is under the remit of the Specialist Advisor – Arboriculture. The Specialists liaise closely on project works and new investment. Tree management is guided by the Tree and Woodland Strategy 2016 – 2020.

In summary the main principles are –

- To promote the importance of trees and woodland in enhancing the landscape of Eastbourne
- To provide for the long term continuity of trees and woodlands in the Borough in both public and private ownership
- To improve the town's environment; maintaining and improving the character and appearance of the town by actively undertaking and promoting tree planting and the care of trees
- To promote and improve opportunities for recreational use of the woodlands
- To promote greater community ownership and awareness of Eastbourne's Trees and Woodland

Much recent planting around Eastbourne has been in a large part possible because of the sponsorship of specimen trees to replace those in areas where the 1987 gales and natural decline have left available room. This scheme has been so successful that there are now very limited opportunities for new planting. However, the opportunity has been taken to plant new pines within the shelter of existing shrub beds in Princes Park. The perimeter of the playing field has also been enhanced with several dozen regularly spaced

conifers reflecting the memory of a similar feature from many years ago.

Policies designed to enhance and protect the tree stock and ensure its safety include –

- Tree management will form an integral part of all future Parks and Open Spaces' Strategies.
- Following the Specialist Advisor's advice the Borough Council will plant new trees in suitable locations within Parks and open spaces whenever funding is available from the new tree planting budget
- The Borough Council will ensure works to trees in Parks and Open spaces conform to industry standards and best practice.
- The Borough Council will proactively inspect trees in Parks and Open spaces in the interest of safety and good Arboricultural practice.

Wherever possible we aim to use the arisings from tree works to benefit the environment. All trees that are felled are assessed for their market value and if possible the timber is sold; the revenue offsetting the costs of tree works in the Borough. The largest by-product of tree works is woodchips. All contractors used by the Council have wood chipping machines and woodchips are temporarily stored and composted by the Council before use as a mulch to suppress weeds and retain moisture on shrub beds and around newly planted trees.

4.6 Involving the Community

The Friends of Princes Park (FoPP) were formed in November 2005 (Constitution adopted 15th November 2005) and have a membership of approximately 180. The FoPP have been heavily involved in a number of projects carried out within Princes Park including the replacement entrance arch, the sensory garden and new notice boards and assisted in their finance. They have also been supportive in improving the two play areas and originally identified the paddling pool as one of their main priorities, making representation at Council Cabinet meetings on 16th April and 3rd September 2008. At both a representative of the Friends urged Cabinet members to support proposals for improvements to the park. One of the greatest areas of concern for the FoPP was the lack of a café facility within the park. This was temporarily resolved with refurbishment and re-letting under the Development Plan prior to the Coastal Communities Fund renovations. An excellent working relationship has developed between the FoPP and the Council. FoPP representatives attend Management Plan meetings and have been fully involved in the creation of the Development Plan for Princes

Park. The Specialist Advisor meets with representatives of the Friends Committee each year for an annual site audit.

When the play areas were modernised, there was extensive consultation through the nearest schools to enable the children to vote for their preferred scheme. A total of approximately 500 children voted for the three schemes, which were Channel View Road and Wartling Road, Phases 1 and 2.



Friends of Princes Park plant new sensory garden (2006)

The FoPP manage their own community events with the primary objective of raising funding for Princes Park, to enable further enhancement projects to be carried out. The FoPP have so far generously donated over £12,000 towards the sensory garden, tree planting, the entrance arch and finials, guide map leaflets, new information boards and finger posts.

The FoPP have been fully involved and supportive of the Princes Park Development Plan and the Coastal Communities Funding and other grants now amount to over £1 million and have been successful in part due to the support of the FoPP..

4.7 Marketing

Princes Park is used for a number of commercial and community events throughout the year. A Guide Map (reproduced at the front of this document) has been produced which is available in the Tourist Information Centre and other outlets. Princes Park features with other parks on the Visit Eastbourne website. Web-links include that to the Green Flag, Friends of Princes Park (FoPP), model yacht and model powerboat clubs and Fields in Trust. The FoPP website is a very useful source of information with pictures, news and history.

The latest Seafront Strategy makes provision for signs to direct visitors to local attractions. Numerous new seafront tourist signs have recently been erected highlighting the location of Princes Park. Press releases and information for the monthly council briefing is produced related to council operations and events on a regular basis. New information boards have been installed on site to show the facilities available and a flagstaff has been erected from which the Green Flag flies adjacent to the busy seafront road.

There has been an increase in the events held each year within Princes Park without compromising the quality of the park. Some examples of events held within Princes Park include the FoPP Funday, Beach Life Festival including Extreme, State Circuses and Country Fairs. Various events have included Magnificent Motors and the outdoor screening of the Royal Wedding, London Olympics and tennis tournaments. Council staff attend some events with an information stand displaying news and photographs along with a large stock of relevant park guide leaflets.

4.8 Managing

Princes Park is included within the Parks and Gardens Grounds Maintenance Contract that specifies a number of clauses for the benefit of bio diversity, flora, fauna and wildlife. A sustainable approach to grounds maintenance operations is identified within the document but the Council has regular meetings with the contractor to discuss service provision and potential improvements.

Section 5 Summary

5.1 Current Position

The FoPP, Council and Councillors have worked together to develop the Management Plan and will now look towards the future development and improvement of Princes Park. Over £900k has been invested in the outcomes of this Plan, and has already realised some of the design and aspirations. This includes a new main entrance plaza, refurbished café, modern lighting, street furniture and associated soft landscaping and tree planting.

The Management Plan meetings have evolved into Development Plan meetings and all the potential projects discussed have been included in the Development Plan. The Princes Park Development Plan was adopted at Cabinet on the 29 May 2013 and published. No larger scale hard landscape works will proceed until the outcomes are agreed and funded but the partnership arrangement between Eastbourne Borough Council and the Environment Agency to replace the outlet penstock, as essential works, was completed in 2011 and extensive path refurbishment to the main entrances was completed as Health and Safety works during 2012. Soft landscaping schemes have still been implemented.

Any Health and Safety works will continue to be prioritised and in the interim period these are likely to be path repairs/ replacement, wall repairs, lake edge beam repairs and railing/ fencing repairs. Further essential path refurbishment was completed in 2014, on a route identified by the Friends, that had suffered with further deterioration of the tarmac.

In addition to this and to prevent further deterioration of hedges in Princes Park through the Euonymus scale insect, diseased and dying hedges will be removed and disposed of. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis has been completed for Princes Park to indicate its present position (Appendix F).

5.2 The Future

The FoPP and EBC have been working in partnership since 2005 and have been discussing a number of projects within Princes Park.

These are part of the Development Plan and include both completed and proposed projects:

- Re-modelling and refurbishment of the café. This required external funding to supplement the Council's contribution to create a hub for the park. The project was included in the Coastal Communities Fund bid and was successful in securing funds.
- Dotto Train route within Princes Park is anticipated following the building of the new main entrance. The new pedestrian plaza entrance now links the seafront promenade to Princes Park.
- Lighting – proposal to light the main footpath routes through Princes Park. This is still being deliberated upon.
- Granite Garden – proposal to salvage all granite blocks (from coastal defences) from parks and open spaces throughout. An audit of all the granite within the outlying areas has been carried out with a view to creating a bespoke design and bringing what remains of the Napoleonic forts back to a seafront location to create a landscape feature with interpretation.
- The removal of the Euonymus hedge opposite Monarch House and replanting the boundary with other species. The boundary has been replanted and once established, the Euonymus hedge will be removed.
- To plant a perimeter line of Holm oaks, to create a shaded avenue on the Royal Parade boundary. This was planted in 2011.
- To remove the wooden bollards on the boundary and replace with a hedge, maintained to between at approximately 0.9 metres in height. The boundary has been replanted.
- To increase the tree density. This is ongoing, with additional trees being planted within Princes Park each year.
- The area to the rear of the The Oval stand has been replanted with native trees as a volunteer project with the Friends.
- Improve paths generally for wheelchair and mobility scooter use, especially Wartling Road to Royal Parade link. This was completed in 2014.
- The bowling club pavilion roof has undergone extensive repairs during 2016 to ensure good weather proofing for the future.
- An HLF bid is being investigated to help finance the restoration of the boating lake and replacement of the lake-edge beam and perimeter paths.

The tree density has been increased with the planting of perimeter Holm oaks and Austrian pines which were planted in 2011 along

with a new hedge to create a more robust boundary. The wooden bollards will be removed when the hedge is mature enough to provide a strong physical boundary. More trees were also planted in The Oval with the Friends in 2013 and pines, olive trees and cotoneasters have been planted in 2014.

The future for Princes Park is very positive, with a very active and supportive "Friends" group, the interest and support of the other clubs using Princes Park, increased marketing and promotion, inter agency and joint working between Council departments and clearly scoped objectives to raise the profile of Princes Park to a premier seafront park.

The clear direction that has been presented through the Princes Park Development Plan and supported by the FoPP and wider community has allowed the key areas of the development plan to be progressed and secure grant funding, through the Coastal Communities Funding grant. These included improvements to the café and creating a central hub in Princes Park along with a new pedestrian access from the seafront into the park with a highway crossing point. This will greatly assist Buzz Active safely crossing the busy coastal road with their equipment.

Appendix A

Applying the Standard: Quality and Value

The Quality & Value standard sets out a qualitative measure that all open spaces in Eastbourne should achieve. The ranking system provides a practical and simple measure that can be applied consistently over the years and which can be easily understood. The grading system identified four different grades, (Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor), and found that Eastbourne's open spaces achieved rankings of 13%, 35%, 33%, and 19% respectively.

