

**ARBORETUM, DUNKIRK AND LENTON, RADFORD AND PARK AREA COMMITTEE**  
**18 SEPTEMBER 2013**

<b>Title of paper:</b>	<b>Parks Portfolio in Area 4</b>	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Hugh White, Director of Sport, Culture and Parks John Kelly, Corporate Director for Communities	<b>Wards affected:</b> Arboretum Dunkirk and Lenton Radford and Park
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<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	None	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:</b>		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
This report provides a breakdown of Area 4 parks, highlighting condition, funding availability and current priorities. The information can be used to help decision making for future developments and funding, such as Section 106, Area Capital, Ward Councillor budgets and Parks development budgets.		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	Note the information in Appendix A detailing the current standard/quality of parks and open spaces within Area 4, along with priorities for improvements moving forward.	

**1. BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

1.1 This report has been requested by Councillors as a way to better understand the open space provision and challenges within the new Area Committee boundary.

1.2 As a result of significant Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) funding for the old Area 4, (Arboretum, Berridge, Radford and Park) just under 10 years ago, a large number of parks and playground sites were improved. Since that time a number of further improvements have taken place as a result of:

- Heritage Lottery funding (The Arboretum and most recently The Forest Recreation Ground);
- DCSF (Department for Children, Schools & Families) Pathfinder playground funding (Forest Recreation Ground playground, Chard Street);
- Area Capital and Section 106 funding (Silverdale Road Park, Peppers Rest Garden).

1.3 The Area Committee report of September 2009 provided the background to the most recent phase of improvements within the Wards of Arboretum and Radford and Park, which are still in the process of being implemented and completed, with some alterations agreed by Ward Councillors.

1.4 With regard to Dunkirk and Lenton, which became part of the new Area 4 in May 2012, this area did not benefit from the same level of NRF funding. Some funding was brought into sites such as Lenton Recreation Ground and other sites have been improved as a result of Pathfinder funding (Spider Park), along with Section 106 and other external funding (Victoria Embankment). Please see Appendix A for the full list of sites.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 To provide background information for consideration if future funding options become available (e.g. Section 106, Area Capital or other external funding) as a way to help prioritise future development.

## **3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 None.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

4.1 The report outlines the current condition of the parks portfolio within the Area Committee boundary, any financial information provided relates to funding that has already been secured or committed towards a site.

4.2 There is currently no Section 106 funding available in the Area, however there are signed S106 agreements amounting to over £475,000 that would be payable to the City Council if / when those developments proceed. However it should be noted that a number of these agreements are very old and unlikely to proceed.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)**

5.1 The report is for background purposes, however, some of the key concerns that relate to a site may have crime and disorder implications, with any future development aimed at trying to reduce issues wherever possible.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

## **7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

7.1 None.

**8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 8.1 Area 4 Committee – 24 September 2009 - Spend Of Section 106 Funding On Parks And Open Spaces Improvements
- 8.2 Bridge, Dunkirk And Lenton (Area 8) Committee – 21 September 2010 - Spend Of Section 106 And Parks Development Funding On Parks And Open Spaces Improvements.
- 8.3 Delegated Decisions approving the spend of capital funding: PHD632, DD0187, DD0566, DD0834.

**Appendix A**

<b>Ward: Arboretum</b>					
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Description of site</b>	<b>Overall quality**</b>	<b>Funding available</b>	<b>Current Priorities / Actions</b>	
Forest Recreation Ground	Large historic park with a number of facilities which has recently been restored (£5.2m) Green Flag and Green Heritage Award site (2013)	60% (70%)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure remaining outstanding funding towards the £2m Sports Zone project</li> <li>Continue to make improvements across the site to complement the recent restoration project.</li> </ul>	
The Arboretum	Historic, destination site housing a large collection of trees Green Flag Award site	64.8%	£311,000 towards café/community building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure further funding for café/community building development.</li> <li>Continue to make improvements across the site in line with the management plan.</li> <li>Site to be entered into Green Heritage Award in 2014</li> </ul>	
Church / Rock Cemetery	Historic Cemetery site, Grade II* Listed, next to the Forest Recreation Ground	55%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to progress memorial safety works on site.</li> <li>Bollards needed opposite entrance to Addison Street, to prevent damage to historic fencing (badly damaged by cars twice in the same location within 3 years).</li> <li>Some issues over prostitution and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>Works to improve ecology / conservation on site</li> </ul>	
General Cemetery	Historic Cemetery site	57%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to progress memorial safety works on site.</li> <li>Works to improve ecology / conservation on site</li> </ul>	
Colville Street	Enclosed, playground and basket ball court, no grassed space, very close to housing	59%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old playground that requires refurbishment within the next 5 years</li> <li>Issues on site around graffiti, littering, drinking and use at night.</li> </ul>	
Ireton / Portland Street	Housing association site, with relatively new playground - not managed by the City Council	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some reported issues relating to the use of the playground, also litter / dog fouling</li> </ul>	

