
Mansel Park Management Plan 2009-12

**Produced by the Neighbourhood
Services Division
& key Mansel Park Stakeholders**

Updated January 2010

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Foreword

Mansel Park has seen many exciting improvements over the last few years which have been greatly appreciated by the local community. I am very pleased that we are now in a position to make the second Green Flag application to celebrate the transformation and improvements of this park.



As Cabinet Member with responsibility for parks and green spaces it has been very exciting to see the changes take place in Mansel Park. The improvements to the park over the last few years are the result of successful joint working between council officers, partner organisations, external funding bodies and most importantly the local community. This work was recently acknowledged with the achievement of a Royal Town Planning Institute award for the South East region.

Cllr Phil Williams

Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services

Executive summary



Exciting times for Mansel Park

2008 had seen excellent preparation for the parks' first submission for the Green Flag Award. The Friends of Mansel Park (FOMP), Mansel Pavilion Steering Group (MP3), Southampton City Council (SCC) and other key stakeholders in the park have enjoyed seeing park users benefit from all the new facilities. Next year looks very promising for Mansel Park, with the focus on delivering the objectives and actions from the updated management plan and recommendations from the Green Flag judges.

Award winning regeneration project

The regeneration funded work has included a wide range of park improvements, finishing with the installation of a Doorstep Play Area (for children aged 0-8) which was officially opened in March 2009 and new bins for the park in 2008. There has been much praise regarding the park, its improvements and an increased sense of ownership and pride, evident in the consultation work that has been carried out. The perception of the area has improved, with users wanting to stay in the area longer, plus the park also won an award in the "City and Metropolitan areas and Town regeneration" category under the South East region Royal Town Planning Institute Planning awards 2008.

Installation of the first AdiZone in the region

The most exciting development is the installation of the first AdiZone in the South East of England, due to be completed in March 2010, which with it will bring greater usage and benefits to the park. The outdoor gym facility will expand the range of activities available in the park and will appeal to young and old. (Example of AdiZone in London pictured below.)



Well established Friends of Mansel Park

The Friends of Mansel Park group has formalised its organisation by coming under the umbrella of Millbrook Community Association. The Community Association has become reinvigorated through its new joint role in promoting the park and the MP3 building. This new arrangement worked well in the delivery of the Mansel Park photo project (see section 1.6) with the Community Association's formal status entering a successful grant application to the Grassroots Grant Fund. The amalgamation of FOMP and MCA has provided a stronger group, focused on the park and surrounding area. The group are looking at further community engagement projects, volunteering opportunities and maintaining links with other groups and organisations on the park and surrounding area.

MP3 pavilion

The purpose built pavilion is home to a boxing club, Millbrook Community Association and the west area Parks and Street Cleansing team. The MP3 is now used for a wide range of community purposes. Close working with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options are continuing to be developed further in the next year to provide more events and activities linked to the park for the local community to enjoy.

Ongoing commitment from the community to continually improve the park

Although 2009 marked an end to the current regeneration-funded programme of improvements, the community and friends group are committed to maintaining and improving the park. A key project for 2010 will be to establish and maintain a long term plan for the Boggy Play area (see biodiversity management plan), a joint project between the Friends, the Park team and the Natural Environment team.

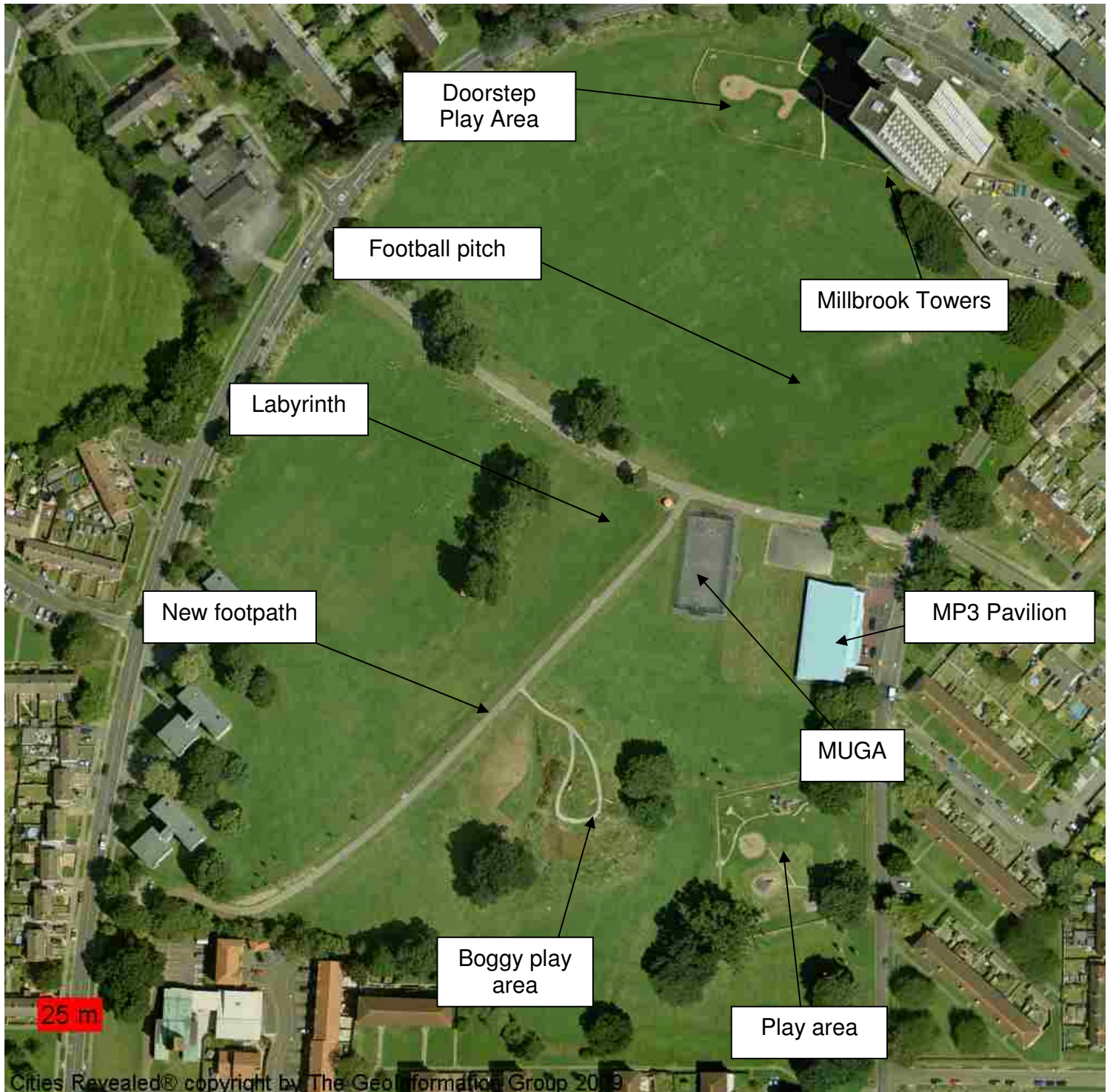
Plans for additional signage

Notice boards have now been installed at the 2 main entrances to the park which contain information regarding the park and local events held in it, these are maintained by nominated representatives to ensure the information is current. There are plans for further site specific signage to be installed in 2010.

Range of park events for 2010

The Friends were very keen to build on the successful MP3 Gala day of summer 2008 and held a larger and just as successful Gala Day in summer 2009. The event again attracted a large number of people to the park. Another Gala Day is planned for 2010, becoming an annual event. In addition there is also an Easter event and a Bonfire Night event planned. The park will host healthy walks coordinated through the MP3 pavilion. The Doorstep Play area had a celebration event to officially mark its opening in March 2009. The park will again be hosting the annual community fun fair in June.

Aerial plan of Mansel Park



Cities Revealed® copyright by The Geo Information Group 2009

Chapter 1

Introduction

The purpose of this management plan is to set out a framework to guide the development of Mansel Park for the future, ensuring that it meets the needs of the whole community, in line with a number of council policies. It should be considered as a “live”, workable document that sets out the terms to be applied over the next three years, including an action plan which is subject to annual review and goal setting.

The management plan has been put together by staff working in the park, the Friends of Mansel Park, MP3 and involvement from other community stakeholders.

Chapter 1 gives some background information on Mansel Park, including its history, features, area information, governing policies and resources. The second chapter provides more detail through the vision, aims and objectives of the park and the final chapter provides the key actions and recommendations which are both short and long term.

This plan will form the future running of Mansel Park, combining City Council Policy and legal requirements and the views of those who live, work and enjoy the area.

1.1 Description of Mansel Park

Mansel Park is the largest park on the west side of Southampton. It is situated in Millbrook housing estate, an area of high deprivation within the Redbridge Ward. Before 2005 Mansel Park was deemed an “uninspiring urban public open space” and a “green desert” offering only a few facilities in its 10.6 hectare area. The park hosted 3 football pitches; a ‘kick wall’, basketball court and a children’s play facility desperately in need of repair. The park’s facilities were of poor quality and were consequently under-utilised. As well as the lack of facilities, there were other barriers which limited the parks’ use. These included:

- Poor drainage, particularly at the southern end of the park, due mainly to a stream which flowed through that part of the park before the estate was constructed, but also along the only footpath which traversed the park at the time;
- Poor perception of its quality – due in part to local vandalism and graffiti;
- Fear of crime associated with walking through the park;
- Lack of supervision and overlooking and the security it offers the park;

Local residents had been campaigning for the area to be regenerated since 1998, and it was formally identified in the Single Regeneration Budget round 6 (SRB6) programme, “Southampton Community Futures” in 2000.