The proposed Quality Standard would aim to raise all of Eastbourne's open spaces to a 'Good' standard over the next ten years. Using a consistent and approved formula, as outlined in the Methodology, in line with the government's guidance, sites achieve a rating of between 0 and 100 and those scoring 50 or less would be graded as Fair or Poor.

The standard proposed above would require significant investment in Eastbourne's open spaces as at present some 130 sites did not achieve the desired standard. However, there is a solution to this which is through a rigorous and defensible Section 106 contributions policy which requires new housing schemes to provide funds to improve or provide open space that is needed for the residents of that housing.

Council Performance Plan 2007

The Council's Performance Plan is the corporate statement about how the Council itself will contribute to Eastbourne's well-being. The Plan aligns itself with the main themes of the Community Strategy and includes a number of statements of direct relevance to open space planning. The Council will aim to:

Health and Social Care

- Increase the use of green space for recreation and exercise
- Increase physical activity, especially in disadvantaged groups and teenagers
- Promote activities which contribute to the health and well-being of the over 50s e.g. physical and leisure activities, and active involvement in wider community life

Inclusive Community

- Deliver a wide and affordable range of sporting and leisure facilities in partnership with the public and private sector to meet the need of all of the Eastbourne community
- Use public space to deliver wider objectives on social cohesion, inclusion and renewal through securing and promoting a range of activities for young people and supporting social, cultural and sporting events

Environment

- Keep public open space free of litter, refuse and graffiti
- Support the conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including its character and local distinctiveness, as part of wider environmental responsibilities
- Maintain play facilities that are safe and easily accessible

Other Plans and Statements

Health Improvement/ Inequalities & Modernisation Programme

(Eastbourne Health Improvement Partnership, 2003/5)

The Health Improvement Partnership identified 'Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles' as one of three local priorities. The objective is: "To increase the health of the people in Eastbourne through access to physical activity, healthy lifestyle awareness-raising, and encouragement of family friendly/work life balance policies within the workplace."

Open space in Eastbourne already plays a vital role in meeting this objective. More than half of respondents to the 2004 Survey visited beaches, parks, downland, and natural areas at least once a month.

The overwhelming majority of these visits were for recreation and leisure purposes such as a 'gentle walk', 'active leisure' and 'informal sport'.

Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (East Sussex CC)

East Sussex CC (the transport authority) gives high priority to walking as a legitimate means of transport and one which can reduce the need to travel by car. The draft Local Transport Plan includes a Walking Strategy which aims to "... promote walking and increase the proportion of all journeys made on foot, emphasising the benefits to personal health and the environment". A specific aim is to "... increase the number of journeys made by foot". The

existing plan states that "... shops, workplaces and community facilities will be fully accessible (by foot)".

Appendix B

Corporate Plan 2016-20

Eastbourne Borough Council Priority Themes and Aims for 2020

Prosperous Economy

- Eastbourne will be a nationally recognised outstanding seaside destination and gateway to the South Downs National Park
- Our transformed and accessible town centre will provide an enhanced retail and leisure offer with high quality public spaces
- Eastbourne residents will have a wide range of skills and opportunities to help make the town attractive to employers and new businesses
- Eastbourne will have an exciting and wide range of cultural activities combining opportunities for learning, participation and shared experiences for residents and tourists
- A wide programme of events and activities
- Innovative conference facilities
- The Sovereign Harbour Innovation Park will be a commercial hub of high quality
- Eastbourne will be a home of tennis to watch and play
- Increased investment in highway infrastructure

Quality Environment

- Eastbourne will have a high quality built and natural environment which highlights the cultural heritage and tourist offer of the Borough
- We will have transformed the sites that are currently not used efficiently in our town centre
- Our public spaces will be distinctive, high quality, well maintained and create a sense of belonging
- Our open space will increase in quantity and quality
- We will be moving towards becoming a low carbon town
- The quantity of domestic waste will have significantly declined
- Eastbourne will have a range of transport options including improved public transport, cycling and walking initiatives
- We will continue to develop the seafront and coastal links as a unique and outstanding natural resource for the community and tourists, in a way that ensures development enhances our cultural heritage and is beneficial to the environment

Thriving Communities

- Eastbourne will have some of the lowest levels of crime in the South East and as a result, our communities will feel safe
- Families and young people will be supported and have access to a wide range of activities and facilities to help them reach their full potential
- Our communities will have the resources they need to achieve high levels of volunteering and involvement in managing our neighbourhoods
- The housing market in Eastbourne will provide a wide range of quality homes including affordable housing for those in need
- Our communities will be active in developing priorities for; tourism, culture and sport including being involved in managing sports, leisure, creative and artistic activities; events and festivals; ensuring greater participation and opportunities to share and enjoy the widespread cultural provision in the Borough.

Sustainable Performance

- Service excellence and innovation
- Customer and outcome focussed
- An excellent employer
- A sustainable asset base
- A valued partner across the public, private and voluntary sectors
- A high performing local authority evidenced by sustained improvement

Our 2026 Partnership vision for Eastbourne

By 2026 Eastbourne will be a premier seaside destination within an enhanced green setting. To meet everyone's needs Eastbourne will be a safe, thriving, healthy and vibrant community with excellent housing, education and employment choices, actively responding to the effects of climate change.

Sustainable Community Strategy Eastbourne Priority Themes

- Regeneration and Economy
- Housing
- Culture and Sport
- Environment
- Community Safety
- Communities Working Together
- Health and Social Care

- Learning and Skills
- Children, Young People and Families

Principles

We commit to...

Valuing all people
Being sustainable
Being efficient

Appendix C

Demographic detail

Location and Wards

All the data within the following section is from the 2001 census. Based upon the available data at that time Devonshire Ward ranks as the most deprived ward within Eastbourne.

Princes Park is located at the north-west end of Devonshire Ward. Saint Anthony's and Sovereign Wards both abut this and their boundaries pass close to the Park. Thus 28,899 (2001 census) people live within relatively close proximity to the Park. This corresponds to 29.97%, nearly one third, of Eastbourne's population of 89,667.

Individual ward populations in 2001 stood at; Devonshire 11,108; Saint Anthony's 10,777; Sovereign 7,014.

Demographic Summary

Of the three wards surrounding Princes Park it is Devonshire ward that has the least affluent community. Devonshire ward has the highest unemployment rate, the highest number of students, low household income and the highest number of income support claimants in the Borough. Linked to this over a third of households are classified as in poverty. In 2001 the three wards together accounted for over 36% of the towns child benefit claimants. Low car and van ownership is probably a reflection of low income. Low income and a lack of personal transport place a high importance on the provision of nearby free services such as the availability of recreation space to which everyone has access regardless of income.

Recent well founded research shows that access to well maintained public open space brings with it health and social benefits that may be one factor able to improve the well being of the community if utilised to its greatest advantage in this area of Eastbourne.

Appendix D

Princes Park History

Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries

The area now occupied by Princes Park was formerly known as 'The Crumbles'. This consisted mainly of a large expanse of shingle storm beaches with occasional lower lying areas within which might be found lagoons of standing water. The inland edge of the shingle deposit follows the approximate line of the modern roads called Seaside, St. Anthony's Avenue and Pevensey Bay Road. Today the presence of the shingle is largely obscured by the overlying urban development initiated in the late 1800s and continuing today.

The earliest recognisable landscape feature belonging to Princes Park is Crumbles Pond. This is depicted as 'Cronble pond' on John Speed's map of Sussex published in 1611 and also on Robert Morden's map of 1695. The name on that is given as 'Cromble pond'. Yeakell and Gardner's 2 inch to 1 mile map of Sussex published in sections between 1778 and 1783 shows three separate water bodies within an area denoted as marshland at Langney Point. One of these appears to occupy the location of Crumbles Pond.

The first edition of the 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey (O/S) published in 1813 shows 'Crumble Pond' in a location consistent with later mapping. By the late 1800s the irregularly shaped 'Crumbles Pond' was clearly depicted on the early editions of the large scale O/S. By the 1925 edition the Pond is shown in its modern enlarged form.



Princes

Park

area as depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1870

Nineteen hundred to Nineteen thirty

At the end of the nineteenth century the land now comprising Princes Park was owned by Carew Davis-Gilbert. He along with the Dukes of Devonshire were jointly the most important land owners in the area and today both still have large land holdings within the Borough. From 24th June 1908 Mr. Davis-Gilbert leased approximately 11 hectares to the Corporation as a recreation area for 99 years at an annual rent of £5 per annum for 50 years and the further 49 years at £100 per annum. It is likely that the name Gilbert's Recreation Ground originated around this time. Although the agreement was intended to run for 99 years, on 15th August 1922 Gilbert's Recreation Ground and 'land adjoining' were conveyed to the Corporation for £2,200. The 'land adjoining' is a reference to the land now occupied by The Oval football ground. In addition to this the area now called Fishermans Green was also included in the purchase. The vendor was Patience Davis Harding who had inherited the land upon the earlier death of (her father?) Carew Davis Gilbert in 1913.

Midway through World War I, during 1916/17, the Corporation granted the Eastbourne Aviation Company rights to fly over Gilbert's Recreation Ground. Their aircraft factory buildings were located a short distance away and more or less abutted the edge of the current playing field opposite the modern flats called Monarch House. The company went into liquidation in 1925/26 and the buildings were purchased by the Corporation for £1,100 to use for



storage, the repair of deckchairs and to launder bathing towels.
Early view across Gilbert Recreation Ground (Copyright local resident)

The photograph above, taken between 1907 and 1911 looking inland from near the site of the modern café, shows the uncultivated and semi-wild state of the property. Sparsely vegetated shingle in higher parts gives way to a more continuous cover of scrub and grass in hollows and around the Pond margins. The low topography undulates irregularly and with only one exception there is no indication of any attempt at landscaping or cultivation. The exception appears in the far background of the

picture where the area now called The Oval is on a higher level indicating the ground may have already been artificially raised.

