

**Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
Bath Grounds Advisory Group**

BATH GROUNDS MANAGEMENT PLAN



Revised November 2023

Contents

	Page
Section 1	<u>3</u>
Section 2	<u>19</u>
Section 3	<u>20</u>
Section 4	<u>22</u>
Section 5	<u>24</u>
Section 6	<u>26</u>
Section 7	<u>27</u>
Section 8	<u>39</u>
Section 9	<u>41</u>
 Appendices	
Appendix 1	<u>45</u>
Appendix 2	<u>55</u>
Appendix 3	<u>56</u>
Appendix 4	<u>62</u>
Appendix 5	<u>63</u>
Appendix 6	<u>67</u>
Appendix 7	<u>71</u>
Appendix 8	<u>72</u>
Appendix 9	<u>76</u>
Appendix 10	<u>78</u>
Appendix 11	<u>91</u>
Appendix 12	<u>94</u>
Appendix 13	<u>97</u>
Appendix 14	<u>103</u>
Appendix 15	<u>104</u>
Appendix 16	<u>114</u>

SECTION ONE – INTRODUCTION TO THE BATH GROUNDS.

Background.

Parks and open spaces are a vital part of our lives. Ashby de la Zouch Town Council is committed to protecting and managing its open spaces in a sustainable and effective manner whilst recognising that green spaces offer a range of important benefits to our residents and visitors including:

- physical and mental health and wellbeing health promotion;
- promoting the social and cultural value of the town;
- community cohesion and integration;
- activities for young people;
- opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise;
- environmental sustainability;
- biodiversity and climate change mitigation;
- local economic growth.

The Town Council is committed to a continuous improvement of its services and facilities. The main purpose of the management plan is to ensure that The Bath Ground's future maintenance and improvements are planned and carried out in a structured and cohesive way.

Essential to this aim is engagement with the community in order to understand its needs. Ensuring the continued support of the community is vital to the success of the plan.

The Town Council will be invited to formally adopt the management plan for The Bath Grounds in March 2020. It will be asked to uphold the standards of management and maintenance as indicated in the plan and to support the future management of the grounds in accordance with the standards laid down for a Green Flag award.

1. The Historical Context.

The Bath Grounds takes its name and origin from the Ivanhoe Baths which were built by the 1st Marquis of Hastings in 1822 on land to the east of the Royal Hotel. The baths were closed in 1884 and were then briefly occupied by the grammar school until their decline and demolition in 1962. The demolition of the classical inspired Ivanhoe Baths was a traumatic event for the town and whilst the adjacent open space has survived intact since its original construction, the site of the former baths has continued to be poorly defined and in unsatisfactory use.

The land between the baths and the (then unculverted) Gilwiskaw Brook to the east was laid out as an area of fashionable 'greensward' for the benefit of visitors to the baths. The building and its landscaped surrounds were said to have presented an appearance "unrivalled by any other watering place in the Kingdom."

This landscaped area consisted of a carriage drive and walks, used for sedate and genteel recreation, including a "Pic-Nic Party" in 1849. The drive and walks were re-laid in 1887, which was in marked contrast to the baths themselves which had fallen out of fashion and into disrepair, being closed completely in 1884.

By the turn of the century a more formal organisation of recreation was reflected in the establishment of tennis courts, a croquet lawn and a bowls green and the use of the area by the Ivanhoe Archery Club and Deer's Leap Gun Club. At the same time and possibly as a result of the occupation of the Baths building by the grammar school from 1871, the southern half of the Bath Meadow, by then enclosed by the railway line, had been incorporated into the Bath Grounds for use as a sports field. By 1926 the Grounds had become venue for hockey and cricket clubs, and remained a county cricket club until 1964.

In tandem with this formal development as a sports field, the Grounds became a focus for the town's community activities in hosting Grand Bazaars in 1898 and 1901, the annual Whit Monday Gala Fetes and the annual Town Flower and Agricultural Show. The history of the Grounds can be clearly traced in the mapping of the site from 1837 to the modern day from the maps below. These maps show its gradual enclosure by the railway line and growth of the town to the south and residential development to the north and east, along South Street and Prior Park Road.

The maps also show the gradual disappearance of the division between the landscaped northern half of the site and the more open sports ground to the south, with the remains of the track that formerly led to the Bowls Club being the only remaining evidence of this 'boundary'. Comparison also reveals the increase in structures and buildings on the Grounds from the various club pavilions with ancillary sheds and compounds.

The history of the area in which the Bath Grounds are located falls into a number of discrete periods which saw the status of the town increase to regional (or even national) significance before returning to the level of a local market town.

Pre 1500: Manorial settlement and creation of Castle.

- A settlement at Ashby was recorded in Domesday (1086), when the manor house was probably on the site of the castle. It was granted to Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Leicester, in about 1100, and through subletting passed to Robert Belmeis and his descendants, passing c.1160 to his son-in-law, Alain de Porrhoet la Zouche, whose family name was appended to the town c.1230;
- The manor passed through the la Zouch family, who around 1350 extended and rebuilt the manor house. The last of that family, Hugh la Zouch, died in 1399, and after changing hands a number of times the manor passed in 1420 to James Ormond, Earl of Wiltshire;
- Ormond fought for the Lancastrian side in the Wars of the Roses, and was beheaded after the battle of Towton, 1461. As was usual in such cases, his estates were confiscated by Crown and then granted to William Hastings (knighted on the same battlefield and created Baron Hastings);

- Hastings was licensed in 1474 to empark 3,000 acres at Ashby and to fortify the manor house. He started building Ashby Castle, but fell out of favour with the future Richard III and was beheaded in 1483. His title and confiscated estates, however, were quickly restored to his son Edward (2nd Baron Hastings).

1500 – 1650: Ashby Castle estate.

- Ashby Castle was a significant estate in this period as the seat of the Hastings family; the 3rd Baron was created Earl of Huntingdon in 1529, and may have made improvements to the castle in brick, and added to the landscape (the Wilderness and gardens);
- The estate passed down the family, which retained close ties to the royal court; the 5th Earl was strongly royalist in the civil war, and the castle was garrisoned 1640. His son succeeded as 6th Earl in 1643, but the castle was surrendered in 1646 after several months' siege;
- Parliament ordered the Castle to be "sleighted and unfortified". This was carried out 1648 with undermining and gunpowder, leaving the building in ruins, and the family seat was then relocated to Donington Park.

1650 – 1820: Declining asset.

- Estate inherited in 1656 by the 7th Earl, aged 5; estates run by his mother, but value and income of Ashby declined in the 18th century as it passed down the line (1701, 1705, 1746);
- Ashby Place, incorporating the mediaeval hall, was built c.1724 as a dower house for the widowed Countesses of Huntingdon; one of the last dowagers was Selina, the widow of the 19th Earl, who lived here after his death in 1746;
- Much of the town was destroyed by fire in 1753;
- Earldom became dormant in 1789, when the older titles and estates passed to Francis Rawdon-Hastings, Lord Moira (a nephew of the 9th Earl);
- Ashby Canal opened 1804, with horse-drawn Ticknall Tramway linking to Ashby de la Zouch and the lime-yards/brickworks at Ticknall, Derbyshire.

1820 – 1840: Repair of Castle ruins and development of the spa.

- Although the Huntingdon earldom was revived in 1819 by the 12th Earl, the estates remained with Lord Moira (created Marquess of Hastings, 1816) and passed down through his family;
- Ashby Castle featured in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, published in late 1819. The book was wildly popular, and prompted the Marquess to restore the ruins as a tourist attraction, and to develop a spa;
- *Ivanhoe Baths* were built in 1822, with a central pump-room under a richly decorated dome; two wings, each with six baths, which were supplied with water transferred from one of the family's coal mines, three miles away. The water was much admired, with an 1848 description noting "*higher proportions of salts of chlorine and bromine than anywhere else in the country. . . employed both internally and externally, as a remedial agent in many chronic diseases, with great advantage*";
- Royal Hotel built alongside the baths in 1826 (originally the "Hastings Hotel", but changed to existing name by late 1836). Originally faced with stone on all façades, and facing east to the Bath Grounds;
- Rawdon House and Terrace (also facing east) and *Ivanhoe Terrace* built at same period; design of all buildings ascribed to otherwise little-known architect Robert Chaplin;
- The early 18th century Ashby Place was rebuilt in 1831-32 as the Manor House;
- 1837 plan shows entrance drive on west side of hotel, but no porch, as well as drive to east of Bath Grounds on the line of Prior Park Road;
- Expansion of the town led to construction of Holy Trinity church in 1838 (became a parish in 1860, and chancel added in 1866).

1845 – 1850: Arrival of the railway.

- Leicester & Swannington Railway of 1832-33, and Ashby Canal with Ticknall Tramway, were purchased by the Midland Railway in 1845. The line was then extended from Swannington to Burton (partly on line of the Ticknall Tramway), and Ashby de la Zouch station opened in 1849, served by the new Station Road;
- The railway line created a hard-southern boundary for the Bath Grounds, and the primary frontage of the Royal Hotel was re-oriented to face Station Road. Rawdon House and Rawdon Terrace were similarly re-oriented, but private gardens were not created on the Bath Grounds (east) side until the 20th century;

- 1848 description of the town noted “Commodious pleasure-grounds attached to the baths”, with “lodging-houses, a handsome hotel, a theatre, and other sources of attraction requisite in a place of fashionable resort”.

1850 – 1950: Late 19th Century and later decline of the spa.

- Estate ownership passed to Abney-Hastings family in 1868 when the 4th Marquess of Hastings died and investment in the spa declined;
- Branch railway from Ashby to Breedon and Derby opened in 1874; Ivanhoe Baths refurbished in the 1880s, but were unused by the end of the century;
- The west and north sides of the Royal Hotel were refaced in brick in 1897 after failure of the ashlar stonework;
- Burton and Ashby Light Railway trams ran between the towns, 1906 to 1927;
- The Gilwiskaw Brook east of Bath Grounds was culverted between the Ordnance Surveys of 1903 and 1923;
- In 1932, responsibility for the castle and garden (but not ownership) was transferred to the Ministry of Works (superseded by English Heritage, 1983);
- Houses were built on the South Street frontage of Bath Grounds in the 1930s.

Since 1950: Introduction of Heritage Assets Protection.

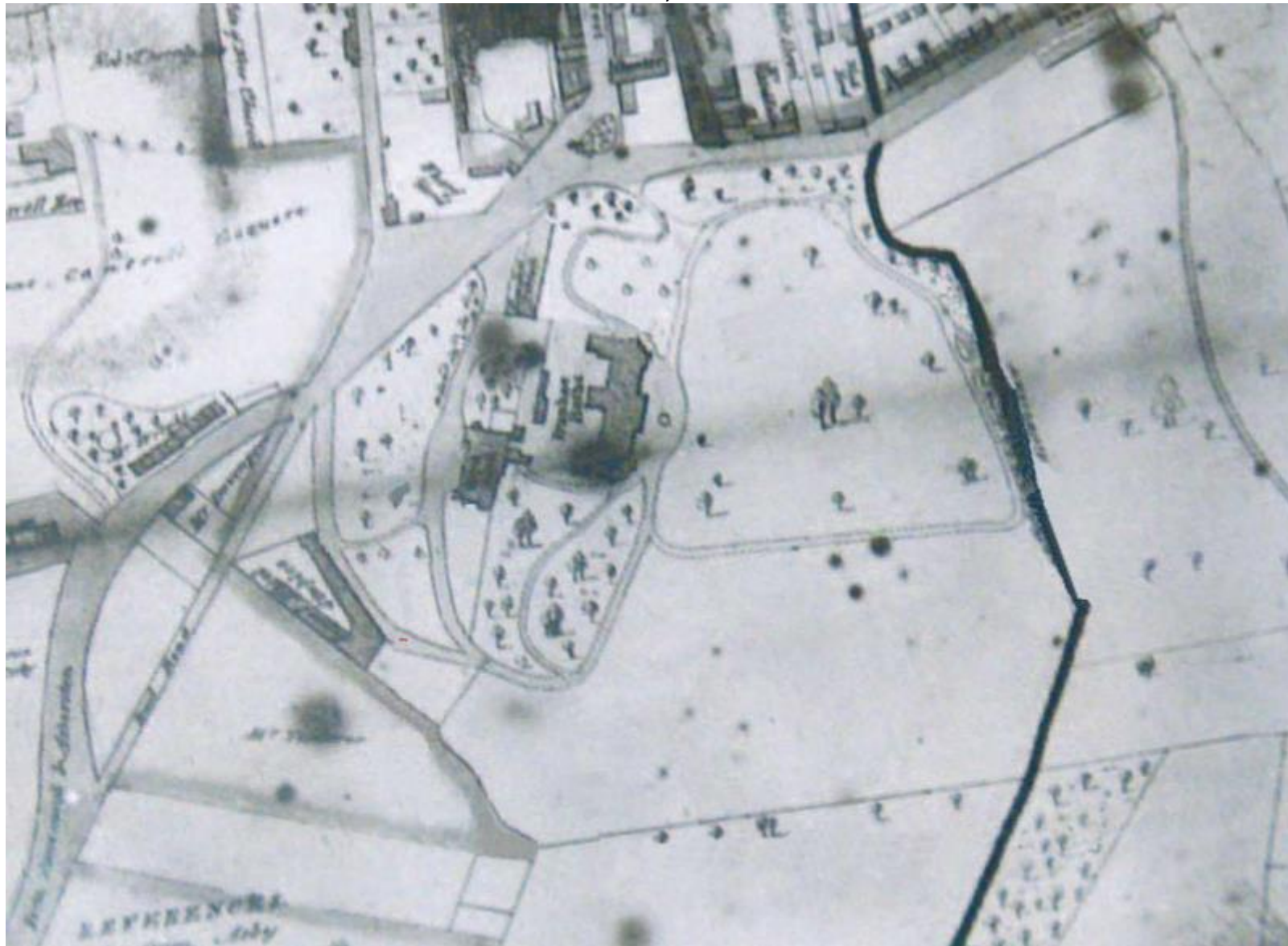
- Castle ruins listed Grade I and the Royal Hotel Grade II* in 1950;
- Passenger services on the Ashby-to-Breedon railway ended in the mid-1950s (tracks removed in the 1960s); passenger services on the main line ended in 1964, although the line remained in use for goods traffic;
- Attempts to find a new use for the Ivanhoe Baths failed, and the building was demolished in 1962;
- Rawdon House and Terrace were listed Grade II* in 1970, and the Ashby de la Zouch Conservation Area was designated in November, 1972;
- Planning permission and LBC obtained in 2014 to restore the Royal Hotel and remove/replace unsympathetic additions, but hotel closed in 2018 after trading at a loss for 3 years, and facing estimated renovation costs of £3.5 million;
- Pre-application advice was obtained from Historic England in July, 2018 for proposed renovations and associated development, followed by further consultations.

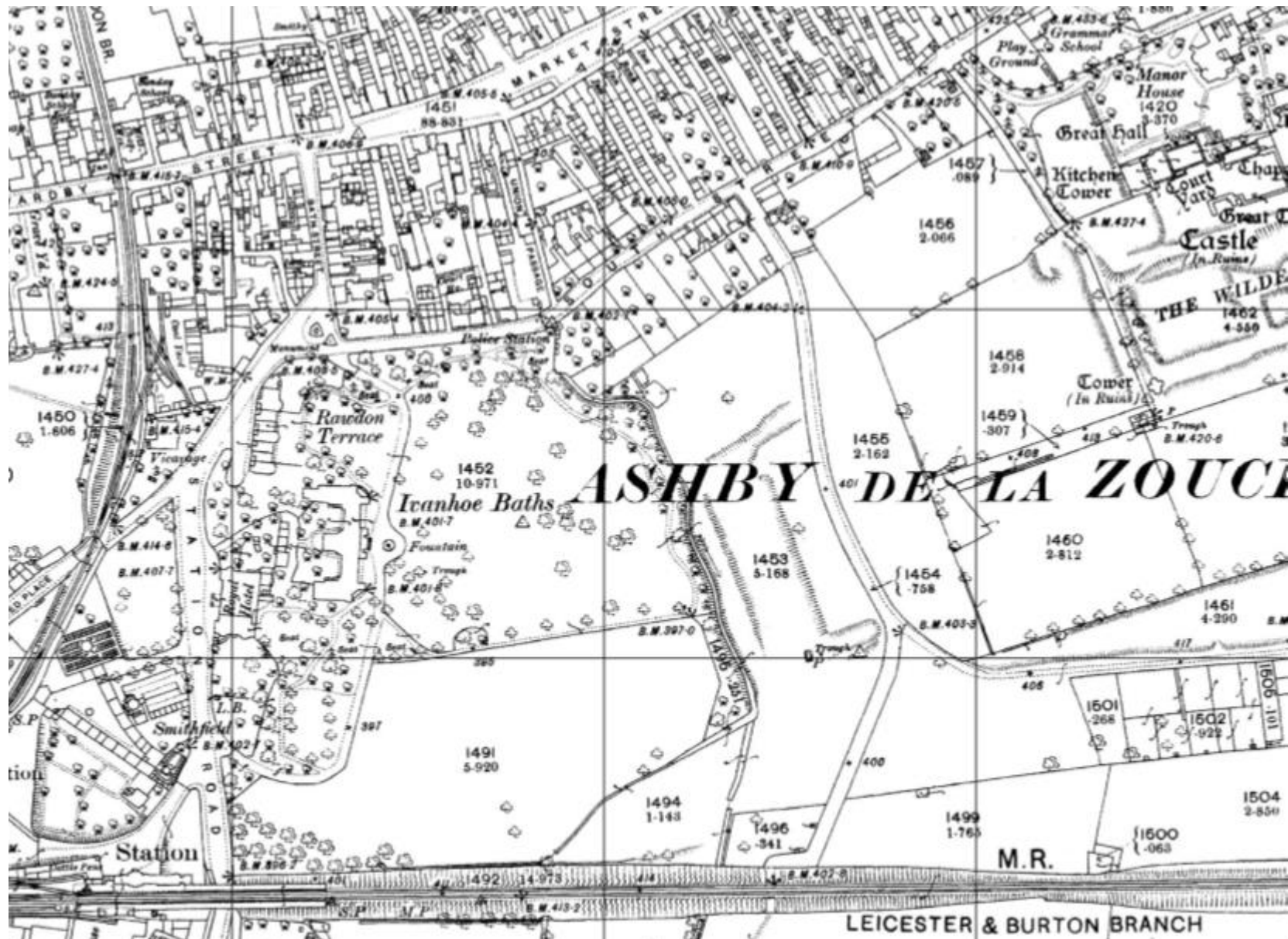
Ashby Castle Estate Plan, 1735.

Marking the Castle at "C", and the approx. locations of Royal Hotel (RH), Rawdon Terrace (RT), Ivanhoe Baths (IB)



Town Plan, 1837.



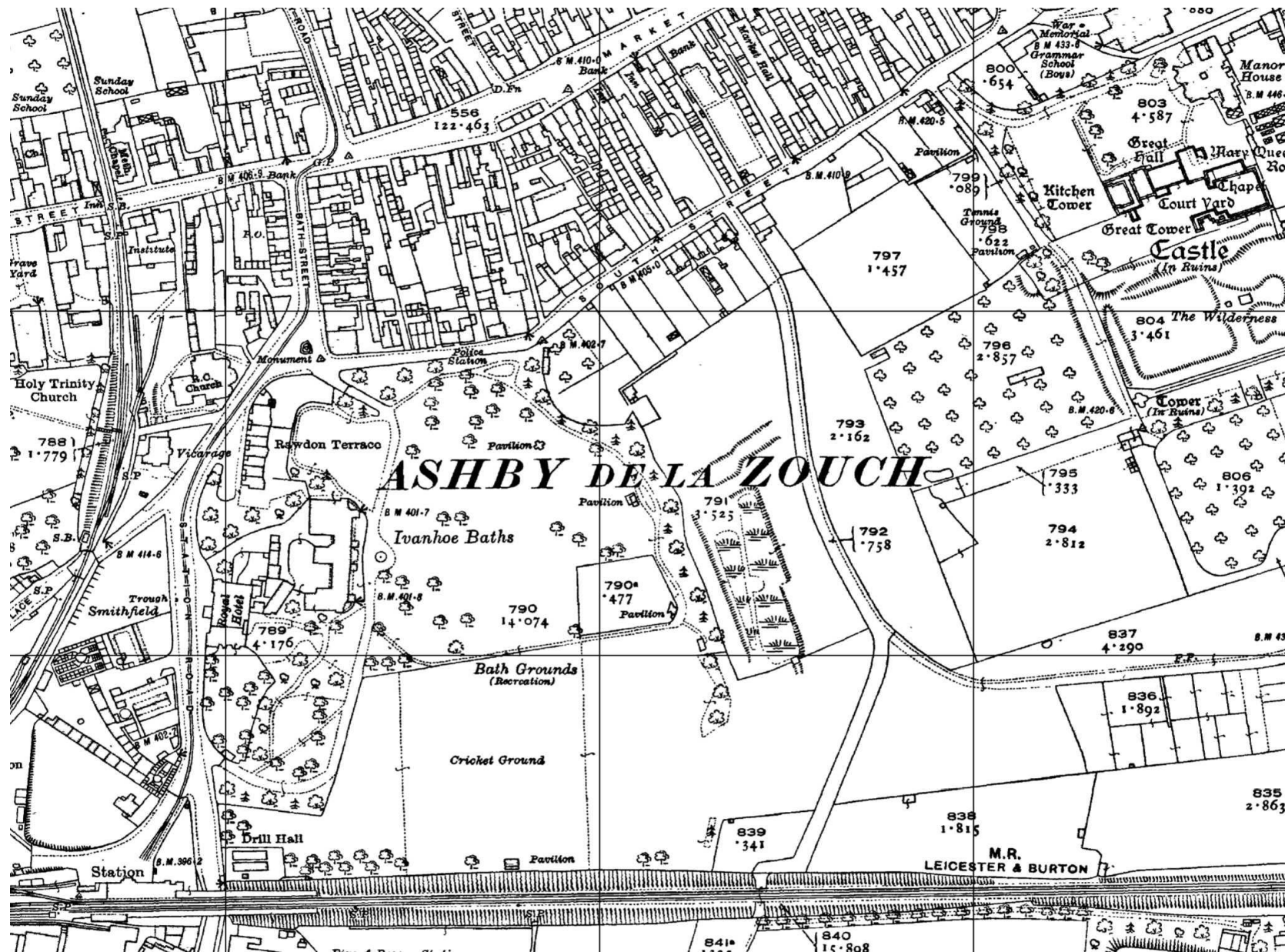


The Bath Grounds and Ivanhoe Baths, early 20th century.





Ordnance Survey, 1903.



Ordnance Survey, 1923.



Relationship of Hotel and Ivanhoe Baths, c.1926.



2. Present Day Context.

On 1st August 2023, the Town Council purchased the Bath Grounds from its previous owners, Oakland Hotels Ltd.

The expansion of Ashby de la Zouch over the last century means that the Bath Grounds now lies at the centre of the town, and together with the castle grounds, Memorial Field and Prior Park Road field forms a significant and valuable area of enclosed green space and lies within the Ashby de la Zouch Conservation Area. The presence of the Castle, St. Helen's Church, the Royal Hotel, the Loudoun Monument, Rawdon Terrace and other buildings of architectural merit, combined with the mature trees and open space to create a visual impression of the historical and cultural importance of this area of the town.

More significantly, the Bath Grounds continues to be a living space, and its current usage reflects and continues the history of mixed sporting and community use. In this, as much as in its location within the town, the grounds have become a key part of the identity of the town of Ashby de la Zouch.

The grounds have now lost the more formal landscape once associated with the Baths and is an open area of park. Mature trees and more recent planting are now largely confined to the edges of the space, reflecting the increased importance of organised sport and events on the site. However, this ratio of open space to planting, with the balance now in favour of open space, also reflects the increasing value placed upon a sense of openness, as the town's expansion has gradually enclosed the site.

Importantly, this openness allows for a number of vistas and glimpsed views, both within the grounds itself and also notably towards the castle, particularly when approaching Prior Park Road from the cricket pavilion. This visual and physical link with the castle fields allows the grounds to appear a larger space than it actually is, and increases its interest by making its boundaries less readily definable.

Boundaries are also somewhat blurred by the mature trees that block out the surrounding town. In addition to this landscape benefit, the mature trees have an intrinsic wildlife conservation value. This value is increased by the groupings of trees and their linkages, which provide wildlife corridors into and out of the site, notably along the railway corridor and Castle View Wildlife Walk. Formal landscaping within the grounds is now confined to the area to the rear of Rawdon Terrace, where a shrubbery and circular border provide a pleasant entrance into the grounds from South Street.

Informal Recreation and Amenity.

The visibility of the buildings and pitches associated with club sports suggest that these uses are dominant. However, whilst these activities attract significant numbers of participants and spectators, the grounds remain first and foremost, an important 'greensward' for informal recreation. Typically, this encompasses dog-walking, children's play and lunchtime recreation for office-workers and retail staff. The tradition of organised events on the grounds also continues.

Importantly, the grounds have also become a part of the town's footpath network, and now acts as a route into the town centre for residents living to the south of the railway line from Station Road, Prior Park Road and the Pennine Way estate.

The Sports Clubs.

The Bath Grounds currently provides a facility for the town's Bowls Club and the Ashby Hastings Cricket Club. These established uses help to maintain the vitality of the grounds and the spectacle of the sports being played adds to the visual interest and diversity. It also continues a long tradition of formal recreation in the park.

Ashby de la Zouch Bowling Club was established in 1889 and has been providing the town with the enjoyment of bowling since that date. The club has a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all age groups and genders. It has a nationally recognised and qualified level 2 bowls coach to provide tuition and support for all age groups and abilities.

Ashby Hastings is one of the oldest cricket clubs in the Midlands, dating back prior to 1831. Hastings members enjoy playing on one of the finest grounds in the region, located in the centre of Ashby, the Bath Grounds host Leicestershire CCC 2nd XI matches each year. County cricket was played on the site until the mid-1960s.

An ECB Focus Club who hold Clubmark accreditation, Hastings run three Saturday League sides, all of whom play in the newly formed Leicestershire & Rutland County Cricket League. The club also run a Sunday XI who play friendly cricket. The club's Junior Section includes sides at Under 17, Under 15, Under 13, Under 11 and Under 10 age groups.

The club boasts some of the best practice facilities in the area, having recently installed a state of the art two bay net facility. Senior training sessions during the season take place from 5:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on the Bath Grounds. Junior coaching sessions for all age groups take place throughout weekday evenings.

Community Events.

The Bath Grounds plays host to a number of community events each year. These include:

- the Ashby 20 Road Race in March (one of most prestigious road races on the calendar in the lead up to the London Marathon);
- Ashby Food & Drink Festival over the late May Bank Holiday weekend which showcases local producers and their produce. It also includes the Rotary Club's Teddy Bear's picnic event;
- Fake Festival on the first weekend in June for which some of the best tribute acts in the country play to around 2,000 fans;
- Ashby Sports Fun Day in June. A fun filled day providing visitors the opportunity to 'have a go' at a wide array of different sports. The event is well attended, with over 25 Ashby based sports clubs participating;
- Jim's Tractor Run & Family Fun Day now in its 10th year. Vintage tractors and other vehicles parade through the parish and finish on the Bath Grounds with family activities and rides;
- Ashby 'BIG' Weekend which showcases local bands and performers;
- The Santa Fun Run and Walk in early December in which around 1,500 Santas cover a 2.5k course which starts and finishes on the Bath Grounds;
- One-off events such as Lorna's Picnic in the Park event in June 2016, a Sealed Knot battle re-enactment in August 2018, a commemoration to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May 2020 and the King's Coronation in May 2023.



