



# Open Space Strategy

**February 2019**

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## Introduction

The aim of this strategy is not to be prescriptive but to help to develop a long-term sustainable strategy for Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) owned open spaces across the parish area. Some spaces will fulfil multiple uses whilst others may have a single purpose. No designations are designed to prevent development of sites for other uses which may arise but they will enable the council to ensure that all needs are considered and to avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities whilst making certain that access to different amenities is spread across the whole town and not confined to particular areas.

Obviously, this will not always be possible as the town council is working with the locations which have been transferred to it rather than having the ability to accrue sites over decades as its predecessors Lowestoft Borough Council and Waveney District Council (WDC) were fortunate to be able to do. Nor has it been able to select the sites which have been transferred as WDC were able to do during the planning of the re-organisation order or receive all Lowestoft Borough Councils assets and reserves as WDC did on its formation.

## Strategy Overview

This strategy aims to set out general overviews to development of the open and green spaces maintained by Lowestoft Town Council as well as more specific policies for maintenance practises and individual sites. The strategy builds on existing policies adopted by LTC as well as the Open Needs Assessment agreed by LTC.

LTC does not maintain all parks, play areas, open spaces, cemeteries or allotments within the parish boundary. Some are privately owned and others are owned by WDC and operated on their behalf. The town council has little influence over assets owned by other bodies however can see a benefit to similar public assets being cared for by the town council however with such responsibility comes additional financial burden for the town council.

## Consultation

In developing this strategy, the views of the public, park users (including sports and social clubs), Friends Groups, our tenants, contractors and leisure provision experts have all been taken into account as well as the input of individual councillors. Both individual and group meetings have taken place as well as online, paper-based and face to face surveys.

# The Benefits of Open Spaces and Natural Capital Accounting

The Government has committed to including natural capital accounts in the UK Environmental accounts by 2020. This means natural capital accounts can be used alongside other key indicators of economic performance.

The Natural Capital Committee has flagged the development of natural capital accounts as a signal to decision-makers that monitoring and valuing natural assets is important. The Office for National Statistics has been charged by Government to develop a roadmap to enable this. They have also produced a natural capital overview of the work towards this objective.

## What is natural capital?

'Natural' capital is made up of the elements of nature that benefit people directly or indirectly. These assets include ecosystems, species, fresh water, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions. Benefits can include goods (such as timber and food) and services (such as clean air and water). In an urban context, these assets are our parks, rivers, trees, and features such as green roofs that collectively form an essential green infrastructure. Designed and managed as green infrastructure, natural capital can:

- promote healthier living
- lessen the impacts of climate change
- improve air quality and water quality
- encourage walking and cycling
- store carbon
- improve biodiversity and ecological resilience
- A natural capital account can help to inform and improve decision-making by framing public green spaces as economic assets, and highlighting the range and value of benefits that they provide.
- Public green spaces are essential for maintaining a good quality of life, especially in urban areas. Protecting our natural heritage and public green spaces for sport and recreation is a cornerstone of town planning policy.
- Public sector funding constraints mean local authorities need to cut costs. The impact of this has been investigated and summarised in the [State of UK Public Parks 2016 report \(PDF\)](#) published by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Reducing funding for parks and green spaces is a false economy.

London has carried out a review of its natural capital and found the following

- London's public green spaces have a gross asset value of more than £91 billion, providing services valued at £5 billion per year

- for each £1 spent by local authorities and their partners on public green space, Londoners enjoy at least £27 in value
- Londoners avoid £950 million per year in health costs due to public green space
- the value of recreational activities is estimated to be £926 million per year
- for the average household in London, the monetary value of being in close proximity to a green space is over £900 per year

These figures will not apply to Lowestoft but are indicative of the how Lowestoft natural capital may be considered.

Public green spaces offer other services too, such as temperature regulation and carbon storage. Green spaces in urban areas counter higher temperatures in summer months that can lead to ill health. Trees and plants contribute to air quality and mitigation of vehicle exhaust fumes.

## Open Spaces managed by Lowestoft Town Council

Land Transferred to Lowestoft Town Council	Land Registry No.	Current Land Use
Land at Uplands Road North, Lowestoft, NR33	SK149861	Play area and Open Space
Land at Uplands Road North, Lowestoft, NR33	SK99243	Open Space
Land North Side of Hollow Grove Lane/Daffodil Walk, Lowestoft, NR33	SK38204	Open Space
Land at Clarkes Lane, NR33	SK139067	Park
Open Space Adjoining Raphael Walk Gainsborough Drive, Lowestoft, NR32	SK37205	Open Space
Land Adjacent To 119 Notley Road, Lowestoft, NR33	SK260419	Open Space
Land at Stoven Close, Lowestoft, NR32	SK263058	Play Area
Amenity Land Delius Close, Lowestoft, NR33	SK261057	Open Space
Open Space Adjoining 4 High Street High Street, Lowestoft, NR32	SK261917	Open Space (known as The Town Green)
Car Park, Links Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 See Note 2	SK265011	Car Park
The Denes, The Ravine, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 See Note 2	SK264425	Open Space
The Denes Oval. The Ravine, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32	SK261620	Park
Sea Wall at Ness Point, NR32	SK 264678 (part of) SK264415 (part of) SK119272 (part of)	Park/Open Space
Triangle Market, Lowestoft, NR32 (including the land transferred to Waveney District Council under the conveyance dated 25th August 1885)	SK265277	Open Space/Market Place
Sparrows Nest Park Whapload Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32	SK261656	Park
Belle Vue Park, Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft Suffolk NR32 4AL (including RNPSA interment area)	SK263069	Park
Kensington Gardens, Kirkley Cliff Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0DG	SK262265	Park

Great Eastern Linear Park, Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32	SK116830	Park
Normanston Park, Peto Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 Subject to relevant consent being obtained in relation to the Leathes Ham Local Nature Reserve area, and the Skate Park area	SK261598	Park/Nature Reserve (Leathes Ham leased to Suffolk Wildlife Trust)
Kirkley Community Sports and Social Club, Walmer Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 7LB	SK266222 SK263005	Park
Playground off The Parklands, Lowestoft, NR33	SK149861	Play area
Play Area Rear of Marshams Piece, Lowestoft Suffolk, NR33	SK139067	Park & Play area
Play Area South of Pollard Piece, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33	SK139067	Play area
Playground at Turnberry Close, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33	SK48735	Play area
Britten Road Play Area, Lowestoft, NR33	SK261316 SK263156	Park & Play area
Cotman Close Play Area, west side of Gunton Church Lane, Lowestoft, NR32	SK52330	Play area
Gunton Community Park Play Area, Land at Montgomery Avenue, NR32	SK261132	Park & Play area
Kirkley Fen Park and Play Area, Southwell Road, Lowestoft, NR33	SK261230	Park & Play area
London Road Play Equipment & Pakefield Green Play Area (Wellington Road), NR33	SK261114 (part of)	Park & Play area
Nightingale Road Play Area, NR33	SK261187	Play area
Parkhill Play Area Land to the North East of Bentley Drive, Lowestoft, NR32	SK247306	Play area
Rosedale Park including play area, land North East of Elm Tree Road, Lowestoft, NR33 Subject to relevant consent being obtained	SK261260	Park & Play area
St Margaret's Play Area, Land north of Dove Street, Lowestoft, NR32	SK261301	Play area
Thirlmere Walk Play Area, Land west of Lulworth Park, Lowestoft, NR32	SK189359	Play area
Whitton Green Play Area, land on East side of Hawthorn Ave, Lowestoft, NR33	SK260461 (part of)	Play area
Land south of Kirkley Fen Park, Southwell Road, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment

Land North of St Margaret's Road, Lowestoft NR32		Allotment
Land south West of Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft NR32		Allotment
Land South side of Saxon Road, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment
Land off Prospect Place, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment
Land north side of Stradbroke Road, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment
Land to the west of Kirkley Park Road, Lowestoft (Kirkley cemetery) NR33		Allotment
Land North West side of London Road south, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment
Land south side of Church Road, Lowestoft NR32		Allotment
Land north west of Blackheath Road, Lowestoft NR33		Allotment
Caravan Park	SK264286	Mix of Caravan Park and public open space (leased to Tingdene)

Land Transferred to Lowestoft Charity Board	Land Registry No.	Current Land Use
Arnolds bequest, Lowestoft, NR32 See Note 1	SK261315	Open Space

# Parish Wide Open Spaces Policies

## Allotments, Community Gardens and Orchards Policy

The council has a statutory duty to provide allotments to meet public needs. At present our allotments are managed by the Lowestoft & District Allotments Association (L&DAA) who also maintain the Allotments Waiting List and report any shortfall in provision to the town council. At present there is no significant shortfall although there are some site-specific waiting lists. L&DAA do review these and offer other locations and also review the size of allotments available.

There is an increase in interest with community gardens and community orchards in other parts of the country. These function similarly to allotments but rather than an individual taking on sole responsibility for a site, it is run by a community. There are already plots on some of our allotments which are being managed by groups as opposed to individuals so L&DAA have some experience with this. Initially it might be worth investigating this as an option should a site become less popular or a specific allotment wanted to form a community area.

LTC should also look at its land portfolio and consider if there are any locations which could be utilised in this way however one of the key parts of this strategy would be an active group who wanted to take on the project. The group could operate in the same way as a "Friends" group.



## Bins & Waste Management Policy

Lowestoft Town Council only has responsibility for bins on its own property. It has no responsibility for bins on other peoples or organisations property not for placement, provision, maintenance or management.

The council shall arrange provision of appropriate litter bins on its premises at such a level justified by the use and arrange for them to be maintained and emptied on a regular basis.

Where practicable, LTC will consider providing recycling provision on larger sites, parks and play areas and ensure that collections from such provision enables recycling to occur.

Waste bins will be selected to match into the site environs taking into consideration the style of bench provision and will, where practicable, be unified across a site except where a specific area requires a specific bin. For example, a traditional style bin would be used on a site which has traditional style benches and is more formal, a more rustic style bin would be used with more rustic benches in a more natural environment. However, within a play area a child friendly bin may be used where the rest of the bins in the external area are traditional.

Waste collection will be arranged depending on usage and season. For example, bins may be emptied more regularly during summer months. This will be reviewed regularly with our waste collection operative.

Unless recycling bins are provided, bins can be used for all waste unless the legal position concerning this is changed. The council will not provide specific bins for dog waste which can be placed in general waste.

# Conservation, Environmental & Ecology Policy

## Overview

The Town Council is committed into making Lowestoft a cleaner and greener town by developing, advocating and supporting related policies and working in partnership with other bodies.

We will encourage Lowestoft to become a low carbon town again through working in partnership with related organisations.

The council aims to develop a more sustainable community that will benefit present-day residents and businesses, as well as future generations.

The main pieces of relevant legislation are:

- The Water Act 2003. This Act places a duty on all public bodies to take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to premises.
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. From 1 October 2006, every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. This Act gives specific powers to town and parish councils to tackle climate change. The Act places an obligation on town and parish councils to improve their energy efficiency.
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This Act extends the statutory offence of dropping litter and enables town and parish councils to authorise officers to serve fixed penalty notices for the litter offence under section 88 of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act; gives town and parish councils the power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting offences; and allows town and parish councils to create offences relating to the control of dogs and replaces the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.
- Duty of Care (Waste). The Duty of Care covers any business that produces or disposes of waste and requires the business to ensure that any waste produced is handled safely and in accordance with the law.
- Water Framework Directive. The purpose of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.
- In addition, 150 countries, including the UK, endorsed Agenda 21 at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 calls for local authorities to initiate Local Agenda 21 processes. Local Agenda

21 involves taking a partnership approach to develop an action plan for sustainable development at a local level.

Lowestoft Town Council will aim to improve the local environment and influence improvement in the following ways:

1. By managing its land using environmentally-friendly practices that will promote biodiversity and protect habitats.
2. By informing local residents of the Council's environmental activities and working with volunteer groups, businesses and other organisations to further protect habitats and biodiversity
3. By encouraging the use of energy, natural resources and non-renewable resources efficiently and leading by example.
4. By striving to minimise waste and pollution and encouraging recycling schemes
5. By supporting individual behaviour change by residents and supporting environmentally friendly activities.
6. By encouraging the prevention or minimising of pollution to air, water or land (including noise pollution, litter, fly tipping and the impact of car travel).
7. By protecting and aiming to enhance the quality, extent and accessibility of Lowestoft's open spaces, trees and natural environment.

## Water

LTC will aim to use water efficiently both in council premises and for council activities.

In the Council's parks and green spaces planting schemes and technology that minimise the need for watering will be encouraged, e.g. planting drought-resistant species and using mulches. The Council will explore the possibilities of rain and grey water capture and storage for watering in its parks and planted areas.

The Council will encourage water-saving measures at its leased assets e.g. community halls and allotments, for example, encouraging tenants to reduce their water usage.

The Council will lobby on the need for developing sustainable drainage in order to counteract the potential for flash flooding.

## Waste

The Council will minimise its waste production wherever possible, by reducing, repairing and reusing resources, and by recycling the waste its activities produce,

where facilities exist. Rubbish will be disposed of safely, following the correct procedures, and only licensed contractors will be used to deal with hazardous wastes.

The Council will incorporate the possibility of pollution in its risk assessment procedure and will use this system to minimise the risks and implement mitigation strategies.

## Transport

The Council will continue to encourage sustainable transport systems, promoting public transport and non-polluting modes of transport within the town, such as cycling and walking. As traffic congestion can significantly reduce air quality, which directly impacts upon human health, the Council will also press other tiers of government for the alleviation of traffic congestion within Lowestoft.

As a long-term goal, the Council will investigate sustainable, minimally polluting forms of fuel for its own and contractors' vehicles. Also ensuring that all of our own and contractors' vehicles are serviced and maintained to a high standard

The Council will aim to provide bicycle parking in all its parks and play areas.