By 1925 a large section of the Park began to take on its present-day appearance. The Pond and adjacent watercourses were made more formal and with concrete reinforcement to stabilise their margins. To enlarge the Pond it was temporarily drained and narrow rail tracks were laid to permit the movement of large amounts of shingle and mud in wheeled hoppers. The outlet channel was widened and the loose shingle banks were reinforced with stout timberwork and concrete lower down adjacent to the water. Being more or less at sea level the lake outlet had sluices built to regulate water levels and to prevent sea water filling the lake above the desired level at high tide. The river called Crumbles Sewer entering at the north end of the lake was also modified and had a sluice added.

In 1927 the Eastbourne and District Model Yacht Club formed and began using the lake for competitive events. For example on 6th April 1931 a regatta was held on what the programme called 'Gilbert Lake'. It is recorded that entries came from across the South East and shows the importance of the club even in its early years.

The Oval had begun to take shape with the 1925 O/S showing evidence of some landscaping and an 'oval' running track that is also evident on a photograph that appears to date from the mid-1930s. By the footpath entering in the north-east corner of The Oval is a single dilapidated cast iron lamp column probably dating from the same period. It is not clear whether lighting originally extended into other parts of the Park at this date. The seaward side of the Park appears to have been under grass but with no other facilities and only a narrow track dividing it from the beach and sea.

An undated hand-coloured plan shows a 'revised layout at eastern end' of the Park where today the putting green and playing field lie opposite Monarch House flats and the Fort Fun facility. The plan title calls the ground 'Gilbert Recreation Ground' and refers also to the 'County Borough of Eastbourne'. The plan dates from the late 1920s or very early 1930s soon after which the name Princes Park was adopted. Other evidence suggests the latter end of that time for the date of the plan. Which features already existed and which are new proposals has to be carefully analysed including some pencil annotations on an otherwise ink and colour-washed plan.

The plan shows pitches for rugby football, association football, hockey and cricket in the same space as occupied by the current

playing field. A pavilion, probably newly proposed at that time, is located in the eastern apex of the field where no such building exists today. The site of the current bowling greens is labelled as tennis courts although currently no evidence supports their existence. A small area near the Crumbles Sewer is labelled 'area for gardeners' and corresponds to the modern Wartling Road playground enclosure. A pencil annotation suggests that the centre of the turning circle near the bowling greens might be enhanced by the installation of a 'miniature Eros'. This is another part of the plan that appears never to have been carried out.



Disused pavilion adjacent to the putting greens

The last major feature of interest on the plan is the irregular shape of the land parcel defined by the embankments and bunds surrounding the putting green. Within this clearly defined area the 'miniature golf course' annotations are all in pencil and include faint lines indicating the alignment of fairways and location of greens. The layout has not been checked on site with the existing course. A 'golf pavilion' is shown on the south-east margin of the greens next to the turning circle though a pencil-drawn arrow points to the location near the coast road where a small art deco style pavilion was indeed built in this period. Evidence indicates the construction of the putting greens took place in the mid 1930s and by 1947 they can be clearly seen on an aerial survey photograph.

Nineteen thirty one to Nineteen seventy

On the 30th June 1931 the Prince of Wales, later to be Edward 8th, flew into the airfield at King's Drive and then travelled by car to Gilbert Recreation Ground. The Eastbourne Gazette the next day reported the following details of his visit:

"A crowd of people gathered inside the Gilbert Recreation Ground, and cheered and waved as the Prince's car passed through the new gate. He proceeded to a clearing close to the Peter Pan yachting lake, and having alighted passed over a carpet to a mound, where to the accompaniment of more cheering, he planted a young evergreen oak, after which he chatted to the Mayor.

The Prince was much struck by Eastbourne's new park. "A very nice place this," he remarked, "but low-lying, isn't it?"

At such a speed did the procession leave the Recreation ground that it was more like a lap at Brooklands than a royal progress, and from this point the tour became indeed a hustle."

Which 'new gate' the Prince passed through to enter the Park is open to debate. It might have been that on the corner of Royal Parade and Channel View Road but perhaps it was more likely to have been one of two gates into The Oval. This would have given more direct access to the tree planting location situated upon the higher terrace of land above the lake. The account also implies that he did not pass by the 'Peter Pan yachting lake' which he would have done coming from the seafront entrance. The evergreen oak he planted remains to this day adjacent to the east end of the covered stand built in the 1950s.

The 'new gate' referred to previously suggests that the Park entrances were enhanced in 1930/31. The entrances on the corner of Royal Parade/Channel View Road and that entering The Oval from Wartling Road were given large brick piers with wrought iron gates. That at Royal Parade consisted of a central vehicle gate and then two outer piers creating a pedestrian entrance each side. Either at that time or a little later this entrance also had a metal arch added with the name 'Princes Park' cut into it in stencil-style lettering. Photographic and plan evidence shows the Wartling Road gate had just one pedestrian gate to the side of the vehicle gate and what remains of this structure is now the entrance to the Princes Park Health Centre. On the evidence available a second gate into The Oval from Channel View road appears to have been a simpler structure and is now the main entrance into the football ground.

In 1942 a request to annex land from Princes Park was granted by the Minister of Health to allow the Council to improve their 'electricity undertaking'. The land in question is an area shown on the contemporary project plan as 'Childrens Corner'. This was situated in the apex of the field sandwiched between Wartling Road and Channel View Road but now occupied by the Princes Park Health Centre. Childrens Corner may have been a facility similar to

one formerly at Devonshire Park where an admission charge was made for the privilege of using pedal cars and other equipment unavailable in the free playgrounds.

An aerial survey photograph taken on 12th August 1947 gives a clear view of the state of development of Princes Park up to that date. The Pond appears much as we see it today with its perimeter paths and tree and shrub planting on the surrounding slopes. In the south-east corner of the lake there is a collection of small boats showing. These would undoubtedly be rowing boats for hire. This activity had begun by the mid-1930s if not earlier. To the lake's east the existing brick-built café stands and adjacent to that are the four rinks of the bowling greens overlooked by the existing pavilion. The putting green is clearly defined and the small 'golf' pavilion stands at its east end. Moving south from the café towards the outlet river a set of flower beds have been created in a triangular area where nowadays the planting has been replaced with perennials.



The bowling greens leased to Royal Sovereign Bowls Club

Over the river, sandwiched between that and Channel View Road, the ever popular paddling pool appears to have been constructed. The river itself was bridged with the ornate concrete structure familiar to today's visitors. Heading to the west of the lake a conspicuous pattern of radiating paths mark the location of what appears to have been planted as a rose garden. Roses certainly grew here in two concentric circles of beds until 2006. The rose

garden is enclosed on three sides by a sheltering belt of shrub planting.

North of the rose garden lays The Oval with the athletics track in place but no football pitch markings in evidence despite definite records of a match being played there on 30th August 1947 just 18 days after the aerial photograph was taken. Just beyond the north-east corner of The Oval it appears that the Eastbourne and District Model Yacht Club (EDMYC) clubhouse has been built.

Crossing the Crumbles Sewer the area later occupied by the Wartling Road playground is unoccupied. Beyond the putting green only part of the playing field is in use. One football pitch is marked adjacent to the bund separating it from the putting area and just by the north-east edge of the pitch there may be a cricket square. A small pitch-roofed pavilion lies adjacent to the Wartling Road (north-west) margin of the field. This may be the same building as the existing. The north-east apex of the field and a narrow strip parallel to the modern seafront road are crossed by various rough vehicle tracks and appear to have areas of tipped material of some kind. A conspicuous row of close-planted trees form the boundary of the field facing the seafront.

The Oval became the home ground of The Eastbourne Comrades Football Club in 1947 when their former local ground was sold for development. The first match, referred to previously, was against Littlehampton on 30th August '47. The club name changed to Eastbourne United Football Club in 1950/51 and by 1952/53 there were plans for a stand and terrace. These were probably built at about the same time that the clubhouse which was officially opened on 3rd September 1955. In 1958/59 floodlights were erected for the first time with replacements being installed in 1967, 1980 and most recently in 2009. The football pitch has been enclosed by a wooden fence, in 2011, due to Football Association regulations and screening is being planted to disguise the fence.

Residing in the clubhouse is a First World War Memorial. This is listed in the United Kingdom National Inventory of War Memorials and is inscribed "In memory of the Eastbourne footballers who fell in the Great War 1914-1918". Names are listed in three columns below the club shield.

From 1952 the Eastbourne Rovers Athletic Club had their head quarters at The Oval. In that year a new "cinder" running track and grass cycling track were opened by the Duke of Edinburgh. During the 1950s and 1960s various Sussex Championships were held at the ground. The club remained at The Oval until 1999 when they moved to new facilities constructed inland at Eastbourne Sports Park.



Granite drinking fountain in The Oval c.1994

At some time, probably during the period from 1930 to 1970, a prestigious pink granite drinking fountain was erected not far from the east end of The Oval athletics track. It may be this that is visible on the 1947 aerial photograph where a circular feature lies in the corner of the ground nearest the junction of Wartling Road and Seaside. If this is the drinking fountain then it was moved at a later date to be nearer the athletics track. Its origins and any special significance are as yet unknown to this account. The structure was badly vandalised in 2006 and removed from site. Originally it consisted of a pedestal in the form of a Tuscan column with above that a section jutting out to form a circular trough. Rising from the centre of this a square section contained the drinking fountain nozzle supplied through an internal pipe. This in turn was surmounted by an obelisk shaped component with chamfered corners and a slightly blunted top. The whole object stood around 2 metres high and would have been of considerable value when first installed.