As can be seen from the aerial photograph above the Bath Grounds are bounded to the south by the railway line, to the east by housing off Prior Park Road and Bullens' Field, to the south east by housing on Warwick Way, to the north by back gardens from housing fronting onto South Street and to the west by the land adjacent to the Royal Hotel, its car park and the area known as the Hastings Gardens.

There are four main entrances to the Bath Grounds:

- vehicle and pedestrian access from Station Road;
- vehicle and pedestrian access from Prior Park Road;
- pedestrian access from Mendip Close via 'The Cattle Arch';
- pedestrian access from South Street.

Pedestrian access is also currently afforded from the Royal Hotel car park to the South Street area of the Grounds but this may be terminated if the current redevelopment plans for the site achieve planning permission.

3. The Town Council's vision for The Bath Grounds.

The unique value of the Bath Grounds lies in its setting and in the distinct historical mix of formal and informal recreational use by the local community. The Town Council in purchasing the land recognises this value and the importance of the Bath Grounds as an area of open space within Ashby de la Zouch.

The Town Council's priorities for 2020-2025 are as follows:

- To provide a safe, accessible and welcoming space for all members of the community;
- To ensure the Bath Grounds are maintained and managed in a sustainable way with input from the community;
- To facilitate and enable opportunities for community involvement, healthy living and volunteering through the provision of high-quality facilities, events and activities;
- To engender a sense of community ownership and pride by working in partnership to achieve all our aims and objectives.

In its future management of the site the Town Council will seek:

"To maintain and enhance the landscape and amenity value of the Bath Grounds and its importance as a civic space within the town. In particular, the Town Council will seek to balance the organised sports and informal recreational uses of the site and to ensure that future improvements to facilities are sympathetic to the setting of the grounds and to the enjoyment of all users."

Appraisal of The Bath Grounds in the Context of the Green Flag Assessment Criteria.

SECTION 2: A WELCOMING PLACE.

This section recognises the culmination of everything done well. A welcoming place is one that invites and draws people into it. This means creating a space which, through its visual appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance and ease of access, makes people feel that they are in a cared-for place.

- **Welcome;**
- **Good and safe access;**
- **Signage;**
- **Equal access for all.**

Welcome.

The Town Council strives to ensure all parks and open spaces are accessible and welcoming to all visitors. The grounds have an open aspect with many key features visible from these entrance points and pathways and the Friends of the Bath Grounds have recently installed interpretation panels to orientate visitors. The Town Council staff wear the uniform provided with the Town Council logo so they are easily identifiable and are friendly and approachable and are actively encouraged to engage with the public as they visit their place of work.

Good and safe access.

There are four main entrances to the Bath Grounds:

- vehicle and pedestrian access from Station Road;
- vehicle and pedestrian access from Prior Park Road;
- pedestrian access from Mendip Close via 'The Cattle Arch';
- pedestrian access from South Street.

Pedestrian access is also currently afforded from the Royal Hotel car park to the South Street area of the Grounds but this may be terminated if the current redevelopment plans for the site achieve planning permission

Signage.

Interpretation panels to guide visitors around the grounds and its history have been installed at key points along the Heritage Footpath. Each sign displays the name of the park, contact details and general information.

Equal access for all.

All facilities and features within grounds can be accessed by hard surface footpaths. The main routes through the grounds consist of a tarmac construction and DDA compliant walkway from the Station Road entrance to the South Street entrance allowing vehicles, pushchairs and wheelchairs to access the park easily and a Breedon Golden Amber gravel Heritage Footpath that runs from the South Street entrance around the rear of the Bowls Club and out onto Prior Park Road. There are a number of benches sited in all areas of the grounds. The grounds are well used by local dog walkers and the only areas where dogs are prohibited are within any marked sports facilities.

SECTION 3: HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE.

This section looks at how well managers understand their users' needs, encouraging them to enjoy healthy activities using appropriate, safe-to-use facilities and activities, and to feel personally safe and secure.

- **Appropriate provision of quality facilities and activities;**
- **Safe equipment and facilities;**
- **Personal security;**
- **Control of dogs/dog fouling.**

Appropriate provision of quality facilities and activities.

The Town Council is committed to supporting the benefits of green spaces for health and wellbeing. The Bath Grounds provide an ideal venue to encourage healthier lifestyles including free open space for formal and informal sports and games.

Good health and wellbeing help people to live active and fulfilled lives and play a full role in their communities. The Town Council believes that all residents have an equal right to enjoy good health and wellbeing and that councils, community organisations and health services should work together to support this.

In addition to the informal and formal sports played on the grounds two other major events take place in the course of the year:

- the Ashby 20 Road Race in March (one of most prestigious road races on the calendar in the lead up to the London Marathon) with around 1,500 runners finishes on the Bath Grounds;
- The Santa Fun Run and Walk in early December in which around 1,500 Santas cover a 2.5k course which starts and finishes on the Bath Grounds;

There is no permanent on site first aid point available to the public and no accessible defibrillator (although there is a defibrillator in the cricket club pavilion). There are two defibrillators on Market Street and there are signs in the Bath Grounds showing where these are located. In the event of an accident on site staff are often available who are first aid trained and will follow procedure of contacting the emergency services as deemed appropriate for the incident at hand. Visitors are advised to call 999 in any emergency.

Safe equipment and facilities.

The Town Council through its maintenance programme is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy working environment is provided for all employees and visitors.

The grounds are maintained by an in-house grounds maintenance team that is experienced and qualified in covering most aspects of horticultural and arboricultural tasks. A staff appraisal system is in place and any training need identified is included within the training programme for the following twelve months. All training that requires an annual refresher or assessment is also monitored and staff attend training courses as required to ensure we are fully compliant and up to date with new policies and procedures.

The park vehicle gates are locked every evening seven days a week and unlocked in the morning. The site is checked, litter picked, bins are emptied and any issues reported to the management team at the Town Council office.

The Bath Grounds are a place of work for Town Council employees, contractors and a site where visitors can be affected by work activities. The approach to health and safety at the park therefore is undertaken using the following framework.

- Annual site inspection and risk assessment;
- Risks assessments and COSHH assessments for all maintenance operations;
- Completion of risk assessments and method statements for planned events and activities;

- Risk assessments and training for all volunteers working on the site;
- Adherence to corporate procedures and guidance;
- Compliance with Public Liability and Employer Liability Insurance.

Personal security.

Uniformed Town Council staff are often on site during working hours to complete operations such as grass cutting and can be made available to attend to any emergency situation or to deal with cleansing, litter collection or clear up following an act of vandalism. The staff are easily identifiable wearing uniform provided, including hi-vis clothing and the Town Council logo. Each member of staff has a mobile telephone to ensure they are in contact with the office at all times.

As the grounds' maintenance team have their main depot close to the centre of town it can respond quickly and effectively to any incidents that may arise. The team has an excellent relationship with the local police beat team and community support officers. Working closely with the community safety team that liaise with the police on a regular basis to deal with any anti-social behaviour and target crime within parks and open spaces. A partnership approach is taken to resolve issues through enforcement, education and engagement. The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds also communicate issues with the police and the Town Council that are reported to them by members of the public.

Control of dogs/ dog fouling.

Dealing with dog fouling and the control of dogs within open spaces is managed by NWLDC under a Public Space Protection Order, this encompasses the following.

- Exclusion of dogs from within fenced play areas and sports pitches;
- Removal of dog fouling and persons in charge of a dog having the means to pick up any fouling;
- To have a dog under control and to place on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have an active 'Pride' initiative which over the last five years has raised awareness of dog-ownership responsibility and dog waste which has reduced the evidence of dog waste by 60%.

Anyone who is in charge of a dog will be guilty of an offence if they fail to produce an appropriate means to pick up the dog faeces following a request from an authorised NWLDC officer. Enforcement is by fixed penalty notice. The enforcement team carry out monitoring of the site when requested to do so, engage with the public on the issues around dog fouling and control of dogs in public open spaces and are proactive in reducing the level of fouling.

SECTION 4: WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN.

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- + litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- + grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained;
- + policies on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed.

- **Litter and waste management;**
- **Horticultural maintenance;**
- **Arboricultural maintenance;**
- **Buildings and infrastructure maintenance;**
- **Equipment maintenance.**

Litter and waste management.

Litter and waste are managed by the Town Council. The grounds have 9 dedicated litter bins located at strategic points and close to the entrance / exit points. Each litter bin is checked on a daily basis and emptied as required. There is no fixed schedule for sweeping but this operation would be carried out as required to clear debris. A general collection of litter is carried out during the daily inspection of the facilities. All litter bins have clear plastic bin liners which allows the bins to be emptied by the operative in a clean and safe manner with the contents visible.

Any reports of broken glass or sharps on site we would be dealt with as soon as possible and the latter certainly on the same day using protective equipment and the material disposed of by approved method. The ground staff are aware of the times that litter levels will increase within the grounds and increase its checks and clean-up operations accordingly.

Horticultural maintenance.

The grounds maintenance depot is located within the town and this allows the team to provide a regular presence. Listed below the main tasks carried out within the park but this list is not exhaustive:

- Grass cutting on a two-weekly cycle;
- Clip grass edges;
- Shrub and hedge trimming;
- Tree maintenance;
- Litter collection;
- Border maintenance as required;
- Cleansing operations.

All operations are carried out by Town Council staff and they are fully trained and have a range of experience and skills. It is expected that works will be carried out to a high standard, quickly and effectively. Staff are fully engaged with the management and maintenance of the grounds and offer ways to improve operations and solutions to problems as well as monitoring the site. It is the responsibility of all staff to collect litter when they see it and to carry out maintenance or repair works as required if skills and time permit. The Town Council also receives assistance on a regular basis from community volunteers organised by the Friends of the Bath Grounds (see below) and this assistance is very much welcomed by the Town Council.

Arboricultural maintenance.

All Town Council trees are managed by carrying out a recorded tree survey in the park every two to three years by the arboricultural team from Leicestershire County Council. The inspection advises on dead, dying or dangerous trees with appropriate remedial action required and works highlighted programmed accordingly. In addition, trees are visually inspected and monitored throughout the seasons to identify any potential future issues. Should any potentially problematic trees be identified, this is recorded and an action plan set in place to ensure safety and effective maintenance. When carrying out scheduled tree works any wood is removed to an offsite storage facility and all other arising's chipped and stored to be reused as a mulch on large shrub

planted areas. The maintenance of the chainsaws and other equipment is carried out predominantly by arborists, this would include sharpening of blades prior to daily use. The Town Council aims to include the grounds in an annual tree planting program working in partnership with the National Forest Company.

Buildings and infrastructure maintenance.

The Bowls Club pavilion and the Cricket Club pavilion are now the only structures on the site. The Bowls Club maintains its own pavilion and has a self-contained site within the grounds. The Town Council cuts the boundary hedge and maintains the boundary fence. The Cricket Club pavilion exterior is the responsibility of the Town Council and the interior of the building is within the control of the club itself. It is recognised that both pavilions require a significant amount of investment to bring them up to current standards but the restrictions of the term of the current lease for the grounds mitigates against unlocking significant funding to be able to do so at the present time.

All grounds street furniture is inspected regularly with litter bins being checked daily and emptied as required. Seating is cleaned down, timber seats repaired and wood preservative applied as appropriate. Some maintenance of the street furniture is also carried out by the Friends of the Bath Grounds with approved contractors.

Equipment maintenance.

All machinery including mowers, chainsaws, strimmers, back pack blowers, hedge trimmers etc are subject to a regular maintenance package which would include one full service and a safety check. This is carried out initially by the Town Council's in-house workshop and they would also cover any repairs. Replacing cutting blades on pedestrian mowers and other relatively minor running maintenance tasks may be completed by the Grounds Maintenance operatives. Any servicing and repairs are completed in accordance with manufacturer instructions. The fleet vehicles are maintained externally as required. Daily checks on all equipment and vehicles are completed by individual operatives before commencing daily tasks. Any faults with an item of machinery or equipment it is reported to the Head Groundsman and dealt with appropriately.

The grounds maintenance team has equipment and tools available to it and it is expected for them to keep them in good running order and secure when not in use. All operatives are fully trained in the use of all equipment and operate the equipment following risk assessments, safe working practices and procedures as set out and to wear all protective clothing and equipment has appropriate for each individual task they are to carry out.

SECTION 5: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

This section seeks to ensure that the way the site is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and globally, both now and for the future. Where choices can be made for future procurement, landscaping or buildings, they should aim to minimise energy and resource consumption and waste, and design in benefits to the local and global environment. Policies should seek to eliminate the use of peat and chemicals to control pests and as fertilisers. Horticultural and arboricultural decisions should reflect an understanding of the impacts of climate change.

- **Managing environmental impact;**
- **Waste minimilisation;**
- **Chemical use;**
- **Peat use;**
- **Climate change adaptation strategies.**

Managing environmental impact.

The Town Council is committed to seeking ways to minimise the detrimental impact by parks and grounds services on the natural environment. In any new planting the Town Council seeks to include a high proportion of native species and include plants beneficial to birds, bees and other insects and wildlife.

The use of pesticides, peat and minimisation of waste is detailed below. In addition to the physical aspects of the work the aim is for the grounds is to include local people and volunteers with the day to day management of the grounds via the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds.

In 2019 the Town Council has begun to consider battery powered equipment including long reach hedge trimmers, hedge trimmers and back pack blowers. We hope to expand the use of this equipment as new products arrive on the market.

Waste minimilisation.

All tree brash or green waste is chipped and recycled on site where appropriate. Any other arisings are collected and delivered to the local green waste processing plant for composting. Timber from tree felling is stored at an offsite compound and recycled. All trays, pots and containers from the delivery of bedding plants are returned to the supplier for reuse/ recycling and any other plastic containers and cardboard is processed for recycling the waste transfer station. Any timber used in the construction of raised beds will be sourced from FSC certified sustainable woodlands. Any park benches have been refurbished by repainting metal ends and replacing with new timbers and the bench can then be reused on this site or another open space.

Chemical use.

The use of chemicals on the Bath Grounds is limited. Only chemicals approved for amenity use are applied in limited circumstances. Occasionally glyphosate is used to control invasive weed growth and a spot treatment method would be used rather than drift spraying. All chemical products are stored within the grounds maintenance depot in locked metal cabinets and staff follow safe working practices for handling and storage.

All the grounds maintenance team are trained in the safe handling of chemicals. All products used we produce COSHH assessments and data sheets.

New metal containers have been purchased for the storage of all herbicides / pesticides and all the appropriate chemical use records are updated. The cleaning of equipment and disposal of liquids and materials follows COSHH regulations. Fuels and oils are stored in minimal amounts off site for immediate use.

Peat use.

The Town Council propagates and grows its own plants off site and any planting is carried out using peat-free compost.

Climate change adaptation strategies.

The grounds have a large selection of mature trees and tends to either be too wet or too dry. The grounds are generally slow to drain following periods of prolonged wet weather or snow fall. There is a diverse planting mix

in the grounds and in any new planting scheme it is intended to include species to encourage pollinators and other beneficial insects. A variety of bird species make the grounds their home. The Castle View Wildlife Walk Project delivered by the partnership of the Town Council and the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds resulted in new trees, the seeding of 150 metres of perennial wildflowers and there a number of bird and bat boxes within some of the mature trees.

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds winter project for January/February 2020 using volunteers in collaboration with the Heart of England Hedge Laying Group was to lay 75 metres of hawthorn hedge and to add further whips to improve the hedge. Well maintained hedges will capture and reduce air pollution including traffic carbon emissions.

SECTION 6: BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE.

Attention should be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features, wildlife and flora; landscape features; and buildings and structures. Their particular character and requirements should be identified and appropriate management strategies put in place to conserve and enhance them.

- **Management of natural features, wild fauna and flora;**
- **Conservation of landscape features;**
- **Conservation of buildings and structures;**

Management of natural features, wild fauna and flora.

Mature trees feature greatly in the park and these areas are managed sympathetically. The Town Council works closely with Leicestershire County Council and The National Forest Company (NFC) on a number of initiatives including a potential re-planting scheme. The Bath Grounds are predominantly an open aspect park with limited formal planting. As part of the Castle View Wildlife project the following planting took place with biodiversity in mind: planting of ten additional trees (oak and beech), the seeding of 150 metres of perennial wildflowers to establish a wildlife corridor between the Bath Grounds and surrounding fields. Ongoing work continues with the annual management of the wildflower verge and improvements to the hawthorn hedge.

Maintenance of the South Street entrance flowerbed by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds has resulted in new shrubs and perennials planting to increase biodiversity.

Conservation of landscape features.

The grounds were developed in typical Victorian style. Unfortunately, the buildings associated with the Ivanhoe Baths were demolished in the 1960's. The grounds retain mainly of its original features.

Conservation of buildings and structures.

The main buildings within the grounds are the cricket and bowls pavilions. It is generally accepted that these buildings require modernisation to bring them to current standards but funding is limited due to the current ownership restrictions.

SECTION 7: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

This section examines the extent to which the managing organisation:

- + understands the community it seeks to serve;
- + actively and appropriately involves members of the community in making decisions about the site's development;
- + provides opportunities for active participation in site projects; and
- + ensures that there is appropriate provision of recreational facilities and activities for all sectors of the community.

- **Community involvement in management and development;**
- **Appropriate provision for the community.**

Community involvement in management and development.

The Town Council is keen to consult with all members of the local community who use the grounds in its future management and maintenance, and actively encourage a sense of ownership to the wider community and welcoming visitors to a vibrant, welcoming community space. The focus is to carry out a consultation/user survey across all age groups to gain a greater understanding of the views of the community and why people use the park, what they like, how we can improve the site and in turn attract non-users to the park.

Appropriate provision for the community.

Following consultation, we would invite the local community to pledge their support and if they would be interested in joining the 'Friends of the Bath Grounds'.

Volunteer work carried out by FOABG on following: Heritage Footpath project, Castle View Wildlife walk project, South street flowerbed maintenance, Annual Litter pick and monitoring of dog waste. Regular maintenance work including, bench painting, south street grass edge tidying, interpretation board cleaning. Reporting of Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ASB behaviour awareness.

The Friends of the Bath Grounds.

The Friends of the Bath Grounds was formally set up on 28th January 2014, when the draft Constitution was agreed by the interim committee. At the first AGM on 2nd April 2014 the Constitution was adopted and the committee elected. The aim of the group is to work to protect and improve the Bath Grounds, Ashby de la Zouch, as a free, public access park and recreational facility for the benefit of the whole community. In particular to:

- Support enhancement of the Bath Grounds for the benefit of public enjoyment and sporting use;
- Support the prevention of building on any part of the Bath Grounds;
- Support use of the Bath Grounds by community sports organisations provided this does not unduly interfere with enjoyment by other members of the public

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds currently has 200 members (including an active website and Facebook presence with 2,000 followers) and, to date, has been involved in four exciting projects for improving the Bath Grounds.

1. Improved Accessibility and Community Heritage Project.

Funded by grants of £40,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £20,000 from North West Leicestershire District Council, the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds' Improved Accessibility and Heritage Project has improved awareness of the Grounds' fascinating history and increased their use by the public and visitors to Ashby. The Project commenced in September 2015. It has included construction of a new footpath and heritage trail around the Bath Grounds and a host of community heritage education activities - "Have a Go" archaeology; community mosaics; walks and talks; children's education boxes; a new film and ballad; and a revised book on the Ivanhoe Baths and Spa.



The new footpath connected Prior Park Road and South Street entrances to the grounds.

2. Castle View Wildlife Walk.

The group worked in conjunction with the Town Council to make the footpath between Prior Park Road and the "cattle arch" that leads to Mendip Close a much more pleasant and safe route to walk along.

The Friends 'Vision' for this area is to re-create what appears to be a 'typical' Victorian/Edwardian planting scheme of mixed native trees, opening up the area to the Bath Grounds and improving the views across the Grounds, improving biodiversity by creating a 150 metre perennial wild flower verge, together with the installation of bird and bat boxes, benches and trees, and integrating this wildlife corridor into the new Bath Grounds Heritage Trail.

Phase 1. During the spring of 2016 over 400 hours of work was carried out by the groups' volunteers clearing the area of the self-seeded hedge and 25 years of accumulated rubbish.

Phase 2. Ten trees, Beech and Oak, were planted at the end of November 2016, to infill the large gaps in the existing tree line and complete the 'avenue' effect. In addition, a new gate and fencing were also installed to control vehicular access to the footpath and the Bath Grounds.

Wildlife boxes. Bird and bat boxes were installed along the wildlife walk, as part of the overall wildlife walk project. A survey was carried out on Facebook to find out the most regular wildlife visitors to this area to help decide what type of accommodation to go for. A mix of woodcrete boxes for different birds and bats were chosen. A number of blue tits have been spotted in the bird boxes that have been installed.

Ongoing work by Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds volunteers includes annual maintenance of the wildflower verge and wildlife boxes and ongoing improvements to the hawthorn hedge on the Prior Park Road side of the walk including the planting and protection of new hawthorn whips and the laying of the hawthorn hedge.

Bulb planting. Snowdrops, wild primroses, crocuses and daffodils have been planted on the bath grounds side of the wildlife walk by both the Town Council and the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds.

A community event was organised by Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds in the summer of 2018 as part of the North West Leicestershire District Council 'Hello Heritage' event – this event aim was to raise awareness of biodiversity on the Bath Grounds – focusing on the new Castle View Wildlife Walk at what it aimed to achieve, what birds and animals were and could be attracted to the Bath Grounds as a result as well as information on positive

improvements to climate change that planting trees and improving hedges have. There was a bug and wildlife treasure hunt, Stone painting and crafts associated with the history and heritage of the Bath Grounds.



Volunteers at work on the Castle Wildlife Walk.

3. The Bath Grounds Heritage Trail and Guide.

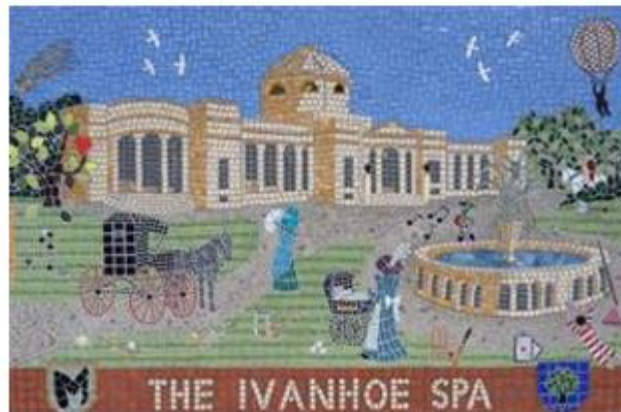
The Bath Grounds Heritage Trail comprises a series of heritage interpretation boards, numbered way-markers and community created mosaics installed on a circular route around the Grounds. The Heritage Trail provides an insight into the Bath Grounds' fascinating past and present.

There are five interpretation boards. The largest board (board number 1) is located near the South Street entrance to the Bath Grounds, at one end of the new Breedon Golden Amber footpath. It introduces the Bath Grounds and their history with a map of the Trail and brief descriptions of the significant heritage buildings nearby.

This board is positioned close to a new mosaic, designed by local artist Di Lorriman and produced by mosaic artist Llynda Baugh. The mosaic depicts the magnificent Ivanhoe Spa building which used to stand nearby. The mosaic was unveiled by the then Ashby de la Zouch Mayor, Councillor Mike Ball, during Ashby Arts Festival on 29th May 2016. It includes a tribute to the late Lorna Titley, Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds Committee member and author of "The Ballad of the Bath Grounds". This mosaic is to be relocated nearer to the South Street entrance of the grounds in a new frame which will include a 'Welcome to the Bath Grounds' text.

The history and architecture of the Ivanhoe Baths are described in detail on the second interpretation board (board number 2) which is located along the new path. It describes the 19th century Spa experience and includes some gruesome details of the skin complaints that visitors sought to cure at the Baths.

You can download the Heritage Trail Guide and print it out at home. It includes a map of the Trail, gives a taster of the information on the interpretation boards and provides useful information on how to find the Bath Grounds, the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds and this Heritage Lottery Funded Project.



Unveiling of the mosaics by the Mayor of Ashby de la Zouch, May 2016

Ashby Bath Grounds Heritage Trail

Ashby Bath Grounds

Ashby's historic Bath Grounds have been enjoyed by residents and visitors to Ashby for 200 years. Known previously as Hall Meadow, they were laid out formally as an area of fashionable "greenware" for the benefit of visitors to the new Manhoe Baths, built in 1822, at the western end of the park. They included a carriage drive and footpaths used for "leisure and genteel recreation".

By 1827 the Royal Hotel, Rawdon House and Terrace and Manhoe Terrace had been completed nearby to provide boarding accommodation for visitors to Ashby Spa. These, and the later Midland Railway Station, are all Grade 2* listed and accredited to the architect-surveysor Robert Chaplin. Chaplin worked in Ashby between 1831 and 1850.

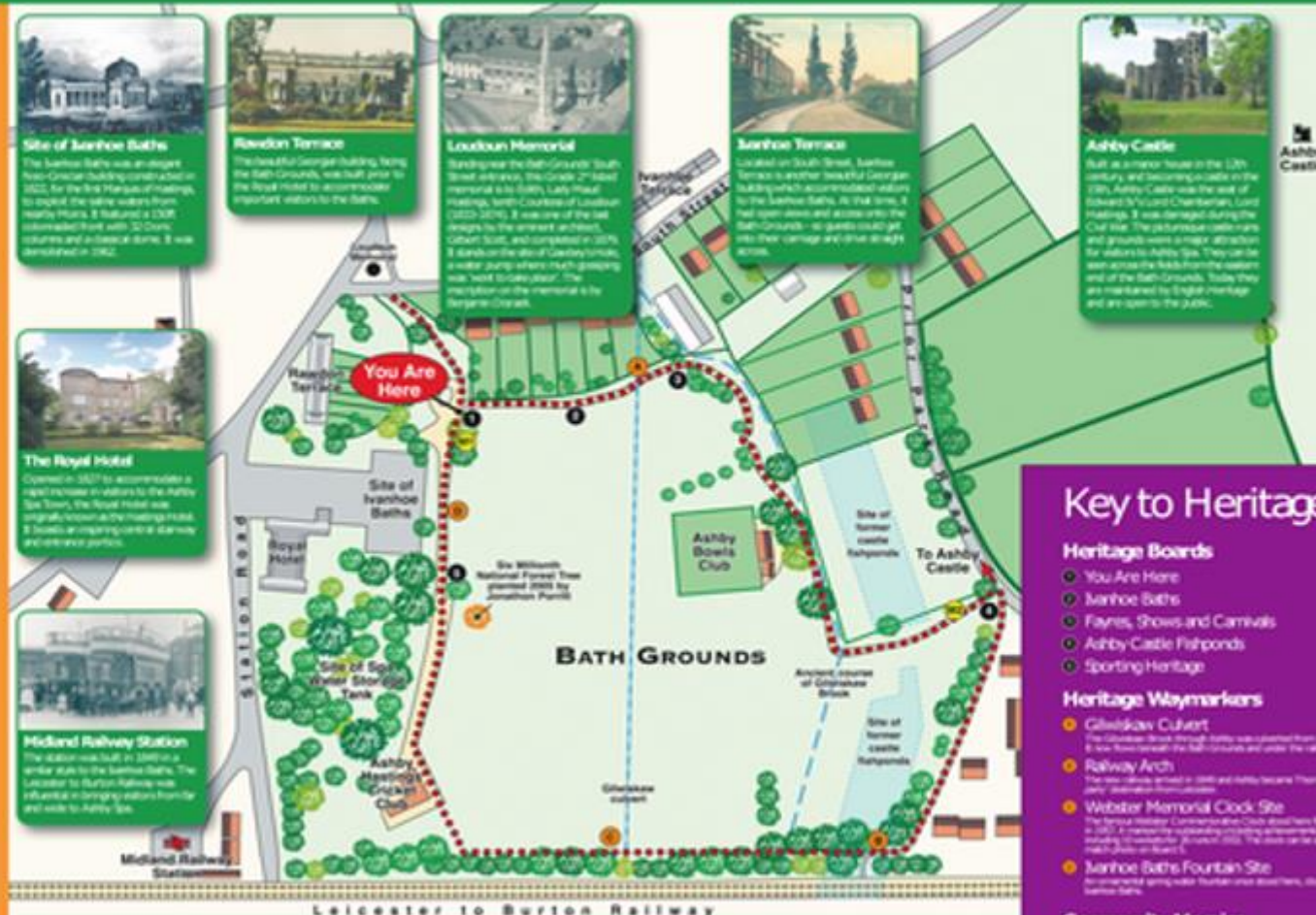
To the east, the Bath Grounds are bounded by the former course of the now culverted Gileswick Brook which provided fresh water to the ancient settlement of Ashby, the castle, and its fishponds. (See Board 4 for more information)



The Bath Grounds remain a source of inspiration to this day. They provide a beautiful venue for community events and sporting endeavour, a tranquil oasis for reflection and a pleasant meeting place for dog walkers. They form a key component of the "Green Corridor" to Ashby Castle.