## Biodiversity and Green Spaces

The town council will aim to raise the awareness of biodiversity and associated issues within the local community. The working with partners to further this aim will be encouraged.

Biodiversity includes all the life on earth, from animals and plants to bacteria and fungi. Biodiversity is anything and everything alive in various habitats, including our urban and suburban landscape of woodland, hedgerows, streams, parks and waterways.

The Council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all its activities, but particularly with regard to its land management. The Council will seek to manage green spaces in a manner that promotes and protects biodiversity.

Further the Council will protect and aim to enhance the quality of Lowestoft's natural environment and open spaces, wherever possible.

The council needs to be aware of sites of:

1. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which are protected through national law and are representative of the most important habitats that can be found in the UK.
2. Local Wildlife Sites, e.g. Biological Notification Site (BNS), County Wildlife Site (CWS), Wildlife Heritage Site (WHS) and Local Nature Reserves
3. Any other sites of importance to fauna and flora such as green corridors, areas important to migrating birds
4. Ancient trees and hedgerows

Additionally, the council needs to develop maps that readily show these sites, trees and hedgerows within the area of Lowestoft Town Council.

The Council will arrange or organise biodiversity audits on its land to assist in the development of environmentally-sensitive management plans.

Parish councils have the right to create by-laws and consideration to establishing by-laws that support the local biodiversity should be considered to protect and support areas of concern.

## Sustainable Procurement

Council procurement should be assessed for sustainability implications, with the intention of purchasing renewable/recycled, environmentally low-impact and recyclable materials, so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met. The Council will purchase from companies that have environmental management systems in place if possible.

The Council will ban the use, by the Council or its contractors, of certain specified environmentally damaging products where an alternative product or method is available.

These products are, but not limited to:

1. Ozone depleting chemicals
2. Tropical hardwood that is not certified independently as coming from a well-managed forest ☐
3. Pesticides on the UK 'Red List' and EC 'Black List'2

The use of peat for soil amelioration will be avoided wherever possible.

Sourcing materials locally, where feasible, will reduce carbon emissions resulting from transporting produce. The Council will promote local produce and products within the community as appropriate, which will have the additional positive effect of supporting the local economy.

The Council will continue to support Lowestoft's Fairtrade status, as part of its commitment to global environmental issues.

## Awareness, Lobbying & Partnerships

The Council will promote awareness of, and information on, environmental issues within the community. It will act as a voice for local environmental concerns to those agencies given statutory powers to tackle problems.

The Council will engage in partnership working with the local community, organisations and other tiers of local government on conservation projects. The Council will also support other groups involved in environmental work in the town e.g. Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Lowestoft in Bloom, Pathways Care Farm, Access Community Trust, Community Action Suffolk etc.

## Open Spaces & the Neighbourhood Plan

Under the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2018) LTC has the ability to designate Local Green Spaces within its Neighbourhood Plan in order to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to the town. There should be a consistent approach to this taking into consideration the need for homes, development and essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is being prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- b) demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of wildlife: and
- c) Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

This is a way of protecting green spaces within the parish and can be used on our own key sites, for example, our destination parks and the North Denes. It can also be used on sites which are not owned by the town council but which we wish to protect for the future. Examples of this could be school playing fields, town centre green spaces, community farms etc. This can be a useful tool for the town council but needs to be carefully considered as it will form part of public consultation.

## Education Policy

Where possible the council will work with local education providers and online content providers to enable the open spaces to be used for educational purposes where that does not interfere with the main primary purpose of the site.

## Friends & Stakeholder Policy

The council already has policies for Friends Groups and Stakeholder provision. These are attached as addendums to this strategy. LTC maintains control and responsibility for all its property but seeks to widen participation in decision making to include those groups using the assets without any group other than LTC having a stronger voice.

The Friends Groups, Stakeholders and Assets Policy is attached to this Strategy and can be found in the contents.



# Memorial and Sponsorship Policy

LTC understands the desire of individuals to commemorate loved ones or to donate to their local community and the practice can be beneficial to the town. Indeed, the town council itself will wish to place memorials in its public places. This policy aims to set out the guidelines for any memorial or for any sponsorship. Only memorials approved by the council may be placed on council land and are bound by the following rules.

## Memorial Planting

Although, in the past, memorial planting did take place within several of our parks this was rarely planned and has often led to the trees and plants suffering or dying as a result which is never a suitable way to commemorate a loved one. Unfortunately, there has been little thought of the long-term care of the plant or of its location. For this reason, in future, memorial planting will only be carried out by LTC and will be done to commemorate specific events, organisations or individuals as council decides.

Existing plants will remain whilst they are healthy and are a benefit to their location. Their plaques (where they exist) will remain whilst they are readable. The plaques remain the responsibility of the individuals who donated the plants and should they wish that a plaque is replaced then that will be at their own cost.

Memorial planting provides its own beauty and does not need embellishments and therefore any other decorations other than a plaque are not allowed.

## Memorial Benches

Memorial benches are beneficial to the town and can be provided by individuals, groups, organisations or the council itself.

- An application will be made to the council which will go before committee for approval.
- The benches should be selected from a range approved by the council for the specific site unless council agrees an exception.
- Benches may have a small plaque attached to commemorate the individual or event for which the bench has been presented and council reserves the right to refuse if it feels that wording is inappropriate.
- The bench will remain in location whilst it is in usable condition. If it is damaged due to vandalism or accident and can be replaced via insurance then the council will aim to do so however no guarantees can be provided. When the bench reaches its end of life then it will be disposed of by the council and it will be up to the original provider(s) whether they wish to replace it.

- Memorial benches are provided to be used for the public to sit upon therefore they should not have memorial items placed upon them apart from the plaque, unless approval is gained in advance from the council. Any memorial item may be removed by the council and disposed of in an environmentally sensitive way.

Aside from its own provision of regular benches, the council itself may wish to provide memorial benches which may be specially commissioned to commemorate an event, individual or organisation following its own internal processes.

## Memorial Structures

Memorial structures are likely to be a more unusual donation to the town and will be treated on a one-off basis with approval going through council process prior to donation. Memorial structures could consist of, but are not limited to, gates, sculptures, artwork, buildings/structures, gardens, walls/railings etc and may have attached an appropriate size plaque detailing the donation.

## Sponsorship

The council may either seek or accept sponsorship for particular projects from individuals or organisations which share the council's ethos, Sponsorship may be for a specific project or item but sponsorship will rarely be for an individual living item. For example, rather than sponsoring an individual tree/plant the council would encourage sponsoring a group of trees/plants or individual sponsors banding together to enable a mass planting as this negates the issues mentioned within the Memorial Planting section. Where a group of tree or plants were donated, any individual item provided within that group would not be automatically replaced if it died or was stolen etc. It would be up to the Council to decide if the loss of an individual specimen affected the effect of the whole.

## Name Policy

At present several sites have more than one name or a name that does not reflect the site or the council's aspiration for the site. It is recommended that a review of the names takes place and where there is not an appropriate name then this will be published to Full Council for suggestions for potential names, these will then come before Full Council for a decision. Council could then decide whether it wished to offer the chosen name for public consultation.