In 2004, an improvement plan for Mansel Park – led by extensive consultation - was approved by the Outer Shirley Regeneration Board and Southampton City Council's Executive. The vision for Mansel Park was to provide an enhanced open space that provided recreation with a community focus.

An extensive list of proposals was created and from these a £600,000 regeneration project began which has resulted in a number of new features for the park. Improvements that have been made in the park, designed with public involvement through a series of consultation exhibitions, fun days and focus groups are below. The aerial plan on page 6 shows the location of these features:

- A new community and sports pavilion designed by local residents, MP3
- Refurbishment and extension of the existing play area to better cater for children of all ages in the neighbourhood
- Creation of a new multi use games area (MUGA) to replace the existing basketball court
- Creation of a new doorstep play area and landscaping for younger children by Millbrook Towers (the tower block at the north of the park)
- Renewed existing path and lighting with increased seating and litter bins
- Creation of a natural and wildlife interest area (boggy play area) at the southern end of Mansel Park
- New footpath and cycleway with lighting, bins and seats
- Soft landscaping including a bund to replace old shrubs on the perimeter of the park, and over 60 new trees to diversify the range of species in the park.
- Community capacity increased through the support of the Friends of Mansel Park and the Mansel Park Pavilion Steering group, both groups include local residents
- Grant funding secured from South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), Biffaward landfill tax credit funders, Barclays Spaces for Sport, Sport England and Southampton City Council.

The park is within the Outer Shirley Priority Neighbourhood area, one of Southampton's eleven Priority Neighbourhoods, all of which have high levels of deprivation. The park sits in the middle of this area. From the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2007) Redbridge Ward is in the:

- 6th and 10th most income deprived Super Output Area (SOA) in Southampton
- 5th and 8th most employment deprived SOA in Southampton
- 1st and 9th most deprived SOA's in terms of education, skills and training in Southampton
- 6th, 9th and 10th most deprived SOA's in terms of barriers to housing and services in Southampton

- 4th most deprived living environment SOA's in Southampton
- 5th most deprived SOA in Southampton in terms of income deprivation affecting children



Aerial view of boggy play area

1.1.1 Mansel Park Pavilion

Mansel Park Pavilion known as MP3 officially opened in March 2008, following at least five years of development and consultation. This culminated during 2003, in response to the lack of facilities for young people in the local area, as well as a need to replace the existing community centre. After obtaining public support for the park improvements, an idea was taken forward to local residents and a local community group, Millbrook Towers and District Community Association (MTCA) (now Millbrook Community Association), to progress a shared community and sports facility at Mansel Park which could be used to promote the use of Mansel Park as a resource for Millbrook. This building would replace both the old pavilion, groundsman's mess room and garage at the east edge of the park, as well as the community room at the north end of the park. Outer Shirley Regeneration (OSR) programme officers also sought to develop a potential base for Golden Ring Amateur Boxing Club within the Millbrook area of Southampton which could expand their range of activities as well as diverting young people from anti social behaviour. Funds had been allocated from the Outer Shirley Regeneration programme for both the improvements to Mansel Park and for an improved local community facility close to the park. Following this approval, the building, worth £1.1M, was designed by Studio Four Architects based in Romsey, and external funding was granted from SEEDA and Sport England. Since it's opening, the building has become a centre for community and local sporting

activity; Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options (HIWYO) has taken on responsibility for the lease and employs the newly appointed centre manager and use the pavilion as a base for their youth inclusion project IMPACT funded by the Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF). Golden Ring Amateur Boxing Club extended their coaching and training schedules, providing additional fitness classes, whilst it is anticipated that Millbrook Towers and District Community Association will extend their range of activities for the local community. HIWYO have expressed an interest in extending the MP3 building which is anticipated will bring more activities and greater usage to the building and park and discussions with SCC are underway.

The Facilities in the building include:

- A sports hall principally used by the Boxing Club
- A large activity room – the community hall
- A meeting room
- Office accommodation for HIWYO and the centre manager
- The Council's Parks and Street Cleansing vehicle storage and mess room.
- Toilets, storage cupboards and a kitchen
- The only biomass boiler in Southampton, which powers the under-floor heating (more planned for Southampton schools soon)
- Energy efficient lighting and light bulbs.



MP3

1.1.2 Adizone

The AdiZone is part of the Olympic legacy project and is an intergenerational outdoor multi sports gym, free to all and designed to bring a range of lasting health and social benefits; this project sees SCC working in partnership with Adidas. It is the first construction of its kind in the South East of England giving Southampton a unique legacy of support for the Olympic Games in 2012. It will also be a great asset to Mansel Park, local residents and the surrounding area drawing people in from further afield. It will raise awareness of and attract people into Mansel Park as it is designed with children, young people and families in mind.

The AdiZone is due to open in March 2010 and will cover an area of 625m² which is designed in the shape of the Olympic 2012 logo. It will be free to users at all times and is designed to be used by all ages to aid fitness and develop a sporting legacy. It is for use by people of all abilities and socio-economic backgrounds and includes DDA accessible ramps. The AdiZones contribute to the Department of Health's physical activities drive as well as other nationally recognised indicators such as PSA21 (adult sport) and local authority adult and youth sport indicators (N18). It is hoped that this valuable asset will be used by the boxing club based at the MP3 for training purposes as well as by the residents of Southampton for fun, enjoyment and keeping fit and healthy.

1.2 Brief History

The area of Mansel Park is located on an old landfill site and was created when Millbrook estate was built in the 1950's. It is named after Owen L. Mansel who was strongly devoted to his work as Millbrook Parish Councillor during 1919-1930. Mansel Park was once covered by woodland and many of the oaks in the park today are hundreds of years old. A tributary of Tanners Brook ran across the South of the Park and would explain its boggy nature and why it can be so wet at times.

By the late 20th century Mansel Park had become a run down area rather than what it should have been, the "heart" of the estate. Instead it had been described as a "green desert" with only one poorly equipped children's play area and football pitch with predominantly dog walkers using the park.

In the autumn of 1998 Millbrook, Maybush and Redbridge Community Action Forum carried out a consultation to obtain peoples views on local parks and open spaces. Around 300 people gave their views with a wish for ponds, improved play areas and more seating, giving people the option to sit and enjoy their newly improved park.

In the year 2000 the Outer Shirley Regeneration Project won government money with the improvements to Mansel Park being a major part of the plan. The “Friends of Mansel Park” group formed later that year, uniting local residents all of whom would go on to play a leading part in re-vamping the park.

Improvements began in 2005, transforming play areas, re-installing football pitches and putting in place a new path linking Kendal Avenue with cycle ways and lighting. Trees, shrubs and bulbs were planted with a pond dug out of the boggy part of the park. The pond not only allowed different plants to grow but created a new and exciting home for butterflies and insects resulting in a natural wildlife interest area. As well as park changes, a new community and sports pavilion was also developed at Mansel Park.

In 2007 and 2008 the “Friends of Mansel Park” were commended for 2 years running in the Southampton Open Spaces Awards.