The Grounds are still owned by the proprietors of the Royal Hotel, but have been maintained and operated as a public park for over 50 years by Ashby de la Zouch Town Council.

Enjoy this heritage trail - it reveals some of the Bath Grounds' fascinating past and present. It includes heritage boards, numbered waymarkers and two community mosaics. Printed guides for the trail are available from Ashby Tourist Information Centre and Ashby Museum, both located on North Street, or on-line from www.bathgroundsfriends.com



The path from South Street entrance to Prior Park Road is constructed from Devonian Golden Amber gravel. Its eastern arm, through the trees, follows the line of one of the original Pressure Ground carriage drives. This path and the Bath Grounds Heritage Trail were built by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds in partnership with Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, with the assistance of Ashby Museum. They were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and North West Leicestershire District Council.



Key to Heritage Trail

Heritage Boards

- You Are Here
- Manhoe Baths
- Fairies, Shows and Carnivals
- Ashby Castle Fishponds
- Sporting Heritage

Heritage Waymarkers

- Gileswick Culvert
The Gileswick Brook through Ashby was culverted from 1820 onwards. It now flows beneath the Bath Grounds and under the railway line.
- Railway Arch
The new railway, opened in 1825 and Ashby became Thomas Cook's first picnic party destination from Leicester.
- Webster Memorial Clock Site
The former Leicester Corporation Clock stood here for many years. Destroyed in 1927 in a fire caused by a lightning strike, it was replaced by a clock tower. The clock tower was destroyed in 1940 by a bomb. The clock tower was replaced by a clock tower in 1940.
- Manhoe Baths Fountain Site
An ornamental spring water fountain once stood here, close to the steps of the bathhouse.

Community Mosaics

- Manhoe Baths
Grounds have made the significant mosaic.
- Fish
Produced during community mosaic workshops in the spring and summer of 2016. It marks the site of the ancient fishponds.

What's in a Name?

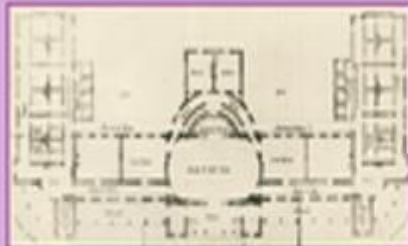
The Baths were completed in 1822 and named in honour of Sir Walter Scott's novel, 'Ivanhoe', which had been published in 1820. Scott, a frequent visitor to nearby Colchester, chose to set part of his popular romantic novel in Abbot's Zouche. It had already encouraged many visitors to the town, searching for the site of the Tournament Field and the 'Maiden's' of Abbot's Castle.



What Was it Like?

A beautiful, ornamental fountain of spring water played in front of the Ivanhoe Baths, the jet rising from an elegant vase and falling into a circular basin.

A broad flight of steps led through to a spacious porch. You would then walk through into the elegant Pump Room, surmounted by a dome which lit up this exquisitely finished room, 55 ft by 27 ft, richly ornamented in the Grecian style. The Pump Room was used for 'taking the waters' in the day and as an Assembly Room or Ballroom for entertainment in the evening.



The Baths were divided into two wings, one for the ladies and one for the gentlemen. Each wing had six baths and six dressing rooms. A large swimming pool was later added.

"Every bath is attached a convenient dressing room, in the arrangement of which the comfort of the bather has been the principal object of attention."

The space between the Pump Room and both the ladies' and gentlemen's baths was occupied by card rooms. Between the gentlemen's baths and the Pump Room there was a billiard room containing a full sized table.

The Ivanhoe Baths

1800 - 1817 Discovery of a saline spring in Moira colliery; small scale baths established in Moira and owned by Rawdon Hastings family

1818 - 1819 Lack of inns and lodgings and proximity of mine shafts resulted in the decision to transfer the Moira brine waters to Abbot's Zouche.

1822 Building of the Ivanhoe Baths on the south side of the town, near the castle, funded by the town and Francis Rawdon Hastings Esq. Robert Chaplin was chosen as the architect. Cost of building the Baths - £35,000.



The mineral waters from Moira were pumped into large, square tanks and brought by canal, and later by railroad, to Abbot's. The waters were transferred to an underground brick reservoir capable of filling 2,000 baths.



The Spa Town Develops

As the Spa developed so did the fortunes of the town. A small theatre was built in Bath Street in 1828; between 1836 and 1845 a raccourse thrived near Leicester Road, whilst shops and inns in Market Street were rebuilt or improved. The railway opened from Leicester to Burton in 1849 making Abbot's a favourite resort. Immediately after the erection of the Ivanhoe Baths, Rawdon Terrace, Ivanhoe Terrace and the Hastings Hotel (later named The Royal Hotel) were built. A number of boarding houses were also established to accommodate visitors to the Spa Town.

Regeneration and Demise

Unfortunately Abbot's failed to gain the fashionable status it needed for long-term success as a spa town. In the 1870s, the Baths were closed due to lack of patronage and, in 1883, the central dome was taken down because it was unsafe. The 1907 Golden Jubilee resulted in attempts to revive the Baths' fortunes but only short-term recovery followed.

The building struggled through the early years of the 20th century - in WW2 as a base for evacuee children and then as a billet for the Liverpool Scottish Regiment. Sadly, the end came in 1962 when the Ivanhoe Baths were demolished.



Pimples and Pustules!

Spas were used for their purported healing or healthful benefits to those wealthy enough to partake of their waters. This was called a "mineral cure" and known as "taking the waters". Mineral spas became early Victorian vacation spots - an excuse to have fun and mix with one's peers in recreation. The Victorian take for the exotic lent itself perfectly to seeking out the curative powers of thermal water.



At Abbot's you could "take the waters" as a medicinal drink or be...
"totally immersed in water or sponged in the problem area!"

Application of the water was other...

"as a flow in the stream bath, through a tube directing it to a particular spot on the bather's person" or...
"as only in the shower bath, where its activity is thrilling and diffused over the head and shoulders."

The Abbot's medicinal waters were claimed to treat many ailments including...

"scrofula and glandular swelling, diarrhoea, dysentery and stony rheumatism; gout, indigestion, chilblains and carbuncles, cutaneous eruptions, warts and pustules"

The Spa Experience



Model of the Ivanhoe Baths on display at Abbot's Museum, North Street.

"The walls and flower grounds, which are extensive, nearly surround the building and are laid out with a considerable degree of taste."

The photograph on the right shows characters in the town high procession for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, in 1887, taken on the steps of the Ivanhoe Baths.



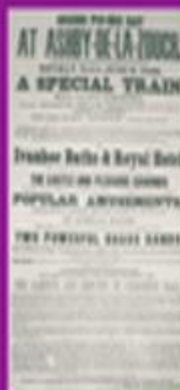
Board number 2

Picnic Parties

Thomas Cook organised a series of 'Picnic' parties by rail from Leicester after the opening of the railway to Ashby in 1846. These were grand affairs which included amusements, bands and dancing parties.

The special train was advertised with a first class carriage fare of three shillings and sixpence (17.5p) return. On 3rd June 1853, over 1,200 passengers came.

The outings Ashby included visits to the Lutterbath, the Royal Hotel and the Pleasure Grounds. A cold collation was available at the hotel between 12 - 2pm at a shilling/6p per head.



Popular amusements were arranged at the Pleasure Grounds and two 'powerful brass bands' were engaged. One of these was the Melbourne Band from Thomas Cook's nearby workshops.

Agricultural Shows

Ashby and District Agricultural Show was first held on the Bath Grounds in 1904. The photograph below, featuring J. Holdorn's display of ploughs, is probably from the 1930s.



The Edwardian Era. Carnivals and Grand Fetes

As the 19th century drew to a close, the Bath Grounds flourished, becoming Ashby's focus for outdoor community activities. Their heyday was the turn of the 19th century and the years before the Great War. They hosted Grand Fairs with huge marquees, WHN Monday Gala Fetes and the annual Flower Show. The Bank Holiday Fete, held in June 1905, was typical, some 6,000 to 7,000 persons visited. Attractions included a cricket match and a parachute descent by Mr Wilson.

"He made two sensational descents before the parachute was seen to open."

Fayres, Shows and Carnivals

DOLLY SHEPHERD

One of the most popular attractions was the 'Edwardian-Banquet Queen', Dolly Shepherd. Described as a 'lovely being and impetuous girl', Dolly was a very popular entertainer in a period when parachutes drew huge crowds.

Dolly made her first solo parachute descent from a balloon on the Bath Grounds in 1904.

She made two jumps at Ashby in 1906. During one Ashby descent, an embarrassing moment occurred when a gust of wind blew her off course into a barbed wire fence, which ripped her knickerbockers from waist to knees. She was rescued by a local 'Sir Galahad'.

At that time, being a parachutist meant rising suspended from a balloon to at least 2,000 ft. Dolly's balloons were filled with coal gas or inflated with hot air from a bonfire. For her solo jumps Dolly didn't use a balloon basket. She would ascend all the way from the ground, hanging from a trapdoor beneath her parachute which was suspended beneath the balloon. When she was ready to jump (and Dolly liked to go quite high) she would pull the 'hopping cord' which attached the parachute to the balloon. At that point the parachute was released and she would begin to fall. If all was right, the parachute would open and Dolly would float slowly back down to the ground.

Dolly's last jump was in 1912 when she decided she had pushed her luck enough. She wrote an autobiography of her exploits, 'WHEN THE CHUTE WENT UP'.



Dolly Shepherd, Edwardian parachutist and aerial performer, in her parachute costume c.1905.



The photo probably shows Dolly's second 1906 Ashby balloon descent. Her parachute is hanging under the balloon.



Dolly hanging from her trapdoor, Jan 1911.



Spring and Summer Events



A Maypole event on the Bath Grounds with North Street Infant School and Morris and Maypole dancing, 22nd June, 1911. Far right is a teacher, Miss Woods.



Decorated pram event on the Bath Grounds, with young girl and decorated pram in foreground. Date unknown but possibly around 1900 to 1910.



Throughout the 20th century, regular public events were held on the Bath Grounds. From 1975 to 1984, Ashby's Carnival Procession terminated here, followed by a Grand Fete.

The 21st Century

The Bath Grounds still regularly host community events, from the annual 'Fête Festival' of tribute bands to gourmet food fayres.

In April 2012 the Netherlands National Circus set up their big top here on the Grounds.

The Ashby 20 Road Race is an annual 20 mile run which started in 1966. The race, organised



by the Ashby Runners, takes place in March, starting and finishing on the Bath Grounds.

Jen's Tractor Rally is an annual event, founded by Jen Smith and organised by Ashby Town Council. As well as the many tractors on display, the event also features classic cars, food and entertainment, and, recently, a dog show.



Ashby Bath Grounds Heritage Trail

Ashby Bath Grounds

The Ashby Baths were built in 1862 on the western side of the park, the Bath Grounds were laid out as an area of fashionable 'greenery' for the benefit of visitors to the Baths. They included a carriage drive and footpaths used for 'ladies and gents' recreation.

Though the Baths were demolished in 1962, the Bath Grounds remain a source of inspiration to this day. They provide a beautiful venue for community events and sporting activities, a tranquil oasis for reflection and a pleasant meeting place for dog walkers. They form a key component of the 'Green Corridor' to Ashby Castle.

We hope you enjoy the Heritage Trail – it reveals some of the Bath Grounds' fascinating past and present. It includes heritage boards, numbered waymarkers and two community mosaics. Printed guides for the trail are available from Ashby Tourist Information Centre and Ashby Museum, both located on North Street, or online from www.bathgroundsheritage.com.

Key to Heritage Trail

Heritage Boards

- Welcome Board and Map
- Ashby Baths
- Fairs, Shows and Carnivals
- You Are Here
- Sporting Heritage

Heritage Waymarkers

- Glendon Chapel
- Railway Arch
- Webster Memorial Clock Site
- Ashby Baths Fountain Site

Community Mosaics

- Ashby Baths
- Fair



The path from Prior Park Road to the South Street entrance is constructed from Green-Garden Amber glass. Reconstructed through the years, following the line of one of the original Museum carriage drives. The path and the Bath Grounds Heritage Trail were built by the friends of Ashby Bath Grounds in partnership with Ashby de la Zouche Town Council, with the assistance of Ashby Museum. They were funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and North West Leicestershire District Council.



Ashby Castle Fishponds

On this side, the Bath Grounds are bounded by the former course of the now-subterranean Glendon Brook. The brook provided fresh water for the ancient settlement of Ashby and the castle.

The castle fishponds were also located here. These artificial ponds of slow moving, fresh water were used to breed and store fish as a sustainable medieval food supply.

During the winter, supplying fresh food was a constant struggle. Although meat would be available from the deer park, this couldn't supply the needs of the whole castle garrison and household. Also, fish was required to be eaten on holy days. Fishponds provided an elegant solution. There was a series of ponds with fish moved between them as they grew.



You can clearly see the fishponds and their connecting channels on the 1735 map above. They are celebrated by the nearby community fish mosaic.

The main species of fish kept were probably eel, tench, pike, perch, bream, carp, roach and trout. Fishponds were often victims to poaching. There are many accounts in record of people being prosecuted for breaking into ponds.

Board number 4

Sports on the Bath Grounds

The Bath Grounds have a fine sporting history. Ashby Hastings Cricket Club and Ashby Bowls Club are long-standing residents. In the past the Grounds have also hosted shooting, tennis, archery, croquet, hockey and football.

Cricket



Founded around 1831, Ashby Hastings Cricket Club plays on the Bath Grounds to this day. The club took its name in 1861 from its then president, the fourth Marquis of Hastings, Henry Plantagenet (1841-1868). He amused himself by playing cricket. Apparently he would hit with considerable force but refused to run. After having lost the match for his side, he would treat all the players to large quantities of liquid refreshments.

The club had moved to the Bath Grounds by 1880. The photo on the left shows the first county match on the Bath Grounds (Leicestershire v Derbyshire, June 1912). At this time cricket was the province of the local gentry.

It was not until 1906 that the minutes record that 'membership of the club be opened to all and sundry decent fellows of the town and district'.

The photo on the right shows Leicestershire County Cricket team playing on the Bath Grounds, against a combined Ashby team, in June 1951.

County cricket continued on the Bath Grounds until 1964. No ground in Leicestershire, apart from Leicester itself, has seen more county cricket than Ashby, and the crowds on Saturday were often higher than in the county towns. 'The lunches at the hotel were legendary'.



Ashby Archery Club - final shoot of the season, October 1951, on the Bath Grounds.



Ashby's 'Deer's Leap' Gun Club, taken on the Bath Grounds in 1952.



Hockey was played on the Bath Grounds for many years until 2002 when an AstroTurf pitch was built at Leicestershire Community College. The photo shows an Ashby mixed hockey tournament held in 1994.

You can just see the Webster Commemorative Clock in the background.



Ashby White Rose F.C., circa 1949, in front of the Spa Baths. The team was first formed in the 1930s, originally playing on Hood Park but moving to the Bath Grounds after World War 2. They changed in the Spa buildings.

When the Leicestershire Baths reopened in 1888, three tennis lawns were laid out as well as an archery ground and bowling green. The Bath Grounds Tennis Tournament regularly attracted international players during the early 20th century. Ashby Lawn Tennis Club relocated to nearby South Street in 1923.



Ashby Ladies Croquet Club, 1911, featuring four members of the Bullen family. The club occupied a 'pretty rustic clubhouse' on the Bath Grounds. Ashby Croquet Club now plays at Moina Miners' Welfare. One member was Golf Croquet World Champion in 2011.

Bowls

Bowls has been played on the Bath Grounds since Ashby Men's Bowls Club was founded in 1889. At that time, the Royal Hotel, Baths and Pleasure Grounds were owned and administered by the Ashby de la Zouch Baths & Hotel Co. Ltd.

For a brief period, between 1927 and 1935, the club moved to nearby Hood Park following an increase in rent by the new owners of the Royal Hotel and Bath Grounds, Messrs Cook & Sons.



Men's Bowls circa 1940s.



Women's Bowling Club - First wood 1963.

Ashby de la Zouch Bowling Club was formed in 2002 on the amalgamation of Ashby Men's Bowls Club and Ashby de la Zouch Women's Bowling Club.

Founded in 1927, the women's club was originally known as Hood Park Women's Bowling Club. The women moved to the Bath Grounds in 1935 at the same time as the men returned. However, until amalgamation, they occupied a completely separate green and pavilion area next to the men. This area has now been returned to parkland.



Board number 5

The third board, a little further along the path, covers the long history of community activities on the Bath Grounds over the last two centuries. It begins with the Picnic Parties organised by Thomas Cook as the highlight of his steam train excursions from Leicester in the 1850s. You can also find out about the fascinating life of Dolly Shepherd who, as a lady balloonist and parachutist, was a major attraction at events here during the Edwardian period.

Board 4 is located at the Prior Park Road entrance and includes a map and introduction to the Bath Grounds for visitors entering from here. It also introduces the medieval Castle Fish Ponds which were located close to this spot. Nearby stands the second mosaic. This depicts three fish as an evocation of those ancient fishponds. It was designed by Di Lorriman and produced by Llynda Baugh with the help of two community mosaic workshops during the summer of 2016. It was unveiled by the Mayor on July 31st 2016.

Sport on the Bath Grounds is the subject of the fifth and final board which is located near the Cricket Pavilion. This board describes the numerous sporting activities hosted by the Bath Grounds over the last two centuries; including cricket, bowls, croquet, tennis, archery, hockey and football. It describes some of the memorable sporting events and achievements, such as the regular county cricket played here for many years

There are also four way-markers along the trail, marking locations of former and current features. The boards and Trail Guide describe these in more detail.

4. The "Pride in our Bath Grounds" campaign.

The campaign, which was launched in 2015, focussed on three areas:

1. Dog mess - "bag it, bin it";
2. Litter - "bin it, take it home";
3. Unwanted behaviour - "not welcome here".

The Friends of the Bath Grounds have been working with the District Council, The Cricket Club, Leicestershire Police, the Town Council and, of course, the general public.

"Bag It, Bin It".

- Temporary stencilling paths and walkways asking people to pick up and bin dog waste;
- Highlighting irresponsible dog management with small flags stuck into the ground next to offending poo asking people to bag and bin it;
- Asking dog owners to pledge to pick up, always pick up and help others to do the same.

The group has had great support with the dog flagging initiative in 2015, raising awareness and resulting in a 60% reduction in dog mess on the Bath Grounds over six months.

"Bin it, take it home".

Annual litter-picks have been carried out each year since 2015 as part of the Ashby Big Tidy Up.

The litter-pick campaign is being organised by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds in association with NWLDC Street Action Team and Ashby Town Council. It is clear that the Pride in our Bath Grounds Litter initiative is supported by the Ashby community and that there is a great desire to look after the Bath Grounds.

"Not welcome here".

The new heritage footpath and the work completed so far on the Castle View Wildlife Walk have helped to open up the Bath Grounds and reduce dark, secluded areas which can attract anti-social behaviour.

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have continued working with the police to ensure regular foot patrols.

In addition, the 'Friends of the Bath Grounds' have also been active in **opposing proposed housing development** on the Bath Grounds by the current owners.

A development proposal was put forward by Shape Real Estate in June 2018. Called "The Royal Ashby Project" which included five large, three storey, residential buildings on the Bath Grounds - in the same position as proposed in 2014 (later withdrawn) near the Prior Park Road entrance. The Friends of the Bath Grounds view was that:

- This development would seriously impinge on Ashby's most loved green space.
- Building on this section of the Bath Grounds will result in the loss of beautiful vistas across from the castle to the Royal and into and out of the Castle View Wildlife Walk.
- The development will result in the loss of important recreational open space in the heart of Ashby.
- Sympathetic development of residential accommodation on either side of the Royal Hotel would be welcomed, but not at the price of building on the unique historic Bath Grounds and removing the open countryside feel and vistas to and from Ashby Castle

A petition to 'Save the Bath Grounds' was initiated in July 2018 by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds and by October 2018 a total close to 8,000 signatures have been raised against the proposal to build houses on the Bath Grounds. This aspect of building houses on the Bath Grounds as of the 'Royal Ashby Project' was removed prior to submission in September 2019. Previously, in February 2014 Oakland Hotels, who own the Bath Grounds and the Royal Hotel, applied to North West Leicestershire District Council for Planning Permission to build five, large, three storey modern "villas" at the eastern end of the Bath Grounds. They also applied for permission to extend the Royal Hotel and build a large "pavilion" and "kiosk" on the car park. The Friends of the Bath Grounds mounted a vigorous campaign opposing these applications. It believes that the Bath Grounds are a precious, irreplaceable community open space, fundamental to the character of Ashby and that they need to be protected from any development which is not for enhancing community recreational use. On this occasion petitioning by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds raised over 3,000 signatures. This part of the application was withdrawn by the applicant.

A further planning application was submitted by Oakland Hotels Ltd, in the summer of 2017, for a revised building plan on the hotel car park (an office block and an apartment block) - there were a large number of objections towards the height and style of these proposed buildings and the application was withdrawn in July 2018 without proceeding to the District Council Planning Committee. The Royal Hotel was closed in March 2018 by Oakland Hotels and has been boarded up.



Sealed Knot battle re-enactment on the Bath Grounds August 2018

SECTION 8: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION.

This section seeks to examine the ways that managers understand the key benefits of the site and how they use this information to promote it appropriately. They should understand who the main user groups are, could be or should be, and use a fitting range of interpretation and engagement techniques to communicate with them. This basis ensures that appropriate facilities, events and activities can be offered and most effectively promoted, and forms a solid foundation for development now and in the future.

- **Marketing and promotion;**
- **Appropriate information channels;**
- **Appropriate educational and interpretational information.**

Marketing and promotion.

The Bath Grounds is the main park within walking distance of the town centre and serves nearby residents. Although the grounds are very popular and well used for a variety of social and recreational activities the Town Council would like to see the footfall in the park increase and those visiting the park to stay a while. The grounds offer a great area for meeting friends, picnics or somewhere to escape the office at a lunch time. The Town Council encourages greater dwell time and increased visitor numbers to the park through:

- Providing a range of volunteer opportunities including signposting people to the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds Group;
- Promoting what the grounds already have to offer;
- Keeping the website up to date and use other social media platforms to keep people informed;
- Facilitating more community-based events and activities such as the Big Tidy Up;
- Encouraging health and well-being e.g. Ashby Sports Fun which was launched in 2021.

The focus for marketing and promotional activity is targeted at the following audiences:

- General and existing park users;
- Partnership working with existing and new local volunteering groups and community organisations;
- Local individuals interested in volunteer opportunities;
- Young people of primary and secondary school age e.g. National Citizen Service;
- People who need to improve their health and well-being;
- Local organisations working with people with physical and learning disabilities;
- GP referrals, mental health support networks;
- The elderly and socially isolated.

Appropriate information channels.

Marketing and promotion is undertaken through a range of appropriate mechanisms including:

- A dedicated page on the Town Council website;
- Social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram;
- Display of posters and information on notice boards on site;
- Annual review of the management plan;
- Press releases to local media;
- Introduction of a regular user-survey;
- Collaborative working with other tiers of local government offering the grounds as an ideal venue for workshops or green gyms, for example;
- Actively engaging with visitors.

Appropriate educational and interpretational information.

The grounds not currently used for formal education. However, local schools have been linked to creating a work of art in the town centre. Local nursery schools and play groups regularly use the park as an informal recreational space during the week.

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have also taken a stall at the Ashby Food & Drink Festival, Jim's Tractor Run & Family Fun Day over the last five years to promote biodiversity, raise awareness of litter, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and heritage information regarding the Bath Grounds.

SECTION 9: MANAGEMENT.

This section evaluates how well the management plan is implemented on site.

- **Implementation of the management plan (see Annex '1').**

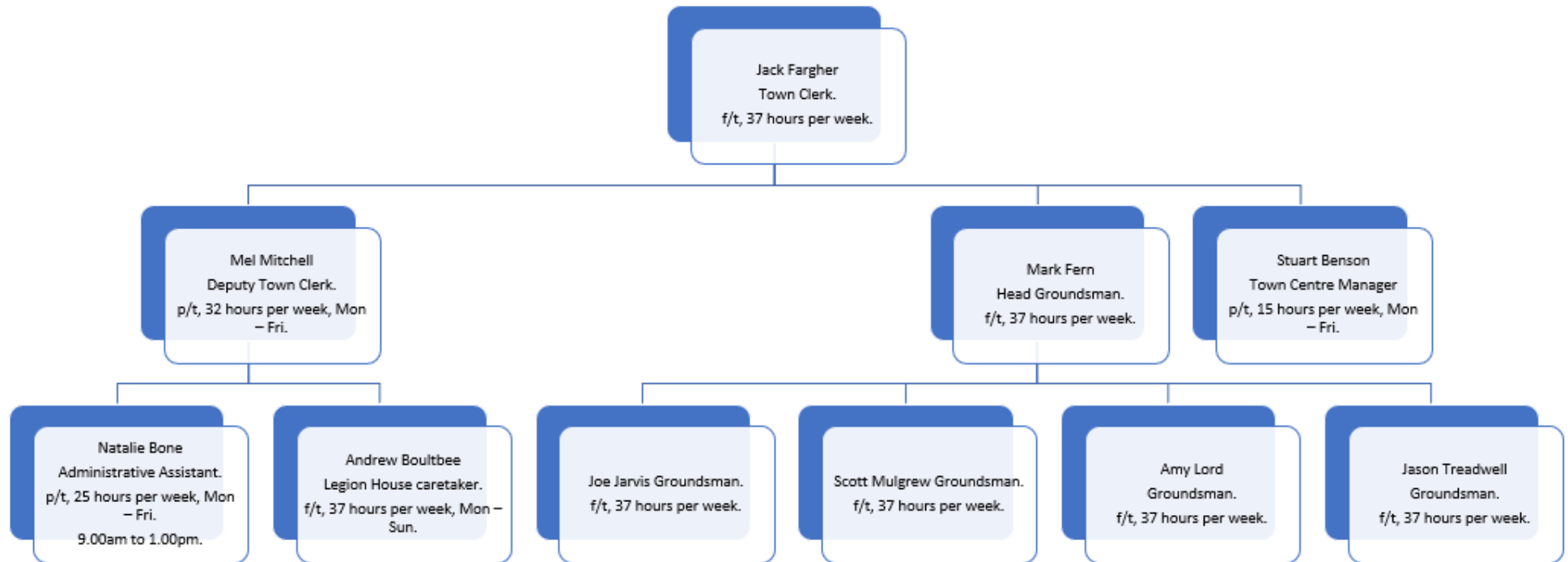
Understanding the current position of the Bath Grounds is a valuable exercise and helps to identify the position in terms of the overall existing management of the site and potential future direction. It also helps to identify where the management of the grounds can be improved. These are identified in the action plan for the grounds.