Since 1951 the Eastbourne Model Powerboat Club has based itself at Princes Park. Club members run different kinds of craft including

steam and electric powered vessels. Nearby, in 1953 Mr. Claude Lane set up the Eastbourne Electric Tramway. The main terminus was just outside the Park a few metres from the old putting green pavilion. Track from here ran for about one kilometre east to The Crumbles. The tramway closed in September 1969 in part due to the modernisation of the local seafront road network and the track and vehicles were moved to Seaton, Devon where they still operate.

At sometime between 1947 and 1965 a day nursery was built on part of the land at the west end of The Oval. This is shown on a plan drawn in August 1965 as part of a proposal for a new 'clinic'.

It is likely that the two playgrounds, one at Wartling Road and one at Channel View Road, were first equipped during the 1950s or 1960s. Public lavatories were built adjacent to the café thus completing the Park largely as seen today.

Nineteen seventy one to two thousand and ten

In line with national trends there appears to have been a period of stagnation in the amount of time and resources invested in Princes Park during the 1970s and 1980s. Infrastructure and landscaping were allowed to mature and there were few if any opportunities to do other than maintain the land and keep it as safe as reasonably possible, with available budgets. On top of this the Local Government Acts of 1988 and 1992 introduced Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT) through which costs were to be driven down and former maintenance standards threatened along with the disappearance of the traditional park keeper. The Local Government Act 1999 replaced CCT with Best Value which is a more elaborate version of the same procurement method that takes into account quality as well as cost.

Within the Council's former departmental structure, unlike other Eastbourne parks and gardens, which were maintained through the Parks and Gardens Section, Princes Park, with other areas termed as recreation grounds fell to the Tourism and Leisure Department to manage. At this time there were no horticulturally qualified officers within this Department, so the emphasis was mainly on maintenance and retaining the status quo rather than designed solutions and their primary focus at this time appeared to be running the café, putting green, boating lake and renting the playing field for fairs and circuses.

On 18th March 1975 the Eastbourne Model Railway Society was granted consent to erect a club building on land adjacent to the Eastbourne and District Model Yacht Club. Following illegal entry

into their building during 2009 and other security issues the Eastbourne Model Railway Society has unfortunately had to reduce their activities in Princes Park.

In 1998 the Borough Council underwent an internal reorganisation in which the Parks and Gardens Section, previously in the Amenities Department, was absorbed into the Tourism and Leisure Department (T&L). This immediately injected T&L with a new expertise that would result in much-needed investment in Princes Park.

In September 1999, on the lawn area immediately west of the bowling greens, a new rose garden was created. Strongly scented varieties were chosen in a conscious effort to introduce a new feature that could also be enjoyed by those with visual impairment. A shabby concrete hut in the south-west corner of the lake, used for the hire of pedalos and rowing boats, was demolished. Pedalos were reintroduced a year or two later but were not economically viable. The old, somewhat dilapidated, art deco putting pavilion was converted to a store room and a replacement putting kiosk opened in the rear of the bowls club pavilion.

The triangle of land beyond The Oval, between Wartling Road and Channel View Road was sold to East Sussex County Council in January 1995 to use for Princes Park Health Centre. This opened on 1st January 2000. The old gate into the Park at this location now serves as both a minor entrance into The Oval and the main access into the health centre car park.

In response to budget constraints in 2004 the flower beds west of the bowling greens were changed from displays of seasonal bedding to perennial plants. This change and the introduction of more modern tropical-style structure planting helped create some consistency of design linking with nearby areas on the seafront. Also in 2004, on 13th May, the café was leased to private catering company Convex Leisure (formerly known as Red Eventful).

Local residents came together in 2005 to form the Friends of Princes Park. The group represents a large number of park users and local residents as well as the various organisations based here. All expenditure and planned programmes of work were discussed and agreed with this Group since they were formed and a successful partnership has evolved. By early 2006 the Friends were able to contribute towards the replanting of the old rose garden, adjacent to The Oval, as a new aromatic herb garden. Funding was also provided towards tree planting in the park.

At the end of 2006 the Friends of Princes Park contributed a sizable proportion of the cost of a new wrought iron entrance arch to span between the large brick gate piers at the corner of Royal Parade and Channel View Road. The original was badly corroded and had to be removed. The old arch was carefully measured and drawings produced so that a replica could be manufactured. The new arch was installed in January 2007 and officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Colin Belsey, on 24th February 2007.



Opening the new entrance arch in February 2007

The deterioration of the masonry walls around the sides of the lake led to renovation work starting in 2008. A rolling programme of dismantling and rebuilding went on into 2009 when the early phases of the work were completed. As far as possible all useable material was recycled.

In 2008 the Borough Council Community Services Section was successful in securing substantial Government funding to refurbish several of the town's playgrounds. In Princes Park the Channel View playground received £50,000 and Wartling Road £50,000 as well as a further £68,000 development contribution in 2010. In order to provide future shade several trees were planted along the southern edge of the Channel View playground in 2010.

The Council-run outdoor bowling facility became leased to the Princes Park Bowls Association from 20th April 1998. From 1st November 2007 the Royal Sovereign Bowls Club took over occupation of the facility but with diminishing membership it became necessary for them to hand back two of the four rinks occupied by the club in 2010. This reduction in assets may help sustain the viability of the club into the future.

Appendix E

Princes Park Operational Management Action Plan

Task	Action Required	Responsibility	Frequency	Update
Garden Audit	Full audit of Park with FoPP and contractors	Senior Specialist Advisor	Annual	2013 complete
Princes Park Management Plan	Regular meetings to agree scope and implementation	Senior Specialist Advisor	Approx. 4 meetings annually	Complete
Princes Park Development Plan	Regular meetings to agree scope and implementation	Senior Specialist Advisor	Approx. 6 meetings annually (the Management Plan meeting will continue and evolve into the Development Plan meeting)	Ongoing
Budget Control - Revenue	Service and Financial Planning	Senior Specialist Advisor	Annual – from August	Agreed Feb. 2017
Budget Control - Capital	Service and Financial Planning	Senior Specialist Advisor	Annual – from August	Agreed Feb. 2017
Risk Assessments	Risk Assessment of gardens	Neighbourhood Advisors and Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Quarterly	Ongoing
Joint inspections to monitor contract compliance	Inspection to agree standards with contractor	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Quarterly	Ongoing
Playground Inspections	Regular Inspections	Contractors and Neighbourhood Advisors	Weekly	Ongoing
Playground Inspections	Regular Client Inspections	Specialist Advisor (Open	Monthly	Ongoing

		Spaces		
Playground Inspections	Inspection & Report	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces) RoSPA Inspector	Annually	Ongoing
Event Inspections	Pre and post event inspections	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces) Neighbourhood Advisors	Approx. 8 annually	Ongoing
Contractual inspections	Regular Client Inspections	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces) Neighbourhood Advisors	Ongoing	Ongoing
Review grounds maintenance specifications	Review all variations to the grounds maintenance contract	Senior Specialist Advisor Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Annually	Jan. -March 2017
Inspect gardens for pests and diseases	General inspections	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Ongoing	Control or remove species as necessary
Pitch inspections	Condition and "fit to play"	Contractors	August to April	Approx. 32 inspections
Putting inspections	Condition and "fit to play"	Outsourced provider	May to September	Not currently operational
Splash Pad inspections	To ensure splash pad is operating effectively	Contractor and Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	May to September Twice per day	Ongoing throughout season
Splash Pad de - commission	To close down system	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Annually	October
Splash Pad	To set up system for season	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Annually	May
Princes Park Funday	Organisation of Funday event	Friends of Princes Park/ Specialist Advisor (Licencing)	August	Ongoing
Recycling of horticultural green waste on site	Contractors records, recycling site visit. Approval of finished product	Specialist Advisor (Open Spaces)	Ongoing	New on site facility for 2012, extended in 2014.

Apply for Fields in Trust QEII status	Cabinet 2010. Submit application to Fields in Trust 2011	Senior Specialist Advisor	One off	QEII field status granted in 2013 in perpetuity
Apply for Green Flag Award	Update management plan	Senior Specialist Advisor and Specialist Advisor (Open Space)	Annually	2017 for 2017/18 submission
Rationalise existing boundaries by The Oval and Royal Parade	Removal of chainlink to The Oval and new hedge/tree boundary to Royal Parade	Senior Specialist Advisor	Chainlink to be removed when football club enclose pitch. Royal Parade planted.	Chainlink removed 2012 and 2014 Royal Parade completed 2011

Appendix F

Princes Park SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QEII Field status • Green Flag Award park • Newly refurbished cafe • High profile park on Eastbourne’s seafront • Highly visible frontage linked to main seafront route by new entrance plaza • Community involvement • Long term client/contractor partnership • High level of usage from clubs • Close liaison and positive relationship with clubs • Improved and increased marketing • Two modernised children’s playgrounds • Splash Pad • Senior and mini football pitches • Putting greens • Lake with water activities • Sustainable plantings • New public toilets • Good security with hedges and gates to main field. • Busy road partially screened with planting. • High profile park on a busy route • Delivering externally and internally funded projects as per programme and allocated budget • Park boundary secured against unauthorised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of some of the infrastructure is relatively poor (paths and walls) • The Golf Pavilion requires investment to improve its aesthetic appearance • Future of the putting greens uncertain • Lake edge beam and adjacent paths deteriorating • Declining bowls club membership

vehicles and encampments	
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Princes Park Development Plan • New, innovative, sustainable landscape design and plant species introduced • Future grant funding • New leaseholder for café and improved facility/ offer • New events held in Princes Park • The development of The Oval by Eastbourne United • Include Princes Park on the Dotto train route • Update byelaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden standards fall below expectation due to budget reductions • Infrastructure maintenance falls below expected standards due to budget reductions • Loss of Green Flag status due to austerity measures • Loss of plants through prolonged drought and/or severe winter weather • Anti social behaviour, theft and vandalism

Appendix G

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments form an integral part of the day to day management of Princes Park. Examples of those used for general inspections, playgrounds, trees, events and the cover of a typical annual RoSPA inspection follow.