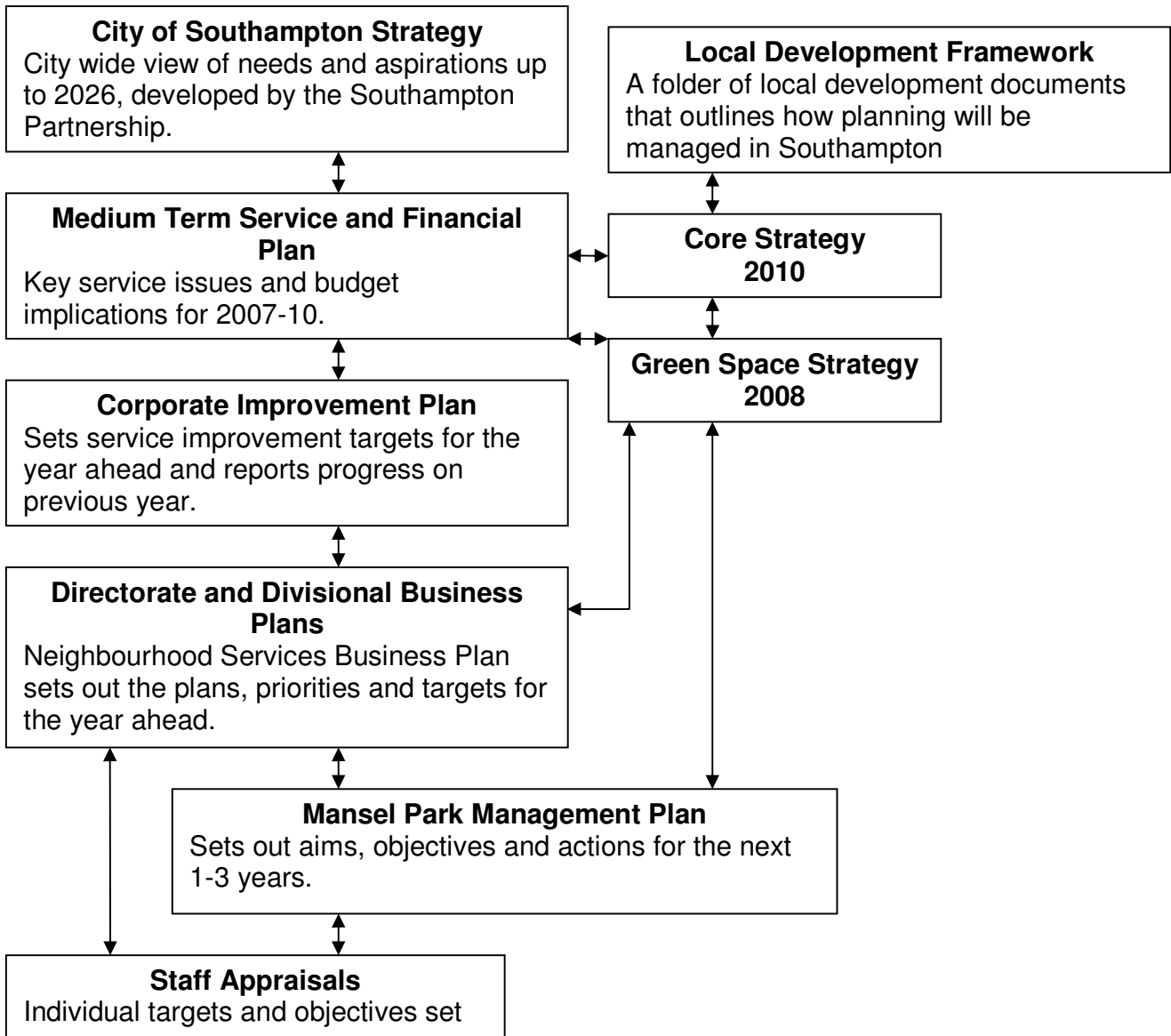
“At last Millbrook has a park to be proud of!”

Contributed by Millbrook Local History Society



Aerial view MP3 Gala Day 2009

1.3 Policy Context



The diagram above shows the golden thread of plans and strategies for Southampton City Council and shows how the Mansel Park management plan fits into this. Southampton's Green Space Strategy was adopted in October 2008 and can be viewed at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/gss>

Southampton City Council has recently amended its priorities and six new key priorities have been identified. Mansel Park supports these priorities in the following ways;

1. Providing good value, high quality services

The improvements to the park have not been possible without successful partnership working. The MP3 pavilion is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options who work in close partnership with Southampton City Council and other community groups and agencies to deliver a wide range of services. Mansel Park serves an area of high deprivation, providing a varied green space for all to use. The park is freely available to all and areas of the park are fully accessible. The installation of the first AdiZone in the South East of England adds to the value of the park.

2. Getting the city working

Recent improvements to Mansel Park have greatly improved the infrastructure of the area. This includes the new pavilion, play areas, MUGA, new footpaths, additional planting and installation of the AdiZone. These improvements have involved the community in the design and development stages.

3. Investing in education and training.

The extensive community consultation and events have provided excellent opportunities to educate the community about the environment and the signage which is in the process of being developed will provide a learning resource for the residents of Southampton.

4. Keeping people safe

The local community and many agencies (e.g. PCSOs and City Patrol) have been involved in the design of the park from the start and will continue to do so. A number of park areas have been identified by them as “hotspots” and receive regular patrols. In addition to this extra street lighting has been installed to improve the perception of safety.

5. Keeping the city clean and green.

The park offers a diverse green resource within an area surrounded by walk up and tower blocks. The park has been greatly improved over recent years and adds to the overall environment of the area. All green waste from the park is recycled, contributing to achieving this priority.

6. Looking after people.

The park is very varied and has something to interest most groups. As it is quite large, the park attracts a wide range of people from the surrounding areas and the play areas and MUGA encourage participation in sport. Mansel Park is a key green space for a large area of high density housing and tower blocks; therefore it has a vital role in improving those residents' health and wellbeing.

There are a number of other city wide strategies and plans that directly or indirectly affect the management of parks. The table below lists these with key areas of relevance to the management of Mansel Park.

Council Strategy/ Plan	Key theme for management of Mansel Park
Southampton's Green Space Strategy (GSS)	The Green Space Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in October 2008. The strategy provides a classification of parks based on quality and standards. All park management plans link to the GSS. Key priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing community involvement in the management and maintenance of green spaces • Encouraging more events and activities in parks • Increasing the number of Green Flag Awards across the city and using the criteria set out to inform future management plans.
Core Strategy	Has specific planning policy on enhancing and increasing green space provision in Southampton. As well as policies on climate change adaptation and green infrastructure improvement. The GSS acts as an evidence base for this document.
Biodiversity Action Plan	Protect, promote and improve biodiversity across the city. Mansel Park now has a biodiversity action plan to help improve biodiversity.
Street Scene Strategy	To improve the quality of streets, parks and open spaces across the city making Southampton 'smarter, safer, cleaner'
CAA (Comprehensive Area Assessment)	The CAA concluded that overall SCC performs well. Quality green spaces are included in the overall assessment of the area.
LAA (Local Area Agreement)	The Cleaner, Safer, Greener block of Southampton's LAA includes a target for the achievement of Green Flag awards. Mansel Park will be a key park in achieving this target.
Play Policy	Making play provision welcoming and accessible.
Neighbourhood Services Business Plan	A key overarching priority of the business plan is to make Southampton a greener city, specific commitments include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the GSS action plan by identifying and prioritising further park improvements • Developing a green park code to include dog control orders. • Improving sustainability and climate change adaptations.

1.4 Service Standards

1.4.1 Service Promises

The Neighbourhood Services Division of Southampton City Council is responsible for managing, maintaining and developing Mansel Park. The Neighbourhoods Team manages and maintains all Southampton's parks and green spaces in line with a set of 'Service Promises' that define baseline standards of service that customers can expect to see delivered consistently across the city. The 'Service Promises' were developed in consultation with community groups and key stakeholders and are written in clear and non-technical language to enable all customers to easily recognise the standards of service they can expect to see delivered within their neighbourhood. The Green Spaces Service Promises are published on the Parks and Green Spaces page of the city council's website. Compliance is monitored through ongoing monthly on-site inspections, with a target of >95% of sites visited judged to be maintained in line with the service's published standards. Performance results form part of the Division's performance scorecard and are reported in the Neighbourhood Services Business Plan. Service Promises are included within staff's team appraisal targets, with local performance reported and reviewed at regular team meetings.

1.4.2 Quality Standards

Park development needs and priorities are informed by user consultation and standards set out in Southampton's Green Space Strategy. This promotes audits to be undertaken to assess their current status and to give a baseline for future improvement and required investment. A quality audit of all of Southampton's Parks was undertaken by an independent consultant in autumn 2009. The data collected was based on Green Flag criteria and gives a good idea of the areas where quality needs to be improved. The Audit also gives an idea of numbers and quality of seating and bins. Mansel Park scored 69% against the Green Flag criteria and comments included "a large, well maintained and popular site". The results of the audit provide a sound basis for continued improvements.

1.5 Resources

1.5.1 Staff

The Parks and Street Cleansing section (P&SC) within the Neighbourhood Services Division of Southampton City Council is responsible for managing and maintaining the Park. Brian Kneller (West District Manager) and Stuart Davies (West Area Co-ordinator) manage both the Park and local District Team (see appendix 1) and are supported by John Horton, (Parks and Street Cleansing

Manager). Nick Yeats (Green Spaces Development Officer) also assists with policy and strategic development of the park. Staff involved in looking after Mansel Park have a wide range of experience working in parks and green spaces. This experience is invaluable in the day to day maintenance and management of the park. The team are dedicated and proud of their park.

Although there are no full time staff dedicated to working in Mansel Park alone, the West area team have up to 8 staff based at the purpose built mess room and store in the Mansel Park pavilion (MP3). This team carries out the grounds maintenance within the park as well as the surrounding area. The work includes grass cutting, general cleansing and litter bin emptying. In addition, the large areas of grass are maintained via the citywide tractor team and support on ecology and natural environment work is given by Andy Welch from the Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre.

Neighbourhood Services has recently been awarded a grant to provide placements for Future Jobs Fund Trainees. This entails providing six month placements for people who have had difficulty finding work, giving them practical experience and skills to enable them to apply for jobs in the future. It is anticipated that 10 people will be taken on through this scheme across the Neighbourhood Services Division, and some will work with the West area team and be involved in Mansel Park.

1.5.2 Finance and Budget

At the time of writing, the budget expenditure forecast for Mansel Park for 2009/10 is as detailed below.

Activity	Forecast Expenditure 09/10 (£)
Amenity grass maintenance	6,080
Shrub and hedge maintenance	5,150
Play area maintenance	2,880
Football maintenance	430
Sweeping, bin emptying and litter collection	3,950
Infrastructure repairs and maintenance (including installation of new equipment)	400
Conservation Maintenance Activities	5,000
Tree Work	370
TOTAL	24,260

The expectation is for revenue spending to continue at proportionately similar levels during 2010/11, but this is contingent on an as yet incomplete corporate budget setting process. The team will be provided with the 2010/11 budget information in March to enable them to plan in detail the expenditure over the period April 2010 to March 2011. Mansel Park may also benefit from capital funding of approximately £10,000 to prevent illegal encampments and £5,000 to enhance signage through the LAA pump priming grant. The installation of the AdiZone is being funded from the city council's Decent Neighbourhoods capital allocation.