An example of this could be Britten Road Site, land at Britten Road or Britten Road Play Area; none of which is inspiring or invokes pride in an area. It is a sizable site and could potentially be called Britten Park or Britten Green for example. As far as we are aware no-one (apart from WDC) calls the Great Eastern Linear Park by that name, apparently the locals call it "The Trams" and it would seem sensible to adopt that. Clarkes Lane could easily become Clarkes Piece or Clarkes Meadow for example.

There is a tendency to move away from the term "park" due to the advent of retail parks and therefore, some claim, there is a confusion over the nature of a park. Very few retail parks actually have any park space but are in reality "out of town (centre) shopping centres". However, there are a lot of alternatives to the word park some of which echo landscape features or size and others which are more general, i.e.

- Acre
- Bowl
- Common
- Court
- Field
- Green
- Garden/Gardens
- Ground
- Hill
- Hollow
- Meadow
- Piece
- Pit
- Place
- Plain
- Plaza
- Square
- Tract
- Yard

## National Plant Collections

This would be an aspirational thing for the council to consider but it would also guarantee a regular visitor stream encouraging visitors from across the country. National collections are important because they ensure the continuity and preservation of the diversity of species in the UK, whether they are natives, introductions or cultivars.

There are potential National Collections, to which we could aspire, that would be suitable for our location which as yet are not in existence. Some national collections can be small as a species may not have a lot of sub-species, some can be very large. It would be beneficial to find a partner organisation in the town to work with whether that be Waveney Norse, Lowestoft in Bloom or another organisation as some plants may need to be acquired as seed and grown on.

Available National Collections which might be suitable locally are:

Achillea	This would be a large collection but are suitable to our location, come in a large variety of colours and sizes and work well planted amongst other plants. They can be used in formal gardens but also in prairie and wildlife planting and are wildlife friendly plants.
Chaenomeles	Also known as the Flowering Quince this numbers about 140 varieties over attractive flowering shrubs often used as hedging or against walls.
Coreopsis	Commonly called Tickseed these are mainly native American plants but have been introduced the UK and many cultivars are used as garden plants.
Crocsmia	Another potentially large collection however this is a popular garden plant and works extremely well in our climate. The profusion of orange, reds and yellows available and the narrow growth of the plant would make it a strong possibility. As a corm it is more drought tolerant than some plants. It used to be called Montbretia.
Daphne	A genus of around 75 – 95 species of evergreen and deciduous shrubs. If we were to place a “winter garden” into Sparrow’s Nest these could form an excellent backbone to the planting with some of the dwarf versions linking into the sensory garden. They are generally some of the earliest flowering plants of the year with beautiful aromas. A concern would be that they are toxic in various levels and some species do not have a particularly long life. Despite that toxicity they are still a very commonly used garden plant and we could raise awareness by information signs.
Fatsia	A small genus but one which might be useful to combine with another as they tend to be frost hardy, evergreen shrubs which can withstand coastal conditions but also provide a tropical element

Forsythia	A genus of 11 species some of which are commonly used in English gardens. Again, it is an early flowering shrub which could be combined into a winter garden. It would possibly be too big a genus for us to specialise in but would work well with other planting.
Gallardia	A very large genus within the sunflower category commonly called Blanketflowers. Possibly too big for us to consider although there might be the possibility of concentrating on a species rather than the genus, potentially one of the perennial species.
Helenium	Again a very large genus within the sunflower category commonly called Sneezeweeds. Possibly too big for us to consider although there might be the possibility of concentrating on a species rather than the genus, potentially one of the perennial species.
Knautia	Knautias are small plants which cope well with drought and exposure. The genus is not too large and they have a longish flowering season.
Osmanthus	A genus of about 30 species of evergreen trees and shrubs which could be considered.
Pulmonaria	Commonly called Lungworts, these are both found as native UK plants as well as across mainly Europe and into Asia. They are a mix of evergreen or herbaceous plants which thrive in damp shady areas but can cope with some dry shade. These could possibly be excellent plants for the slopes of Belle Vue or Sparrow's Nest or equally used to provide natural planting in the damp shade around Fen Park.
Tamarix	This would seem a natural plant for us to choose as it is also called the salt cedar and is commonly found all over the town. There are about 50 – 60 species of which are evergreen or deciduous shrubs/trees growing from between 1m and 18m in height. We would need to avoid certain members of the species such as Tamarix Ramossima which has the potential to become another Japanese Knotweed due to its invasive nature.
Tricyrtis	Not a native plant but well adapted to the UK it is part of the lily family and contains approximately 20 species commonly known as Toad Lilies preferring shade/part shade and rich, moist soil such as the slopes of Sparrow's Nest where it joins Lighthouse Score and has the natural springs.
Verbena	Although this would suit our location and many are native plants this genus contains over 250 species. It might be possible to restrict a collection to a specific species or group of species. The bonus plant wise is that they are drought-resistant, tolerating full to partial sun, and enjoy well-drained, average soils. Plants are easily grown from seed therefore cheaper and loved by butterflies and other insects.

In addition to the above species there are two types of grass which are available to hold as a national collection (Panax, Stipa) as well as two forms of gorse/broom (Cytisus and Genista) both of which could fit into planting in our open spaces.

## New Open Spaces Policy

The council is open to taking on additional open spaces, parks, play areas, allotments etc however each will be considered on its own merit and the benefits it brings to the town as well its surrounding community.

The council will also seek, wherever possible, to obtain a 'dowry' to facilitate maintaining the asset.

It will also take into account whether the asset would be better cared for by LTC and could be easily maintained within its current portfolio. Such areas could include the proposed public space by the third crossing, The Ham (next to Fen Park), non LTC play areas/spaces within the parish, new proposed public spaces under the local plan, public cemeteries along with areas of the seafront should funding permit.

# Pesticide and Herbicide Policy

## Overview

Lowestoft Town Council is committed to maintaining its open spaces, parks, and other areas of responsibility by ensuring its contractors use methods which have little or no negative impact on the natural environment.

This means the Council will:

- Aim to reduce pesticide use by supporting manual and horticultural methods, so that pesticides are used only if absolute necessary.
- Encourage the increased use of green recycled waste as mulch, reducing the need for the use of herbicide on shrub beds and hedge lines.

## Weed & Pest Control

It is a legal requirement and Good Practice that pesticide use in public spaces should be reduced.