Princes Park and The Oval Risk Assessment

List of Activities/Hazards (e.g. lone working, display screen equipment, slips and trips, falls from height etc)	Who might be harmed and how (e.g. employees, visitors etc) (e.g. upper limb disorders, strains, fractures, etc)	Risk rating LO x PS e.g. 3 x 2 = 6	List existing controls in place	List further controls needed	Action by when	Action to be taken by	Done
PRINCES PARK							
Water quality.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury or harm from exposure and ingestion of dirty water from the lake.	1 x 3 = 3	The water is regularly monitored by Buzz Active as part of their licence; Referral system to report pollution incidences to the Environment Agency.		On going		
Under water obstructions.	Members of the public (lake users). Personal injury due to rocks and other debris that has been thrown into the lake which may be hidden by silt in middle of lake.	1 x 3 = 3	Lake visually monitored by NAs and contractors.	Items to be removed from the lake when necessary, & water level is lowered as required, so a thorough clearance can take place.	February 2016	SSA to arrange with NAs	
Slips trips and falls.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Risk of slipping or falling as the lower walkway around the lake can become covered in swan faeces & lake debris.	1 x 2 = 2	Lake visually monitored by NAs and contractors. Swan faeces to be cleared from the pathways as necessary by the grounds maintenance contractors.		On going		
Attack by swans.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Swans can act aggressively at mating time and attack people causing minor injury and distress.	1 x 2 = 2	Regular monitoring based on intelligence; Report aggressive behaviour to the Swan Sanctuary or WRAS to assess next steps.	Work with Swan Sanctuary or WRAS & put in place their recommended actions – signage, removal of swan.	On going		
Working near water.	Staff and contractors. Risk of injury or	1 x 5 = 5	Avoid working in water near lock. If absolutely		On going		
	drowning, as the force and height of water at peak times (February) can push or trap staff working near the lock.		necessary, dynamic risk assessment to be conducted before entering water, to include second worker on site. Staff & contractors awareness and assessment; Personal Protective Equipment.				

Pedestrian collision with vehicle.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury or harm due to a collision caused by lack of visibility, as vehicles and pedestrians use this road, which has a sharp blind corner near the roundabout leading to the cafe.	1 x 4 = 4	There is a 5 mph speed limit on the road way. Removable bollard installed for service vehicles which prevents public access.	Assess and monitor once new entrance has been installed, and review if further measures are required.	September 2016	SSA Open Space	
Slips, trips and falls.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury due to falling on the pathway adjacent to the play area of Channel View Road which becomes slippery when icy and wet.	1 x 2 = 2	An anti slip surface has been applied to the tarmac surface to provide additional grip for the park users.		On going		
Slips, trips and falls.	Staff, contractors and members of public;	1 x 2 = 2	Patch repairs carried out.	Future of footpath to be reviewed once		SSA Open Space	
	Injury associated with tripping/falling due to deteriorating surface to foot path towards bowling greens and rose garden.			new entrance installed, as possibly will be defunct. Remove/repair path as necessary.		SSA Open Space	
Slips, trips and falls.	Members of the public; Personal injury due to falling into lake, on stretches where there are no railings and height of step from higher path to lower path is more than 30cm.	1 x 3 = 3	None at present.	Extend railings where necessary. One large sign to be erected in prominent place within park/open space, with additional signs as required.	October 2015 March 2016	SSA Open Space SSA Open Space	
Slips, trips and falls.	Staff, contractors, members of public; Deteriorating surface to footpath at entrance from Wartling Rd west side could lead to personal injury.	1 x 2 = 2	Monthly monitoring by NAs.	Footpath to be repaired.	October 2015	SSA Open Space	
PRINCES PARK – THE OVAL							
Collision with vehicles.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Risk of personal injury from the impact with vehicles, which enter/exit the park on a daily basis. One gate remaining	1 x 3 = 3	Dynamic Risk Assessment approach; Staff & contractors assessment and awareness;	Replace missing gate and gate-post, and review scheme to slow & control traffic.	December 2015	SSA Open Space	
	which does not close off entrance/exit.		There is a 5 mph speed limit in force in the Park.				
Slips, trips and falls.	Contractors and members of public; Risk of personal injury due to falling off base of disused stand and redundant kerb to track-edge.	1 x 3 = 3	None.	Base to be removed and returned to parkland. Kerb to be removed, and athletics track soiled over.	March 2016	SSA Open Space	

Parks and Gardens Generic Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment Summary Form

Appendix B



Premises/activity:
Parks, Gardens & Open Spaces

Completed by: Gareth Williams & Sue Oliver
Date: December 2015

List of Activities/Hazards (e.g. lone working, display screen equipment, slips and trips, falls from height etc)	Who might be harmed and how (e.g. employees, visitors etc) (e.g. upper limb disorders, sprains, fractures, etc)	Risk rating LO x PS e.g. 3 x 2 = 6	List existing controls in place	List further controls needed	Action by when	Action to be taken by	Done
GENERIC HAZARDS – THIS SECTION COVERS GENERIC HAZARDS IN ALL PARKS/OPEN SPACES/DOWNLAND.							
Damaged seating.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury (splinters/ minor lacerations) caused by damaged/defective benches.	2 x 2 = 4	Monthly inspection by NAs and repair/removal; Emergency works to presentation benches carried out by Neighbourhood Operations team; Where damaged seating is identified, prevent access to the hazard until appropriate remedial action is taken.		Ongoing		
Aggressive and violent behaviour.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Overgrown shrub borders can be hiding places for anti social behaviour. Parks users could be mugged/attacked by people hiding in the borders.	1 x 3 = 3	Monthly Monitoring and verbal/written reports from ground maintenance contractors; Cut back overhanging vegetation as part of the routine grounds maintenance contract;	Liaise/co-operate with Joint Action Group (JAG); Work with the police to report alcohol being consumed in parks and associated ASB.	As required	As required	
			On-going programme to thin out shrub borders.				
Tree roots.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury caused by tripping on tree roots sticking out of the ground.	1 x 1 = 1	Monthly monitoring by NAs; Alerts from contractor; Report to Specialist Advisors (Open Space) as problems arise for referral to contractor.		On going		
Trips and falls (broken/damaged tree branches)	Staff, contractors and members of public Personal injury caused by tripping on branches falling onto the ground or hanging due to vandalism.	1 x 3 = 3	Monthly monitoring by NAs; Alerts from contractor; Report to Specialist Advisors (Open Space) as problems arise for referral to contractor.		On going		
Branches/tree failure	Members of public Personal injury due to falling branches and trees.	1 x 4 = 4	Routine and proactive inspection by SA (Trees) as part tree risk management; NAs to monitor parks after significant wind speed;		On going		
			Removal of falling branches and trees as required.				

Falling from height	Staff. Personal injury due to falling out of a tree	1 x 5 = 5	Dynamic risk assessment approach; SA (Trees) to use PPE when climbing trees; SA (Trees) to hold qualification to climb trees; Mobile elevated working platform to be used where possible; Contractor with aerial rescue qualification to be in attendance.		On going		
Undertaking minor pruning works	Staff. Personal injury due to cuts and lacerations	1 x 4 = 4	Dynamic risk assessment approach; Full PPE to be used including Kevlar gloves, chainsaw trousers and Kevlar boots.		On going		
Ponds/lakes/ditches/waterways.	Staff, contractors and members of the public.	1 x 5 = 5	NAs monthly monitoring to ensure	Large signs with comprehensive	March 2016	SSA Open	
	Personal injury and drowning from falling into water.		there are no trip hazards around ponds/lakes; Signs and life saving equipment provided as required, and routinely inspected for damage, functionality, & legibility of signage; Inspections carried out to identify underwater obstacles e.g. shopping trolleys, for clearance; Vegetative and graded banks to increase possibilities of person being able to extract themselves.	Information to be erected in prominent place within park/open space. Additional signage to be provided for large lakes/ponds.		Space	
Working/monitoring work on sloping ground.	Staff and contractors. Personal injury due to falling on steep/slippery ground.	1 x 3 = 3	Ground Maintenance Contractor's Risk Assessment completed; Dynamic risk assessment approach; Staff and contractors'		On going		
			assessment and awareness. Suitable footwear when on site.				
Paths and path edging.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Personal injury due to tripping on uneven/missing path edging, and uneven paths/damaged surfaces.	1 x 2 = 2	Monthly monitoring of paths & path edges by NAs; Repair damaged paths & edging as required.		On going		
Falls from height.	Members of the public. Youths climbing and congregating on the roofs of pavilions could slip and fall causing serious injury.	1 x 4 = 4	Monitoring by Neighbourhood First (based on intelligence) and by contractor;	Anti-climbing devices and signs to be installed where required.	As required	SSA Open Space	
Flying stones/debris from strimming operations.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Contractors strim around bollards and rocks throwing stones and debris which could strike passers by causing injury.	1 x 2 = 2	Operators to constantly inspect work areas for objects which may pose a risk and remove them prior to strimming; Operators to ensure all guards are properly fitted before use and equipment is maintained;		On going		