1.6 Community Involvement

The Friends of Mansel Park met monthly through the whole period of the planning and implementation of the park improvements (2003 – 2009). They took a leading role in consulting with the community with each step of the improvements, and in organising specific events on the park.

As the improvements neared completion the Friends group reviewed its role. In parallel to this, another local group, Millbrook Towers and District Community Association, was also reviewing its purpose. The two groups had some shared members.

The Community Association had existed to manage the community room at the base of Millbrook Towers. This building had now been replaced by the Mansel Park Pavilion (MP3) for which they did not have management responsibility. This change affected how the Community Association members saw their purpose – did they have a role if it wasn't to manage a building? The Community Association members decided that there was a useful role of 'promoting the interests of the local residents' – especially use of the MP3 building, where they now meet, and Mansel Park.

The Friends of Mansel Park, in reviewing its role, agreed that there continued to be the need for a group that could help support the Park, seek resources for continued improvements, and promote the park in the community.

Discussion between the two groups showed shared objectives. The Community Association sought a new role that was not linked to managing a building, whilst the Friends of Mansel Park saw that the completion of the park improvements meant it would have a different role. Both groups wanted to promote the park and the MP3 building, and jointly planning a 'Gala Day' to celebrate the park improvements and to promote MP3 gave them a joint way ahead. A very successful Gala Day was held in September 2008.

The Friends of Mansel Park group members decided to become a 'section' within the Community Association, and the Community Association widened its remit to become 'Millbrook Community Association'. They worked on another joint project (Mansel Park Photo Project) and the second Gala Day, held in September 2009. This successful joint working has led to an effective merger of the groups. The Community Association has also drawn in new community members, giving it a wider membership than the Friends of Mansel Park had, and it has the organisational structure to bid for funds. The Friends of Mansel Park can still organise specific meetings to do particular work if needed, and it has been agreed that Park matters can have time within normal Community Association meetings. This means that a wider group of people can have an input.

One of the most exciting things about the design and regeneration of Mansel Park was that the majority of the park improvements, if not all, were led by the community and have shaped the park as it is now. Local residents were campaigning for the park since 1996, starting with the Mansel Park and Green Park Improvement Strategy and carried on with the Millbrook, Redbridge and Maybush Community Action Forum (CAF) forming an open spaces subgroup in 1998. In 2003 The Environment Centre (tEC) and Training for Work in Communities (TWICS) began a joint project, funded through the Outer Shirley Regeneration (OSR) programme, to promote sustainability in the Outer Shirley area and to work with the local community to develop ideas for play area improvements. This significantly supported and built the capacity of the community residents and focus groups, increasing levels of confidence. Following on from this in 2004 some of the local residents decided to set up the Friends of Mansel Park, to enable continued resident involvement in the planning and implementation of the park improvements. With the support of the council's Neighbourhood Involvement team and TWICS, the Group set out its terms of reference and have held regular monthly meetings ever since. These are advertised locally through posters and other publicity, so that any members of the wider local public with an interest in the park improvements can attend. Furthermore the group have undertaken training to allow them to become Community Consultants.

As well as the Friends group and local residents, the park is well used and loved by local schools and visitors from outside the ward, all praising the improvements that have taken place. Views, questions, concerns and ideas from the Group are fed back by representatives from it onto the Steering Group.

There has been a huge amount of consultation organised by the Friends of Mansel Park and officers from the local council to foster community engagement. This has included organising activities such as:

- focus / advisory group meetings - such as those with the local play group and youth club

- area events and fairs - such as the popular SO16 Festival and 2004 and 2006 community events; presentations and visits to neighbouring community groups - such as schools, parenting drop in centres and tenants/ residents associations
- Workshops - such as the Mansel Park Photograph workshop producing postcards of the park with photographs taken by the local community
- Educational events such as planting events
- Research and evaluation work through surveys, studies and park monitoring (Consultation reports available on request)

It was also the strong sense of community support which enabled the project to secure a further £40,000 in funding from the South East England Development Agency to enable the development of the environmental play area and Doorstep Play Area in January 2007.

The group continue to meet regularly as part of the MCA to discuss park usage and to plan their continued involvement in park related activities.

Following the parks regeneration programme, further agencies and community groups/clubs have become involved, such as Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options, dance groups, the boxing club, and the local University. The park continues to attract interest from new groups; most recently an orienteering club has expressed an interest in the park.



Opening of the Doorstep Play Area

1.7 User Feedback

Southampton's parks are frequently identified as one of the most important factors in making the city a good place to live. The most recent Place survey conducted by MORI in late 2008 indicated that overall satisfaction with parks and green spaces was 76%. This places Southampton in the top 25% of all local authorities.

The consultation group has carried out extensive local consultations at local fun days, in community centres, and by taking plans and pictures of possible equipment and play features around to local groups and meeting places. They have produced three reports of their findings, one in June 2004, May 2006 and August 2008. The consultation work showed the strong local backing for the park improvements.

The Mansel Park Consultation report, May 2006, invited feedback on what the community thought about the park as a whole and it was published during the finalisation of the work to the existing play area. The purpose of this was to keep local people up to date with what was happening in the park and to consult on the details of The Doorstep Play Area, Youth Shelter and The Environmental Play area. These were led in schools, youth clubs and drop in events.

Feedback from the consultation led on the Existing Play Area; May 2006 (Mansel Park Play Areas Consultation report) concluded that a larger Doorstep Play Area was preferred, with particular play equipment choices, preference for landscaping and a particular choice for the design and location of a youth shelter. Positive comments were received from the local community, such as; "this is the best thing that has happened in this area – and the number of young people hanging outside the shops has gone down a lot".



*Consultation
at Gala day
2009*

Another survey, Mansel Park Play Areas: Results of the User Survey of the Improved Play Area, conducted in August 2006, aimed to learn how the upgraded play area at Evenlode Road is working: who uses it, how often they use it, and what they think of it. Feedback on the Play Area was extremely positive – including comments such as; “it has improved from what it used to be”; “it’s all fun”; “amazing, changed a lot, brilliant”; “the play area is fine - my children enjoyed it”; “good improvements”; “it’s enjoyable to bring my family down to play as there’s more to do”; “well thought out, safe for the children of all ages”. Ideas were also given about what could be added to the Play Area, e.g. more things for young people to play on (under 3’s); more swings - toddler and flat swings.

The Consultation group completed an additional report on a user survey of the Doorstep Play area. (Copies of the consultation reports are available on request.)

Southampton actively promotes the national GreenSTAT online survey hosted by greenspace. Although details are included in all our publications and promoted via the council website and at events, we have only had a limited response from the public. The promotion and use of this service will be reviewed in the near future to hopefully encourage more respondents. Some of the feedback from customers over the last few years and our responses are shown in the table below.

You said	We did
Not enough rubbish bins	Bins were installed as part of the redevelopment of the park and more are planned for the AdiZone development
No dog poo bins	The council do not provide separate dog waste bins as all litter bins can be used for dog faces. Stickers on the bins inform the public of this.
Litter & glass from overnight activities; Some bin emptying is done, but glass and cans are not collected	The park is litter picked and bins emptied as early as possible each morning to try and reduce the impact of this. PCSOs and City Patrol visit the park in the evening to discourage anti-social behaviour.
Play areas are brilliant, but litter and bottles are bad	Play areas are inspected daily to ensure they are clean and safe for use. The inspection also includes litter picking and bin emptying.
Grass is cut fairly regularly, access good	Access was improved as part of the regeneration project and included a new footpath.

Chapter 2

Management Strategy

2.1 Vision

For Mansel Park to lead the way as an estate based District Park, the focus of the neighbourhood and its regeneration. With the local community at its heart, working with the Park team to continually improve biodiversity, events, recreation and involvement to ensure the park continues to be clean, safe and accessible for all.

2.2 Aims

Mansel Park serves a wide range of functions for the local community and draws people in from further afield to use its facilities. It is a vital component to improving the overall environment within the area of high deprivation. The overall character of the park should be recognised and enhanced whilst maintaining and improving the individual components that make it unique. There are four broad aims for the management, in partnership, of Mansel Park identified in accordance with the Green Space Strategy and other key city plans;

- Retain and enhance the distinctive quality of the park
- Provide a park that meets and continues to meet user need, both locally and strategically through the objectives of the City Council
- Interpret and promote the park to ensure the benefits it offers are maximised
- Ensure the park is accessible to all elements of the community.

2.3 Specific Objectives for 2010/11

The following key objectives have been derived from the Green Space Strategy, the draft Neighbourhood Services business plan and customer feedback and provide a focus for management in 2010/11. Specific actions to address these objectives are identified in the action plan in section 3.4.