- Pesticides should no longer be used in Green Flag Parks or play grounds, except where pesticides offer the only effective option such as in the treatment of some persistent weeds.
- Other means of weed control such as mulching, acetic acid dilutions on hard surfaces, flame treatment and steel brushing should be investigated and potentially encouraged.
- There should be no blanket application of pesticides or herbicides. If they are to be used then individual weeds should be sprayed on their leaves with a contact herbicide, so that other plants, soil and surfaces are not affected.
- Further, such applications should not be in areas of heavy public footfall e.g. the edges of grassed areas near pathways. Apart from its negative impact on the natural environment, the creep of these applications, sometimes to 45cm from the edge of pathways, is unsightly and unjustified in terms of the cost and amount of herbicide used
- If such applications are to be made, they should be limited to a maximum of three applications per year
- Only in exceptional circumstances, after the use of alternative methods have failed, should a residual herbicide, which stays on the surface of the soil for several months, be used to provide weed control in a known problem area. The aim remains to reduce the usage of this type of herbicide to nil



- Some pesticides are used on the council's bowling greens to maintain the fine grass surface that is required for this sport, including fungicides to control turf diseases and lumbricides to reduce worm casts and prevent root damage by leather jacket larvae. In these locations, greenkeepers use their experience to ensure that treatments are kept to a minimum and are carried out in a safe and timely way.
- Rats and other pests are monitored and outbreaks controlled only as and when necessary by the council's contractors.
- Insect & pest control will be managed using natural methods such as companion planting, encouragement of a natural eco-system and nature's own pest control wherever possible and any chemical treatment used as a last resort.
- Pesticides will not be used as the solution to Hand Arm Vibration at Work (HAV). Other practices should be considered in order to meet our requirement under the regulations to ensure that exposure is reduced to 'as low as reasonably practicable' and the use of pesticides should only be considered where all other options have failed.

# Planting Policy

Although detailed planting will be site specific and may vary depending upon location there are some over-arching planting guidelines.

The planting in our parks and open spaces should be diverse but appropriate to the location. Where possible we should avoid plants that need a lot of water or demand a lot of attention unless we have volunteer groups to provide additional support. Planting should provide year-round interest where possible as well as being wildlife friendly for the longest period of the year possible. Wildlife-friendly gardening tend to focus on native flowers, but we have long had non-native plants. Indeed, many plants which we think of as native may not be and climate change may force native species into decline if they cannot adapt or be adapted. Many garden plants are in fact adapted native plants but many exotic species are just as attractive to pollinators. In general, Britain's 400,000 garden plant species provide genetic diversity, enabling more selection and breeding to adapt to future extremes. It is important to plant a wide range of flower types ascertain varieties of exotic flowers with lots of petals lose their nectar-holding sexual organs and so become useless for pollinators. Daisies, aconites, crocus, hellebores are good for winter-waking bees.

Main plants used in our parks and gardens should include shrubs and perennials with annuals used when necessary. Once established shrubs and perennials need less care and less water than annuals and are therefore economically and environmentally better. Trees should be carefully selected for their location and what result is desired from them, i.e. shade, foliage interest, windbreak etc. Where a vista is to be maintained then plants should be selected for columnar shape or low height. Although they may equally be used to screen walls, building or unsightly features.

It would be beneficial to try to home a national collection in the town and select an appropriate location. This would encourage visitors to the town.

"Gardening in a Changing Climate" is a 2017 RHS report that outlines the challenges – milder winters, more unpredictable extremes and more pests – posed by climate change. But open spaces and gardens might help save the planet. The way we garden is still sometimes part of the problem – using precious water in pursuit of a perfect lawn during a drought springs to mind – but it can be part of the solution. Gardeners can reduce carbon dioxide emissions, mitigate pollution and flooding, and help increase their neighbourhood's resilience.

Water use in parks and gardens is going to be a major issue in the future. Demand is likely to out-strip supply however at present the use of energy-intensive mains water on gardens is still socially acceptable and Britain lags behind more water-stressed countries where grey-water recycling is commonplace. But hosepipe bans could become perpetual for some regions in coming decades. Lowestoft town council needs to invest in rainwater and grey-water recycling and storage.

The report recommends providing "as much greenery as possible", planting hedges instead of fencing and planting trees. Trees not only dispel pollution but can alleviate

flash flooding and provide shade for buildings during heatwaves. Perhaps the most overlooked way gardening can benefit the climate is via the soil: adding organic matter (mulch from composting, not peat) can create a soil that stores more carbon and retains more water, also making gardens more resilient in flood and droughts.

A final practical suggestion for climate-friendly gardening is to make everything permeable. Even car park gardens can be permeable and planted with trees and shrubs around the edge.

Gardening won't stop climate change, but it could make our local communities more resilient when faced with extreme floods, heat – and mild weather.

## Play Spaces Policy

The Open Spaces Needs Assessment noted that Lowestoft has a shortage of play spaces. In order to deal with that situation LTC has built into its annual budget a sum of £50k to improve play areas, this can be supplemented with funding from S106 and CIL. Whilst this is a significant sum it would only cover the cost of one new play area and possibly partial refurbishment of another each year. Unfortunately, both S106 and CIL funds are unlikely to produce the levels of funds as they have in the past so this budget investment will be key.

Key areas where there are shortages in provision are for older teenagers and children with special requirements and the later will be considered both during refurbishment of existing and development of new play areas.

Provision for teenagers can be less localised as they are more likely to travel to access locations they want to use and, on the whole, prefer them to be separate from play areas for younger children. Indeed, areas for congregation are as key as areas for play.

When considering refurbishment of existing play areas or development of new areas, LTC will consult with local residents as well as Sentinel Leisure Trust and Waveney Youth Council to design a scheme appropriate for the location and users.

LTC will develop an ongoing play area development plan which will take into account the age of existing play equipment and its expected lifespan, maintenance schedule, regular maintenance checks and annual inspections. Sentinel Leisure Trust have agreed to work with us to develop this project plan.

Priority will be given to existing place space. Where there is a lack of provision in a particular area LTC will look at its own asset portfolio to assess whether there is a possibility of siting a new play area on an existing asset. Where LTC has no asset then it will seek to identify alternative possibilities and, if the land is owned by another public or third sector organisation, work with them to consider options. LTC investment in non-LTC owned play areas would be subject to legal agreements.

# Pond Policy

## Introduction

Ponds are an important biodiversity resource to their environment, but need management to maintain their health. This is the same whether they are a natural pond such as at Normanston and Fen parks or a designed man-made pond such as those in Kensington Gardens and Sparrows' Nest park. As the custodian of our ponds the Council will aim to deliver a balanced environment in and around all our ponds that nurtures wildlife, sustains itself, and provides pleasure and educational opportunities for the community. Our goal is to conserve, enhance and develop our natural ponds and man-made water features.

Pond ecology can be described as the interaction of the life in the pond with the environment that exists there. A shallow, nutrient rich pond, exposed to sunlight with little water flowing through it will be teeming with algae and aquatic plants. It may have very little animal life present because of low oxygen levels. In contrast a newly created, deep, spring fed pond may have little life of any kind in it because of low temperatures and lack of food supply.

All ponds age. A pond begins with mostly water, few nutrients, and little aquatic life. Over time the pond accumulates nutrients. This enrichment process is called eutrophication. The addition of nutrients stimulates the growth of aquatic life. These organisms live and grow and die. Their remains decay in the pond and the nutrients it took to grow them are released back into the water of the pond to keep the cycle going. Eventually, though, there will be an accumulation of material that resists decay and the pond will fill up.

## Pond Maintenance

As a pond owner the Council should slow this process down as much as possible. Some of the measures necessary to maintain a healthy pond are described below.