			Strimming operations to pause when members of the public are passing close by. Suitable PPE to be worn by contractor as identified in their risk assessments.				
Obstructed sight lines on roundabouts and highways.	Staff, contractors and members of the public. Road users' views may be obstructed by overgrown shrubs in the middle of roundabouts or at junctions which could lead to road traffic accidents causing serious injury.	1 x 5 = 5	Routine monitoring of contract compliance by NAs; Open Space SAs to arrange for shrubs to be thinned/lowered as required, or for areas to be redesigned to remove hazard.		On going		
Rockeries.	Staff and contractors. Risk of slipping causing injury whilst working on steep, slippery rockeries.	1 x 4 = 4	Rockery stones installed and displaced stones repositioned; Rockeries replanted to stabilise the soil on the banks.	Redesign using permanent planting.	On going	SSA Open Space	
Needle-stick injuries	Staff , contractors & public Hepatitis from skin punctures as a result of	1 x 4 = 4	Personal Protective Equipment; Dynamic risk assessment approach;		On going		
	contact with hidden needles etc.		Reports of sharps prioritised and referred to contractor for immediate action; Provision of proper receptacles for disposal of needle sticks and sharps; NAs working with Police & substance mis-use agencies to restrict issue of sharps.				
Slips, trips and falls (leaf fall)	Staff and contractors. Risk of slipping or falling on leaf fall causing injury.	1 x 2 = 2	Contractor to sweep paths regularly and clear leaf-fall.		On going		
Slips, trips and falls	Staff, contractors and members of public; Risk of slipping or tripping and personal injury due to uneven surfaces of grassed areas caused by animals & erosion.	1 x 2 = 2	Monthly monitoring by NAs; Infill holes with top-soil as required.		On going		
Signs and interpretation boards	Risk of personal injury due to damaged or vandalised wooden signs and boards.	1 x 2 = 2	Monthly monitoring by NAs; Repair/replace as required with robust materials e.g. recycled plastic.		On going		
Fences surrounding areas of risk	Risk of personal injury due to damage	1 x 4 = 4	Monthly monitoring by NAs; Repair/renew fences.		On going		

PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

Eastbourne

14 June 2016



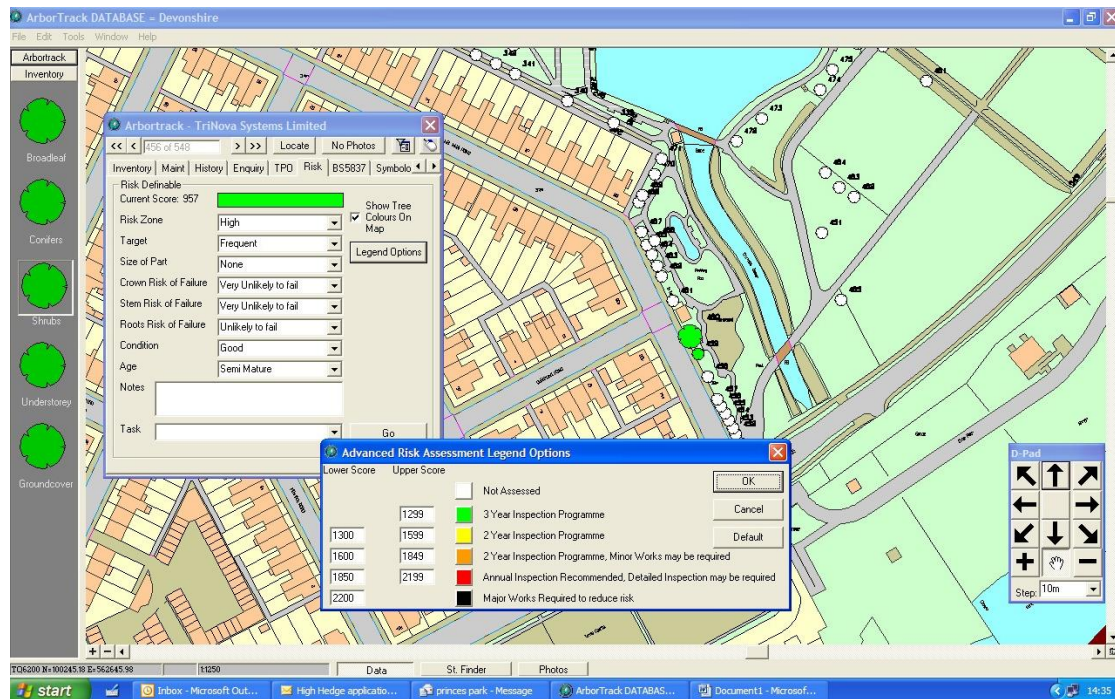
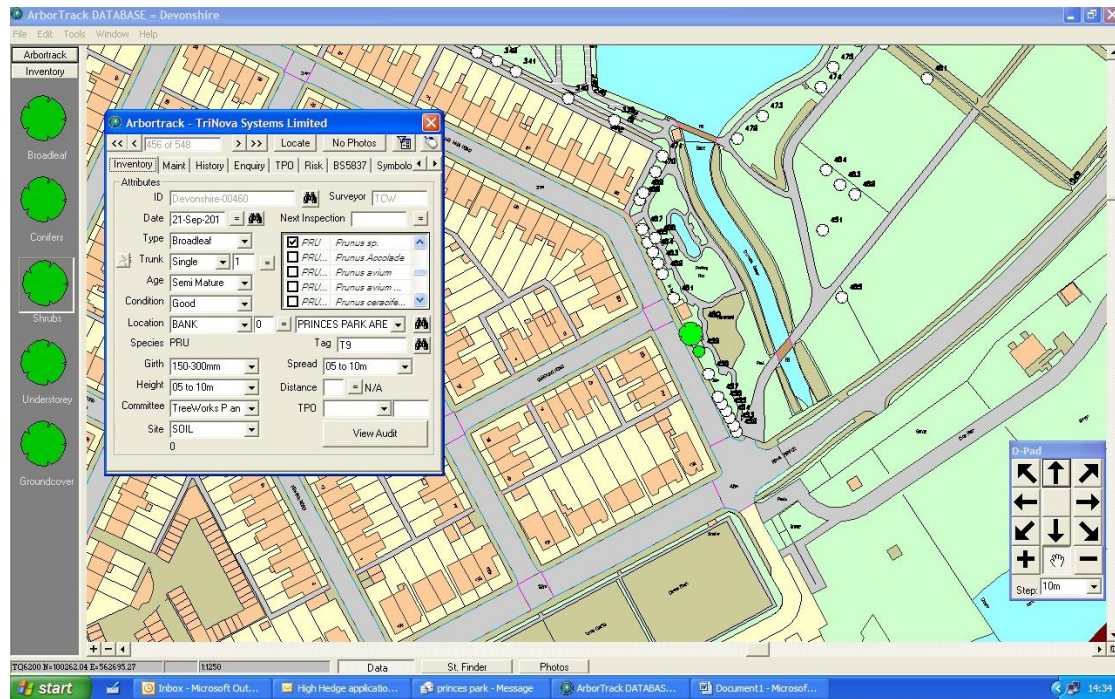
RoSPA Inspections are an independent safety assessment of the playground and equipment and are produced for
RoSPA by

Playsafety Ltd
The Old Barn
Wicklesham Lodge
Faringdon
SN7 7PN

01367 244600
www.rospa.com/playsafety



Tree database screenshot and tree risk assessment screenshot for playground area in Princes Park



EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

NAME OF EVENT:

.....
.....

EVENT ORGANISER:

.....
.....

DATE/ TIME OF EVENT:

.....
.....

SITE/ AREA WHERE EVENT IS TO BE HELD:

.....

RISK ASSESSMENT -

Completed by:

Date:

LO = Likely Occurrence (1 Most Unlikely, 2 Possible Occurrence, 3 Occasional, 4 Frequent 5 Common)

PS = Potential Severity of Consequences (1 Low - no injury 2 Minor - may need first aid, 3 Significant - resultant injury causes inability to work 3 days - 3 weeks, 4 Major - needs medical attention unable to work for more than 3 weeks intermittent incapacity, 5 Permanent disability or fatality - injury forces retirement unable to do normal job)

Hazards	Persons at Risk	Risk Rating LOxPS	Existing Controls	Further Controls Needed	Action Timescale
Marquee/tent Contractors Construction process	Tent Contractors Staff General Public	1x2=2	Marquee Contractor to erect tents to their own risk assessment. EBC to advise tent contractors of service routes where known underground services exist General public excluded from building area by barriers and stewards	Hazard notices displayed	Build monitored by Event Safety Officer
Event stewards Construction get in/out of event Moving of equipment into and around site	EBC staff	1x2=2	EBC organisers to ensure that sufficient staff are available to carry out jobs safely. High Visibility jackets to be used when working on the highway. Safety meeting for EBC staff and stewards. Copy of documents available to all.	Adequate rest breaks and sufficient ratio of stewards to visitors	Before during and after the Event
Injury and illness of General Public During the event	General Public	3x2=6	St John Ambulance on site for the event.	Safety Officer to monitor in liaison with medical services	Before and during the event