Waterloo Promenade	Historic path associated with the Arboretum and Forest sites, restored 2010.	59.5% (70%)	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few issues raised since site closed to vehicles,</li> </ul>
Maple Street	Concrete skate park created around 2006	41.5%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues on site around littering, drinking and drug use.</li> <li>Selective pruning of trees would be beneficial.</li> <li>Boundary fences require repairs if funds can be secured.</li> </ul>
Kirkstead Street	Old playground, that has had some improvement works carried out around 2005/6	63%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues around street drinking, and drug taking.</li> <li>Should be looked at with regard to improvements within the next 5 years</li> </ul>
Bridlington / Oldknow Street	Improved around 2008/9 with further works in 2010/11	66.5%	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues around street drinking, some reported drug taking, littering and 'over use' of the site</li> <li>Regular contact with the local TRA over the need either for lighting or to remove lighting due to perceived ASB and night time use of site.</li> <li>Bins require replacement with new design to include pest control bait boxes if funding can be secured.</li> </ul>
<b>Ward: Radford and Park</b>				
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Description of site</b>	<b>Overall quality</b>	<b>Funding available</b>	<b>Current Priorities / Actions</b>
Radford Recreation Ground	Historic park that was on the verge of entry for a Green Flag award in 2006/7 until pavilion was destroyed by fire. Had major improvements carried out prior to this. Some historic issues of ASB and vandalism, greatly reduced more recently.	48.5%	£31,000 of Area Capital  High potential for future funding from Sandfield Centre re-development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve maintenance of site, potentially by the removal of certain features</li> <li>Further engagement of the local community either via Friends Group / TRA or working parties.</li> <li>Removal of old pavilion foundation to improve safety of the site</li> <li>Look at whether cricket nets are still needed on site (as need repairing)</li> <li>Some issues near the lodge relating to drug dealing due to vehicle access and secluded location.</li> <li>Play area could be redeveloped as part of wider scheme, ideally within the next 5 years</li> </ul>

Wallan Street	Small local park that has play area and grassed open space with mature trees	62%	£5k (being spent Aug. 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal posts being removed as grassed area and posts in poor condition. Due to be replaced with new in September.</li> <li>Play area could be redeveloped within the next 5 years.</li> </ul>
Independent Street	Playground, outdoor gym and associated grassed space improved through funding secured in 2008/9	49% (66%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground replaced 2009/10.</li> <li>Some issues over drug dealing and ASB on site</li> <li>Concerns over the type of occupancy within the flats next to the playground.</li> <li>No further planned works for the site in the short or medium term</li> </ul>
Bobber's Mill Playground	Playground improved and 2006/7 and grassed space next to the River Leen	54%	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site generally in good condition</li> <li>No further planned works for the site in the short or medium term</li> </ul>
St Peter's Church	Church graveyard with public access. Old playground removed and improvement works carried out in 2007/8	48.5%	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve maintenance of the site within constraints of resources available.</li> <li>Consultation with TRA over allocation of current funding needed</li> <li>Future options limited as the site is still a church yard should be more of a space for quiet relaxation.</li> <li>Issues over rough sleeping, drinking, drug taking and dog fouling.</li> </ul>
Forster Street	Playground improved with some additional equipment in 2009/10	57.5% (66%)	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground refurbished 2009/10</li> <li>Some older play equipment may need replacing within the next 5-7 years depending on usage and vandalism</li> </ul>
John Carroll Leisure Centre	Old playground next to Leisure Centre. Redevelopment of play facility due to take place in Autumn 2013	36% (see note to right)	£20,000 along with funding secured from Groundwork.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old playground due to be replaced with new equipment in a different location in Autumn 2013 via Groundwork scheme – would significantly improve site score to over 60%.</li> <li>Some issues over drinking (though secluded seating to be removed as part of scheme)</li> </ul>
Ronald Street	Old playground and church site	62%	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor improvement works being scheduled in</li> </ul>

	now as open space				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New play area to be considered in next 5 years, depending on local housing development.</li> <li>• Some issues over street drinking due to secluded location</li> </ul>
Salisbury Square	Old redundant play area removed in 2012	37.5% (40%)	none		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for site to be re-used by the local community however location and access not ideal.</li> </ul>
Sandpiper Way	Old play area	46.5%	£8,775		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to be removed in 2013/14. Open space will be retained.</li> </ul>
Nottingham Castle	Major Heritage site for the City.	80%	none		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play area will need to be replaced or removed within 5 years as poor quality and heavily used.</li> <li>• The historic nature of the site means the location of any new equipment will have to be carefully selected.</li> <li>• Potential major improvement to the site being looked at so play area should be included within this.</li> </ul>
River Leen	Important water course and wildlife corridor running through the Ward	n/a	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys required so that habitat improvements can be made, especially with relation to Water Voles.</li> <li>• Further improvements to paths to improve vehicle / footpath links</li> </ul>
<b>Ward: Dunkirk and Lenton</b>					
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Description of site</b>	<b>Overall quality</b>	<b>Funding available</b>		<b>Current Priorities / Actions</b>
Lenton Recreation Ground	Green Flag Award site. Neighbourhood park with a range of facilities	77.4%	none		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to make improvements across the site in line with the management plan.</li> </ul>
Penn Avenue Open Space	Local play area	54.1%	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current issues or plans</li> </ul>
Dunkirk (Spider) Park	Local play area	25.1% (66%)	None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play area improved in 2009/10, no current issues or plans</li> </ul>
Lenton Priory	Historic open space connected to the church	n/a	£1000		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small scale improvements to footpaths and site furniture.</li> </ul>

\*\* Please note 'overall quality' score is a percentage out of 100. The survey work was carried out across the City as part of Breathing Spaces in 2009 and covers all aspects of green space including things such as safety, accessibility, and facilities for children. Due to the scope of the work, it has not yet been repeated and where improvements or works have taken place since 2009/10 this will have influenced the score with an estimate provided of the new score in brackets.