1. Regular visual checks are important to check on the health of the pond and also to check for rubbish and other detritus that may be in the pond.
2. Water monitoring tests should be carried out on ponds when deemed necessary, but especially when monitoring for algal blooms during hot weather periods.
3. Animal access to ponds or streams that feed ponds can have a negative effect on the pond because of the inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from their waste, marginal and bank planting will be effective in reducing access, see point 4.

4. Reed bed planting and marginal planting in natural ponds, needs little regular maintenance other than litter removal and assists with reducing animal access to pond.
5. Where wildfowl are present on the pond then regular checks should be carried out between April and mid-October to remove dead wildfowl and so prevent outbreaks of avian botulism.
6. Keeping sediment out of the pond prevents the pond from being made shallow so it is important to consider a planned de-silting programme, monitoring silt levels every 5 years and actioning as necessary to maintain pond health, depth and life.
7. Oxygenation of ponds happens in two major ways. Plants and algae do photosynthesis during the day and wind adds oxygen at night. Thus, plants and an open aspect allowing for the movement of the wind over the pond's water surface is necessary for a healthy pond. This means that smaller ponds should have carefully managed margins to allow for this movement of wind over their surfaces.
8. Oxygenating plants should be introduced in ponds, especially those without marginal planting and an obvious water flow/source, but this needs monitoring to make sure their growth does not affect the ecological balance of the pond.
9. Care should be taken that only appropriate species of fish or wildlife should be introduced into ponds and that any transportation of fish or wildlife should be done with the appropriate licenses and that minimal stress is caused to the fish or wildlife.
10. Where the health of the pond is not in a positive state then consideration should be given to the introduction of floating wind powered water circulating equipment and the installation of sonic algal control devices.
11. Tree and foliage maintenance are necessary to allow for wind movement across the surface of a pond and to maintain light levels on the ponds and hence maintain a healthy pond.
12. In the event of a severe period of frost and snow, ponds should be monitored to check that oxygenation of the water is not at a stressed level.
13. Where it is considered that a rare or endangered species has taken residence in a pond then the appropriate organisation will be contacted for advice and all necessary action taken to ensure the safety of that species.

## Responsibilities

In order to ensure that the Council's ponds are properly maintained, the Facilities Manager will work with council contractors and staff to ensure that a maintenance schedule is in place and will carry out spot checks to ensure that the maintenance is ongoing and take into account the measures listed above.

If any issue arises that the Facilities Manager cannot deal with within existing policy or funding then the issue will be raised with the Town Clerk to bring to councillors' attention via the Implementation Committee. Should additional funds be required the Implementation Committee will make recommendation to the Finance & Governance Committee.

## Promotion of Open Space Policy

This area covers a wide remit however it covers making people aware of the public open space, how it is important to them, how they can be involved with it and also good signage.

## LTC Website

Our public spaces should be clearly defined on our website and pages designed for each of the parks and play areas as well as location map showing where the parks and play areas are located. There should also be information on whether the park can be hired for events etc with relevant information as well as the facilities at each location. There should be links to any Friends group and to the LTC Friends Pack. There should be a dedicated page for allotments, community gardens and orchards, detailing where each is, how many plots there are, how to apply for a plot and a link to the Lowestoft & District Allotment Association.

## Site Signage

There should be clear signage at each site with the LTC logo and a contact number should there be any issues. If there are any 'rules' for a particular site they should be worded in a positive, friendly manner. Standard signs should be designed for across the assets which can be varied as appropriate.

### Information Boards

Key parks should have information boards showing key points and interesting items in the park. These could either be sited at all entrances or there could be a signpost pointing to where the information board is located. This could vary site to site i.e. Normanston Park might have information board with a map whereas Belle Vue might have a lectern with map and information about the history of the park.

## Notice Boards

Each park should have an LTC branded notice board where council info can be displayed as well as info for other user groups in the park. Eventually this might be considered for play areas as well.



## Apps

LTC will aim to roll out interactive mobile phone apps for its parks as well as other attractions in the town in partnership with other local organisations in order to promote our parks, environment and heritage as well as encouraging individuals, friends and families to explore the town and increase physical activity, health and well-being and knowledge of the town.

We will also look to get our assets listed on tourism and public service apps such as ensuring that our public conveniences are listed on tourism apps and websites such as the Great British Toilet Map (<https://www.toiletmap.org.uk/>)

## Local Media

We will use any opportunity to promote our assets in local press and other media.

## Use of Open Spaces to promote businesses and organisations

Where a business or organisation is a tenant of one of the Councils assets it will be allowed to advertise its facilities on that site with agreement of the Council.

Tenants and partners of the Council may be allowed to use Council premises to advertise their public offerings as long as they have received prior permission from the Council and the offering does not compete with any tenants on the site where they wish to advertise.

Other organisations may be allowed to advertise on Council premises as long as they have applied for the Council's permission and paid any fees required. Council will annually review and set such charges which may vary between commercial, voluntary and charitable organisations.

Any advertisement or promotional material placed on council assets without prior Council consent may be removed by the Council or its representatives and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.

## Public Consultation

Should the town council decide to significantly dispose of any public open space within its portfolio, it will engage in full public consultation prior to any decision being taken. Should the council consider leasing a to a private organisation or business it would also engage in public consultation regarding the terms of the lease without impairing any issues over confidentiality. Should the council wish to borrow to purchase any land it would by necessity have to enter into public consultation. None of the above prevent the council making the final decision on any changes, addition or disposals of assets held by it or from holding public consultations on other issues relating to public open space.

# Public Seating Policy

## Overview

Seating is important in the parks, play areas and other locations that are assets of Lowestoft Town Council, as it enables people to rest and enjoy the surrounding environment for free and as such is egalitarian. It facilitates parks becoming places of destination and potentially increases the use of parks, play areas and other locations by families, individuals and other groups. Public seating helps to reduce social isolation and marginalisation, see below.

The following quote about public seating is from a report commissioned by the Young Foundation entitled "Benches for everyone, Solitude in Public, Sociability for Free" which states "public seating is appreciated by many, and especially vital for people who are largely marginalised from other collective environments such as work, cafés, educational or leisure facilities. They are contrasted positively with crowded, lonely or boring home situations. Bench-space allows people to loosely belong within the flow of town life, to see and be seen."

[https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly\\_fs/1.523490!/file/the-bench-project-final.pdf](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.523490!/file/the-bench-project-final.pdf)

The seating needs to be comfortable, durable and resistant to fire and other potential physical damage. The seating needs to be made from robust materials, which along with attractive planting, and cleanliness of public space appears to increase individual acceptance of the proximity of strangers.

The traditional 2 or 3-seater bench need not be the only style of seating, as longer benches and larger structures allow for wider participation and more fluid social networks. The traditional style may be appropriate in heritage parks but, in all other locations, consideration should be given to maximising usage and allowing mixed age and social groups to use the seating, which is more practical with other designs of seating. For instance, with longer seating structures individuals of one age group may use one end, whilst the other end is used by those of a different aged demographic. Whenever picnic bench style seating is provided consideration should always be given to siting wheelchair friendly picnic benches as well as picnic benches for those with limited flexibility.