- *Increase community involvement in the management and maintenance of the park by continuing to work closely with FOMP/MCA*
- *To maintain and improve the unique character of Mansel Park and enhance and interpret the varied biodiversity.*
- *To increase customer satisfaction in Mansel Park.*

- *To provide and promote key events in the park, raising environmental awareness and increasing community involvement.*

2.4 Management Structures

The management and maintenance of Mansel Park is the responsibility of the Parks and Street Cleansing (P&SC) team. The P&SC team is situated in the Neighbourhood Services Division of the Neighbourhoods Directorate. Since a recent reorganisation in April 2010, the Neighbourhood Services Division includes colleagues from the Active Communities, Stronger Communities and Safer Communities teams. The Parks & Street Cleansing Team includes the trees, parks development and natural environment units.

Managers within Neighbourhood Services undertake MBWA (management by walking about) which includes visits to Mansel Park. The parks operational and development management personnel meet bi-monthly to monitor the progress on implementation of the Green Space Strategy, and actions specific to the city's principal green spaces. Objectives detailed within Mansel Park action plan in section 3.4 are included within the relevant staff appraisal targets.

Play areas within Mansel Park are managed by Play Services which is in the Children's Services Directorate. However the day to day maintenance and cleaning of play areas is carried out by the P&SC team.

The pavilion (MP3) is owned by SCC. The pavilion building is leased to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options (HIWYO) on a 25 year lease, apart from the purpose built mess room and storage area for SCC staff. The manager of the pavilion, Mike Coomer, liaises with the Community Association and the council on a regular basis.

2.5 Green Spaces Policies Relating to Mansel Park

There are a number of operational and management policies covering green spaces and the whole city that have particular relevance to the park as detailed below.

2.5.1 Health and Safety

All activities undertaken by the City Council in Mansel Park are subject to risk assessment. The P&SC team has over 300 risk assessments in place covering the range of the teams work. Generic Risk Assessments are in the process of being put on the SCC intranet pages and are also held in the staff room at the MP3 as hard copies. An example of a generic risk assessment can be found in appendix 2.

The play areas are inspected on a daily basis to ensure that equipment is safe and that the immediate area is suitably clean. Any faults are immediately reported to the city play area maintenance team. Neighbourhood Services Division are currently undertaking an appraisal of “mobile working” procedures, with a view to improve our working practices and make them more efficient. We are currently looking at software and hand held hardware that will enable us to carry out inspections and record the results without having to return to the Office. It is anticipated that this project should be complete during 2010/11 and will provide software to store information about play area within it.

Damage or maintenance issues regarding bins, seats and signs are reported during the daily check of the park by the on site staff. Any health and safety issues are dealt with immediately and other repairs are undertaken by staff as needed.

In addition to on site park staff, City Patrol and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) carry out patrols within the park to improve the perception of safety and provide a visible presence to deter anti-social behaviour.

Repairs of the pavilion are carried out in agreement with Property Services on the SCC areas but repairs of other areas are arranged by the MP3 manager. There is limited public access to the building currently however opportunities to open up the building for wider use are a key priority for the MP3, Friends of Mansel Park and the P&SC team. Annual inspections are carried out for both electrical and fire safety equipment and the results recorded in the parks central office.

2.5.2 Enviro-crime and cleanliness

The Council has a proactive approach to the removal of graffiti and fly posters on land it manages. There is a specialist citywide two reactive team ready to respond to graffiti problems, prioritising racist or offensive material. Additionally protective coatings are applied to features regularly targeted facilitating rapid removal, and training and equipment is issued to key partners and community groups to enable them to tackle graffiti quickly.

A team of City Patrol Officers cover the whole of Southampton patrolling the streets, parks and open spaces seven days a week. During the day they deal with enviro-crime and issue fixed penalty fines for dog fouling, flytipping, graffiti and littering. This helps to reduce the negative impact of litter and dog fouling in particular. In the evening the role of City Patrol officers is geared towards dealing with anti-social behaviour, which can involve patrolling parks and green spaces.

2.5.3 Sustainability

The Neighbourhood Services team recycles all green waste produced and this applies to the green arisings generated from Mansel Park. Green waste from the

park and surrounding areas is collected on site and shredded for use as mulch wherever possible. This mulch is used in the park to suppress weeds, condition the topsoil, and retain moisture and nutrients.

This approach reflects the parks team's general policy in terms of waste disposal, which is to ensure waste is collected, processed and disposed of in as sustainable a way as possible, with minimum carbon emissions. In practice this means that where feasible green waste is directly recycled at the point of origin. Where this approach is not viable, as next best option green waste is taken to the council's nearest recycling bay for composting and future re-use within the city's green spaces. All green waste generated within Mansel Park is disposed of through these methods, either through chipping directly back onto the site of origin or composting within the nearest recycling bay at Lordshill.

Unfortunately the council's overall current recycling capacity means that not all green waste produced from the city's remaining thousand plus hectares of green space can be processed in-house, so the council works with local out-of-the-city contractors to collect our excess green waste and compost off-site. To minimise unnecessary travel, one load of recycled 'pro-grow' compost is delivered as each load of fresh green waste is taken off-site for processing.

Presently all parks non-green waste is taken to a local energy recovery facility which recovers heat energy from waste. This heat energy is used to generate electricity for the National Grid. Therefore, of all the waste collected from Mansel Park, it all gets recycled in some way.

The City Council has in place safe working procedures to ensure that all pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers are properly applied, and their use minimised. The purpose of these procedures is to ensure that all relevant legislation is followed and that records are properly kept and maintained. The Council aims to minimise the use of chemical products and actively seeks alternative approaches where possible. Should there be no alternative to chemical usage then products are selected from an approved list, preventing the use of environmentally unfriendly products.

Labyrinth maze



2.5.4 Conservation and heritage

It is important that the unique characteristics of Mansel Park are maintained and that the local history is preserved where possible. It is also vital to continue the work to increase the biodiversity of the park that was started with the regeneration improvement works. The boggy area will be enhanced to provide a greater diversity of planting in consultation with the Natural Environment team. The bunding around the park, which was installed to prevent traveller access, is also managed to encourage biodiversity through an annual cut of the grass.

A site specific Biodiversity Management Statement for Mansel Park has been provided by the city ecologist below;

Biodiversity Management Statement

Site name: Mansel Park

Boundary: between Windermere Avenue/Kendal Avenue and Evenlode Road

Grid Reference:

Area:

Neighbourhood area: West

Designation:

Nationally Protected species: Bats?

Hampshire BAP species:

Species Special in Southampton context / Community favourites:

Other noteworthy species regularly recorded:

Species recorded as occasional visitors/vagrants:

Important habitats

Notes on Public use: This park was until recently a large area of close mown grass with occasional trees and had very limited wildlife interest. A hedgerow in the southwest corner was the only potentially interesting area for biodiversity but has not been surveyed in detail.

In the last few years some works have been carried out that could benefit biodiversity, including creating a “bog” area earth mounds have also been constructed around some of the boundaries adjacent to the road. Some grass areas and south facing banks will be left to grow longer to encourage wildlife and also the seeding of wildflowers.

Community group stakeholders: Friends of Mansel Park

Major concerns for management: There is still some pressure to “tidy up” the park. This results in a general lack of food and shelter for wildlife, particularly during the winter. The disturbed soil created during recent works is very rich and so tends to support aggressive weed species that some members of the public find unacceptable. Careful monitoring of these areas and changes in management to achieve the required species will be needed in the next few years.

Management change opportunities that would benefit Biodiversity:

- Leaving longer vegetation in certain areas, particularly linking the “bog” area and the hedge to the southwest.
- Less vigorous pruning of berry bearing shrubs to allow them to flower and berry and create possible nesting habitat.
- Planting more such trees/shrubs e.g. ornamental Rowans away from tree cover to provide winter food for migrant birds.
- Similarly interplanting within shrubbeds with beneficial plants such as Evening primrose, Lemon balm and Teasel (these are biennials and need to be left overwinter to provide seed and shelter for wildlife).
- Experimental planting of local origin Bluebell and Primrose at base of trees to provide spring flowers (these may get picked/trampled so not too many planted and if conditions suitable they will naturally increase).
- Reducing mowing on some bits of existing short turf banks to encourage wildflowers to seed, then setting up “coppice cycle” of mowing to maintain diversity.

Community involvement opportunities:

Helping with removal of willows etc encroaching on “bog” area, sowing seed and thinning seedlings of Teasel etc in shrub beds, working with MCA/FOMP and other community groups on designated work days to achieve these aims.

2.5.5 Marketing

The council has adopted a 'campaign' method of managing communications to focus and prioritise marketing and to ensure consistent messages are given to the public. Several key campaigns have been identified which will include opportunities to promote Southampton's parks. In particular the City Pride campaign - promoting park events, positive messages about our parks, improving perception; Volunteering campaign – promoting opportunities to get more involved in your local park and volunteer to help make improvements; Highlight green credentials campaign – the value of parks and green spaces in climate change alleviation and improving biodiversity. These campaigns will be high profile and will be used to deliver a number of key messages about all our Green Flag parks and will hopefully encourage more community involvement.

As indicated in the Green Space Strategy a key objective is to promote parks as a vital resource for enhancing the health and well-being of their visitors. This is further enhanced by the existence of the boxing club at the MP3, the new AdiZone and the proposed application for funding for a trim trail.