The day to day implementation and overview of the management plan will be the responsibility of the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Head Groundsman. An annual report will be produced and submitted to members of the Parks & Cemetery Committee of the Town Council.

The staff structure and resources of the Town Council to deliver the plan are detailed below.

The management plan will be subject to regular review and re-appraisal throughout its lifetime. A schematic of the process to be followed is detailed below.

Staff structure and resources.



Evaluation, feedback and review.

Monitoring and evaluation of the management plan will be coordinated by the Deputy Town Clerk. Alterations and amendments to the plan will be informed by feedback from the community, including the Bath Grounds Advisory Group, and will be a decision of the Town Council.

Annual review.

Each year the Town Council will review the plan and relevant actions. Any actions not completed will be reviewed and moved to subsequent years as resources allow.

Revisions.

As new policies and opportunities emerge during the lifetime of the management plan these will be incorporated into the action plan and if relevant to planned aims and objectives. Changes to the main text of the management plan will be made in year five (2025) and a new plan published.

Fundamental review.

In 2024 preparation will begin on drafting a new management plan for publication in 2025 as part of a fundamental review of the management of the Bath Grounds.



One of the many community events held on The Bath Grounds.

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL THE BATH GROUNDS: ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2025.

Introduction

The information provided within this section outlines how the management plan will be delivered. It is anticipated that as part of the planned monitoring and review that the plan will be reviewed on a regular basis. The following tables illustrate the management plan in relation to the Town Council's aims for the Bath Grounds. The plan relates to activity outside of regular planned and reactive grounds maintenance.

SECTION 1: A WELCOMING PLACE.

This section recognises the culmination of everything done well. A welcoming place is one that invites and draws people into it. This means creating a space which, through its visual appearance, range of facilities, standards of maintenance and ease of access, makes people feel that they are in a cared-for place.

1. **Welcome;**
2. **Good and Safe Access;**
3. **Signage;**
4. **Equal Access for All.**

No.	Area for improvement	Action taken to date	Timescale
1.	Improve physical links to the town and directional signage from the town centre.	New directional signs and map dispensers identify the location of the grounds. <i>Update: finger post signs erected in several locations around town. Map dispensers in town centre. No further action planned</i>	Complete
2.	Commission and design the installation of entrance furniture to enhance the civic profile of the Bath Grounds and to make the site more welcoming.	Improvements have been made to the South Street entrance but no entrance furniture at either of the four entrances to the grounds. There is a bespoke bench at the Prior Park entrance and two further bespoke benches	Complete

		along the Wildlife Walk (as part of the Castle View Wildlife Walk project). Update: additional benches have been installed near cricket pavilion. Bench scheme now in place. No further action planned.	
3.	Install notice boards at each of the entrances to the grounds.	Ivanhoe Mosaic to be relocated to the South Street Entrance with 'Welcome to the Bath Grounds'. Update: Welcome boards now installed at both main entrances – South Street and Prior Park. New notice board now erected at South Street entrance.	Complete
4.	Consider options for the provision of public toilets with disabled access.	No public toilets on, or near, the site. Situation exacerbated with the closure of the Royal Hotel. All major events on the grounds use hired toilets. The cricket club pavilion toilets are available during events and especially on Friday evenings. Update: Public toilets on Derby Road. Plenty of cafes etc. No further action planned.	Complete
5.	Lack of co-ordination of street furniture – inconsistent appearance and uncoordinated. Provide uniformity and a sense of place.	Four new benches installed; one along Heritage path to the LHS of the Bowls club, one at the Prior Park entrance, two along the Castle View Wildlife Walk. Update: New memorial benches have been installed. It is deliberate that all benches are not the same – the aim being to encourage a more informal atmosphere. No further action planned.	Complete
6.	Improve the access to the grounds from the Pennine Way estate.	Update: Graffiti removed under the cattle arch. This area is maintained by Network Rail and the County Council. No further action planned.	Complete
7.	Consider the opportunities to provide refreshment facilities.	Update: Will be reviewed when development of hotel is clarified	2024
8.	Consider options for the creation of the post of park-keeper/warden/park office.	The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have raised awareness of dog responsibility and dog waste, reducing dog waste by 60%. Update: one of the ground staff is now a member of the Bath Grounds Advisory Team. Consideration is being given to a member of the existing	2024

		<i>grounds maintenance team to be given additional responsibility for the Bath Grounds.</i>	
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SECTION 2: HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE.

This section looks at how well managers understand their users' needs, encouraging them to enjoy healthy activities using appropriate, safe-to-use facilities and activities, and to feel personally safe and secure.

5. **Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities;**
6. **Safe Equipment and Facilities;**
7. **Personal Security;**
8. **Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling.**

9.	Install CCTV along main footpath between South Street and Station Road.	CCTV coverage on the cricket club pavilion. <i>Update: Costs investigated and prohibitive at present to extend beyond. Review this when new plan kicks in</i>	2025
10.	Improve lighting in the grounds to improve safety.	LED lights installed along public right of way from South Street to Station Road and also along the Wildlife Walk. <i>Update: Costings gained for Heritage Trail. Cost prohibitive at present but will review this.</i>	2025
11.	Vehicle access from Prior Park Road – consider separation of pedestrians and vehicles.	Roadway has been improved and speed limit imposed but still dual usage. <i>Update: The risks have been assessed and considered to acceptable. The gate for vehicles is only accessed periodically by members of the bowls club and grounds maintenance.</i>	Complete
12.	Picnic benches/seating areas. Circular tree seats. Replace wooden bollards with a more robust system for the prevention of vehicle access to the grassed areas.	<i>Update: Consensus is to keep wooded bollards as more in keeping with Bath Grounds. Review circular seats when budget permits</i>	2024
13.	Reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism on the site by closer liaison with the police/District Council.	Multi-agency and community approach is taken to ASB issues. <i>Update: Police involved where necessary. Any issues discussed & addressed at BGAG meetings, of which local police & District Council are members. Also use</i>	Complete

		<i>social media to publicise issues & encourage perpetrators to refrain</i>	
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SECTION 3: WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN.

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issue of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- + litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with;
- + grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained;
- + policies on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice, and regularly reviewed.

- 9. Litter and Waste Management;
- 10. Horticultural Maintenance;
- 11. Arboricultural Maintenance;
- 12. Building and Infrastructure Maintenance;
- 13. Equipment Maintenance.

14.	Tree inspections. Implement triennial tree survey and identify associated works programme and improve link to National Forest.	Town Council has commissioned regular tree surveys across its estate. Ten new trees planted along the Castle View Wildlife Walk. See attached tree reports within full management plan. Update: Tree surveys carried out at regular intervals. Tree reports attached. Will explore links to National Forest	2024
15.	Ensure that there is a comprehensive management system in place for grounds maintenance.	Maintenance plan in place. Update: See full management plan or website for details. Reviews also take place at BGAG meetings, including addressing ad hoc maintenance issues.	Complete

16.	Balance of sport and informal activity. Mixture of play and rest areas.	<i>Update: Grounds encompass both sport and leisure (e.g. picnics, informal gatherings). BGAG have reviewed and obtained quotes and funding. Approval required from Parks & Cemetery Committee in September 2023.</i>	2023
17.	Work with the bowls club and cricket club to improve their facilities and explore possibilities for wider community use.	Reactive maintenance is undertaken but unlocking of funding to improve facilities is largely dependent upon future of ownership of the grounds. Now this has been clarified, currently drawing up new lease agreements.	2024

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

This section seeks to ensure that the way the site is managed has a positive impact on the environment, locally and globally, both now and for the future. Where choices can be made for future procurement, landscaping or buildings, they should aim to minimise energy and resource consumption and waste, and design-in benefits to the local and global environment. Policies should seek to eliminate the use of peat and chemicals to control pests and as fertilisers. Horticultural and arboricultural decisions should reflect an understanding of the impacts of climate change.

- 14. **Managing Environmental Impact;**
- 15. **Waste Minimisation;**
- 16. **Chemical Use;**
- 17. **Peat Use;**
- 18. **Climate Change Adaption Strategies.**

18.	Provide information on flora and fauna in the park.	Interpretation panel required.	2024
19.	Replacement/additional bins.	<i>Update: Additional bins installed including a 1100 litre bin and recycling bins.</i>	Complete
20.	Explore local authority schemes for the collection and recycling of plastics and cans within public parks and implement if appropriate.	<i>Update: Recycling bins now installed along Heritage Trail near bowling club</i>	Complete

21.	Explore relevant policies	<i>Update: Environmental policy for Bath Grounds. Town Council policies for Ashby as a whole already in place. Grounds maintenance team, cricket and bowls clubs do not use peat based products</i>	Complete
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SECTION 5: BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE.

Attention should be paid to the appropriate management and conservation of natural features, wildlife and flora; landscape features; and buildings and structures. Their particular character and requirements should be identified and appropriate management strategies put in place to conserve and enhance them.

19. **Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora;**

20. **Conservation of Landscape Features;**

21. **Conservation of Buildings and Structures.**

22.	Promote hedge laying and tree planting programme to promote biodiversity.	The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds winter project Jan/ Feb 2020 using volunteers in collaboration with the Heart of England Hedge Laying Group laid hawthorn hedge and other whips along wildflower walk. Well maintained hedges capture and reduce air pollution including traffic carbon emissions	Complete
23.	Review current planting in the grounds, introducing wild flora areas, native and beneficial species to improve ecology of the grounds.	As part of the Castle View Wildlife Walk project, between the Town Council and The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds, the following planting took place with biodiversity in mind: planting of ten additional trees (Oak and Beech) the setting of 150 meters of perennial wildflowers to establish a wildlife corridor between the bath grounds and the surrounding Bullens and Castle Fields. Ongoing work continues with annual management of the wildflower verge and improvements to the hawthorn hedge.	Complete

		Ongoing maintenance of the south street entrance flowerbed by the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds has resulted in new shrubs and perennials planting to increase biodiversity. Update: Native spring bulbs planted along the top end of the Heritage Trail. Crocuses planted near Wildlife Walk	
24.	Undertake a flora and fauna survey of the grounds and surrounding area to provide baseline for future management.	Habitat Scoping Survey & Recommendations for Biodiversity Improvements carried out – see appendices	Complete
25.	Commission a landscape master plan to guide a programme of new planting. There has been a loss of flowers and horticultural display over years. Introduce new planting beds. Balance of wildlife/open space/flower beds.	Commission report once actions from habitat scoping report carried out. Build into next plan	2024
26.	Deliver environmental awareness events on the grounds in conjunction with partners to gather ecological information about the grounds and improve biodiversity.	Update: Walk with trees event held in Autumn 2022 – to help members of public identify trees in Bath Grounds and other areas of Ashby	2024

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

This section examines the extent to which the managing organisation:

- Understands the community it seeks to serve;
- Actively and appropriately involves members of the community in making decisions about the site's development;
- Provides opportunities for active participation in site projects;
- Ensures that there is appropriate provision of recreational facilities and activities for all sectors of the community.

22. Community Involvement in Management and Development;

23. Appropriate Provision for Community.

27.	Support the FOABG to increase its membership and for them to take more active role in the development and	Update: FOABG promoted on Town Council website. Also links to FOABG on Bath Grounds section of	Complete
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	management of the grounds and to work together to develop a vision for the grounds that can be worked towards.	website. Share social media updates. Two members of FOABG on BGAG. In terms of projects, working with FOABG to look at maintenance of Wildflower Walk, resolve land own issues etc	
28.	Meet with FOABG on a regular basis to review progress of management plan.	Quarterly meetings are held but may need a broader base. Update: as BGAG now up and running, two members of FOABG form part of BGAG	Complete
29.	Prepare, organise and promote a training programme for volunteers where appropriate.	Training provided for tree warden	Complete
30.	Support FOABG to undertake a regular visitor survey to help steer future audience development and associated work, including youth engagement to help reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism on the site.	Update: First survey conducted in 2022 by BGAG	Complete
31.	Consider the design and construction of a focal point for community use of the grounds and to reflect civic importance of the site and its heritage.	On hold until ownership of Bath Grounds resolved	2024
32.	Increase opportunities for volunteering especially links with schools and voluntary sector.	Volunteer work carried out by FOABG on following: Heritage Footpath project, Castle View Wildlife Walk project, South street flowerbed maintenance, annual litter pick and monitoring of dog waste. Regular maintenance work including, bench painting, South Street grass edge tidying, interpretation board cleaning. Reporting of ASB and ASB behaviour awareness. Update: also now have regular litter licking groups including annual Big Tidy Up	Complete

SECTION 7: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION.

This section seeks to examine the ways that managers understand the key benefits of the site and how they use this information to promote it appropriately. They should understand who the main user groups are, could be or should be, and use a fitting range of interpretation and engagement techniques to communicate with them. This basis ensures that appropriate facilities, events and activities can be offered and most effectively promoted and forms a solid foundation for development now and in the future.

24. **Marketing and Promotion;**

25. **Appropriate Information Channels;**

26. **Appropriate Educational and Interpretational Information.**

33.	Work with FOABG to develop dedicated webpage for the Bath Grounds and increase use of social media. Explore opportunities to tie the grounds in with any larger events within the town and vice versa.	The FOABG currently have an active web-site and a Facebook page with over 2,000 followers. <i>Update: now have dedicated pages for Bath Grounds on Town Council website. Hold large events on Bath Grounds.</i>	Complete
34.	Actively and positively promote the grounds and its heritage to encourage visitors and tourists.	<p>There are a number of groups that use the Bath Grounds on a regular basis including cubs and brownies doing wildlife studies and local yoga and fitness groups that use the grounds in the summer to carry out classes.</p> <p>A community event was organised by FOABG in the summer of 2018 as part of the NWLDC 'Hello Heritage' event – this event aim was to raise awareness of biodiversity on the Bath Grounds – focusing on the new Castle View Wildlife Walk at what it aimed to achieve, what birds and animals were and could be attracted to the Bath Grounds as a result as well as information on positive improvements to climate change that planting trees and improving hedges have. There was a bug and wildlife treasure hunt, stone painting and crafts associated with the history and heritage of the Bath Grounds.</p>	Complete

		The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have also taken a stall at the Ashby Food & Drink Festival, Jim's Tractor Run & Family Fun Day over the last five years to promote biodiversity, raise awareness of litter, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and heritage information regarding the Bath Grounds.	
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SECTION 8: MANAGEMENT.

This section evaluates how well the management plan is implemented on site.

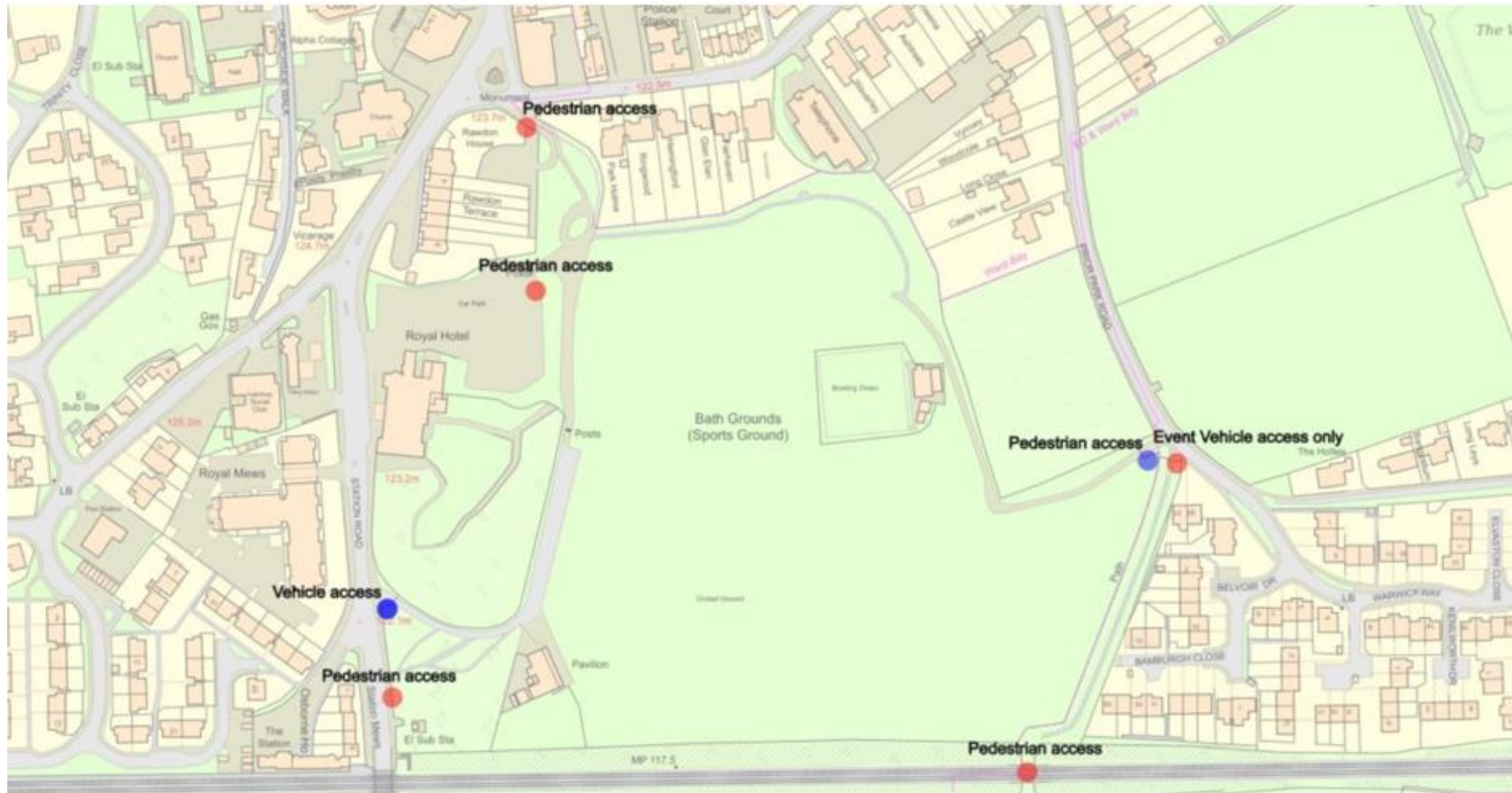
27. Implementation of Management Plan.

35.	Establish Bath Grounds Management Committee to include bowls and cricket club, police, FOABG with the Town and District Council.	Update: BGAG set up which includes all listed as well as litter picking group	Complete
36.	Secure ownership of the grounds.	Update: Town Council purchase Bath Grounds in August 2023	Complete
37.	Town Council commitment and budget to maintain a high standard of planting/landscaping/park management.	Parks & Cemetery Committee to discuss and agree draft Management Plan and budget to implement draft Action Plan. Update: BGAG formed with clear terms of reference. Capex budget allocated	Complete
38.	Apply for Green Flag Award.	In-hand. Update: Green Flag awarded in 2020, 2021 and 2022	Complete
39.	Implement training programme for grounds maintenance team.	Training plan is in place. Update: member of grounds maintenance team is part of BGAG	Complete

40.	Management Plan.	Preparation will begin on drafting a new management plan for publication in 2025 as part of a fundamental review of the management of the Bath Grounds.	2024
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Appendix 2

Map of Ashby Bath Grounds.



*Blue markers show vehicular access, red markers show pedestrian access.

Appendix 3

Ten Year Work Schedule*

Category	Action	Operation	Staff	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Other/notes
Inspections and Surveys	Data collection	Carry out survey to monitor bats in the park, led by a consultant and supported by volunteers if appropriate, 5 yearly	CT/VG	✓	✓			Every 5 years
Inspections and Surveys	Data collection	Carry out survey to monitor bird species found in the park, led by volunteers with expertise in the area. 5 yearly	VG	✓	✓			Every 5 years
Inspections and Surveys	Data collection	Carry out general wildlife surveys in the park, led by volunteers with expertise in the area. 5 yearly	VG	✓	✓			Every 5 years
Inspections and Surveys	Survey of trees	Organise and carry out arboricultural survey on a risk assessment basis.	CT/CR	✓		✓		As required

Softworks	Mowing grassed areas (incl land to West of footpath to cattle arch)	Maintain short grass areas, mowing once a fortnight.	GM	✓	✓			
Softworks	Mowing meadow areas (if/once created)	Carry out a hay cut twice a year, leave arisings for 3 days before removing	GM	✓	✓			If meadow area created
Softworks	Edging grassed areas	Tidy edges to herbaceous borders and trees, carried out annually	GM	✓				
Softworks	Top dressing and over seeding	Prepare ground and re-seed any damaged or well-used areas.	GM	✓		✓		
Softworks	Weed control of grassed areas	Apply herbicide to grassed areas (around trees etc)	GM	✓	✓			As required
Softworks	Weed control of paths	Apply herbicide to heritage path edge, South Street entrance path edge	GM	✓	✓			As required

Softworks	Tree work	Carry out operations in accordance with report from arboriculture consultant's report. To be undertaken on an annual basis.	CR			✓	✓	As required
Softworks	Hedge work	Trim hedges to agreed height and replace any dead plants	GM			✓	✓	
Softworks	Pruning shrubs	Prune shrubs to encourage new growth in accordance with good horticultural practice	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
Softworks	Dead heading	Dead head flowering plants	GM/VG	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
Softworks	Weed control of shrub beds	Remove weeds by application of herbicide or by hand while plants are establishing on a monthly basis. Frequency of weed control to be reduced each year as plants mature	GM/VG	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Softworks	Watering bedding displays and herbaceous borders	Water in prolonged dry spells	GM		✓			
Softworks	Soil conditioning	Spread compost on planting beds as required	GM	✓				
Softworks	Mulching	Top up mulch to shrub beds and hedges	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hardworks	Street furniture	Check for wear/damage/graffiti of furniture/lighting. Organise for repairs/remedial works/replacement to be carried out.	GM/CT	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
Hardworks	Hard surfaces/drains	Check for wear/damage to surface and edgings; clear drains; organise for repairs/remedial works to be carried out.	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required

Hardworks	Fences	Check for damage to fencing, finishes and posts, carry out repairs/remedial works/replacement	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
Hardworks	Weed control	Hand weed/apply residual herbicide treatment to hard surfaced areas	GM	✓	✓	✓		As required
General	Benches	Jet wash fixed benches, remove, clean and restore other benches	GM			✓	✓	
General	Litter bins	Empty litter bins on daily/ bi-daily basis	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	
General	Large green bin	Emptying large green bin	DC	✓	✓	✓	✓	Weekly
General	Litter clearance: grass	Clear litter from grass areas	GM/VG	✓	✓	✓	✓	
General	Litter clearnace: beds	Clear litter from shrub beds, hedges and planted areas	GM/VG	✓	✓	✓	✓	
General	Litter clearance: paths	Clear litter from paths and hard surfaces	GM/VG	✓	✓	✓	✓	
General	Pot holes	Fill pot hole repairs on footpaths	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
General	Road sweeper	Sweep all paths and park entrances	DC	✓		✓		Or as required

General	Tree debris	Remove fallen tree debris	GM	✓	✓	✓	✓	As required
Staff KEY	Staff Full Name							
GM	Groundsman							
VG	Volunteer Group							
CR	Contractor							
CT	Consultant							
DC	District Council							

* Devised and developed in May 2022 by the Bath Grounds Advisory Group.

Appendix 4

CapEx Budget for the Bath Grounds

CapEx Budget for the Bath Grounds			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated
Income			
Budget from TC	10000	10000	10000
Grant	4330		
Total income	14330	10000	10000
Expenditure			
Supply of bollards	352.46		
Notice board	1737.46		
Anticipated expenditure			
Installation of notice board	250		
Installation of bollards	600		
Supply & installation of trim trail	4400		
Plants & shrubs	500		
Trees	2000		
Seed	50		
Gravel area by South St entrance	1500		
Total Expenditure	11389.92	0	0

Appendix 5

Bath Grounds Risk Assessment

Date of review	December 2022	Likelihood and impact: 1 = Low 5 = High
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Hazard	Resultant Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Control Measures	Likelihood after measures	Impact after measures	Notes
Cricket Pavilion and pitch							
Pitch rollers – right side of pavilion (unused?)	Injury – youths sitting on it may fall off	2	3	Notices to keep off? Tape around roller? Remove roller?	2	3	
Vandalism & theft	Damage to building	3	3	CCTV, lighting, secure fittings	2	2	
Park fixtures/furniture							
Fixed furniture, e.g. benches, bins etc	Injury	2	2	Benches and are bolted and concreted to the ground. Dog/litter bins inspected and emptied frequently. Any damage/vandalism promptly repaired.	1	2	
Footpaths	Trips, slips falls	3	3	Paths regularly checked for signs of damage, prompt action taken on defects where necessary. Only work vehicles permitted – except for events in the park. Tarmac paths gritted if icy.	2	2	

Entrances	Children running onto the roads	3	4	Barriers to prevent children having a straight run onto the road	2	2	
Vandalism	Damage to interpretation boards	3	3	CCTV, lighting, secure fittings	2	2	
Dog Fouling							
Dog faeces left in the park	Unpleasant, unhygienic, puts people off coming to the park	4	3	Notices about dog fouling, dog bins, staff approach dog owners if not collected faeces	2	3	
Dog faeces left in the park	Toxocara, leading to infection and possibly blindness	2	5	Notices about dog fouling, dog bins, staff approach dog owners if not collected faeces	1	5	
Trees & shrubs							
Tree branches falling on park users	Injuring a park user	2	5	Annual tree inspection with recommended work carried out promptly.	1	5	Risk areas temporarily fenced off when necessary
Shrubs & trees that can conceal criminals	Harm to members of public	2	5	Prune areas of shrubs that could conceal people	1	5	
Staff and equipment							
Park equipment	Injury to staff	2	3	Staff trained to use equipment, equipment properly stored and maintained	1	3	

Herbicides/chemicals	Injury to staff	2	3	Staff trained to store and use chemicals properly	1	3	
Equipment left unsupervised	Injuring a park user	2	3	Staff trained and aware of safety measures, including never leaving equipment around. Insurance	1	3	
Herbicides/chemicals left unsupervised	Injuring a park user	2	3	Staff trained and aware of safety measures, including never leaving chemicals unsupervised	1	3	
Theft of equipment and property	Replacement cost, inconvenience	3	3	Lockable store for equipment, plus insurance	2	2	
General staff safety	Injury to staff	2	3	Protective clothing, training, wheeled trolley (to avoid lifting), correct working tools, H&S policy, personal accident insurance	1	2	
General							
Volunteers	Injury, damage to property	2	2	Insurance, clear guidelines, safety equipment	1	1	
Litter	Injury, detracts from enjoyment of the park			Regular litter picking; removal of sharp objects, cans, bottles etc; provision waste bins			

Litter picking	Injury to staff from sharp and/or contaminated objects	2	3	Use of a long handled litter picker, gloves etc	1	2	
Trespass by travellers	Damage to the surface of the park, loss of use	3	3	Locked gates and fencing, bollards and barriers	1	1	

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL
Health and Safety Policy for Ashby Bath Grounds.