Further, in open spaces the close siting or co-location of seating allows for individuals to feel less socially isolated, as they are in closer proximity with other seating users and potentially this increases social engagement. For instance, in the Belle Vue Park Peace Garden, the seating is grouped facing each other to promote interaction. Interactive seating areas should be considered which can be tailored to a particular age group as well as cross-generational. This can lead to an improvement

in social interaction and can help with mental health however isolated seating should also be included as individuals can have different needs.

## Density of seating

The density of seating will vary from location to location, with the density in the culture parks and those parks with café facilities being higher than in other parks. Elsewhere the clustering or co-location of seating may be appropriate rather than the tradition spacing of park benches facing the pathways all set at the same angle. The co-location of benching is seen in the memorial garden in Belle Vue.

“Clustering of benches and co-location with a range of facilities provides interest and gives legitimacy to hanging out. The ability to gather in larger groups is valued by many. Sitting on benches supports healthy everyday routines by enabling people to spend longer outside. People need to feel safe. Frequently used, visible spaces with a choice of where to sit can support this. These opportunities to rest can be restorative for mental health and support local walking when personal mobility is limited. A mix of short and long stay bench users supports informal safety in numbers.” The Young Foundation’s “Benches for everyone, Solitude in Public, Sociability for Free”

The number of public seating units per park or location should be recorded so that areas have appropriate levels of seating i.e. no area should have a dearth or an over-abundance of public seating.

## Style of seating

### Play areas

Where there is space, picnic bench style seating may be more appropriate than traditional bench seating, as it is more family orientated. Where space is limited then longer bench or other design style seating should be installed. Where there is a concept for the play space or it is play space for teenagers then the seating may be designed for their use rather than for parents/families use whilst watching over younger children.

### Heritage parks

In heritage parks e.g., Sparrow’s Nest, Belle Vue and Kensington Gardens the style of seating used should reflect the style of design in the park. We currently have a single

style of heritage bench which is appropriate to our heritage parks however areas of a heritage park may attract other styles of benches for example the Japanese garden in Kensington Gardens may have an oriental style bench in that one area whilst the majority of the park has the standard heritage bench. This may also vary around cafés/restaurants and entertainment areas where picnic-style seating or fixed tables & chairs may be appropriate.

## Other parks and locations

Other parks such as Fen Park, Clarke's Piece and Normanston Park may need family orientated seating as in picnic benches, but also seating that accommodates the sporting activities that occurs in these parks e.g. co-location to allow teams, anglers, runners and tennis players access to seating.

Some areas such as around the ponds in Fen Park or in Arnolds Bequest may suit more rustic style benches. Other areas may be designated for teenagers and an age appropriate design may make them regard the area as their space.

Whatever style the benches in a park take then the other fixtures should echo that style. Therefore, heritage benches would be accompanied by the standard black heritage bin, rustic benches by a more rustic bin and possibly notice board if required, teenage seating may have a funkier bin and a children's play area may have a child friendly bin.

## Lowestoft Town Council Memorial Benches

It has been suggested that whenever the town grants freedom of the town to an organisation (once policy is approved) that a commemorative bench would be commission. It is likely these would be produced by a single manufacturer and the design would be appropriate to the organisation. These benches would be the exception to the above policy and might be sited wherever the council decided and, in time, may also form part of a bench trail.

### Suppliers

The Council should have no more than three suppliers at any time to ensure continuity of style and durability across the council's portfolio although specialist seating provision for specific sites may be sources elsewhere i.e. to tie in with specific play equipment in a park.

Currently the Council has two preferred suppliers.

- Glasdon – inherited from WDC and Waveney Norse. Highly durable benches made from plastic enclosed steel

- David Ogilvie – Peace Garden- Highly durable specialty benches in powder coated steel

The third company would preferably be a company whose products are made from recycled materials such as NBB Recycled Furniture whose furniture is made from recycled plastic bags (amongst other things) which meets LTC's green policies.

Standard Heritage Memorial Bench currently used in our parks



## Refurbishment & Maintenance Policy

The council will determine both an overall and site-specific schedule for refurbishment and maintenance with reference to other existing policies such as the Tree Policy and Pond Policy.

This policy mainly concerns structures, boundary walls/fences, pathways, trees, play equipment, trees and ponds/water features for which there will be planned refurbishment/maintenance and responsive maintenance.

Where there is a legal obligation for a specific maintenance regime then council will be required to follow that regime. Otherwise council will determine its own procedures and budget accordingly. This will include:

Wood preservation treatments for exposed timber on a regular basis

A rolling maintenance program will be developed along with annual inspections and a responsive maintenance reserve.

LTC will tender for a five-year maintenance contract with local contractors for repairs and new builds which do not form part of its current landscape contract.

## Toilet Policy

Included as addendum, please see contents page.



## Tree Policy

Included as addendum, please see contents page.

# Ancient Trees and Hedgerows Policy

Trees and hedges are a vital habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

More than 600 plants, 1500 insects, 65 birds and 20 mammal species are known to live or feed in hedgerows. Among the species that rely strongly on hedgerows are brown hare, pipistrelle bat, tree sparrow, grey partridge and song thrush, all of which are priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Hedges may also act as wildlife corridors, linking up areas of semi-natural habitats and allowing the movement of plants and animals throughout the countryside.

In Lowestoft our coastal trees, hedgerows and natural scrub is often the first landfall for migrating birds land as well as providing home to large numbers of native species. Many of these, although not ancient in their own right, have provided this function for centuries if not longer.

The council will seek to identify and map the location and history of ancient trees and hedgerows with the parish and work to record, promote and protect them.

## Definitions

There are five classification of trees and two of hedgerow which are important in this context.

## Trees

### Ancient Tree

The exact age at which you'd call a tree ancient depends on the species of tree and other factors including the type of site where it's growing. A birch tree could be considered as ancient at 150 years old, for example, but an oak tree would not be thought of as ancient until it's at least 400 years old. Yew trees can live for thousands of years, so are not defined as ancient until they are 800 years old.

### Veteran

### tree

Unlike an ancient tree, a veteran tree can be any age, but it is a tree which shows ancient characteristics such as those above. These may not just be due to age, but could result from natural damage, management, or the tree's environment. Ancient trees are all veterans, but not all veterans are ancient.

### Heritage

### tree

A heritage tree is one that is part of our history and culture, and can be connected with specific historic events or people, such as the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest or the Tolpuddle Martyr's Tree in Dorset. Other heritage trees may simply have particular

appeal because of their appearance, landscape character or architectural setting, and have therefore become well-known landmarks in their local communities. There are also heritage trees such as the Thorpeness Apple, which are valued for their great botanical interest, for example as rare native trees or cultivars of historic interest.

### **Notable**

### **tree**

The term notable tree usually refers to a tree which is significant locally, because it is special or particularly large compared with the trees around it. Notable trees are usually mature, but not always; Wellingtonias for example, can appear to be huge even when quite young.

### **Champion**

### **trees**

A champion tree is one which is the tallest, or has the widest girth, of its kind in a specific area.