Two new large JC Decaux notice boards have been installed in the park in the last year. These provide a large space for displaying park and community information. Plans are in place to develop the information within these signs to include a map and seasonal photographs and information. There will also be space for a regularly updated 'what's new in the park' section that the P&SC team and the Community Association can utilise. Following the successful photo project the group have produced postcards that will be used to promote the park.



Example of one of the postcards produced by FOMP

Events are advertised in local press and in posters, leaflets and newsletters. Events in Mansel Park will be used to promote the park more widely and will also promote the Friends of Mansel Park and encourage new members. More will be done in 2010 to better publicise the park, through FOMP/MCA especially the AdiZone and the sporting activities available through MP3.

2.5.6 Trees

Tree surveys were carried out on the park in early 2006, which praised the number of large mature trees within the park and their contribution to the landscape. There have been over 60 new trees planted as part of the regeneration improvements.

A system of tree management known as Southampton's Tree Risk Management Strategy (STORMS) is underway across the city. This ensures that council owned trees are inspected on a frequency determined by the potential usage of the area in which they are situated, and their own potential to cause a hazard. Trees in Mansel Park are subject to an inspection at least every four years, with any high risk trees inspected annually.



Boggy play area

Chapter 3

Actions and Recommendations

3.1 Measuring success and progress towards Green Flag criteria

We recognise our success from the completion of the points from the action plan as listed below.

Welcoming place

- Following a review of signage, two new cabinets have been placed within the park. These are open to posts from community voluntary groups, clubs and societies and will provide basic information about the park, its features and nature.
- The location of the park furniture was agreed in consultation with the Friends of Mansel Park, and this included the draft designs for the content of signs.
- Access routes and facilities are designed for use by those with physical disabilities.
- Through work in partnership with Solent University, graphic design students were offered a project to design posters for display in the new cabinets. This has resulted in 2 posters being produced by a student, one on the history of the park, and the other focussed on the park's spring-time plants and trees.
- Mansel Park photo project, local people took photographs of the park and have now produced postcards to help promote the park.
- The former community building has now been removed, the area is to be tidied and planted with Cornfield mix.



Doorstep play area

Healthy, safe and secure

- PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) have been patrolling the park and are working with local community groups to increase use of the park. This area has also been noted as a “hot spot” area and receives more attention.
- Regular meetings and consultations with on-site staff, residents, community associations, park users and the Friends of Mansel Park have helped to establish key measures to deter vandalism and increase perception of safety.
- There is a much better feeling about the park and a sense of pride, as shown at public events and letters to the local press.
- A range of activities have been arranged by the manager of MP3 and HIWYO.

Clean and well maintained

- Listened to customer concerns and are emptying litter bins more frequently.
- Prompt removal and replacement of vandalised items.
- The park is regularly cleaned and maintained by the area team.
- Area team carries out all work in the park which helps with consistency of standards throughout Mansel Park.

Sustainability

- There is a recycling point to the North of the park with plenty of signage.
- Seats within the park are sourced from European Oak as this is a sustainable source.
- Chemical use in the park has been eliminated where possible.
- Healthy walks have been arranged through the year by the manager of MP3 and HIWYO.

Conservation and heritage

- Bunds around the perimeter of the park are maintained in a way to conserve and enhance the area’s natural biodiversity.
- The growth of the Boggy Play area is subject to continued monitoring.
- Areas of the park are to be left to grow longer to encourage wildlife to establish and wildflowers to seed naturally.
- Some south facing banks are to be left longer to promote the seeding of natural wildflowers.

Community Involvement

- A successful photography project attended by local residents was run by Mount Pleasant Media Workshop, this led to a variety of photographs being taken and turned into postcards representing different aspects of the park.
- The Friends of Mansel Park have conducted a review of their achievements over the past year and after an options appraisal, decided to join with Millbrook Community Association to develop a stronger more stable group to focus on its role and involvement in the park and local area.

- Further community engagement projects have been discussed e.g. “Tree recognition days”, or a photo project to give seasonal posts for the sign boards or more planting etc.
- A successful event was held to mark the official opening of the doorstep play area in March 2009.
- A second successful Gala Day was held with plans to turn this into an annual event.
- The site identified for the installation of the AdiZone was identified in close consultation with residents, who actively canvassed to attract this facility into the heart of their local park. Public feedback was obtained through a series of consultation in the MP3, with timings and consultation techniques arranged to attract all ages and elements of the community e.g. use of a video capsule to allow residents to give their views on film.

Marketing

- Organisation of the Mansel Park Gala Day and Labyrinth planting event.
- Council web pages updated to include more information about Mansel Park.
- Established link with local clubs, groups, agencies and organisations to maximise use of the park - including a local history group and orienteering club.

Management

- The Regeneration Team have worked closely with the Parks and Street Cleansing team and Friends of Mansel Park (FOMP) to improve the park for the whole community to enjoy.
- Managers meet regularly with FOMP to discuss plans and issues for the park.
- Held several meetings with staff to establish new management and working arrangements and to develop ideas for the future of Mansel Park.
- Engaged the Friends of Mansel Park, Millbrook Community Association and staff working in the park with the Green Flag process and development of the Green Flag management plan.
- Work days are to be developed with the city ecologist to establish clear plans for management of the biodiversity areas in the park.

3.2 Programme of events

It is planned to hold several events in the park during the year. The MP3 gala which was a great success last year will be repeated in the summer, and looks like becoming an annual event. There are also events planned for Easter (Easter egg hunt and bonnet parade) and Bonfire Night as well as the community fun fair. The Friends of Mansel Park and the Community Association will be working closely with the council to develop, promote and hold these events. There is also the grand opening of the AdiZone, planned for March 2010. At the MCA AGM in January the friends also expressed an interest in holding regular table top sales within the park in addition to the annual events.

All events are publicised through the councils 'what's on' web pages. Events are also listed in City View, the council's monthly magazine that is distributed to all households. The Neighbourhood Services Team also produce a park events leaflet which includes Mansel Park events.

3.3 Maintenance schedule

A typical day for the team in Mansel Park involves a number of daily routine tasks;

- Early morning litter pick
- Emptying litter bins
- Play area inspection
- MUGA inspection
- General check of the park – including inspections of seats, bins and signs. Any damage identified and reported for follow up inspections / repair / maintenance as required
- Responding to queries from members of the public

In addition other maintenance tasks are;

- Mowing (at various frequencies according to performance standards)
- Seat and bin maintenance
- Shrub bed maintenance.

During the winter when the amount of general maintenance is reduced the team are able to work on alterations and improvements to the park and surrounding areas.

The Mansel Park team work to the Service Promises that set performance standards for maintenance of the park. Generally maintenance of Mansel Park is based on performance standards rather than frequency measures. Details of these service promises and standards are available on request.

Equipment is maintained by the councils fleet transport team. There is a dedicated mower service section looking after the larger grass cutting equipment and minor maintenance is undertaken by the west area team as part of the daily equipment checking routines.

3.4 Action plan for 2009/12

This action plan is a dynamic working document that is reviewed and updated annually. Some proposed actions are inspirational and will depend upon sourcing adequate funding, in collaboration with the Friends of Mansel Park. Although the plan has been ordered according to Green Flag criteria, several of the actions fall under more than one heading.

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
<i>Welcoming Place</i>					
Complete construction of the AdiZone – the first in the SE region, an Olympic legacy of outdoor multi gym – and host grand opening event.	Aidan Cooper	Adidas, Brian Kneller, FOMP, MP3	Capital funding (Housing) £150K total	March 2010	A unique opportunity to encourage people into Mansel Park to use a free facility, to benefit health and fitness
Reinstate area of former community building and incorporate into the park and plant with wild flower mix.	Stuart Davies	FOMP/MCA, Andy Welch	£500	April 2010	The former community building was demolished in 2009 and the area will now be improved and incorporated into the park.
Improve appearance of tower blocks to create better link with park	Aidan Cooper	Brian Kneller, FOMP/ MCA	Housing budget	Spring 2011	Linked to AdiZone development.
Develop a map to be displayed in the notice board identifying park features for less obvious features such as the Labyrinth.	Brian Kneller	Hilary Bradley, FOMP	Approx. £2,000	July 2010	Map will include all major park features
To fully utilise new signage cabinets with posters, information and interpretation.	Brian Kneller	FOMP, HIWYO	Approx. £500	Ongoing	For example posters which detail the history of the project, the natural element and contact details for FOMP

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
<i>Healthy, safe and secure</i>					
To look into developing a Dog Control Area or Exercising Park	Nick Yeats	City Safety, FOMP	Officer time	2011	Links to city wide review of dogs in green spaces that is currently underway
To consider developing a number of events around the "Green Gym" idea e.g. conservation days, weeding, planting whips & bulbs	Debbie Edwards	MP3, FOMP, Stuart Davies, Andy Welch	Officer time	December 2010	To include involving local schools, Sure Start and local residents etc in projects in the park. Link in with City Ecologist
To research costs and sources of funding for a trim trail to encourage more exercise in the park	Barbara Hancock - TWICS	FOMP, HIWYO	Unknown – requires funding	Review early 2011	This has been an aspiration of the Friends group for sometime however requires external funding to develop. Will be reviewed in light of AdiZone development as may no longer be required.
Liaise with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options regarding further activities of Basketball, Football, Cricket, Multisports expanding into the park.	Mike Coomer-HIWYO	Brian Kneller	Officer time	Ongoing	To encourage more people into the park by providing a range of organised activities.
<i>Clean and well maintained</i>					
Install additional seats and bins adjacent to the AdiZone	Adrian Crook	Aiden Cooper, Landscape team	Unknown-quote being prepared	March 2010	These improvements will be linked to the installation of the AdiZone
Plant new trees in the vicinity of the AdiZone to integrate the new feature into the park	Brian Kneller	Tree team	Within AdiZone budget	Feb 2011	To ensure the AdiZone 'fits into' its surrounding.