1. Purpose

This Health and Safety Policy has been written in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 to provide a clear statement of intent with respect to health and safety.

2. Policy Statement

The aim of this Policy is to provide and maintain a healthy and safe environment and to ensure the following:

- A safe public recreation place is provided;
- A safe work place is provided;
- Arrangements are in place to ensure the safety of all personnel and Bath Grounds users;
- Safe working practices are identified and implemented;
- Hazards and security are assessed and addressed ;
- The roles and responsibilities of employees, contractors, volunteers, users and visitors are identified and clear.

Health and safety will be regularly reviewed and actions taken to improve safety procedures and systems as appropriate.

3. Scope

This Policy covers the whole of Ashby Bath Grounds (as defined).

4. Objectives of the Safety Policy.

To recognise hazardous areas within Ashby Bath Grounds by:

- Identifying the need for employees to receive both on and off the job training in safe methods of working, accident prevention, fire prevention and personal protection;
- Identifying the hazards of the work and providing, so far as is reasonably practicable, means to eliminate or minimise the hazards;
- Providing adequate personal protection as required by statute and by the hazards of the job. To ensure that all such protection is effectively and efficiently used;
- Promoting a total involvement attitude towards health and safety and to provide the opportunity for employees and their representatives to be consulted and participate in matters affecting health and safety at the workplace;
- Ensuring that due care and attention is given to the health, safety and welfare of members of the general public who may be affected by the actions or omissions of employees working on behalf of the Town Council.

5. Organisation for carrying out the Policy.

The Town Council recognises its obligation under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to bring to the attention of its employees the organisation for implementing and controlling the health, safety and welfare of members of all its employees and will ensure so far as reasonably practicable that the Town Council's policy for health, safety and welfare is effectively implemented and understood at all levels.

Organisational responsibilities are as follows:

Employees.

- To observe statutory safety regulations, safe working procedures and codes of practice, and follow the agreements for their safety at their workplace and the safety of visitors.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group.

- To ensure all safety matters are discussed and acted upon as they arise;
- The Advisory Group is responsible for promoting the Health and Safety Policy for the Bath Grounds and ensuring that the Policy and procedures are regularly reviewed and formally revised as appropriate.

Town Clerk.

- To ensure that any health and safety issues are acted upon promptly and efficiently. To report to the Parks & Cemetery Committee and residual issues which are unresolved or require further investigation or budgetary approval.

Town Council.

- To oversee and ratify health and safety matters referred to them by the Bath Grounds Advisory Committee. The Town Council has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that health and safety issues are routinely addressed by the appropriate Committees and that such policies and procedures are regularly reviewed.

6. Responsibilities and Arrangements.

The Town Council, its Committees and employees have responsibilities in relation to health, safety and security. In addition leaders of groups, organisations using the facilities and individual visitors all have responsibility to comply with this Policy and associated health and safety procedures and guidelines.

Employees.

- Employees are required to familiarise themselves with the Ashby Bath Grounds Health and Safety Policy, procedures and guidelines;
- They must take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions.

Contractors.

- Contractors are required to comply with Ashby Bath Grounds Health and Safety Policy, procedures and guidelines as appropriate;
- Contractors must ensure that their activities comply with current Health and Safety Legislation and take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions.

Organisers of Bath Grounds Events.

- Organisers of Bath Grounds events are required to comply with Ashby Bath Grounds Health and Safety Policy, procedures and guidelines as appropriate;
- Organisers of Bath Grounds events must ensure that their activities comply with current Health and Safety Legislation and take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions.

Volunteers.

- Volunteers are required to comply with Ashby Bath Grounds Health and Safety Policy, procedures and guidelines as appropriate;
- They must take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions.

Bath Grounds users/visitors.

- Are required to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their actions;
- Are required to comply with Bath Grounds guidance as displayed on signage.

Equipment (Staff responsibilities).

- Staff to be familiar with the safety legislation, codes of practise and safety precautions applicable to their activities and equipment;
- Ensure that other employees and volunteers are also aware and fully understand;
- Insist on employees observing safe working practises, including wearing PPE;
- Ensure that correct reporting procedures are carried out on all accidents and dangerous occurrences. Carry out a preliminary investigation of all accidents;
- Report defects in plant and equipment;
- Ensure that there is always appropriate supervision;
- Set a personal example;
- Always use the correct tools and equipment for the job;
- Attend safety training as necessary;
- Do not leave equipment unattended;
- Store equipment safely and securely;
- Portable appliances must be tested and marked.

Substances (Staff responsibilities).

- Staff to be familiar with the safety legislation, codes of practise and safety precautions applicable to any chemicals and substances;
- Ensure that other employees and volunteers are also aware and fully understand;
- Before undertaking any work staff must ensure that they have read and understood the COSHH (Control of substances Hazardous to Health 1994) sheet for any chemicals;
- Attend safety training as necessary;
- Store any chemicals and substances safely and securely;
- Do not leave chemicals or substances unattended.

Lifting (Staff).

- Staff should be aware that lifting is governed by the Manual Handling Operations Regulation 1992;
- These regulations seek to encourage safe lifting techniques and to minimise the frequency of lifting if possible;
- Good lifting guidelines:
 - Stop and think before you lift;
 - Adopt a correct foot position;;
 - Bend the knees and keep the shoulders level;
 - Get a good grip;
 - Keep the arms close to body;
 - Lead with your head;
 - Lift smoothly;
 - Check weight before you lift;
 - Think when putting the load down.

Events.

- Staff to ensure event organisers are informed of all requirements;
- Organisers to ensure that vehicle movements are kept to a minimum, closely supervised and max speed 5 mph.

Security.

- Staff to ensure that CCTV (where applicable) is kept in working order;
- Staff to ensure that Bath Grounds lighting is kept in working order.

Dogs and Litter.

- Staff to maintain/order regular emptying of dog and litter bins;
- Appropriate dog/litter signage to be maintained by staff;
- Users to comply with rules as per signage.

First aid and accidents.

- There is no first aid available on the Bath Grounds;
- In the event of a serious injury phone 999 and ask for the ambulance service;
- As soon as possible after a serious injury/accident the Town Clerk must be informed;
- In the event of injury or accident:
 - ◇ Ensure that any hazards that have caused the accident are removed to a safe location;
 - ◇ If necessary, warn others of the hazard, use warning cones etc if necessary.

Trees.

- Town Clerk to organise regular tree inspections;
- Staff to keep aware of condition of trees and act on potential problems, e.g. fence off trees, order emergency work.

This policy was adopted by Ashby de la Zouch Town Council at its meeting on 26th September 2022

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL

Ashby Bath Grounds Environmental Policy.

- To promote environmental awareness among our staff and volunteers;
- To consider the impact on the environment of everything we do;
- To train, educate and inform our employees and volunteers about environmental matters;
- To promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout the Bath Grounds, including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable;
- To avoid, wherever possible, the use of pesticides and unnecessary hazardous materials and products, seeking substitutes when feasible and taking all reasonable steps to protect human health and the environment when such materials must be used, stored or disposed of;
- To purchase and use environmentally friendly and fair-trade products from sustainable sources wherever possible;
- To improve the biodiversity of the Bath Grounds;
- To reduce waste through re-use, composting, recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or re-furnished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and appropriate;
- To communicate these environmental objectives to clients, customers, contractors and the public and encourage them to support them.

This policy statement is managed and reviewed regularly by the Ashby Bath Grounds Advisory Group.

24th December 2021.

ASHBY DE LA ZOUC TOWN COUNCIL.

TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY.

Introduction.

The Town Council recognises that good management of its tree stock is essential to our environment. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to our wildlife. They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter. Not only are trees essential for life, but as the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between the past, present and future.

It's critical that trees in urban settings, such as parks, are preserved and sustainably managed for the following reasons:

- **Trees benefit health.**

The canopies of trees act as a physical filter, trapping dust and absorbing pollutants from the air. Each individual tree removes up to 1.7 kilos every year. They also provide shade from solar radiation and reduce noise.

Over 20 species of British trees and shrubs are known to have medicinal properties. The oil from birch bark, for example, has antiseptic properties. Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, your blood pressure drops, your heart rate slows and your stress levels come down.

- **Trees benefit the environment.**

Trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and the carbon that they store in their wood helps slow the rate of global warming.

They reduce wind speeds and cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves. It's estimated that trees can reduce the temperature in a city by up to 7°C. Trees also help prevent flooding and soil erosion, absorbing thousands of litres of stormwater.

- **Trees boost wildlife.**

Trees host complex microhabitats. When young, they offer habitation and food to amazing communities of birds, insects, lichen and fungi. When ancient, their trunks also provide the hollow cover needed by species such as bats, woodboring beetles, tawny owls and woodpeckers.

One mature oak can be home to as many as 500 different species. Richmond Park is full of such trees, which is one of the reasons it has been designated a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

- **Trees strengthen communities.**

Trees strengthen the distinctive character of a place and encourage local pride. Urban trees can be used as an educational resource and to bring groups together for activities like walking and bird-watching. Trees are also invaluable for children to play in and discover their sense of adventure.

- **Trees grow the economy.**

People are attracted to live, work and invest in green surroundings. Research shows that average house prices are 5-18% higher when properties are close to mature trees. Companies benefit from a healthier, happier workforce if there are parks and trees nearby.

- **Trees protect the future.**

Soon, for the first time in history, the number of people with homes in cities will outstrip those living in the countryside. Parks and trees will become an even more vital component of urban life. We must respect them and protect them for the future.

The Town Council is committed to managing the tree population under its care (approximately 1,100 trees) to ensure it is conserved, sustained and developed for the benefit of the people of Ashby de la Zouch and future generations.

The Town Council is responsible for managing its trees in a safe condition and ensuring that they do not create a legal nuisance such as causing damage to property. To fulfill this responsibility the Council will undertake safety inspections on a regular basis. Preventative works identified from these inspections are then included in an on-going tree maintenance programme.

The aim of this policy is to provide guidelines on the action the Town Council will take in response to requests to prune and maintain trees on land managed by the Council.

This policy should ensure that officers can deal with enquiries confidently and that members of the public are treated consistently in line with the policy. They should also ensure that trees are not pruned or removed unnecessarily and the environment is protected.

Basic principles.

The Town Council has entered into a rolling programme of tree inspections with Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) Forestry Division.

Our approach is as follows:

- 1) The LCC analyse the Town Council's data held on the LCC tree management database and identify potentially 'high risk' trees (i.e. large trees with a previously noted defect);
- 2) Identified high risk trees are then put on a twelve-month inspection programme;
- 3) The LCC will continue to inspect all other trees on a three-year cycle;
- 4) Tree inspections will include a risk assessment whereby trees which are deemed to represent an increased risk will be marked as such and placed on a twelve-month inspection frequency.

An initial analysis (2019) of the Town Council's tree data has revealed that 74 trees are large in size and possess some form of noted defect. These trees will be regarded as 'higher risk' and will be put under a twelve-month frequency inspection regime. In addition, some basic tree awareness and inspection training has been undertaken for the Town Council's ground staff.

Any tree works are only carried out following recommendations from these inspection reports thereby ensuring that trees are protected and remain as healthy as possible.

We inspect our trees every three years to ensure they are safe and not causing damage. We look for:

- signs of instability;
- weakness to the tree's structure;

- disease and/or poor health;
- obstructions to road access or visibility;
- root damage to walls, road surfaces and pavements;
- interference with service cables /overhead wires.

Any preventative works we identify from inspections are included on our tree maintenance programme.

Any work to a tree which is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within a conservation area will only be carried out where consent from the appropriate authorities has been received. All work will be undertaken by the Town Council's in-house grounds maintenance team or suitably qualified contractors.

Any work carried out will be subject to available budget.

Tree maintenance. Any tree work will only be undertaken by the Town Council in accordance with the following priority list:

PRIORITY 1 - PUBLIC SAFETY.

The Town Council will undertake all work which removes actual hazards to safeguard the public and property.

PRIORITY 2 - REMEDIAL/PREVENTATIVE WORKS.

The Town Council will undertake all work which: -

- remove potential hazards that may subsequently threaten public safety or property;
- prevent or minimise the effects of a tree on the structure of a property (e.g. preventative subsidence related work).

PRIORITY 3 - MANAGEMENT OF VETERAN TREES.

The Town Council will, where public safety is not compromised, undertake all work which:

- conserves trees with high ecological value; and,
- preserves trees with significant local historical and/or aesthetic value.

PRIORITY 4 - YOUNG TREE MAINTENANCE.

The Town Council will undertake all work which:

- assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy; and,
- enables new tree planting to reach its full potential

PRIORITY 5 - NUISANCE MANAGEMENT.

The Town Council will undertake remedial work where

- it is considered that its trees are causing an actionable nuisance to a neighbouring property. For example: root/branch encroachment over property boundaries where damage has occurred or is likely to do so imminently;
- When a tree is thought to be causing a nuisance which does not threaten public safety or property, the Town Council will consider appropriate remedial works during the next programmed cyclic inspection of that tree;

The Town Council will NOT undertake one-off, reactive inspections to consider general nuisance issues such as:

- Shade onto a garden or property;
- falling leaves, fruits, seeds and sap;
- branches hanging into your garden
- pollen and allergies;
- honeydew deposits (produced by aphids feeding on the leaves of trees);
- roosting birds and droppings;
- interference with television reception, telephones and solar panels.

Adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on 27th February 2012.

Reviewed and re-adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on Monday 17th September 2018, 16th September 2019.

Amended April 2020 in the light of the decision in the case of Cavanagh v Witley Parish Council.

Re-adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on 28th September 2020, 27th September 2021.

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH TOWN COUNCIL.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group terms of reference:

1. The Bath Grounds Advisory Group (BGAG) (here in after referred to as ‘the group’) shall report to, and support the aims of, the Ashby de la Zouch Town Council Parks & Cemetery Committee (P&C) in relation to the Ashby Bath Grounds;
2. The group will identify areas for improvement and innovation on the Grounds, enhancing community involvement (including schools and voluntary groups), suggesting new uses of the grounds including events, sporting activities and informal public use;
3. The group will advise the P&C Committee on the anticipated annual revenue expenditure requirements for maintaining and developing the Bath Grounds to Green Flag standards;
4. The group shall contribute to the Green Flag Award application on behalf of the Town Council;
5. The group will provide advice and support to the Town Clerk, the Deputy Town Clerk and the Head Groundsman on Bath Grounds related matters;
6. The group shall provide written minutes and, where applicable, proposed actions to the P&C Committee at its quarterly meeting. This may include proposed actions to address, general grounds matters including complaints, incidents, litter, dog fouling, vandalism, feedback, survey data, etc;
7. The group shall consist of the Vice Chairman of the P&C Committee (who will act as Chairman of the group), the Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chairman), and one representative of the following:
 - North West Leicestershire District Council;
 - Leicestershire Police;
 - Ashby Hastings Cricket Club;
 - Ashby Bowls Club;
 - The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds;
 - The litter-picking womble group.
8. Although the BGAG will have no delegated spending powers other than those available to the Town Clerk under the Town Council’s ‘Scheme of Delegation’ for operational and health & safety issues, it will, however, have an important role in forming the annual budget of the Parks & Cemetery Committee;
9. Specific responsibilities of the group will include the development of a health & safety policy for the grounds (including a risk assessment), the enhancement of the Bath Grounds section on the Town Council website, an environment and biodiversity policy, a comprehensive visitor survey and forward work programme;
10. The Group will meet every two months initially and at regular intervals thereafter.

Jack Fargher
Town Clerk
Ashby de la Zouch

14th June 2021.

Approved by the Town Council at its meeting on Monday 21st June 2021. Amended and updated on Monday 3rd March 2022.

Judges Feedback & Actions/Comments - Desk Based Assessment

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions/Comments	Complete
Presentation	The plan has a good history section. There is a good vision for the park but consider having this at the start of the document rather than on page 18.	There is no front cover to the plan . A good front cover with the name of the park and inviting picture/image and a timescale would make it much more appealing. The comments made by the previous judges in 2020 are still relevant.	Front cover amended	Y
Health, Safety & Security	The plan covers all the relevant points and sets out what is being done in terms of active sports and events . Reference that the park gates are locked. Good dog fouling policies in place working with Friends.	There is reference to site inspections and risk assessments but no evidence or examples provided in the plan. This could be as appendices.	Tree inspections and risk assessment included in appendices	Y
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings & Landscape	In general the relevant points are covered. Plan says tree inspection programme in place .	Detail on horticultural maintenance is somewhat limited and needs expanding. Results from tree inspection programme would be a helpful appendix with details as to how issues raised will be addressed going forward. This was not clear from the site assessment.	Results from tree inspections included in appendices	Y

Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	Plan covers how litter issues are resolved, how bins are emptied and how broken glass and sharps are dealt with. Good section on Friends 'Pride' dog fouling campaign in the community section of the document.	No reference to how ASB and vandalism are tackled in this section.	See point 13 on Action Plan (appendix 1)	Y
Environmental Management	This section picks up the relevant points. Plan says no peat use.	No reference to recycling facilities for litter but this is happening on the ground. The policy on no peat use needs clarifying for both in house and external suppliers. The plan needs to address how the park can link to the Council's policy on Climate Change.	See points 19 and 20 on Action plan (appendix 1). Peat is NOT used in house or by external suppliers. The Town Council does not have a policy on climate change but will enhance its Environment & Biodiversity Policy to include the park	Winter 2023
Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage	The heritage /landscape of the park is covered very well in the history section and in the community involvement section of the plan. The interpretation boards are a really positive addition for the park. A habitat report has been undertaken by Leicestershire County Council but this is not referenced in the plan.	The biodiversity section needs to be expanded more to show what has been done and what is being done. More pictures would be helpful. Provide a link to the 2021 Habitat Scoping Report and detail how actions will be addressed. At present this is a missed opportunity.	Now included in the plan. Will provide more photos as and when available	Spring 2024
Community Involvement	A very good part of the plan which reflects well on the work of the Friends Group. The section listing the 4 major projects the Friends have been involved in is very impressive. Excellent range of community events some of which are significant in terms of size and stature.	Use the outcomes from the consultation work currently taking place to help shape the park going forward More photos of community events needed.	In progress re survey. Will include photos etc.	Spring 2024

Marketing & Communication	The Friends have an excellent website. They also have a Facebook page. The plan lists lots of good actions e.g. press releases /user surveys but there is no evidence of these in the plan. The Town Council have a new website and the Bath Grounds section now provides access to the Management Plan.	Plan needs a link to Friends website. A link is also needed to the Heritage Trail leaflet on page 30. Provide examples of the marketing and communication undertaken in the appendices.	See Bath Grounds section on our new website	Y
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<p>Overall Management</p>	<p>Bath Advisory Group now established with regular meetings. Town Council and Friends Group working actively to secure ownership of the park</p>	<p>Examples of minutes from Advisory Group to be part of Appendices. No updates provided on previous judges comments. Judges comments are provided as a helpful guide to take the park forward. All comments do not have to be followed to the letter but your responses are helpful to judges in subsequent years to show what is being done. There is no evidence that the annual review of the plan has taken place and neither the plan or action plan have been updated since 2020. A useful way to do this is to have a colour coded system for changes. e.g. Text changes in 2021 shown in red, text changes in 2022 shown in green. The action plan needs a timescale showing when work was completed in the action column. The plan would benefit from more appendices. Suggest that a lot of these judges recommendations form part of the fundamental review of the plan in 2025 but there is still need for an annual update of the plan prior to then. As a suggestion look at some other Green Flag Management plans to see alternative ways to present your action plan. Finally the full version of the plan needs to be on the Town Council website.</p>	<p>Minutes in appendices. Plan has been updated as can be seen by comments made (in italics and bold). Coloured text has not been used as this does not meet the Website Accessibility Regulations 2018 which the Town Council website must adhere to. Plan will go through full process of review on 2024. BGAG only taken on management of Green Flag in 2022 so have used most recent (and very comprehensive) Judges' feedback as many comments understandably same/similar to previous comments made.</p>	<p>Y</p>
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Field Assessment

Judges Feedback & Actions/Comments				
Field Assessment				
Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations	Actions/Comments	Complete
A Welcoming Place	The park is accessible from a number of entrance points. Once onto the site the entrance was welcoming, particularly from the South Street entrance, the main one from the town. New access path across part of the park.	Park is not easy to find from surrounding roads. Improve both directional and entrance signage. Prune around lighting columns at the Cattle Arch Entrance and lift crown of tree at Warwick Way entrance. As per previous Green Flag judging comments, consider a mural under the bridge.	New welcome sign at Prior Park entrance. <i>Explore directional signage on TC owned land (South Street wall etc) in 2023/24.</i> Station Rd access route will change so difficult to place there at present. Cattle arch tree LCC owned, not TC. Tree at Warwick Way - will only lift crown if identified on our tree report. TC did consider a mural on cattle arch but did not wish to pursue this. Also to note, this is National Rail property. To confirm, there are finger post signs directing pedestrians to the Bath Grounds at South and North Street car parks, Coxons Mews car park and Market Street near the sorting office and bus stop. Have also placed map with pedestrian and traffic access points clearly marked on our website and social media	Will add further signage once Station Road works complete - TBA

A Welcoming Place	Nice interpretation of the site's history with new heritage signs. Good public art mosaic.	Prior Road and South Street – despite constraints of approach, road layout etc., consider how signage and entrance could be improved.	New welcome sign at Prior Park entrance now installed and includes fish mosaic. New noticeboard installed at South Street entrance just by start of heritage trail. Groundstaff also working on semi circle bed, to right hand of South Street entrance.	Spring 2024
Healthy, Safe & Secure	The site has an open aspect creating good sightlines and a self policing feel. Lighting in the park and CCTV at cricket pavilion. Defibrillator in cricket pavilion. The information provided after the judging helped clarify the position regarding tree inspection and maintenance. Look to include this as appendices to the plan in future submissions.	Signs of <i>Chalara</i> on Ash trees on South Street entrance.	LCC Tree Officer contacted to check for ash die back. Will check when next in Bath Grounds. <i>Update from Tree Officer 'I would suggest that we monitor these trees within the current inspection regime, inspecting these in there growth period (Spring/Summer) to ascertain any further spread of the infection before any action is taken'.</i>	Spring 2024
Healthy, Safe & Secure		The speed sign on the access track of Prior Road was obscured by the litter bins.	Obstruction now removed	Yes
Healthy, Safe & Secure		Consider a Defibrillator that is accessible for all park users or promote the locations of the 2 in the town centre	Nowhere suitable to install defib outside at Bath Grounds. Defib signs ordered - to direct people to the two defibs on Market Street and also one in the cricket club. <i>Signs now erected</i>	Yes

Healthy, Safe & Secure		Review markings for car park to create disability access spaces.	Great idea. Quote received for all car parking spaces, including disabled. However, new planning application for Royal Hotel states that car park will be used as a hammerhead turn for service vehicles. The likelihood is that the car park position may change so no action can be taken until then.	Review Winter 2023
Healthy, Safe & Secure		Consider the demand for a children's play area as part of the current consultation.	<i>This was also a top answer on the Bath Grounds survey. However, were also many comments against this suggestion. To discuss at next meeting in Feb 2023.</i> Update: BGAG decided on wooden fun trail, agreed by P&C Committee, expected installation Dec 2023	Completion expected Dec 2023
Well Maintained & Clean	Looked well maintained - grass mown, no litter seen and minimal dog fouling.	A couple of the Heritage Trail markers were overgrown and a sign on the on the lamp post at the Prior Road was illegible due to dirt.	FOABG have confirmed these have been cleaned	Yes
Well Maintained & Clean	Bespoke designed seating was attractive and clean.	There was old leaf litter around the bed feature at the South Street entrance which detracted slightly from the impact of entry.	The 'bed feature' at the right hand side of the South Street entrance has yet to be planted - assume this is the area in question? The team will be planting trees and shrubs that will attract wildlife - bees, butterflies etc. whilst also providing an attractive entrance feature	Autumn 2023

Well Maintained & Clean	Cricket club doing a good job of maintaining square and outfield. Attractive landscaped bed near main entrance maintained by Friends group.	The areas fenced off due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed are unsightly and don't appear to be actively monitored for re-growth and a restoration plan.	This is an incorrect assumption - the areas have been monitored regularly by an external company that is a specialist in this pest. We have now received the all clear from the company and have now removed the fencing. Planting of the area will take place in the spring of 2024.	Spring 2024
Environmental Management	Recycling bins were in two locations on the site and appeared to be properly used. There are lots of areas with a more relaxed maintenance regime but these are just outside the parks boundary but can be seen by visitors to the park. The Environmental Policy was provided after the judging visit but as with the tree information this needs to be provided as an appendix to the management plan.	Grass cuttings were in the large bin which will reduce the capacity for which it was intended and ideally these should be composted.	The bowls club do not have any space for a composter. They have been using chemicals on the green (hence having to dispose of the arisings affected by the chemicals) but will look to change this and use an environmentally and animal friendly pesticide. The ground staff are now taking the unaffected grass cuttings up to the depot for composting.	Yes
Environmental Management		The whole procurement and supply chain needs assessing in regards to peat use.	No peat is procured or used by the Town Council's Ground team. Only peat free compost is used in the planting of flowers, shrubs and trees	Yes
Environmental Management		The actions identified in the Habitat survey done in 2021 by Leicestershire County Council need to be considered and actioned as appropriate.	This has been actioned - progress to be reviewed periodically at subsequent BGAG meetings	Yes

Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	The hedge laying and wildflower walk were positive interventions to increase biodiversity and add to landscape integrity.	Opportunities exist to relax the mowing regime in areas across the park to provide varied habitat for biodiversity and visual interest for visitors.	Spring and summer meadows to start from 2023. Locations identified and native spring bulbs already planted	Yes
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage		Opportunity to plant up the cleared bed at the South Street entrance, this is currently work in progress.	Grounds team to plant buddleia, rhododendron, crab apple and wild cherry in spring 2023	Yes
Community Involvement	Historically the site has benefited from community involvement by the Friends group. With a new Management group there is potential to develop this further and build on what has been achieved in the past . The new Bath Grounds Advisory Group which has representatives from stakeholders of the wider community, i.e. Cricket Club is a positive way forward.	Use the information from the survey to influence the Management Plan.	Top three - additional seating, play/gym area, shrubs/flowers. Shrubs and flowers have been discussed - to be planted at South Street entrance, native bulbs by Prior Park (nr spring and summer meadows) already planted, additional spring bulbs planted near Prior Park & the wild flower walk already planted by volunteer group. Play/gym to be discussed early 2023. Seating - have now promoted bench scheme on website. This gives members of public opportunity to have commemoration bench installed	Yes
Community Involvement	A wide range of events is held on site attracting large numbers of the local community.			
Community Involvement	A consultation exercise is underway with the local community to understand better what people want from the site.			