<p>Children attending the event</p> <p>Risk of separation from parents</p> <p>Risk of child abduction</p>	Children	<p>4x1=4</p> <p>2x 5 = 10</p>	<p>Lost children post provided on site with communication to Event/PA control.</p> <p>Names of children not to be released over PA System</p>	<p>Lost Children Log and system for reconciling children with parents and notifying police set up.All stewards and staff to be vigilant for lost children</p>	Before and during the event
<p>Accumulation of litter</p> <p>During event</p>	Spectators/Visitors	4x1=4	Regular collection by stewards during the event with clearance of all litter by stewards and volunteers following the event.	All stewards and staff to report accumulations of litter to control so this can be dealt with	Before and during the event

Catering Units Risk of fire from Cooking facilities event	Spectators Catering Staff	1x2=2	All units to have fire extinguishers and fire blankets and to comply with MOCA regulations. No generators. All units to carry PLI to value of £5million	All units to have user licence by which Council Officers and Safety Officer can monitor units	Before and during the event
Programme Sellers & Souvenirs Cash being taken makes sellers vulnerable	Programme sales staff	2x3=6	Control point near to main site. Limit number of programmes carried by sellers at one time, which minimises cash, carried.	Sellers employed who are used to cash handling and dealing with public	During event
Fire General Trade Stands Catering and Site	Stand Staff Spectators	2x2=4	Event Safety Officers will respond to all incidents with handheld equipment. East Sussex Fire Brigade will attend if required.	All stewards and staff to monitor and report incidents	During Event
Get-In, Set - up & Get-Out Before and after event Trade Stands, Stalls, Bouncy Castle, fair rides (small) and marquee erection	General Public	2x1=2	Shinewater Park will be closed to the public using the existing gates, stewarded at the entrance.	Safety Officer and Staff to monitor vulnerable areas and identify risks. All activities covered by their own	Before during and after the event

				Insurance.	
Slips, trips, falls and obstructions During event	General Public	3x2=6	The site is laid out to prevent injuries arising from these causes thorough inspection of the site will be undertaken by the Parks and Gardens Section before the event starts to check that there are no additional hazards requiring attention.	Safety officers and staff to monitor and identify vulnerable	Before during and after the event
General Event Safety	General Public Staff /Stewards	2x1=2	Safety is co-ordinated by the Event Safety Officers, except where otherwise stated. Stewards are provided throughout the event and will notify the safety officer of any hazards requiring attention to ensure continuing safety standards. All accidents or incidents will be reported to the safety officer, Investigated and where necessary remedial action taken.	Ongoing monitoring	Before during and after the event
Evacuation	General Public	2x2 = 4	Evacuation routes are designated from the seafront to the town centre - recognise	If time allows Safety officer to consult with the	During the Event

<p>Crowd Crushing</p>	<p>Members of the public in the arena area during displays particularly children</p>	<p>1 x 5 = 5</p>	<p>that evacuation is a serious incident to be dealt with in a calm and ordered fashion.</p> <p>Stewards briefed to recognise signs of distress in the crowd. Overcrowding not to be allowed Use of PA System to manage the crowd First Aid available</p>	<p>police to allow any traffic control measures to be but in place to ensure evacuation routes are as safe as possible</p> <p>Consider use of Safety zone to move crowds to Exclude crowd from "pinch points" at times of risk or likely crowd surge.</p>	<p>During the event</p>
<p>Drunkenness and anti social behaviour</p>	<p>General Public Stewards Police</p>	<p>2X2=4</p>	<p>Stewards to advise Event Control if persons are becoming rowdy or disturbing visitors. Potential risks are physical and</p>	<p>Police Patrols to react to disturbance, alcohol to be</p>	<p>During Event</p>

			<p>verbal assault and contact with bodily fluids and excreta. Police at the event. First Aid available.</p> <p>SIA Trained staff to be in attendance to the approved ratio of staff to under 16's (1:50)</p>	<p>confiscated and offenders arrested if drunk and disorderly.</p> <p>Sufficient SIA staff in attendance</p>	
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Appendix H

Tree and Woodland Strategy

(Full document available separately)

Eastbourne Borough Council

Urban Trees Strategy

2016 -2020



Appendix I

Princes Park Green Flag Recommendations and Actions

Desk Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions 2011/12
Presentation	Good general layout overall and aerial photo	More detail and larger map needed for clarity. Could separate chapter better. Move demographics and some of history to Appendix, far too much information for the main document. Move detailed larger map from Appendix C to start of document.	All completed as proposed
Health, Safety & Security	Good signage – rights of way and entrance sign. Regular daily checks on the play area and inspections. Public telephone mentioned. Permanent member of staff on site	Examples of risk assessment in appendices and tree surveys, based on a risk management, especially over the play area. No mention of CCTV on site.	Generic Parks risk assessment, trees risk mitigation and playground inspections – daily and RoSPA included. CCTV signs posted on site and included within text.
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Works carried out to main entrance, fence and pathways.	Timescales for action	Add projects/ timescales dependant upon the outcome of the Development Brief. Add timescales for approved/ recommended projects.
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Daily checks and maintenance clear ups.	A table regarding works programme would be beneficial for clarity. i.e. graffiti removal, bin emptying and litter clearance	Routine Grounds maintenance schedule to be included.

Environmental Sustainability	Recycled plastic materials used in street furniture on site. Re-use of green waste and building materials. Mulching and pea shingle used for less watering. Sustainable planting and drought resistant plants used.	On site compost area could be placed on site for small items and therefore encouraging less vehicle movements away from site. Continue to purchase recycled plastic furniture to standardise uniformity.	On site small scale composting enclosure created. Main green waste composting site within mile(s) of Eastbourne Borough boundary so travel to/ from minimal. Recycled seating is the standard already endorsed by the FoPP and is continuing to be purchased to create corporate identity.
Conservation of heritage & nature	Wildfowl mentioned on leaflet. Few trees recently planted	Management plan necessary for tree planting and inspections and expand on work programme. Specific planting beneficial for wildlife with interpretation boards on site. Installation of bird and bat boxes on mature trees and monitor with local wildlife groups.	Included within the Development Brief as an expected outcome.
Community Involvement	Friends of the park group formed now for several years. Raising money for park fun days. Good consultation and meetings between groups.	Examples of funds raised with projects that the Friends group have been involved with. An example of the newsletter would be beneficial in the Appendix.	The replacement arch, planting of the sensory garden and bulb planting? Newsletter (news updates from the Web?), AGM and/or minutes reference directing expenditure from Cabinet (FoPP

			representation made).
Marketing Strategy	Good reference plan	Council or friends of the park website is not evident in the plan. Further information on the facilities and their contact details found on site would be beneficial i.e. yacht club, bowls and friends group. Evidence of the leaflet.	All references added. 5/10 Year Management Plan cannot be prepared until direction is provided from the Development Brief (2013 Revision).
Overall management	Good working relationships with contractors and facility groups on site.	Display and instigate a 5-10 year management plan.	To be displayed, once agreed.

Additional comments

Some of the information could be placed in the Appendices with other more relevant items placed in the main document. Large plan of the park would make it clearer at the start of the management plan with distance markers/scale, entrance points and pathways clearly pointed out. The nature and conservation criteria is lacking evidence and substance and therefore more work is needed in this area for the benefit of the wildlife in the park and towards achieving the green flag award. Continuity of photos throughout the document would give it a more professional look as well as clearer segregated chapters. As investment is planned to improve the quality of the park, further interpretation panels and a modern leaflet and marketing of the site would all benefit as work as work carried out on site.

Overall the management plan has some forward thinking and an action plan in the appendices, but further charts in the document may also make it a more pleasant read. Continue to follow the green flag criteria and expand on these chapters.

Action

All noted and information added where relevant/ possible. Greater use of photographs within the documentation within the Appendices. The Action Plan will be developed once the outcome of the Development Plan is agreed and will be included in the 2013 revision of the document.

Field Assessment Feedback

Band score 45-49

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions
A Welcoming Place	<p>Main Entrance looks welcoming. Inclusive ramps to pond and some picnic benches are good. Interpretative signs good. Overall park is inviting.</p>	<p>The sign in the main entrance is quite small, whereas the new sign on the highway frontage is large and in good condition. Consider relocating the highway sign to the main gate as it is too small to read from the road and contacts are hidden from pedestrians by the railings. It would enhance the main entrance if there was some ornamental planting when you come in. The tarmac on the paths particularly on the main path edges has crumbled leaving some quite serious trip hazards.</p>	<p>Re- locate the highway sign to the main entrance to Princes Park field. Enhance the entrance area and rock gardens with more floriferous and/or sensory planting.</p> <p>Tarmac entrance paths already completed as essential Health and Safety works.</p>
Healthy, Safe and Secure	<p>Opened out shrub walks near boathouse make this area feel welcoming. Overall there were no areas in the park that felt too secluded or overbearing. Risk assessments and inspection records were clear and there seemed to be a good culture around safety. Joint training days</p>	<p>Addition of signage on toilet block to give contacts, opening times and nearest alternative would help when reporting faults etc. Whilst plans on the gates are good when in the park it could be quite easy to lose direction so addition of finger posts and or plans on toilet/café would assist new visitors.</p>	<p>Finger posts may be an outcome of the Development Plan.</p>