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
Develop guidance for FOMP to take an active role in the maintenance and management of signage and other park areas	Brian Kneller	FOMP	Within existing budget	Summer 2010	Including issuing graffiti wipes to FOMP to remove minor graffiti and litter pickers.
Work with community groups to host periodic community clean up events	Debbie Edwards	FOMP, Brian Kneller, John Martin	Officer time	Min. 2 events per year	Link to Big Tidy Up campaign (likely to be promoted by Encams March/ April). Location for Environment Road Show in the spring.
Review park boundaries to minimise risk of and prevent illegal encampments	Brian Kneller	Stuart Davies	£10,000 total available budget	April 2010	Capital money available to secure park boundaries. Interplanting of existing shrub bed to introduce shrubs to benefit biodiversity in the park
<i>Sustainability</i>					
Continue to monitor tree ring trial and different options for ongoing maintenance	Brian Kneller	Stuart Davies	Officer time	December 2010	Some tree rings have been mulched and others seeded; both methods will be reviewed at the end of the summer.
Completely eliminate use of chemical treatments within the park	Stuart Davies	Area team	Officer time	Ongoing	Most chemical treatments have ceased however small spot treatments are still necessary to some areas e.g. seat slab bases.
Consider developing Nature Walks in association with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options, local schools and residents	Simon Buston	Ian Bailey	Officer time	2011	Also possible link to healthy walks. Aspirational- depends on success of biodiversity actions.

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
<i>Conservation and heritage</i>					
Maintain the bunds and boggy play area to enhance the biodiversity in these areas	Stuart Davies	Area team	Officer time	September 2010 then ongoing	FOMP are very keen to encourage more wildlife into the park, therefore work will be carried out annually as agreed with ecologist on sections of the boggy area.
Leave longer vegetation linking the boggy area with the original hedge line	Stuart Davies	Area Team	Officer time	End Summer 2010	As per biodiversity management statement - This will encourage wildlife by giving more shelter between the boggy area and hedge line.
Plant trees, shrubs and plants to encourage nesting and winter feeding and also carry out less vigorous pruning of existing berry shrubs	Stuart Davies, Brian Kneller	Area Team, FOMP/MCA	Officer time £2,000	April 2010	As per biodiversity management statement - To encourage nesting and provide winter feeding.
Planting of Bluebells and primrose at base of trees to provide spring flowers	Andy Welch, Stuart Davies	Area Team, MCA/FOMP	Officer time £500	April 2010	As per biodiversity management statement - To provide spring flowers and colour
Reduce mowing on certain areas of banks to encourage wildflowers to seed and then setting up "coppice style" mowing to maintain diversity	Andy Welch, Brian Kneller	Area Team	Officer time	Start next mowing season and ongoing	As per biodiversity management statement - To encourage wildflowers to seed and improve diversity
Review success of biodiversity actions and update biodiversity management statement as necessary	Andy Welch	Brian Kneller	Officer time	January 2012	This management plan includes the first biodiversity plan for the park and it will be important to monitor its success to ensure long term improvements.

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
<i>Community involvement</i>					
Encourage MCA/FOMP and other groups to be more involved in biodiversity work in the park	Andy Welch	Area Team MCA/FOMP	Officer time	September 2010 then annual	Annual work days to be carried out under the guidance of Andy Welch
Remove sallow's encroaching on bog area, sowing seeds and thinning seedlings of teasel in shrub beds	Andy Welch Brian Kneller	MCA/FOMP Area Team	Officer time	September 2010 then ongoing	To help strengthen community involvement in the park
Hold a series of events in Mansel Park to include the annual Gala Day and events at Easter and Christmas, promoted through local press	Debbie Edwards , Hilary Bradley	FOMP/MCA, MP3, Brian Kneller	Officer Time £5k	Gala Summer 2010	To encourage more use of the park by local residents and strengthen community involvement. Will need to make use of Tenants Link, City View and Daily Echo to promote event. Also through community groups
<i>Marketing</i>					
Ensure the council website is kept up to date with Mansel Park information and event updates	Helen Saward	Hilary Bradley, Brian Kneller	Officer time	Ongoing	Includes making use of what's on pages
Friends of Mansel Park to develop facebook page to update followers on park activities	Chair of FOMP	FOMP/ MCA	Officer time	September 2010	Friends are keen to increase online presence to attract new members and park users.
Develop a webpage on the council website for the FOMP linking to Millbrook Community Association and Mansel Park pages	Sam Bennett	Debbie Edwards	Officer time	July 2009 COMPLETE	Part of ongoing work to develop community association web pages within council website. http://www.southampton.gov.uk/living/communities/groups/manselpark.aspx

Action	Lead officer	Key partners and consultees	Estimated resource required and source of funding	Target Completion date	Comments
<i>Management</i>					
Continue to liaise with SCC City Safety team, Police and Fire Service to ensure adequate and timely presence in the park	Brian Kneller	City Safety, Police, Fire	Officer time	Ongoing	Important to work with these key stakeholders to maximise on site presence in the park to discourage anti-social behaviour and vandalism
Create a mini task team to develop and manage the boggy play area to ensure its success.	Brian Kneller	Andy Welch, FOMP, Community Payback	Officer time	Commence Sept 2010. Ongoing	Advice from ecologist is that Sept is the best time of year to do this work. Need to clearly define how this area is managed and what it can be used for, taking expert advice from Ecologist.
Liaise with MP3 management to consider opportunities to expand activities into the park	Brian Kneller	Mike Coomer, FOMP	Officer time	Ongoing	To ensure continued liaison between all relevant stakeholders.
Continue to discuss MP3 ambitions to extend the pavilion to increase community activity in the building and park.	Brian Kneller	Mike Coomer, FOMP	Officer time	October 2010	Any extension to the building will need to be carefully considered to ensure it does not have a negative impact on the park.

3.5 Friends of Mansel Park Actions for 2010/11

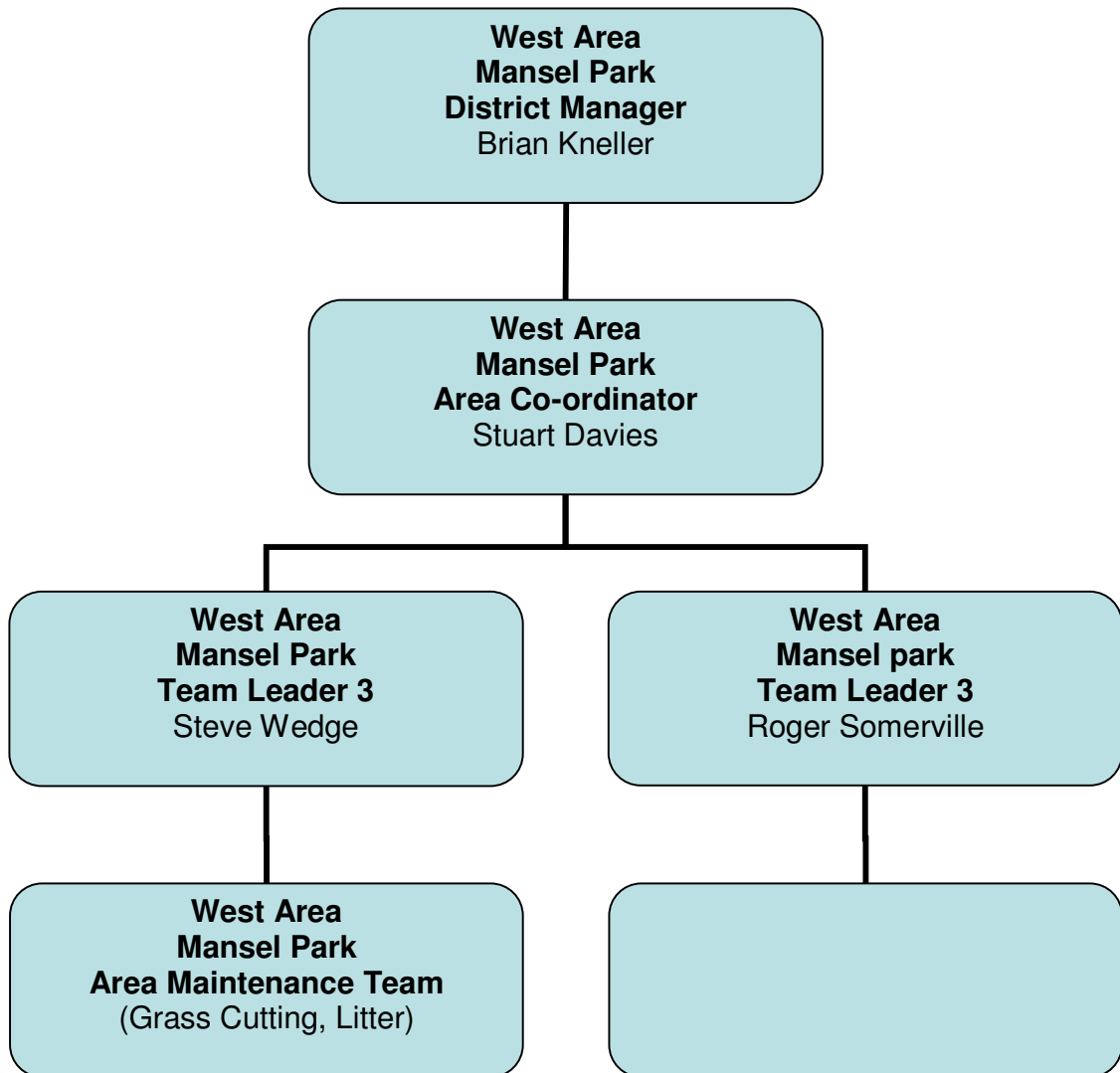
Many of the actions in the action plan (section 3.4) were identified by the Friends of Mansel Park. They have been involved in the developments in the park for a long time and still have aspirations for improving it. However in summary the key issues highlighted by the Friends for the year ahead are;