Marketing and Communication	There is a good web presence for the site through a dedicated Friends group website and through the Town Council website. Signs evident on the park promoting future events and Green Flag flying proudly.	Could notice boards be used for providing information from Advisory Group meetings?	<i>Update: noticeboard has now been installed. Poster providing details of BGAG & where to view minutes now added to board</i>	Yes
Management	The Town Council and other site stakeholders are obviously proud of the site and understand it's importance to the Town.	There needs to be clear objectives which deliver the policy aspirations of the Town Council, i.e. Environment & Biodiversity Policy, which are translated into a deliverable action plan.	The Town Council chose to apply for Green Flag status for this very reason. The criteria are its objectives. The management plan, biodiversity report and this document (Green Flag Action Plan) are its deliverable action plan, managed by the BGAG.	Yes
Management	There is energy and determination from stakeholders to secure the future of the park and ensure it is a valuable community resource.	The above policy states minimising use of pesticides – how is this implemented and audited to demonstrate that intent?	The Town Council do not purchase or use any pesticides in any of its green spaces including the Bath Grounds. All purchases are checked and logged on our systems to ensure they meet the requisite criteria. Where chemicals are purchased e.g. weed and feed, COSHH data is acquired	Yes

Management		The responsibilities for ownership and management are multiple across the site which presents a danger of assumption and a lack of co-ordination. It wasn't entirely apparent of an overall framework that pulled it together. Hopefully the new Advisory Group will be able to do this.	This was disappointing to read as the BGAG have been up and running since autumn 2021, meet regularly and have a management plan. Each body/member is aware of its own responsibilities. There are no instances where something has been missed as it was assumed the task was being completed by another party (i.e. danger of assumption & lack of coordination)	Yes
Management		Continue to explore the possibility of taking on the Bullens land, this would make an excellent wetland addition to the site	The Town Clerk has spoken to the owners to make them aware of our interest. The owners are pursuing options	Review end 2024

Summary and additional comments:	<p>At the present time the uncertainty about the lease is a 'millstone' for the Town Council. Striving to resolve this must be a priority as it is holding up any potential improvements. The Town Council appears to have some great ideas for the park but are treading water at the present time. These ideas need to be translated to actions. The park at the present time has been awarded the Green Flag but this is a very marginal pass and judges in subsequent years will need to see improvements and actions completed for the Green Flag to be retained. The park offers lots of potential and is clearly a great community asset but the uncertainty of the lease creates the unfortunate impression of a park unable to move forward. It is good that the customer survey is taking place and this will be invaluable in taking then park forward hopefully when the ownership is sorted. The Town Council may wish to consider pausing its application for a Green Flag until the ownership issue is resolved. Thank you to all involved in the visit and good luck in resolving the lease.</p>	<p>A clear budget needs to be established for the park which is the Town Councils Flagship site.</p>	<p>A budget has been created - this includes capex items e.g. new notice boards, repairs etc and is attached as an appendix to the management plan</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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Summary and additional comments:		The role of the Friends Group needs to be clarified and it would be good to see it be more hands on rather than just a campaign group.	Th FOABG are 'hands on' - they have recently cleaned the interpretation boards, weeded the shrub bed near the start of the heritage trail at the south street entrance and assisted with bulb planting	Yes
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Habitat Scoping Survey & recommendations for Biodiversity with actions

The habitat Scoping Survey is a PDF document that can be found on [this link](#).

Meadow Enhancement

Recommendation	Initial suggestions	Start date	Approve/or comment
Identify and mark out possible areas to allow a no-mow regime. The area identified should be mown once in in late March or early April, then left until late August. Grass can then be cut and removed until it stops growing in late Autumn. This will stimulate a 'summer meadow effect', removing arisings will gradually, over time, reduce vigour.	Area in between the Wildflower Walk and cricket pitch	Spring 2023	BGAG recommend summer meadow situated where the fish mosaic is situated. Would be more likely to encourage wildlife. Dogs don't access this land etc
Areas adjacent to the 'summer meadow' can be treated as a 'spring meadow'. Where mowing is similar to 'summer meadow' above, but mowing in this area can resume earlier, usually at the end of June. Again, arisings should be removed to lower vigour of site grasses over time. Both regimes, 'summer and spring meadow' will encourage seeds to grow and ripen which will reseed the area creating a more diverse plant community over time. Some of the seed will be taken by sparrows, goldfinch and other seed eating birds, thereby encouraging diversity.	Area in between the Wildflower Walk and cricket pitch	Spring 2023	BGAG recommend spring meadow placed adjacent to summer meadow. Dogs don't access this land etc. <i>UPDATE: both meadows established, signs placed in meadows explaining low grass. No negative feedback from visitors to grounds.</i>
Scarifying to create bare earth areas within the 'summer and spring meadows' in the autumn and seeding with red clover, birds foot trefoil, yellow rattle will help to encourage a more diverse insect population. Lady's bedstraw and cornflower would be good additions to the taller 'summer meadow' areas, and field-forget-me-not to the shorter 'spring meadow' areas. Seeds can be sown directly on to the area in the autumn or early winter, as some seeds need vernalisation to germinate. Be generous with seeds as some will be taken by birds.	Need to consider extra time needed and additional costs for equipment. This would be actioned once spring and summer meadow established so review Autumn 2023 with a view to starting then, or if meadows not fully yet established, autumn 2024	Review Autumn 2023	BGAG suggest using Cricket club scarifier if TC groundstaff don't have one

Fritillary, native daffodil and native tulip bulbs or plugs and be planted in both areas but should not be mown at all until they have died back and reseeded, therefore, these areas should be chosen well.	There are online sites that sell native bulbs – e.g., 50 bulbs between £16 and £30 from wildflowershop.co.uk . Suggest we order 50 of each and place these in part of the summer meadow	Late Autumn 2022	BGAG recommend purchasing native bulbs – 50 of each – and planting these in summer meadow (by fish mosaic) as there are daffodil bulbs already planted in the area by Lionel's bench. <i>Update: an additional 100 bulbs purchased. All planted (native daffodils, tulips and snake head fritillary). See website for photos</i>
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Habitat Creation and Enhancement

Recommendation	Suggestions/comments	Start date	Approve/or comment
Consider a storage area in a corner/s of the site for a compost area/s. Some of the grass cuttings can be stored here with other bulkier debris from site including leaves, twigs and other compostable material to help keep the maturing compost aerated. No cooked foods should be added to the compost as this may encourage rats. This would provide habitat for invertebrates and may help retain passing amphibians and reptiles, as well as small mammals.	Grass cuttings from bowls club contain fertiliser so can't be composted. There is a composter at the yard so this could be used (though not on site)	Immediate	Cricket club have composter. Their fertiliser is not harmful to animals. BGAG suggest bowls club use unharmed fertiliser so grass arisings can be composted. TC can then compost arisings at the depot. <i>UPDATE: TC now collecting grass arising from bowls club to be composted</i>
A bird feeding station may also be considered in a quieter area of the site close to hedges and trees.	Is this something the FOABG could take on? Possible site location identified	Winter 2023	BGAG recommend no action. This is contradictory to encouraging wildlife to eat from natural resources incl spring & summer meadow and additional hedgerows, trees and shrubs
Bird nesting boxes and bat roosting boxes could be installed on mature trees. Sparrow and starling boxes would be a great asset to the site and 'mesh' nicely with a lower mowing regime. Bat boxes may also be used by blue tits and wrens as places to roost over winter too.	Already have some installed on Wildlife Walk. Could erect additional boxes by large oak	Early 2023	BGAG suggest, if safe to do so, trained groundsman to check if existing ones are being used. May need to relocate if not.

	tree in between Maggie's and Lionel's benches		<i>UPDATE: Additional bird boxes purchased and installed</i>
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Hedgerows, trees and shrubs

Consider introducing new mixed fruit and nectar rich species hedges to site. Hedges are known to be beneficial to biodiversity enhancement, as is under planting the hedge with native flora.	Suggest utilising shrub bed by south Street entrance. Buddleia and rhododendron to encourage bees and butterflies	Spring 2023	BGAG agree with suggestions. Securing/purchasing of shrubs to be actioned. <i>UPDATE: An array of plants and shrubs have been purchased and planted along the fence from South Street and Rawdon Terrace. All RHS recommended shrubs/plants. Most attracting bees, butterflies and other insects.</i>
Consider further planting of individual native tree and shrub species on the site where possible, perhaps to include fruit and nut trees.	Suggest utilising shrub bed by south Street entrance. Crab apple and wild cherry trees.	Autumn 2023	BGAG agree with suggestions. Securing/purchasing of shrubs to be actioned. <i>UPDATE: Six native fruit trees planted alongside Heritage Trail</i>

Ashby Bath Grounds Survey 2022/23

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council are conducting a short survey regarding the Ashby Bath Grounds and would like your feedback. This survey closes on 30th June 2022. Once all the data has been collated, the Town Council will look at where potential changes need to be made in the future, budget constraints permitting.

Please note:

- This survey is only applicable for members of the public who visit the Bath Grounds.
- It does not include the Royal Hotel, the Royal Hotel Car Park or Hastings Gardens.
- The survey is completely anonymous.
- It should take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Section 1 – Visiting the Bath Grounds

Q1 On average how often do you visit the Bath Grounds? – Please tick one box only

Every day	Several days a week	Once a week	Once a month	Rarely
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q2 On average, how long do you usually stay in the Bath Grounds? – Please tick one box only

0 – 1 hour	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 – 2 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 2 hours	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q3 What are your main reasons for visiting the Bath Grounds? – Please tick all that apply

Just passing through	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relax/somewhere to be e.g. during lunch break	<input type="checkbox"/>
To go for a walk/exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal games e.g football, frisbee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	To attend a formal sports activity e.g. bowls, cricket	<input type="checkbox"/>
To socialise with friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	To attend an event e.g. Proms in the Park etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic/somewhere to eat or drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 2 – What do you think about the Bath Grounds?

Q4 How would you rate each of the following? – Please tick one box per row

	Excellent	Good	Okay	Poor
Accessibility (e.g. wheelchair users)				
Paths (condition, width, enough)				
Trees, plants and shrubs				
Seating				
Signage/information				
Gates/railing/boundaries				
Grassed areas				
Litter management				
Dog fouling management				
General condition of the Bath Grounds				
Lighting				
Design & appearance of grounds				

Q5 How safe do you feel using the Bath Grounds? – Please tick one box only

Very safe	Safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Slightly unsafe	Very unsafe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q6 What is your overall impression of Ashby Bath Grounds? – Please tick one box only

Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion/don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q7 How can the Bath Grounds be improved? (e.g. what new /improved facilities).

Section 3 – Personal Information

Q10 Gender – Please tick one box only

Male ☐ Female ☐ Non binary ☐ Other ☐ Prefer not to day ☐

Q11 Your age group? – Please tick one box only

Under 12 ☐ 12 to 19 ☐ 20 to 34 ☐
35 to 49 ☐ 50 to 64 ☐ 65 or over ☐

Q12 Are you registered as have a disability – Please tick one box only

Yes ☐ No ☐ Prefer not to say ☐

Volunteering Opportunities

Would you be prepared to volunteer to help to maintain and improve the standard of the Ashby Bath Grounds e.g. litter picking, bat and bird surveys etc? If so, please contact Ashby de la Zouch Town Council on 01530 416961 or email info@ashbytowncouncil.org.uk.

Survey Completion

If you are completing this survey on Microsoft Word, the completed questionnaire can be emailed to info@ashbytowncouncil.org.uk or posted to Ashby Town Council, Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, LE65 1BQ. All responses received by email - anonymous questionnaires will be saved on the council system and email addresses will be deleted.

The survey data will be collected, analysed and stored by the Town Council. The results of the survey, including the number of responses received, will be published on the Town Council website. All survey data is anonymous – personal information is not asked for or required. If any surveys are returned to the Town Council with personal information included the personal information will be erased.

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire.

Ashby Bath Grounds Survey 2022/23

Foreword

Ashby de la Zouch Town Council conducted a short survey regarding the Ashby Bath Grounds. The survey ran from 1st May 2022 until 30th June 2022. The data has been collated and will be used by the Bath Grounds Advisory Group and the Town Council to look at where potential changes can be made in the future, budget constraints permitting.

Please note:

- This survey was only applicable for members of the public who visit the Bath Grounds.
- It did not include the Royal Hotel, the Royal Hotel Car Park or Hastings Gardens & responses relating to these were removed.



1. On average, how often do you visit the Bath Grounds? - Please tick one box only

Every Day	68	- 13%
Several days a week	194	- 40%
Once a week	147	- 30%
Once a month	71	- 14%
Rarely	18	- 4%



40% people answered "Several days a week" for question 1

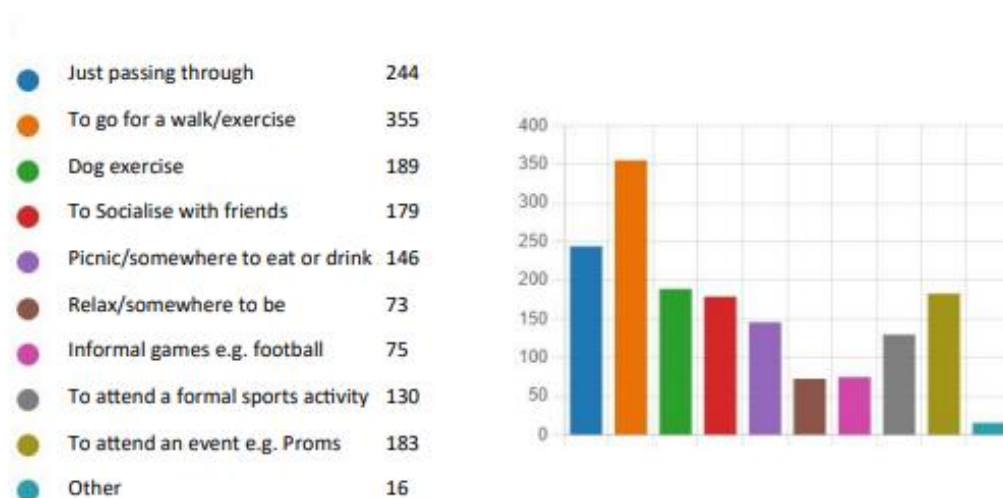
2. On average, how long do you usually stay in the Bath Grounds? - Please tick one box only

0 - 1 hour	359	- 72%
1 - 2 hour	98	- 20%
More than 2 hours	41	- 8%



72% people answered "0 -1 hour" for question 2

3. What are your main reasons for visiting the Bath Grounds? - Please tick one box only

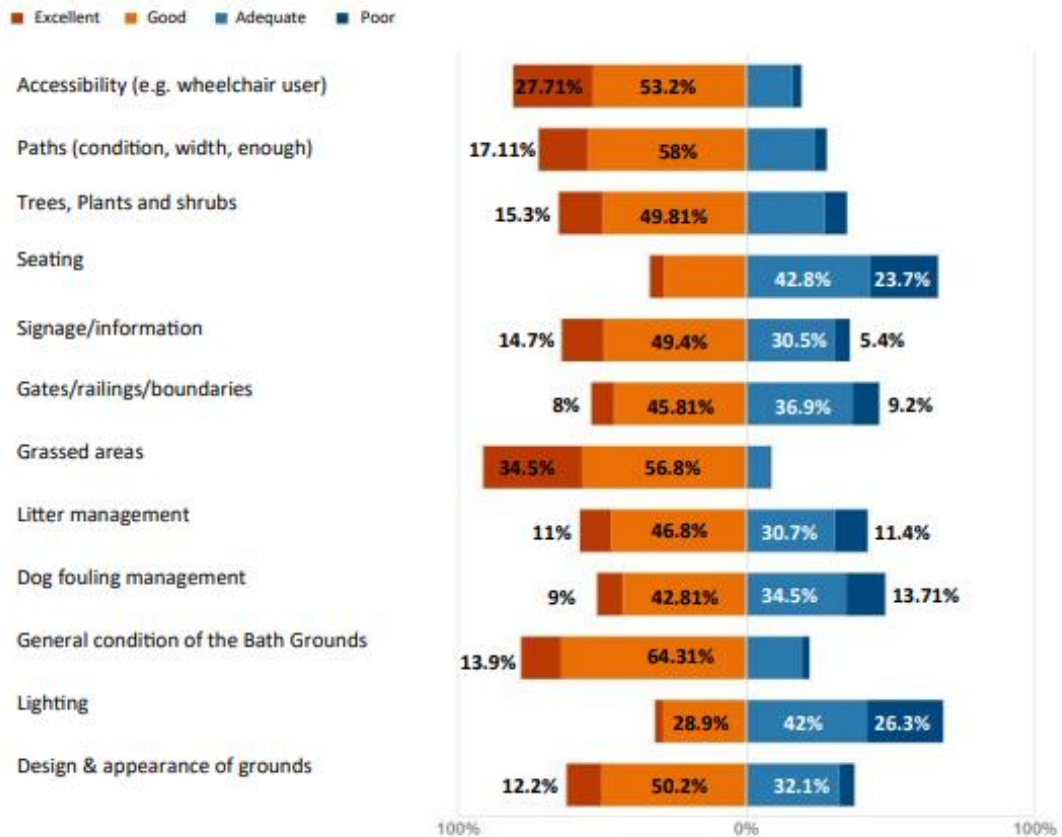


Most popular reasons for visiting the grounds were

1. To go for a walk / exercise
2. Just passing through
3. Dog exercise
4. To attend an event e.g. Proms
5. To socialise with friends

The 'Other' comments were variations of the above

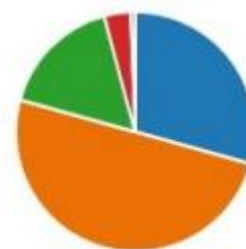
4. How would you rate each of the following? - Please tick one box only



Areas that were 50% or higher on "good" or "excellent" were "Accessibility", "Paths", "Grassed areas" and "General condition" of Bath Grounds. Areas that were 50% or higher on "adequate" or "poor" were "Seating and lighting".

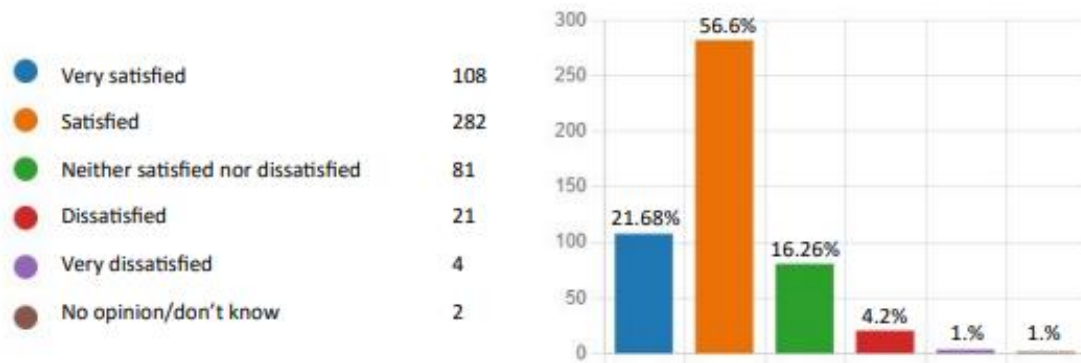
5. How safe do you feel using the Bath Grounds? - Please tick one box only

Very safe	146	- 29%
Safe	249	- 50%
Neither safe nor unsafe	82	- 16%
Slightly unsafe	18	- 4%
Very unsafe	3	- 1%



Nearly 80% of those surveyed felt safe or very safe

6. What is your overall impression of Ashby Bath Grounds? - Please tick one box only

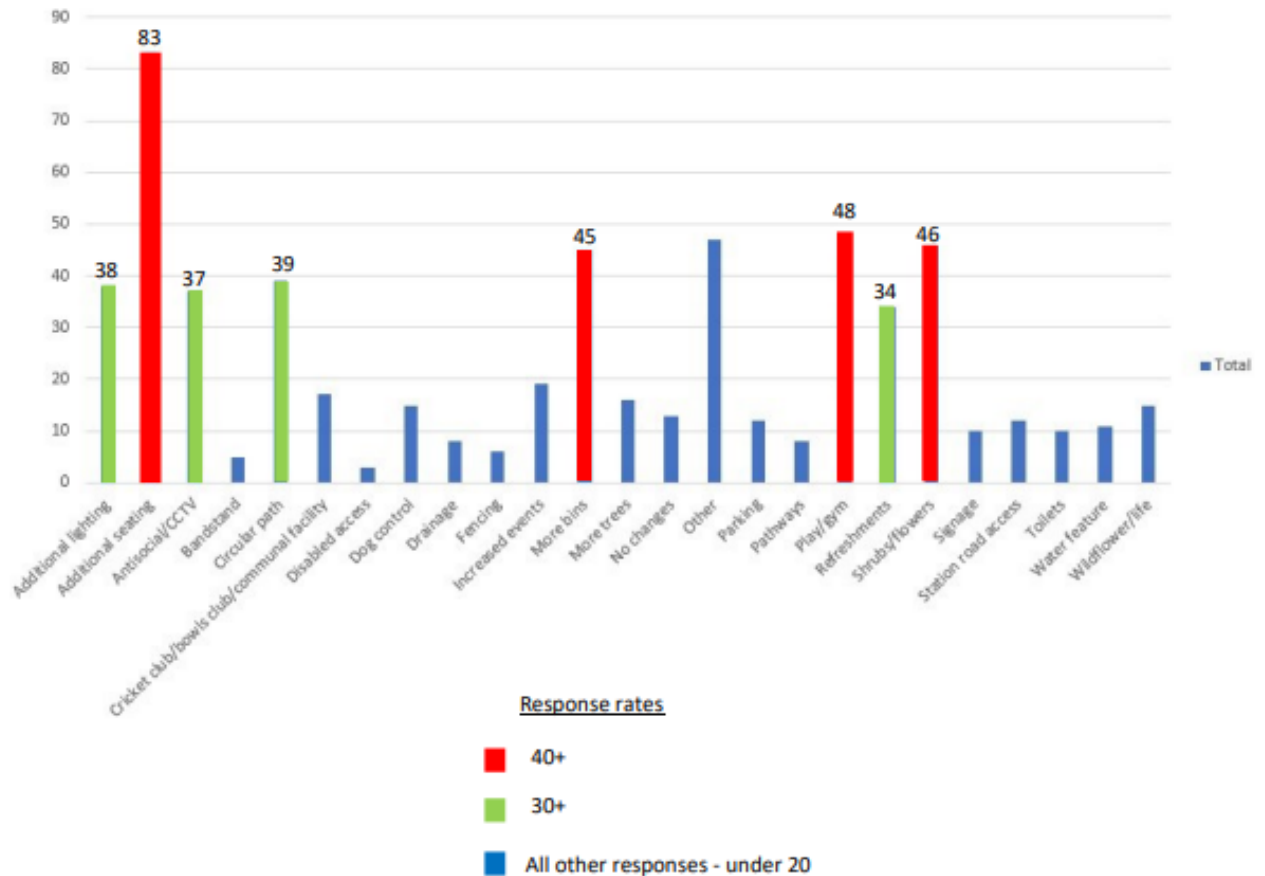


78% of those surveyed were either satisfied or very satisfied

7. How can the Bath Grounds be improved?



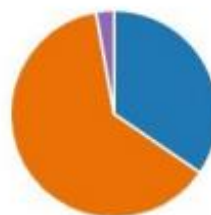
597 individual improvements were identified from 355 respondents



“Other” - individual comments that could not be categorised e.g. “Railway platform”

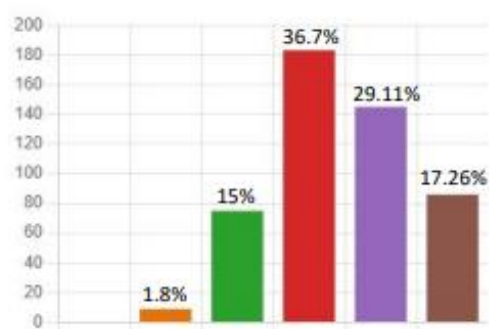
8. Gender—Please tick one box only

Male	172	35%
Female	312	63%
Non-binary	0	
Other	0	
Prefer not to say	14	3%



9. What age group? - Please tick one box only

Under 12	0
12 to 19	9
20 to 34	75
35 to 49	183
50 to 64	145
65 or over	86



10. Are you registered as having a disability? - Please tick one box

Yes	17	- 3%
No	465	- 94%
Prefer not to say	16	-3%





Memorial Bench application request



Supply of 1x seat with broad back slats, 2 cast iron ends and a commemorative plaque.

Set of 2 ground fixing bolts.

Delivery charge.

Groundworks in the Bath Grounds, including plinth.

Prices are approximately £1,000 for all of above.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please return this completed application to admin@ashbytowncouncil.gov.uk or post to Ashby de la Zouch Town council, Legion House, South Street, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1BQ

The Bath Grounds Tree Schedule is a PDF document that can be found on [this link](#)



FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURAL GROUP
TREE REPORT

Ashby Town Council

Bath Street Grounds

14th May 2020

SURVEYOR: ALAN SMITH



CONTENTS

- 1 General Tree Statement 5
- 2 Tree Works 5
- 3 Recommendations 6
- 4 Site Maps 7
- 6 Appendices 9

Included separately to this report

- Tree survey schedule

PURPOSE

This report has been prepared for Ashby Town Council as part of the tree safety survey conducted on 14th May 2020. It includes all trees owned by the Parish on the following sites:

- *Bath Street Grounds*

Details for the individual trees may be found in the separate accompanying schedule.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The survey has been conducted from ground level and has included a close visual inspection of the external features of all significant trees on the site. The trees are plotted and numbered on the enclosed plan and details of each individual tree are given on the survey schedule attached.

Where an identified defect represents a potential hazard to users of the site, recommendations for remedial tree work have been detailed against individual trees. These works have been prioritised into the categories specified below and are detailed within the attached schedule.

FINDINGS

Recommendations for remedial works have been made in the survey under Urgent, Priority 1, Priority 2 or Routine works. These trees have been identified as requiring attention at the time of the survey. You are advised to take the necessary steps to arrange for the recommended work to be completed.

'High Risk' trees are large trees close to busy areas with one or more significant defects that potentially threaten the structural integrity of the tree. These trees may be required to be re-inspected every 18 months. Any trees in this category will be highlighted in the report.

Routine works are those that may be picked up as part of your routine grounds maintenance cycle over three years. In some cases, these may be works that could be carried out by your own ground staff at no additional cost.

All trees should be kept routinely clear of ivy so that any evidence of poor health or safety concerns can be identified. Where trees have not been inspected, it is possible that they may not be covered by your insurance in the event of an incident. They should therefore be cleared and booked in for re-inspection as soon as possible.

1. General Tree Statement

One-hundred and fifty individual trees and one tree group were surveyed and were generally found to be in good health for their age, species and context. Much of the recommended work relates to the routine severance of ivy and the removal of a small number of dead trees. There is also a large mature beech tree on the grounds, that requires further investigation following the findings of two principle decay fungi around the base of the main stem.

Trees on this site are not protected by local planning authority statutory tree protection. It is not understood whether the site is subject to Tree Preservation Orders and you should make efforts to check there are no restrictions present on the trees and any necessary permissions are in place prior to commencing any work.

TREE WORKS



TREE NUMBER	
PRIORITY 1	T103, T164, T157
PRIORITY 2	T56, T57, T161
ROUTINE	T46, T60, T110, T111, T159, T160, T162

Urgent Works – There are currently no urgent works to be undertaken

Priority 1 – Remedial Health and Safety works to be completed within 3 months of report

Priority 2 – Remedial Health and Safety works to be completed within 1 year of report

Routine – Routine works to be completed within 3 years or as part of your regular grounds maintenance

The priority ratings provide an indication of how quickly recommended works should be carried out. Where you have a number of large, mature trees on site and increased costs, you may wish to prioritise those trees located within high impact areas.