	a good idea. CCTV signs give impression of safety.		
Clean and Well Maintained	No litter, very little dog fouling evident on visit. Impressive standard of maintenance. Signs clean and tidy, benches bins etc in good condition, good new bases and style of furniture. Ian the on site gardener a great asset.	Continue opening up views and vistas e.g. from west of café across pond. As mentioned path edges require attention. Continue to replace old benches and bases.	Some vegetation thinning carried out prior to bird nesting to open up vistas over the lake
Sustainability	Good re use of green waste and extension to tree planting. Good choice of bench with recycled aluminium.	Consider some on site composting for waste which needs no additional processing e.g. arising from bowls and leaf clearance. Simple wire bays could be used in the “wild boundary” area near football ground.	A wire composting bay has been created.
Conservation and Heritage	Good use of “dry garden” to replace roses. Wild border to football area unobtrusive yet contributes to habitat variety on site. Good shared work with environment agency	When football boundary is changed consider developing some wildflower area as already developing in this area. Seek assistance from local wildlife trust may have volunteers to develop monitoring of wildlife and extend habitats. Café out of uses does have a negative impact on the park when it should be a big asset to making a day visit more enjoyable. Consider short term use of a mobile unit in the park.	Once the football pitch is enclosed, The Oval will need to be integrated into Princes Park as the dividing boundary is removed. Will improve wildlife value and biodiversity within Princes Park, in areas to be decided through the Development Plan and then support this with interpretation.
Community Involvement	Great to meet members of the friends group who obviously contribute time, enthusiasm and fundraising	It would be useful to have friends notice board e.g. on the café with up-coming events, how to join works they have been involved with etc.	A FoPP funded notice board is currently located at the main entrance. A second notice board could be investigated, possibly in the same style as our community notice boards,

	capability which makes a big difference to the park. Regular stakeholder meetings useful to share and develop ideas.		used throughout Eastbourne.
Marketing Strategy	Good leaflet produced with friends group with map. Friends of website good. Use of park for variety of events exposes park to new visitors	When re-doing leaflet consider reducing amount of text and labelling photos. Encourage individual groups to promote how to join in activities e.g. the bowls green not easy to spot that casual play is encouraged from the outside. Again this could be promoted on main signs.	Once all the existing leaflets are distributed, throughout 2012, the next revision of the leaflet will again, be created, in consultation with the FoPP and the comments will be considered at this time.
Management	Clearly EBC managers, contractor and user groups committed to working together to produce high quality environment for visitors to the park.	Further develop a park management group to include residents outside of the friends group and special interest groups e.g. wildlife trust.	Will investigate this with the FoPP following the Development Plan. A number of special interest groups are existing members of the FoPP but wildlife issues will need to be expanded upon and strengthened.

Appendix J

Princes Park Management Action Plan 2012/20

CRITERIA	ACTION PROPOSED	TARGET DATE	PROGRESS UPDATE
A WELCOMING PLACE			
Welcoming	New information board at entrance to events field.	31.03.12	Complete
	New ornamental planting at existing main archway entrance	31.03.14	Complete
	Additional planting to stream edge	Phase 1 1.12.11 Phase 2 31.05.14	Complete
	Donkey Field - additional Pinus and structure planting to eastern boundary	28.02.17	Complete
Good and safe access	Re-tarmac main archway entrance to enhance and mitigate risks	31.03.12	Complete
	Re-tarmac bowling club perimeter and main path from Wartling Road to mini roundabout	Phase 1 31.12.13 Phase 2 30.04.14	Complete
	New bespoke entrance linking Princes Park to the seafront promenades	31.01.17	Complete
	Re-tarmac path through Donkey Field	31.03.17	
Signage	Re-brand all signage Splash Pad sign	2017 30.04.17	
Equal access for all	Accessible picnic benches in/ near play areas	31.03.13	Complete

	New public toilets including disabled provision within café renovation	31.01.17	Complete
	Disabled car parking spaces near café	31.01.17	Complete
	Update the paddling pool area with new accessible splash pad-type facility	31.05.12	Complete
HEALTHY SAFE AND SECURE			
Safe equipment and facilities	Provision of direction signs / fingerposts for guidance	2012/13	2013/14 Complete Funded by FoPP
	Improved footpath lighting - new main entrance to cafe	31.12.16	Complete
Personal security in park	Removal of some vegetation to reduce 'blind spots' and open up vistas	31.01.12	Mainly complete
	Removal of vegetation near medical centre to improve entrance	31.03.14	Complete
Dog fouling	Neighbourhood First 'not in our park' initiative to deter dog fouling	31.12.15	Complete
	Dogs on leads signs - lake edge	31.03.16	Complete
Appropriate provision and quality of facilities	Improvements to lake edge beam	31.03.14	Complete
CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED			
	Continued regular monitoring of contract standards	Ongoing	Ongoing – new structure of Council allows for

			Neighbourhood Advisors to increase visits Specialist Advisor to maintain horticultural standards
	Continue to replace old seats and seat bases	Ongoing	Ongoing – replace old for new through council’s donated presentation seat scheme
SUSTAINABILITY			
Environmental sustainability – energy and natural resource conservation, pollution	Continue use of products made of recycled materials (eg seats)	Ongoing	Ongoing using Glasdon (presentation seats) and GoPlastic seating/picnic tables
	New tree watering using water extracted from nearby river	Ongoing	Environment Agency extraction licensed using up to 20,000 litres per day for new tree stock
Peat use	Amend main grounds maintenance contract when re-tendered for plant supply	1/01/18	10 year contract ending
Waste minimisation	Introduce on-site wire composting bays for waste requiring no additional processing	29.02.12	Additional bays installed in 2014. Complete
	Introduce waste bins with segregated sections for plastic, cans and paper	31.12.17	Discussions ongoing with new café franchisee
Arboriculture & woodland management	Increase tree cover within park	31.03.14 and ongoing	Removal of Leylandii conifers and replacement with

			pine trees. Additional shade in play areas and supplementary tree planting throughout
	Native trees planted within The Oval	31.03.15	Increased biodiversity enhancement - ongoing
	Additional trees specified for new entrance	31.12.16	Additional trees as structure planting
	Additional trees as identified within the PP Development Plan	31.03.17	Entrance and The Oval periphery
CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE			
Conservation and appropriate management of natural features, wildlife and flora	Enhance wildlife areas through selective removal of low value alien species and replace with native plants	31.12.15	Areas thinned during 2013 and 420 native saplings planted with the Friends in 2013 and community 2015. ongoing
	Increase pollen-rich planting in part through replacement of old established schemes	31.12.12 and ongoing	Ongoing increase use of beneficial pollinator species to support unanimous Council motion 31.12.14 (border adjacent to 'donkey field' 31.12.15 (border adjacent to rose garden)
	Retention of mature habitat around lake for bird roosting and cover	Ongoing	
	Remove old chainlink fence separating The Oval from Princes Park	31.12.12	Complete

	Disused running track partially soiled over and seeded with wildflowers	31.03.16	Complete - Friends funded wildflowers and additional sensory plants
Buildings and structural features	Through council colleagues work to preserve and enhance 1930s buildings - café, bowls pavilion and putting green pavilion		Ongoing
	Bowling pavilion roof renewed to prevent water ingress	31.12.15	Complete
	Improvements to café funded through Coastal Communities Fund	31.12.16	Complete
	Putting Pavilion	31.12.17	Funding identified for improvements
	QEII Fields in Trust status	31.12.14	Boulder and plaque installed
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT			
Community involvement in management and development	Continued involvement of Friends in production of Princes Park Development Plan	31.12.12	Tenders received end Jan 2012. Development Plan endorsed by the Friends and adopted.
	Ongoing meetings with the Friends throughout the development of the new entrance/ café	31.12.16	Complete
	Annual audit meeting with Friends to identify improvements	31.03.17	Ongoing - since 2005
Appropriate provision for community	Identify location for notice board and interpretation adjacent to newly created entrance plaza	31.12.17	

Community involvement in fund raising	Budget raised for smaller works such as planting perennials, shrubs and wildflowers	31.05.16	Ongoing
	Coastal Communities grant development and ongoing involvement. Close community support an integral component of the successful bid	31.12.16	Complete
	Heritage Lottery Bid for Parks for People grant to include dredging lake, replace lake edge beam, bridges and lakeside paths	31.03.17	Initially date set to decide when to resource the HLF application
MARKETING			
Marketing and promotion	Produce updated guide leaflet in collaboration with Friends and other users of the park	Awaiting completion of project	
	Eastbourne.gov.uk web pages to be updated	31.05.17	Awaiting training
	Promote Green Flag status in media, on website and on site including additional sites around Eastbourne and use as a quality benchmark	Ongoing	Green Flag pole installed on site in 2011 followed by media coverage. Promoted on Council web pages and tourist brochure 2011 to 17
	Encourage individual clubs to promote themselves better on site. eg currently not obvious that bowling greens can be used by public	Ongoing	Greater visibility and accessibility created by new entrance for the bowling club. Spray Watersports re-branded to Buzz Active

MANAGEMENT			
	Evolve current links to park users to ensure continued high satisfaction levels	Ongoing - increased satisfaction rates evidenced by independent user survey	Mori Place Survey – How satisfied are you with Parks and Open Spaces? 2008/09 78% BMG Consultants Place Survey 2015 2015 83%
		Highly visible Neighbourhood Advisors working within the community to solve issues at the first point of contact whenever possible	Ongoing

References

Cabespace A guide to producing Park and Green Space Management Plans

EBC LA21 Document (1997)

EBC Seafront Gardens Best Value Review (2001)

EBC Eastbourne Borough Plan (2001-11)

EBC Leisure Services Best Value Review (2002)

EBC LDF Evidence Document Eastbourne Open Space Assessment (2005)

EBC Scrutiny Review of Play Facilities (2007)

EBC Parks and Gardens Grounds Maintenance Contract (2008-2017)

EBC Corporate Plan (2015-20)

EBC Eastbourne Environment Strategy (2010-2013)

ESCC Pride of Place – Sustainable Community Strategy (2010-26)

EBC Local Development Framework (2011-27)

EBC Princes Park Development Plan (2012)

Council motion to support pollinating insects (2012)

Green Flag Award feedback 2011 - 2016