Friends of Mansel Park Actions 2010/11	Target month
Working with Millbrook Community Association to formalise working arrangements	Completed
Finalise the improvements to the signage cabinets of the park	May
Look at specific funding opportunities for particular work or ideas related to the park.	Ongoing
Help organise the Doorstep Play area opening event.	Completed
Work with council team to host MP3 gala event and promote FOMP	Completed September 2009 another in 2010
Work with council team to host events at Easter and Christmas 2010	Christmas 2010
Organise work days with area team and Ecologist	End 2010
To consult, identify and apply for funding for a trim trail	End 2010



Appendix 1

Staff Structure



Appendix 2

Southampton City Council Health and Safety Risk Assessment Form GENERIC ASSESSMENT – MOWING WITH A RIDE ON ROTARY, OR FLAIL MOWER

Location of Task:		Assessment No:					
Directorate/Section:		Assessors Name: Ken Prior					
Assessment Date:		Assessor's Signature:					
Task/Activity/Process description:							
Mowing with a Ride on Rotary, or Flail Mower							
No	Hazard (H) description	1-5	Likelihood (L) Factors	1-6	Risk = HxL e.g. 4x5= H(20)	Further control req'd? Y/N	Residual Risk
	Paint a pen picture of how the hazard could be realised, i.e. describe the potential accident. Include a description of the reasonable foreseeable injury (Broken arm). Rate the overall severity score on a scale of 1-5 (once)		Detail the following - Existing controls (Do they work?); Frequency; Environmental factors; Evidence of previous hazardous events; Numbers and pattern of people exposed (Who? Staff/Public). Rate the overall likelihood score on a scale of 1-6 (once)				
1	Mowing with a:- Jacobsen Sabo Ransomes Huxley Kubota Walker flail or rotary mowers Injuries to staff consistent with slips, trips and falls	2	Training, full PPE which includes appropriate footwear. Keep floor areas clear of debris	3	L(6)		

2	Public & staff being struck by objects thrown from cutting deck ie: stones, glass or litter. Objects and trapped fingers/hands in the cutting head.	2	Check area and clear objects before mowing Care to be taken when mowing, ensure that members of the public are a safe distance away from the machine when working. PPE which includes gloves must be worn. Machine to be switched off. Care must be taken when rotating the cutting head	4	M(8)		
	Contamination with faeces – disease	2		2	L(4)		
		3	Full PPE which includes gloves must be worn. Wash before eating/drinking. INOCULATION AGAINST TETANUS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY ALL OPERATIVES.	2	L(6)		
4	Injuries to staff consistent with machine overturning in ditches, slopes etc.	3	All drivers are given instruction on safe use of machinery. Only appropriate machines must be used	3	M (9)		
5	Road traffic accidents causing injury to staff & public	2	All drivers are required to have a current driving licence. Drivers are to wear high visibility clothing. Licences are to be checked annually. Wear seat belts where fitted.	2	L(4)		
6	Mowing with a ride on: Dust – disease, asthma, respiratory problems.		Dust masks are provided. Wash before eating/drinking.				
7	Skin related problems to staff from oil spilling out of hydraulic pipes	2	Ensure pipes are inspected visually before each use, ensure all fitting are in place and secure	2	L(4)		
8	Slips, trips and falls from oil spillage	2	Contain spillage, spread sand or other absorbent material	2	L(4)		
9	Physical injury – back related problems to staff caused by a defective seat.	2	Ensure that the seat is in full working order. Full use of drop kerbs to be made.	3	L(6)		

10	Medical problems associated with exposure to vibration from riding on mower.	2	See SWP no. 43 'Hand arm vibration syndrome'. Vibration levels are considered as part of purchasing policy. Health surveillance arranged where necessary	2	L(4)		
11	Fire – burns/smoke inhalation when refuelling the machine.	3	Operators are instructed not to re-fuel machines whilst hot or near sources of ignition. All ride on machines carry a fire extinguisher.	2	L(6)		
12	Noise – ear damage/hearing loss	3	Appropriate ear protection provided. Noise assessments carried out.	2	L(6)		
13	Abuse, threats, violence, stress and physical injury to staff when dealing with the public	3	See SWP no. 28 'Prevention of Violence and Intimidation at Work'.	3	L(9)		
14	Exposure to weather, Sun burn and skin cancer	2	SWP issued. Full PPE provided including sun block.	2	L(4)		
15	Illness and discomfort due to cold and rain	2	Full PPE inc waterproof and warm clothing available.	2	L(4)		
16	Contact with asbestos – hazardous to health	2	Staff trained to recognise asbestos and are fully aware of the procedures listed in SWP 21	1	L(2)		
17	Being struck by a falling object – head injury & dizziness to staff causing loss of control	2	Cabs fitted or wear hard hat in areas where there is a risk of being struck by a falling object	1	L(4)		
18	Accident and injury caused by losing control of machine or being struck by low branches when operating near trees.	3	Do not operate mower near trees where there is a risk of being struck by a branch. Crown lift trees, remove low branches.	2	L(6)		
19	Mower becoming stuck and losing traction. Injury, damage during recovery process	3	Refer to RA for towing and recovery of stuck or abandoned vehicles	2	L(6)		

20	Losing control of Mower resulting in mower sliding or overturning on bank causing serious physical injury to staff or public	3	Follow advice in the manufacturers handbook Do not work on slopes which have a gradient greater than the safe level advised in the handbook. Do not work near the top of a steep gradient especially in wet conditions where there is a risk of mower slipping over the edge of bank. Avoid temptation to use a mowing deck over edge of bank.	3	M(9)		
21	Road traffic accident causing injury to staff/public when working near or adjacent to road.	3	Assess safety measures required, coning, exclamation mark warning triangle. Wear high visibility jacket refer to list of "high risk locations" and RA for placing signs	3	M(9)		
Do any procedures/processes/plans relating to the task need to be amended or update in light of your risk assessment findings? Yes/No <i>If 'yes' give details in table below</i>			Health surveillance or medical screening required? Yes/No: <i>If 'Yes' give details in table below</i>				
Are current control measures adequate? Yes/No: <i>If 'No' give details in table below</i> <i>If 'yes' then risk assessment is complete subject to Management confirmation</i>			Are additional controls needed to reduce the risk? Yes/No <i>If 'yes' give details in table below</i>				

Where further action needs to be taken, then the boxes below should be used to identify deficiencies and outline additional plans.

No	Priority	Identified Deficiency	Additional Control Measures

No	Action by whom	Comments	Target date	Completion date	Signature (when completed)
Have the target dates been agreed? Yes/No <i>If 'No' then specify reasons:</i>					
Has the risk assessment detail been entered onto the H&S register of risks? Yes/No					
Management Confirmation					
<i>I have noted the above assessment and will take appropriate steps to ensure all the actions raised are completed satisfactorily.</i>					
Name (Block capitals): (Manager responsible for activity)					
Signed:			Date:		
Risk Assessment Review					
<i>I confirm that the assessment remains valid, controls remain effective and there has been no increase in the risk.</i>					
1st Review date:		Name:		Signed:	
2nd Review date:		Name:		Signed:	
3rd Review date:		Name:		Signed:	
NB If the above statement cannot be verified then a re-assessment will be required to confirm that there has been no significant change to the activity/process.					

Appendix 3

List of Key Stakeholders in Mansel Park

FOMP/MCA

MP3

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Youth Options (HIWYO)

Golden Ring Boxing Club

Regeneration Section

Adidas

Housing Section

Green Flag Feedback

If you would like to make any comments about this park or green space or would like to make specific suggestions and recommendations for the management plan, please complete this form.

Name of park: _____

Comments:

If you would like to be involved in the development of this management plan and the park please provide your contact details.

Your name: _____

Your contact details:







Please return this form to Helen Saward, Neighbourhood Services, Town Depot, Albert Road North, Southampton SO14 5AT or email your comments to parks@southampton.gov.uk.