NB. Quotes for recommended works can be obtained from LCC contractors upon request.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- All detailed tree management work recommendations as identified in the schedule should be carried out as the priority states.
- T46 – Common Lime. Sever ivy at base of main stem.
- T60 – Common Lime. Dead and collapsed tree resting on fence. Not an immediate safety concern but may require clearing as part of your routine maintenance.
- T110 and T111 – Common Ash species. Sever ivy on both trees.
- T159 and T160 – Sycamore species. Sever ivy on both trees.
- T162 – Elm. Sever ivy.
- T161 – Black Poplar. Very large dead limb hung up in adjacent elm tree. Could potentially be a safety hazard. Remove at nearest opportunity.
- T56 and T57 – Rowan species. Straight fell two dead/dying trees.
- T103 – Wild Cherry. Straight fell dead tree
- T164 – Elm. Straight fell dead tree

Trees of Note:

T102 – Wild Cherry. Old decay fungi brackets are present on both main stems. The tree however appears to be in good overall health. Keep under observation for any signs of deterioration.

T157 – Common Beech. A large, mature specimen situated adjacent to one of the main pathways into the park grounds. There is evidence of two principle decay fungi being present at the base of the main stem. Further investigation is required with specialist decay detection equipment to ascertain the extent of the decay present. Further remedial works to the tree may be required depending on the results gained from investigation.

(The cost of the further investigation is not included in the estimated guide costs. Should you require for us to provide this service, a separate quotation can be given)

SITE MAPS





6. APPENDICES

I) TREE SURVEYS

- The survey has included a close visual inspection of the external features of all significant trees on the site.
- The trees were inspected from ground level with no climbing inspections undertaken. No samples have been removed from the site for analysis.
- It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy – whether intentional or unintentional - the nesting sites of wild birds or the roost sites of bats, under the 'Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and the 'Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000'. It is not permitted to carry out significant tree works if active bird nests or bat roosts are present and trees must be professionally surveyed for signs of bat roosts and/or bat activity before any tree works commence.

RE-INSPECTION PROCEDURE

It is important that trees are regularly inspected to monitor condition and identify any necessary remedial works. It is recommended that the following reinspection schedule should apply:

- **High Risk Trees**- re-inspections will take place every 18 months
- **Moderate Risk Trees** - re-inspections every three years
- **Low Risk Trees** - re-inspections every six years

All trees should be included in formal routine (i.e. annual) risk assessments carried out by a suitably competent member of the site staff – an additional risk assessment should always be undertaken immediately following severe weather events i.e. high winds, heavy rain or snow falls. If in doubt regarding the safety of a particular tree, please contact the County Council's Forestry Group.

TREE WORKS

- All tree works should be carried out in line with British Standard 3998:2010 – "British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works".
- The above prices are included only as a guide and are liable to vary if site conditions (e.g. restricted access, school break times) dictate or where works are ordered at a later date. They are based on competitively tendered rates, which have been submitted to the County Council under a formal procurement arrangement. These rates apply to a specification which requires high standards of arboricultural practice and is in accordance with the British Standard. They also include the cost of independent supervision by the County Council's Forestry Group.
- Stump chipping will only be included for stumps of felled trees where these are considered to be a hazard. (e.g. adjacent to thoroughfares). You may, however, wish to consider removing other stumps on the site if you are concerned that they may be an obstruction or potential hazard.
- Should you choose to make your own arrangements, all works should be carried out by a competent, suitably qualified and appropriately insured arboricultural contractor in accordance with the British Standard. You should have regard to your 'duty of care' under the

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 when directly employing tree-work contractors, and your potential liability if damage or injury occurs because of poor practices.

- If the trees proposed for work are included in any statutory protection (e.g. tree preservation orders) no intervention should take place until written permission has been obtained from the relevant authority.
- The trees inspected and detailed within this report have been selected for inclusion due to their influence on the site. Where works have been recommended to trees outside the ownership of the site, these can only progress with the agreement of the owner, except where it involves parts of the trees overhanging the boundary.

LIMITATIONS

Tree inspection reports are subject to the following limitations:

- Given the dynamic nature of trees and their environment, the condition of the trees could alter at any time. All trees should be inspected by the school on an annual basis and any recorded findings of concerns be reported to the County Council's Forestry Group.
- Where trees are visually obscured (e.g. ivy) they should be made visible before a full visual inspection can take place. Any limitations of the assessment will be highlighted in the report.
- The validity, accuracy and findings of this report will be directly related to the accuracy of the information made available prior to and during its production. Leicestershire County Council will not be responsible for the recommendations within this report where essential data is not made available or is inaccurate.
- This report is valid as of the date of inspection, and only whilst site conditions remain unaltered. It may become invalid if for example construction works or changes in soil level take place in close proximity to the tree or trees concerned.
- It must also be appreciated that recommendations proposed within this report may be superseded by extreme weather, or any other unreasonably foreseeable events. Trees should be internally inspected after adverse weather conditions and any changes reported to the County Council's Forestry Group.

If you would like further advice with regard to the survey or would like to arrange for the recommended work to be carried out, please contact Alan Smith (alan.smith@leics.gov.uk) or Rob Hardingham (rob.hardingham@leics.gov.uk). Records of works to your trees can then be maintained and updated accordingly on our dedicated tree management database.

II) TREE SURGERY AND MAINTENANCE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following terms, which may be included in your tree survey, relate to tree surgery and felling operations as defined in the County Council's forestry and arboricultural specifications and in British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work':-

- General Works* – this operation consists of a number of basic maintenance tasks including the removal of suckers, basal growth and dense shoot growth from the trunk of the tree, repair of minor bark wounds, removal of foreign debris, removal of minor branches which obstruct overhead services and access and the severance of climbing plants such as Ivy.
- Crown Lifting* - this operation consists of the removal of lower branches, twigs and dense shoot growth from the trunk of the tree in order to increase the clearance under its canopy.
- Cleaning Out* - the removal of dead, dying, diseased and irreparably damaged branches from throughout the crown of the tree.
- Crown Thinning* - the removal of a proportion of secondary lateral branches from the main branch structure of the tree to achieve an increase in light penetration through the it's crown and lessen the degree of resistance in windy conditions.
- Crown Reduction* - this operation includes the reduction in the overall height and spread of a tree whilst retaining a natural shape to its crown, typical of the species.
- Formative Pruning* - the selective pruning of the tree in order to promote the development of a well-formed mature specimen of a shape, habit and branch structure typical of the species.
- Further Investigation* - a more detailed and precise analysis of inaccessible areas, internal cavities, compressed forks etc.
- Pollarding* - this operation consists of a substantial reduction in the height and/or spread of a trees crown to a point from where a new crown may develop. This is often carried out to remove potential weak points and is a method of management which needs to be repeated at regular intervals.
- Straight Felling* - the felling of a whole tree in one operation.
- Sectional Felling* - the felling/dismantling of a tree in sections of a size appropriate to the location so as to avoid damage to surrounding features.

If you require any further clarification of the recommendations detailed in your tree survey, please contact the Forestry Group on 0116 3056920.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Legion House, South Street 16th June 2023 – 10am

Attendees	
Alison Morley – ATC - Town Councillor - Chair	AM
Mel Mitchell – ATC - Deputy Town Clerk - Vice Chair	MM
Chris Smith - Friends of the Bath Grounds	CS
Will Hawkins - Bowls Club	WH
Delyth Perry – Ashby Litter Picking Group	DP
Cat Ridgway, Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC	CR
Amy Lord – ATC Groundstaff	AL
Natalie Bone – Minutes	

Agenda

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>AM welcomed all attendees to the BGAG meeting and introduced herself as the new Chair of the group.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies & Housekeeping</p> <p>MM advised on evacuation procedures and advised she had received apologies from TY and WT.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes & review of actions</p> <p>Minutes from the previous BGAG meeting held on 21st April 2023 were approved by all.</p> <p>AM raised action points from 21st April 2023 minutes:</p> <p>Signage - AL advised that advisory signage will be going up on Monday 19th June.</p> <p>Bird boxes - MM advised that additional boxes have been ordered & the Headgroundsman will ensure these are installed in appropriate areas.</p> <p>Planting - MM advised that the application for funding from the NWLDC community grant in respect of the purchase of additional hedges, trees & shrubs had been superseded by the application for the Bath Grounds Play trail. AL confirmed that the South Street borders are 80% complete.</p>	<p>MM/AL</p> <p>AL</p>

	<p>MM requested that AL chased up the Head Groundsman on the purchasing of additional shrubs for South Street.</p> <p>Tree locations – AL confirmed that the ATC ground staff are looking at locations for additional tree planting. MM advised that the ATC office will take a steer from the ground staff on this matter.</p> <p>Pizza boxes & rubbish – some members of the group said that pizza boxes were still a big problem in the park. DP advised that in her opinion additional bins are needed on the Bath Grounds to deal with the increasing litter.</p> <p>MM advised that the Town Council have had to hire an additional skip since Covid so costs have doubled.</p> <p>AM advised that we need to be clear which businesses the pizza boxes are coming from. CR suggested that we could look at changing the bins seasonally, putting in larger ones over the summer months. MM explained that the existing bins are anchored down so can't be removed easily.</p> <p>Noticeboard - MM updated the group that the notice board had been ordered in early May and we were expecting delivery early July time.</p> <p>Bulbs scheme - CR advised that the Green Shoots scheme will be open for applications from 25th July until 2nd September and that a Long Season Bulb Mix had been added to the bulb varieties offered.</p> <p>CCTV - In respect of South Street CCTV, CR advised that Paul had provided an update at the last Pubwatch meeting and the CCTV is expected to be installed late summer.</p>	AL
4.	<p>Operational matters & updates</p> <p>MM – All positive feedback from the Kings Coronation Event. All agreed it was very successful.</p> <p>MM provided update from WT - Police had received reports of a person sleeping rough on the Memorial Grounds. Whilst not on the Bath Grounds, it is very nearby. CR advised she would follow this up with the relevant department at NWLDC. MM advised of reports of youths drinking on the BG's and that she had written to the Police Commander to see if he would attend the next Licensing Committee meeting.</p>	CR

	<p>MM advised the group that the ATC office do get visits from PC Ryan Lang and it was suggested that MM should invite PC Ryan Lang and PC Tom Gregory to the next BGAG meeting.</p> <p>CR advised that reports of mopeds being ridden had been raised at NWLDC and this issue is on the radar at NWLDC. CR advised that Community Safety will liaise will work with the Police on this matter and to report incidents to Community Safety at NWLDC. MM advised that the Police have advised to contact Leicestershire Police either via the Leicestershire Police Facebook page or online, rather than telephoning 101.</p>	MM
5.	<p>Trim Trail – confirm location & equipment.</p> <p>CS requested that it is not referred to as a Trim Trail. All agreed that it would be referred to as a Play Trail.</p> <p>DP asked about installation - MM advised this equipment would be installed directly into the ground. CS asked about maintenance of the surrounding area, AL confirmed that it would be strimmed. The group discussed the two possible locations for the equipment, and it was agreed that the location towards the cattle arch side of the Bath Grounds would be best, even though there are some boggy areas in that location. WH suggested that the equipment be installed in a difference format than how it is shown on the illustrations, i.e., in a semi- circle rather than in a straight line.</p> <p>MM advised that if all were in agreement, she would submit the application for funding, which ends at the end of June 2023. All agreed.</p> <p>MM advised that the Play Trial would still need approval from the Town Council’s Parks & Cemetery Committee. The next meeting date is Monday 25th September.</p> <p>MM advised there was no update on the Bath Grounds purchase to report.</p>	MM
6.	<p>Litter & dog waste</p> <p>AL advised that whilst strimming on the Bath Grounds, she was hit with dog faeces eight times from faeces which had not been picked up and disposed of. CR advised that we need to identify people and if we provide NWLDC Environmental Protection with photos, dates and details of</p>	CR

	<p>regular routines, they will be able to visit the locations of the culprits and look into possible prosecution.</p> <p>AM asked if we can get someone from the Environmental Protection Team down to the Bath Grounds at 8am on any weekday morning.</p> <p>CS confirmed that a few years ago, Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds ran a campaign where they sprayed around dog faeces which had not been picked up.</p> <p>With regards to litter, AL asked whether event organisers can assist with litter picking outside of their 'licensed area' following an event. AM advised that once ATC have purchased the Bath Grounds, we need to look at all licenses.</p> <p>DP advised that following Fake Festival, all of the cable ties had been cut off from the fencing and left on the ground. AM asked if this could be fed back to the event organisers.</p>	MM
7.	<p>Memorial bench request</p> <p>MM advised the group that a request for a Memorial bench had been received at the Town Council office from the Civic Society in respect of the late Mr Chris Tandy and that a location along the main path, close to the bollards, tree & on the same stretch as two other benches had been identified. All were in agreement with the bench request and location.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>WH asked if there was an update on the lease. CS confirmed that the Bath Grounds lease had been extended for 2 months and it was his understanding that the AHCC and Bowls Club leases have also been extended for 2 months. WH advised that AHCC have had an estimate to re-build the AHCC pavilion. AM advised that further discussions will take place once ATC own the Bath Grounds.</p> <p>WH asked if there was any update on de-culverting the Gilwiskaw brook through the Bath grounds. CS advised that the Friends of Ashby Bath grounds have their AGM at 7.00pm on 22nd June at AHCC where a representative from Trent Rivers Trust will be giving a short presentation. All were welcome to attend.</p> <p>MM advised that feedback from the Bath Grounds survey did not show much appetite for a water feature or the opening of the culvert.</p>	

9.	<p>Close and date of next meeting</p> <p>Close of meeting at 11.20am.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Friday 15th September, 10am, Room 4, Legion House.</p>	
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Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Ashby Cricket Club, Bath Grounds
21st April 2023 – 10.00am – 11:30am

Geraint Jones - Ashby de la Zouch Town Councillor - Chair	GJ
Mel Mitchell - Ashby de la Zouch Deputy Town Clerk - Vice Chair	MM
Will Tipper – Police	WT
Chris Smith - Friends of the Bath Grounds	CS
Tom Yates - Cricket Club	TY
Will Hawkins - Bowls Club	WH
Delyth Perry – Ashby Litter Picking Group	DP
Cat Ridgway, Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC	CR
Amy Lord – ATC Groundstaff	AL
Stuart Benson – ATC (part meeting)	SB

Agenda

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Apologies & housekeeping Welcomed SB who was attending the meeting to run through the coronation event	
2.	Minutes Agreed	
3.	Operational matters & updates SB – King’s coronation 7 May – free event everyone welcome. 12noon – 5pm don’t want public parking on the Bath Grounds. Have to try and lock gates on both sides. Infrastructure will be in place for coming on to the ground. Entertainment – choir- duet, magician, Punch and Judy, volunteer village for local organisation to promote volunteer opportunities, art, other activities. SB will be here from 7.30am – public asked to come and join in, bring your own tables and chairs, food and drink. Vendors on site but you can bring your own. Deputy Lieutenant attending. Monitor parking for acts and crew. TY explained that Cricket club have a game on. Stall holders 9-	

	<p>Summer bulbs – ATC definitely interested in purchasing them. CR - we will be looking at this later in the year. CR to advise when update received from NWLDC.</p> <p>South street CCTV – no update from Paul – CR to chase</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>
4.	<p>Review action plan for biodiversity improvements</p> <p>Summer meadow – had been mowed now to be left until late August.</p> <p>Spring meadow – adjacent to summer meadow – can be mowed end of June. AL to ensure grounds team do not accidentally mow these designated areas.</p> <p>Will get signs up to advise public why these areas not being mowed.</p> <p>Spring bulbs – There are now quite a few native flowers visible including fritillary, daffodils and tulips and MM has uploaded photos onto website.</p> <p>The large green bin has been moved over to the Prior Park entrance so NWLDC can access and empty the bin. The grass cuttings from the bowls club should ideally be composted but it was raised at the last meeting that the bowls club have been using chemical fertilizer. WH explained that the fertilizer is only used 2/3 times a year so after the first cut the grass cuttings are then compostable as contain no toxins. It was suggested that grass cuttings for composting could be left close to the bowls club so that the ground staff could collect then to be composted at the maintenance depot. MM will check the feasibility of this with the head grounds man.</p> <p>The bowls club will place any Grass cuttings that are not compostable in the bin by the Prior Park entrance.</p> <p>TY also suggested that compostable sacks are available – WH to liaise with TY on costings etc.</p> <p>Bird nesting and bat nesting boxes – starling boxes good for the site, grounds and to check if existing ones have nesting – not been checked yet by one of the groundsmen who is trained on working at heights.</p>	<p>AL</p> <p>MM/AL</p> <p>MM</p> <p>WH</p> <p>WH</p> <p>MM</p>

	Hedges, trees, shrubs – biodiversity action plan suggests new mixed fruit & nectar rich species. These can be planted at South Street entrance as well as long stretch backing onto Rawdon Terrace – buddleia, crab apple, wild cherry, rhododendron. Ground staff/town office to identify plants and obtain quotes. Should be able to submit an application for funding for the community grant from NWLDC	AL/TC office MM
5.	<p>Bath Grounds tour:</p> <p>Agree suggested tree locations – Areas were identified and photos taken. AL to check on suitability and also what trees and size of trees need to be purchased.</p> <p>Location for play area – majority agreed best location was near the three pine trees close to cattle arch. For next meeting, can group bring along ideas for play area and images e.g. trim trail etc. Some have mentioned Calke Abbey so images of their children’s play area would be useful.</p>	AL ALL
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Update from WT – Drug dealing still going on at the south street end – trying to increase patrols. Alleged drug dealers are searched when identified. There are a couple of known thieves – stealing from shops and taking goods down to the Bath Grounds to divvy up stolen goods.</p> <p>Suspects given a Public Protection notice to get them access to help.</p>	
7.	Close and date of next meeting – 16 th June at 10am Legion House.	

Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Minutes & Actions – 10th February 2023
Room 4, Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, Legion House

Attendees	Area of interest/ attraction
Geraint Jones (GJ)	Town Councillor (Chair)
Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair)
Chris Smith (CS)	Friends of Bath Grounds (FOABG)
Cat Ridgeway (CR)	Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Tom Yates (TY)	Ashby Hastings Cricket Club
Amy Lord	Ashby de la Zouch Town Council
Will Tipper	Police

Absentees	Area of interest/ attraction
Will Hawkins	Ashby Bowls Club

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
1. Apologies & housekeeping	Apology received from WH	
2. Minutes	With regards to the minutes of 4 th November 2022, CS noted that AL was not listed as an attendee on the previous meetings minutes. MM advised this will be amended & updated on the website.	MM

<p>. Operational matters & updates</p>	<p>MM provided updates on recent tree inspections near the bowls club conducted by the Tree Surveyor at Leicestershire County Council in early December 2022.</p> <p>MM advised that the Ash Tree on South Street entrance had also been inspected by the LCC tree surveyor and that ongoing monitoring would be carried out as signs of small chalara had been detected.</p> <p>CS suggested that a tree planting programme going forward could be considered as if some trees do have to be removed, as least we can show that new trees have been planted.</p> <p>Recommendation that ATC grounds team could suggest some potential locations for new tree planting.</p> <p>MM advised that some changes have been made on the website and welcomed group members to view the online pages and provide feedback. A map has been added as well as a revised copy of the Management Plan. MM thanked CS for sense checking the document.</p> <p>MM advised that that the Green Flag Award application has now been submitted and at some point, between July 2023 – July 2024, a ‘mystery shopper’ will visit.</p> <p>MM asked if any members of BGAG has received and complaints over bin odours on the Bath Grounds as the TC office had received a complaint from a member of the public who could smell the bins when seated on one of the benches. No complaints had been reported to any BGAG members.</p> <p>MM updated that ATC have planted 450 native bulbs.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the wooden plaques requesting people to keep their dogs off the planted areas had been removed after only two days.</p> <p>MM advised that further signage would be put in these planted areas and that it will be publicised on social media as to why owners are requested that their dogs are kept off these areas.</p> <p>MM updated that a memorial bench will be sited in the next couple of weeks along the main Bath Grounds path, along from the memorial bench next to AHCC pavilion. MM also advised that the defibrillator signs had also been put up in three locations within the Bath Grounds.</p> <p>MM advised that the fencing around the Japanese Knot Weed area has now been removed. CS asked if the area could be tidied up so that it looks a bit neater. CS added that he would like to thank ATC ground staff for cutting back the wildlife trail hedge, advising that it looks really nice. CS advised that Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds are planting some hedge whips on 19th Feb, if anyone wanted to come along and lend a hand.</p> <p>MM advised that she, along with CS met with East Midlands Housing, with a view to taking on the maintenance of the land that contains the wildlife walk but are unable to proceed on a more permanent basis until the ownership of this land, as well as the ownership of the Bath Grounds is established.</p> <p>CS asked about planting in the South Street borders. MM said that she would ask Mark Fern, Head Groundsman at ATC to</p>	<p>MM/AL ALL</p> <p>MM/AL CS</p> <p>MM CS</p>
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	<p>obtain some quotes / costings before the next meeting. CS also confirmed that Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds would tidy up the circular bed at South Street entrance.</p>	
<p>4. Bath Grounds Survey Results</p>	<p>MM advised that the top 3 suggestions on the question 'How can the Bath Grounds be improved?' were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional seating (83) 2. Introduction of play / gym equipment (48) 3. Additional shrubs / flowers (46) <p>MM advised that, as discussed at the last meeting, there is now a process for applying for a memorial bench. All information on how to apply as well approximate costings are detailed in the Bath Grounds section of the Town Council's website. Everyone agreed that this suggestion for improvement had been fulfilled.</p> <p>With regards to gym / play equipment, TY advised that in his opinion, we have got enough in the town and that the Bath Grounds is not a suitable venue. TY also commented on the cost of additional maintenance.</p>	

	<p>CS said it would be difficult to just dismiss it when it was one of the top answers and suggested that maybe some wooden, low level equipment, targeted at younger children and placed within the trees could be a suitable compromise. It was questioned if this would have an impact on events. CR advised that if equipment was in-keeping with the natural environment, there may be potential for some funding. DP added that wooden equipment would be a good solution and that another possible location could be the area near to the Cattle arch. AL advised that maintenance to wooden equipment would be minimal. CS said that it needs some thought before going forward. TY suggested that the next BGAG meeting could be held at AHCC so that a walk around the Bath Grounds could take place to look at possible locations. MM advised that before exploring costings etc this would need to be approved by the Parks and Cemetery Committee.</p> <p>With regards to the third top answer, shrubs and flowers, MM advised that ATC are going to spruce up the right-hand side of the South Street entrance after removing foliage last year (identified by PC Mark Arjoo as an area that someone could hide in). MM advised that ATC could explore possible options for planting in other locations. CS advised that Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds could look at putting in some flowers / bedding plants in the South Street circular area. AL advised that shrubs on South Street entrance will attract bees etc. CR advised that NWLDC may be looking at changing the bulbs in the Green Shoots Scheme and might look at doing summer meadow bulbs as a option. CR will keep the group / ATC updated on this.</p> <p>MM advised that the 4th top suggestion in the survey was for additional bins (45). The general consensus amongst the Group was that there were enough bins within the Bath Grounds. MM advised that last year, an additional 1100Lt green bin was put in and that during the summer months, the smaller bin get emptied on a daily basis. The 1100lt bin is emptied weekly by NWLDC. CS asked if anyone had thought of approaching Dominos or any of the other pizza places in Ashby, in relation to the ongoing problem with pizza boxes in the Bath Grounds. CR advised that if Dominos applied for a Premises Licence to trade after 11pm, a condition could be put in that litter bins need to be included and advised that she would liaise with Andy Cooper at NWLDC Licensing.</p> <p>MM advised that the next top answers were as follows:</p> <p>No 5. Circular paths (39)</p> <p>No 6. Additional lighting (38)</p> <p>No 7. Anti-social behaviour/CCTV (37)</p> <p>No 8. Refreshments (34)</p> <p>MM advised that the path is currently on hold until the future of the Bath Grounds is established as this project, if taken forward, would be costly and time consuming. MM has explored the costings for additional lighting within the grounds – starting from the Heritage Trail by South Street and ending near Prior Park, an additional 13 columns would be required. The cost for heritage style lights</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>
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	<p>would be £47'500 and £40'000 for standard style lights. MM advised that its something to explore for future years but not in the next financial year. MM advised that bollard lighting had also been explored, however this is more susceptible to vandalism. GJ asked about solar options. MM advised that when ATC are able to look at this again in the future, we would certainly ask about solar. It was agreed that additional lighting has to be a consideration, once the Bath Grounds ownership is resolved.</p> <p>With regards to the anti-social behaviour / CCTV, MM suggested that this should be pushed back to 2024/25 as this is dependant on the additional lighting. TY confirmed that there is CCTV on AHCC pavilion, so does cover part of the main Bath Grounds path from South Street to Station Road. WT agreed that CCTV on the Bath Grounds would be a great addition, as the Police had received numerous reports of shoplifting from local supermarkets, the spoils of which are then taken onto the Bath Grounds. TY advised that the CCTV definitely helps with the anti-social behaviour around AHCC pavilion. CR advised that the Stronger and Safer team at NWLDC were looking into an additional CCTV camera being installed near to South Street entrance which may alleviate some of the ASB issues on that part of the park and she would aim to provide an update of this at the next meeting.</p> <p>MM advised that the number 8 suggestion on the survey was refreshments and whilst these are offered at all events which take place on the Bath Grounds, there are no permanent facilities. All agreed not to pursue this improvement suggestion as there are plenty of establishments nearby that provide food and drink.</p>	
<p>5.AOB</p> <p>6. Close and date of next meeting</p>	<p>TY commented that the several of the wooden bollards along the main path / carpark area are old and would probably need replacing in the near future. MM advised that these could be looked at during the next BGAG meeting, which would be held on-site.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 11.30am and MM thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>Date of next meeting Friday 21st April 2023,10am at Ashby Hastings Cricket Club.</p>	

Minutes & Actions – 4th November 2022. 10.00am
Council Chamber, Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, South Street

Absentees	Area of interest/ attraction
Will Tipper (WT)	Leicestershire Police

129

	<p>location and re-positioned on the AHCC pavilion where and old sign remains.</p> <p>TY advised that on 31st October, 4 vehicles had been locked into the Bath Grounds by ATC ground staff. The carpark signs state that the carpark will be locked from the earlier time of 1600hrs from November. MM advised she would discuss this with the Head Groundsman.</p> <p>Diseased tree – further growth identified on tree by bowls club (T117). MM advised that the LCC Tree Surveyor has been requested to visit and reassess and will give an update to the group following LCC assessment. MM advised that ATC have to be aware of any ‘dangerous trees’ and have to take action and advise from the experts. The group agreed that it would be a shame if that tree had to be felled.</p> <p>Japanese knotweed - MM updated that the 2 small areas on the Bath Grounds have now been given the ‘all clear’ and the Town Council can potentially use the land for planting next year. The contractors quoted for the excavation and removal of the soil in the area – between £10 - £15k! However, this does not need to be done if we are just intending to plant in the area.</p> <p>MM will liaise with the Ground staff to remove the wooden fencing around the 2 areas.</p> <p>Road Sweep - MM updated that NWLDC carried out a sweep, at the request of ATC, of the Bath Grounds path on 16th September.</p> <p>Bins - CS commented that he had seen some comments and photos on Facebook which showed ATC ground staff driving on the grass to empty the bins and questioned what policy is in place for emptying the bins. AL advised that the bins are too heavy to walk any distance with them and therefore they have to drive to each bin to empty it. MM asked AL if we can ensure that the Kabota, which was purchased for this work can be used for bin emptying the bins on the Bath Grounds. This would also be discussed with the Head Groundsman. CS commented that even using the Kabota, the TC staff should drive on the grass rather than on the path or either side of the path, which will damage the sides of the path. AL suggested that it might be an option to take out the bin located next to ‘Maggie’s bench’.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>AL</p>
4. Green Flag judges comments & action plan	<p>MM distributed copies of the Action/ Comments assessment to all group members.</p> <p><u>A Welcoming Place</u> – MM went through the comments that the Bath Grounds are not easy to find from surrounding roads. The group discussed a new welcome sign and Prior Park Road entrance, signage from South Street, signage at the Cattle Arch, although it was noted that the trees and lighting column is Leicestershire County Councils, not Ashby Town Councils. CR asked if there was any signage directing people to the Bath Grounds from Market Street. <i>Update: there are finger post signs directing pedestrians to the Bath Grounds at South and North Street car parks, Coxon Mews car park and Market Street near the sorting office and bus stop.</i> CR advised that we could look at</p>	<p>MM</p>

	<p>applying for a Brown Tourism sign, based on all of the activities that take place on the Bath Grounds. WH suggested putting an advert in Ashby Life magazine, showing a map of the Bath Grounds and surrounding areas. AL suggested it could be advertised on social media, i.e. Ashby de la Zouch Community Facebook page. MM advised she would liaise with Stuart Benson regarding sharing with the ADLZ Community & Spotted Facebook pages.</p> <p><u>Health & Safety</u> – MM mentioned that the assessors had commented on evidence of Chalara on the Ash trees on the South Street entrance. ATC ground staff will take a look but may require the LCC tree surveyor to inspect.</p> <p>Comment that the 5mph speed sign at Prior Park Road entrance was obstructed. AL advised that the bins which were obstructing this sign have now been moved making it visible.</p> <p><u>Defibrillator signs</u> – MM reported that 3 defibrillator location signs had been ordered by ATC and would be sited on ATC lighting columns at South Street, Station Road (AHCC) and Prior Park Road entrances.</p> <p><u>Marking the car park to create spaces</u> – MM reported that ATC office had obtained a quotation from Gilvar Lining, however, until ATC purchase have purchased the Bath Grounds, we can't take this any further.</p> <p><u>Demand for Children's Play area</u> – MM noted that this was one of the top answers on the survey and would be discussed further at the next BGAG meeting.</p> <p><u>Heritage Trail Markers</u> – CS confirmed that the one near to the cattle arch has been cleaned.</p> <p><u>Environmental Management</u> – MM mentioned that the 1100Lt green bin, located at Prior Park Road end had grass cuttings in it, presumably from the Bowls Club and asked if grass cuttings could be composted. WH advised that the Bowls Club didn't have a composting site but would look into using non-chemicals on grass cuttings. The Grounds team could take the grass cuttings to the composter up at the depot</p> <p><u>Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage</u> – MM advised that the habitat survey is periodically reviewed and that the Spring & Summer meadows have been agreed. AL advised that she will look into what would be good to plant to attract wildlife, bee's, butterflies etc.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>WH</p> <p>AL</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p>
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	<p><u>Additional Seating</u> – MM advised that she would discuss with Stuart Benson re applications and prices for memorial benches going onto the town website.</p> <p><u>Marketing & Communication</u> – MM advised that the ATC office will look into a freestanding, wooden notice board. Any quotes / requests will need to be approved by the ATC Parks & Cemetery committee. <i>Update: a quote has been obtained for erection of an oak double sided notice board to the value of £1620.11 (excl. vat) + installation charge and will be presented to the Parks & Cemetery Committee at the next meeting on 28th November 2022 for approval.</i></p> <p><u>Minimising use of pesticides</u> – AL advise that ATC don't use any pesticides. TY advised that the outfield at AHCC is treated once a year, with an organic treatment. No chemicals are used and details of the product are emailed into the TC office prior to the treatment date.</p> <p><u>Management</u> – CR suggested that prior to the next site inspection, part of it should be 'office based' so that the assessors can see all of the BGAG meeting agendas, minutes, follow up's etc. Bullen's Field – MM advised that the Town Clerk has had some communication with the Bullen's Family and had advised the TC's interest in acquiring Bullen's Field.</p>	
5. AOB	Need signs for spring and summer meadows. Thoughts on wording?	ALL
9. Close and date of next meeting	<p>Meeting ended at 12 noon and MM thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>Date of next meeting Friday 10th February 2023, 10am, Room 4 at Legion House. MM advised that the next meeting would focus on the 3 main popular answers from the Bath Grounds Survey.</p>	

Recommendation to be taken forward to Parks & Cemetery Committee:
To purchase and install a notice board, to be located near the South Street entrance, in the sum of approximately £2350.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Minutes & Actions – 9th September 2022
Legion House, Ashby de la Zouch

Attendees	Area of Interest/attraction
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Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk
Will Tipper (WT)	Police
Chris Smith (CS)	Friends of the Bath Grounds
Tom Yates (TY)	Cricket Club
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Stuart Benson (SB)	ATC Town Centre Manager
Amy Lord (AL)	ATC Ground staff

Absentees	Area of Interest/attraction
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Geraint Jones (GJ)	Ashby de la Zouch Town Councillor – Chair
Will Hawkins	Bowls Club
Cat Ridgway	Community Liaison Officer – NWLDC

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
1. Apologies & housekeeping	Apologies received from WH, GJ and CR	
2. Minutes	No issues regarding previous minutes. MM welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained in the absence of GJ she would chair the meeting. MM introduced AL – member of the grounds staff, knowledge and qualifications in conservations, wildlife etc., Joining meetings as a representative with ideas and input on the Bath Grounds biodiversity improvements.	
3. Operational matters & updates	Big Weekend – successful event, well organised and manged by SB, Kangaroo and Radar Events. Bench order - submitted and position for installation will be near the Car Park, cricket club area. CS asked how much it had cost? As sometimes FOABG would receive enquiries. SB/MM advised that the price was around £800 + installation. MM to confirm. SB felt that advertising bench requests on the website could lead to inundated applications. AL confirmed that Ground staff would maintain	MM

	<p>the bench. <i>Note: MM has ascertained price for bench and full installation – the last bench purchased cost £948.50</i></p> <p>Website - SB confirmed that the website was constantly being developed, on going work, feedback and any comments appreciated. MM explained she had, as per last meeting, received details on the history of the bowls club but didn't think anything had been received yet from the Cricket Club, TY commented that their website is linked into the Town council website where History of the club is included but could review and re-word.</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour - It was felt that anti-social behaviour had quietened down, possibly due to pupils returning to school. Although it was pointed out to WT that possible drug dealing activities had and were regularly witnessed near the Cattle Arch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL/DP commented that there were still issues with broken glass and a dead tree which was being regularly moved from the Hotel carpark to the Bath Grounds. • SB explained that new PSPO signs have been installed around Ashby Town Centre. • MM added that CR had given her two signs for the Bath Grounds regarding dog control. They are plastic so may not be overly durable. Group to review and monitor dog control as dog waste, dogs running free etc seems to have escalated. • Litter/debris such as bottle tops, sweet wrappers still a problem near benches, this needs sweeping. MM said she would arrange for NWLDC to be contacted to action a road sweep session. • CS and DP to discuss a possible date for a FOBG litter pick and sweep. TY suggested this could coincide with the Cricket club end of season tidy up. 	<p>TY</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MM</p> <p>CS/DP</p>
4. Prior Park signage options	<p>SB handed out copies of the potential new welcome board for the Prior Park entrance. The fish mosaic will be mounted onto the board. Symbols/logos to be decided, suggestions included Heritage Lottery grant, FOABG logo, Ashby logo, Town Council and possibly the District Council. CS felt that permission may be required to use the Heritage Lottery Logo. Information with regards to the Fishponds is already available on the interpretation boards, however acknowledgement of the artist and design should be</p>	<p>CS</p>

	mentioned. CS to locate artist's name. It was agreed to proceed with the quote and that the location is to be in front of the fence/road side opposite the existing interpretation board. MM will ensure the quote is included in the next Parks and Cemetery Committee for approval.	MM
5. Biodiversity improvements	<p>MM handed out 'Recommendations for Biodiversity Improvements from the Habitat Scoping Survey' report, explaining she had added suggestions following a discussion with the Head Groundsman. Feedback was now required from the BGAG.</p> <p>The group went through each recommendation and comments/suggestions were added. MM will update the report and distribute to the BGAG and the Parks and Cemetery Committee.</p>	MM
7. AOB	<p>MM asked TY if the Cricket Club would agree to the Town Council adding the Cricket Club as one of the locations of a defibrillator onto signage for the Bath Grounds. TY agreed but mentioned that there would be limited access. MM will ensure this is added to the signage.</p> <p>WT asked for any further information concerning anti-social behaviour near the Cattle Arch, Bath Grounds and Willesley to be emailed to him.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>ALL</p>
7. Close and date of next meeting	Friday 4 th November at 10 a.m. – Legion House.	

Bath Grounds Advisory Group

Minutes & Actions – 29th July 2022. 10.00am

Council Chamber, Ashby de la Zouch Town Council, South Street

Attendees	Area of interest/ attraction
Geraint Jones (GJ)	Town Councillor (Chair)
Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair)
Chris Smith (CS)	Friends of Bath Grounds (FOABG)
Cat Ridgeway (CR)	Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Tom Yates (TY)	Ashby Hastings Cricket Club
Stuart Benson (SB)	ATC Town Centre Manager

Absentees	Area of interest/ attraction
Will Hawkins (WT)	Ashby Bowls Club
Will Tipper (WT)	Leicestershire Police

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
1. Apologies & housekeeping	Apology received from WT and WH MM introduced GJ as the new Chairman of the Bath Grounds Advisory Group and SB who will be attending today's meeting to advise on the new ATC website.	
2. Minutes	GJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. No issues regarding previous minutes.	
3. Health & Safety Policy – Review and Approve	MM advised that a draft had been produced and distributed and welcomed comments and suggestions. CS questioned BGAG organisational responsibilities, ensuring that all safety matters are discussed and acted upon as they arise. MM advised that should any safety issues on the Bath Grounds arise that ATC are made aware of she will raise this as an agenda item at the next available BGAG meeting. MM advised that, once approved by the Parks & Cemetery Committee, the policy would be publicised on the ATC. No further comments or suggestions and everyone confirmed they were happy with the policy.	MM
4. Website review	MM advised ATC now has a new website, primarily to ensure it complies with the 2018 Website Accessibility Regulations. The information relating to the Bath Grounds has been copied over from the old website but needs reviewing. SB advised that all of the business side from the old website has been removed as it will form part of the BID website. The new website concentrates on Town Council concerns as well as the local community news and events. SB advised that the website, although live, is still in very early stages and is being constantly developed and updated. MM and SB went through the Bath Grounds and BGAG pages on the new website. The following suggestions were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR asked about linking pages to events taking place on the Bath Grounds so that people could book and make payments direct. MM advised that the Town Council do not have a booking facility as the costs are too high but it may 	TY send to SB

	<p>be useful for SB to have another look at. TY advised that AHCC could provide some information on this as they use a card payment facility and don't pay a monthly fee.</p>	SB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GJ advised the key was to keep things simple – needs to be user friendly. TY commented that the new website certainly looks easier to navigate. 	SB & MM
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS asked if we could raise the profile of the Bath Grounds on the website. Maybe have the Bath Grounds as one of the top tabs as it currently sits under the Visit Ashby and Services tabs. MM suggested having a Green Space tab, which everyone agreed with. This could be used to push and promote the Bath Grounds and Green Flag. SB confirmed that it can be linked so it sits in two places on the website. 	SB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM requested feedback on the content of the Bath Grounds tab. CS suggested that the wording needs updating and refreshing as it doesn't encourage people to visit the Bath Grounds. It needs to advise what people will find once they get to the Bath Grounds. MM suggested focusing on what the Bath Grounds has to offer. i.e., cricket, bowls & events. CR suggested prompting what FOABG do, - current projects and put a link to provide more information. MM suggested an additional tab for the BGAG to sit alongside the other existing tabs (GREEN FLAG / EVENTS / HISTORY / LOCATION). 	SB
	<p>It was suggested to keep the wording punchier and to move the Bath Grounds Heritage Trail from the bottom of the page to the top on the main page. TY added that there should be some historical imagery on the Heritage Trail page.</p>	TY MM
	<p>MM suggested a 6th tab – SPORTS & RECREATION, where you could promote the cricket, bowls and Ashby Sport Funday. TY also requested that AHCC also be under the HISTORY tab, and he would provide some information on the history of the club. MM will also contact WH at Ashby Bowls Club to request some information on the history of the Bowls Club.</p>	SB
	<p>Bath Grounds Location tab. TY suggested having What 3 Words as there is no official postcode for the Bath Grounds. CS advised that we need to tackle the signage issue</p>	

	<p>surrounding the Bath Grounds. SB advised he would speak to LCC regarding brown tourism signs. CR pointed out that the Bath Grounds isn't depicted as a green space on Google Maps.</p> <p>MM & SB suggested putting on details of all surrounding public car parks on the Location page. DP suggested advertising there is limited parking at the Bath Grounds and CR suggested advertising the Bath Grounds opening hours on the website.</p>	
.5. Bench Request	<p>MM advised that the ATC office had received a request for a memorial bench on the Bath Grounds and asked for any suggestions for its location. CS suggested Prior Park Road entrance in a gap before the bins and past the metal bench. TY advised there was adequate room along the length of the car park, where the 'Ace' Bench has recently been installed. MM advised she would liaise with the Head Groundsman on his suggestions for the best location.</p>	MM
.6. Green Flag results – agree immediate actions	<p>MM advised the group that she will deal with the Judges' feedback relating to the Management Plan. MM requested assistance from SB in doing this as the judges have asked for more pictures to be included but we need to ensure it can be uploaded to the website in its entirety.</p> <p>As there was much to get through in the meeting MM went through the main areas of improvement highlighted by the judges and suggested that the group initially focus on the top 5 issues. All agreed with this approach.</p> <p>Signage: CS asked if we could make sure we include the fish mosaic as it requires maintenance and securing. DP suggested some signage / information to advise what the fish mosaic refers to. The group briefly looked at some signage quotes from Robert Lewis signs. TY asked if we can go for something simpler on signage which would link up all of the entrances to the Bath Grounds. Signs will be discussed at the next BGAG meeting.</p> <p>Health & Safety: Consideration for defibrillators on the Bath Grounds. Possible issues with damage and where they would be installed. MM asked if everyone was happy for there to be 2 x signs showing the location of the defibrillators in Market Street, which everyone agreed to.</p> <p>Children's Play Area: MM advised that this was one of the top three suggestions for improvement on the Bath Grounds survey. CS suggested a wooden structure for smaller children, maybe situated withing a planted tree / woodland area. TY suggested that something similar to 'Calke Explore' would be nice. This will be discussed by the group at a subsequent meeting though will be dependent, as will all capital costs, on the purchase of Bath Grounds or renewal of the lease.</p>	<p>MM & SB</p> <p>MM</p> <p>CR</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM/SB</p>

	<p>Well Maintained & Clean: CS advised that the trail markers (wooden posts) do need a quick wipe over. CS also advised that the wording on the signage for Dogs on the Bath grounds is not quite up to date. CR advised that she would check the signage wording on Dog Control as the signs are NWLDC documents. CS suggested some signage to identify the Japanese Knot weed areas.</p> <p>Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage: MM advised that she is in discussions with Mark Fern (Head Groundsman) regarding planting around the South Street entrance as well as implementing other recommendations from the Habitat Scoping Survey. The suggestions will be discussed at the next BGAG meeting.</p> <p>Marketing & Communication: MM advised that she would make sure that everything is clearly signposted on the website but wasn't keen on information from BGAG meetings being put up on the notice boards due to space constraints.</p>	
.7. Survey Results	MM advised that the top 3 answers were additional seating, children's play area and shrubs & flowers and suggested that the group focus on those 3 to begin with. The survey results will be publicised on the website. Discuss in detail at a subsequent meeting.	MM/SB
.8. AOB	No other business	
9. Close and date of next meeting	<p>Date of next meeting Friday 9th September, 10am at Legion House.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 11.36am and GJ thanked everyone for attending.</p>	

**Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Minutes & Actions – 27th May 2022**

Ashby Hastings Cricket Club, Bath Grounds, Ashby de la Zouch

Attendees	Area of interest/ attraction
Mike Ball (MB)	Town Councillor (Chair)
Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair)
Tim Jones (TJ)	Friends of Bath Grounds (FOABG)
Will Tipper (WT)	Leicestershire Police
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Tom Yates (TY)	Ashby Hastings Cricket Club

Absentees	Area of interest/ attraction
Will Hawkins (WT)	Ashby Bowls Club Leicestershire Police
Cat Ridgway (CR)	Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
.1. Apologies & housekeeping	Apology received from CR.	
.2. Minutes	No issues regarding previous minutes.	
.3. Operational matters & update on actions from last meeting	<p>MM updated the group with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundstaff have now weeded all footpaths & around street furniture • Thanks to Chris Smith (CS) who has liaised with National Rail and sorted out painting of cattle arch • Thanks to DP and friend who have painted the benches at the Prior Park end of Bath Grounds – a grand job • FOABG have tended to shrub bed by South St – looking great • South Street neighbours have cut back foliage – some discussion from Group ensued as to whether this was enough with the consensus being that it was • CS has pulled together spec for footpath extension but as today's meeting is so short this will be reviewed at a subsequent meeting • Quotes for signage have been obtained but this will also have to reviewed at a subsequent meeting • Forward Works Programme now completed and uploaded onto Town Council website • Survey has been promoted on social media, website, 'Ashby Life' as well as by FOABG and Cricket Club. MM asked everyone to keep plugging this as the cut off isn't until end of June. We have had a good response already with a total of 442 responses • MM explained that the Town Council now have a new website and she would like the BGAG to review the Bath 	ALL

	Grounds pages at the next meeting as there are definitely opportunities for improvements	
.4. Health & Safety Policy - review & approve	This was sent out to all group members prior to the meeting but we did not have time to discuss and review it so this item will be carried over to the next meeting	ALL
.5. AOB	MB explained that as part of the annual review of the Town Council committees he is no longer the Deputy Chairman of the Parks and Cemetery Committee. His replacement is Councillor Geraint Jones who will be chairing the next BGAG meeting.	
.6. Close and date of next meeting	Friday 29 th July 2022 at 10am – Legion House.	

Note: This meeting was only 30 minutes in duration as the Green Flag judges then joined the group to assess the Bath Grounds.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group

Minutes & Actions – 25th March 2022

Legion House, Ashby de la Zouch

Attendees	Area of interest/ attraction
Mike Ball (MB)	Town Councillor (Chair)
Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair)
Chris Smith (CS)	Friends of Bath Grounds (FOABG)
Will Hawkins (WH)	Ashby Bowls Club
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Cat Ridgway (CR)	Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC
Tom Yates (TY)	Ashby Hastings Cricket Club

Absentees	Area of interest/ attraction
Will Tipper (WT)	Leicestershire Police

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
1. Apologies & housekeeping	No apologies.	
2. Minutes	No issues regarding previous minutes.	
3. Operational matters & update on actions from last meeting	<p>Foliage on Town Council land by South Street entrance has been cut back substantially by groundsman. Neighbours to be chased to do their bit. Also concerns raised about pot-holed tarmac.</p> <p>Lighting – County Council acknowledged there was a ‘slight gap’ between Mendip Close and cattle arch but it is not prepared to pay for it or maintain it. Said Town Council could install at its expense, though subject to licence approval. Costs are around £2500/per light. Wait for results of survey and Bath Grounds ownership before exploring further (as potentially looking to provide additional lighting around the Bath Grounds).</p> <p>Footpath extension – MM obtained initial quote of around £28,000 (233m long, 1.2m wide) which uses MOT. CS to see if previous summary specs can be found and will circulate to group if so.</p> <p>Quote would need to be 2m width with grading and bridge over culvert to allow all-user access.</p> <p>Entrance signage – MM handed out copies of mock-ups to group. CR pointed out that there may be grants available from such as National Forest and NWLDC, especially if made in wood. CR to provide details of potential funding streams. MM will ask Stuart Benson for costings of wooden signage as well as other materials e.g., metal. MM will also check if planning permission required.</p> <p>Car parking signage – MM explained that parking legislation provides very specific guidelines. She has submitted wording to Town Council Admin who is sourcing new signs.</p> <p>Urgent tree maintenance – Felling of tree T117 commuted to crown being raised instead.</p> <p>CS confirmed that the FOABG would be maintaining the shrub bed near the South Street entrance as well as the interpretation</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CR</p> <p>MM</p> <p>CS</p>

	boards. The future maintenance of the wildflower verge and hedge remains TBC, as does the maintenance of the metal benches. CS to contact Network Rail re painting the cattle arch graffiti.	
4. Review of forward works programme – anything missing etc?	MM to replace years with seasons instead, and include land to West (but not East) of footpath to Cattle Arch; resend to group once completed	MM
5. Visitor survey – finalise, agree survey dates	CR – suggested using a QR code. Can be used at Bath Ground events whilst survey taking place. Advertise survey in Ashby Life for May and will include QR code. Will also publicise survey on website and social media. Paper copies will be available in the Town Council office and via email. Will also send to Ashby Sports for inclusion onto their website for beginning of May/end of April. Deadline for survey completion will be 30 th June 2022	MM
6. AOB	No other business.	
7. Close and date of next meeting	Friday 27 th May 2022 at 10am – Legion House.	

**Bath Grounds Advisory Group
Meeting Notes – 28th January 2022
Legion House, Ashby de la Zouch**

Attendees	Area of interest/ attraction
Mike Ball (MB)	Town Councillor (Chair)
Mel Mitchell (MM)	Deputy Town Clerk (Vice Chair)
Mark Arjoo (MA)	Leicestershire Police
Chris Smith (CS)	Friends of Bath Grounds (FOABG)
Will Hawkins (WH)	Ashby Bowls Club
Delyth Perry (DP)	Ashby Litter Picking Group
Cat Ridgway (CR)	Community Liaison Officer - NWLDC
Tom Yates (TY)	Ashby Hastings Cricket Club

Agenda Item	Comments	Action by
.1. Apologies & housekeeping	No apologies.	
.2. Minutes	No issues regarding previous minutes.	
.3. Update on status of Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds	<p>MB asked Chris for an update on the status of Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds.</p> <p>CS explained that all but one of the original committee stepped down. There is now a functioning committee made up of new members so currently taking first steps. They are currently discussing what they believe their role will be.</p> <p>MB asked for clarification regarding the group's involvement with the Bath Grounds. New committee less keen on doing physical work such as gardening/ wild flower hedge etc., looking to help promote the grounds as a good place to go as well as ensuring it remains protected. Also have forum to take in suggestions from community.</p> <p>FOABG believes that TC should pick up a lot of the physical work.</p> <p>MM looking for clarification on wild flower walk etc as this is not Town Council owned land.</p> <p>MB stated that Roger Bayliss, Chairman of the Parks & Cemetery Committee is looking for quarterly reports from this group, therefore ideas, suggestions etc from FOABG need to be fed to the council via this group. It would also be ideal to have clarification from CS if the FOABG will be doing any physical work on the Bath Grounds moving forward. CS to clarify.</p>	CS
.4. Operational matters & update on actions from last meeting	<p>MM gave an update on operational matters.</p> <p>Interpretation board that was vandalised has now been repaired.</p> <p>Flag base has been cemented in, waiting for it to set for 28 days before the flag pole can be placed in. Will then arrange photo opportunity for launch of flag. <i>(Update: this was fast set concrete so flag pole and flag now installed).</i></p> <p>Review from Mystery Shop highlighted that car park isn't clear, lack of signage in places like cricket club. Also commented on lack of social media coverage.</p> <p>Bath Grounds will be contained within TC website, not separate website. Bath Grounds now has its own section on website in</p>	

	<p>navigation bar. MM explained that TC's website is due to be upgraded in the near future.</p> <p>MM – attended Bath Grounds one evening with MB/MA to assess security etc. MM has contacted resident at bottom of South Street and Johnson, Murkett and Hurst re cutting back foliage on their land. ATC groundstaff will also cut back foliage near South Street entrance to Bath Grounds.</p> <p>MM has contacted County Council to ask them to install additional lighting on Mendip Close footpath entrance, heading towards cattle arch as very dark.</p> <p>Looked at additional lighting on Bath Grounds by Maggie's and Lionel's benches. MB & MA not convinced that a new corridor of light would be beneficial and believes it's best left as is. MB – CCTV is also not viable without correct lighting so they go hand in hand, doesn't see how it would be a success in current situation. CS commented that additional lighting likely to make grounds more inviting to all, groups may not be there at all if park was used more.</p> <p>TY – cricket club have had no issues since installation of their CCTV. Agrees with CS that general public using it more in evening would reduce amount of groups gathering.</p> <p>WH – potentially timed lights for paths. Already have timed outside light as it gets pitch black without. CS/DP in favour of lighting, TY – dependant on budget, CR on fence. MM suggested using visitor survey to help decide if additional lighting is what public would like – all agreed.</p> <p>MM – dedicated groundsman, after discussing with Town Clerk probably not feasible. First step is a forward works programme.</p> <p>MM – have asked for a quote for footpath extension around railway embankment. MM will chase quote. TY – raised issue of space for it as concerned would not be a wide enough gap between the path and the cricket pitch. Engineering obstacles making it difficult as well as potentially requiring lighting due to Royal Hotel.</p> <p>MB – key should be getting as many people on BG all year round.</p> <p>MM – clarification on policies like H&S, diversity etc, not pre-requisites of Green Flag. Assessment criteria of Green Flag can be found on internet but MM happy to download this and send to any group members if required. Town Office have created policies for Bath Grounds which BGAG will review in subsequent meeting(s).</p> <p>WH – asked about cost of installing a goal-post style signage at each entrance. Issue is size of vehicles that need access. MM – all signage needs to be assessed, including Prior Park entrance, potentially an agenda point for next meeting. MM – will ask Stuart Benson (Town Centre Manager) to investigate signage in and around Bath Grounds.</p> <p>TY – possible to review parking signage, confusion in regards to sign text. Using 24 hour or just closing time would help alleviate issue. MM will investigate.</p>	<p>MM/SB</p> <p>MM</p>
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.5. Review of forward works programme – anything missed etc?	This item was not covered in this meeting.	
.6. Visitor survey – anything to add, agree roll out and actions	<p>MM distributed the visitor survey to everyone explaining that the plan was to present this online (Town Council website and Facebook) as well as in person around the Bath Grounds. DP suggested carrying out some interviews in the town centre also - all agreed this was a good idea.</p> <p>Lots of feedback and suggestions to enhance and improve survey – MM will complete amendments.</p> <p>Survey, if ready for completion, will be presented at next Parks and Cemetery Committee meeting on 7th March 2022 for approval. Suggestion also raised to hand out Bath Grounds flyer (with volunteer group details, sports club etc) when completing survey.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MB</p>
.7. AOB	No other business.	
.8. Close and date of next meeting	<p>Next meeting: Survey planning, signage ideas to be agreed and Forward Works Programme to be agreed.</p> <p>Friday 25th March 2022 at 10am – Legion House.</p>	