## **Hedgerows**

### **Ancient hedgerows**

Ancient hedgerows are defined as those which were in existence before the Enclosure Acts of 1720 to 1840.

### **Species-rich hedgerows**

Species-rich hedges are defined as those that contain four or more native woody species, on average, along a 30 m length. They also include hedges with fewer woody species but possessing a rich flora along the hedge bottom. This definition includes recently planted species-rich hedgerows.

## **Protection**

Trees which have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) or are in designated conservation areas have protection but Ancient woodland, trees and veteran trees are more specifically protected under Planning Law. Section 49 paragraph 175c of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework July 2018 states "development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons<sup>58</sup> and a suitable compensation strategy exists;"

# Vehicular Access to Open Spaces

## General Policy

Many of our open spaces have paths which are wide enough to drive upon and this may be necessary at times due to maintenance and deliveries however general access should be restricted unless the facility has specific vehicular access and parking such as Normanston Park.

Although these paths may be wide enough for vehicular access, this is not their primary use which is the enjoyment of the public. People may be walking in a park using headphones for example or children may be playing, neither will or should be expecting to watch out for motorised vehicles.

Our open spaces should be safe places of public enjoyment without the need to be concerned about vehicles unless they are in designated traffic areas.

## Motorised Vehicles

Lorries, cars, motorcycles and mopeds should only use designated 'roadways' unless they are making a delivery or are required for a maintenance purpose. Deliveries or maintenance should, where possible, be scheduled for periods when the location is quieter. Speed limit signs should be erected in the areas where access to motorised vehicles is permitted to restrict speed to a maximum of 10mph.

Motorised vehicles such as mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs are, of course, welcome in the parks but we would request that the speed of such vehicles should be restricted to walking pace in order to ensure the enjoyment of all park users.

## Bicycles, non-motorised scooters, skateboards

The council is looking to provide bicycle parking within open spaces to encourage the use of bikes to access green spaces. Where there are designated bicycle tracks then cycling is permitted however we would be grateful if cyclists would dismount and walk their bikes if there are using pedestrian pathways. This also applies to non-motorised scooters.

The council provides one skatepark and is looking to provide a further one. These are the preferred areas for skateboarding.

We would request that cyclists and skateboarders consider the safety of other park users. LTC will aim to install bicycle racks in all its parks and will develop a schedule to achieve this.

## Unauthorised motor vehicles on LTC Open Spaces

The Council maintains the right to clamp any vehicle which is on a non-vehicular area of LTC open space without authorisation.

# Public Open Space Definitions

# PARKS

## Types of Park

Across Lowestoft we have several types of parks, Waveney District Council tended to group them into three categories Destination, Local and Satellite depending on attributes within the parks, our definitions are slightly different and reflect locations where provisions of parks is more successful. Here we will try to each location with a brief overview and then in more detail with each individual park plan.

## Types of parks and themes

We're suggesting plans for four different kinds of park:

- Local Parks and Green Spaces: small parks, centres of the immediate community with one or more features such as a play area, sports facilities, grass and flower beds. Examples include Rosedale Park, Pakefield Green & Gainsborough Drive.
- Linear Parks: A linear park is one which is a lot longer than it is wide. LTC has one linear park which has been named the Great Eastern Linear Park and consists of part of the old Lowestoft to Great Yarmouth railway line. The park is mainly used as a route from a to b rather than as an enjoyable space.
- Community Parks: local parks with more than just one leisure use and more visitors with potential to host formal and informal recreational and small community events. Examples include Gunton Community Park, Clarke's Piece & Rosedale Park
- Destination Parks: in predominant areas of open space with visitor attractions such as good planting, children's' play area(s), toilets, seating, litter bins, lighting, refreshments and paths however it does not need to have all of them. It should also have a range of facilities and uses with the possibility of hosting some major events. Examples include Belle Vue Park, Fen Park, Kensington Gardens, Normanston Park, Sparrow's Nest and The Ness. Each Destination Park will have its own identity.

## The four key strings in our parks' strategy

### 1. Parks at the heart of neighbourhoods

Our focus on the future provision of parks will take into account where they are now, how they're grouped and how they fit in with and support their surrounding neighbourhoods and communities.

How they can be sustained to make their neighbourhoods places where people want to live. How standards should rise and how those who care for the neighbourhood - including volunteers and non-profit organisations – can grow stronger relationships and new ways of working with parks.

## 2. Active parks, healthy communities

We will focus on getting parks used and enjoyed more: what do individual parks do, what's their main use and exactly what do they give and mean for users? They need to be there for everyone - no matter where in the town they live, or where they come from. Parks should meet local needs including children's and young peoples.

There should be organised, regular activities like bowls, park runs, cycling or outdoor health and adventure activities. We will look at both formal and informal heritage and conservation activities that people can join in as well as other educational opportunities whether this is 'taught' or 'online' provision. Groups to target include 0-to-5-year-olds, youth, adults, families and older people working with partner organisations.

## 3. A 'standard' for Lowestoft parks

We will focus on improving management and maintenance and consider how parks are looked after now and in the future. Our aim is to ensure that everyone can get to a good quality, vibrant, well-maintained park or green space. A 'Lowestoft standard' park should be:

- welcoming
- safe and secure
- clean and well maintained
- environmentally friendly
- involving the local community
- managed by an appropriate workforce and or volunteers
- promoting healthy lifestyles
- promoting conservation and heritage
- promoted appropriately

We will look to establish a regular programme of training and horticultural skills development for our ground's maintenance teams (whether contractor led or other provision), Friends & community groups and others that includes apprenticeships and back-to-work programmes. We seek to keep up to date on new techniques in landscape maintenance and, where applicable, trial them in our parks.

## 4. Productive parks in partnership

Focus on more collaboration in park upkeep and care that brings additional income, gives others a bigger role with more responsibilities across neighbourhoods and communities, and fosters different relationships and ways of working such as Friends and schools' groups.

### Destination Parks

Our initial Destination Parks would be: Belle Vue Park, Denes Oval, Fen Park, Kensington Gardens, Normanston Park, Sparrow's Nest and The Ness. At present, not all of these meet the criteria however each has the potential and we should aim to develop them to meet this designation. Each park should also have its own identity and, for that purpose, the following would be applied.

Belle Vue Park, Heritage Destination Park. A quiet, contemplative space reflecting its Grade II listing and its use as a cemetery with a long-term scheme to re-install missing elements such as the lower walks, heritage paths, planting, seating and toilets. It would also be a prime location for sculptures, either permanent or temporary.

Denes Oval, Destination Sports Park. The smallest of the two Sports Parks it already has great facilities however some work is needed to bring it up to its potential. The wall around the Oval needs to be repaired/replaced depending on planning advice due to its position in a conservation area and the gap in wall in the north-east corner needs to be filled.

Fen Park, Destination Community Park. The park already has many of the assets needed to define it as a Destination Park but also falls into the Community Park designation. With its fishing and 'lake' it could also almost be called a Sports Park.

Kensington Gardens, Heritage Destination Park. The design of the park lends itself to being a formal pleasure garden although it has its elements of sports provision. It already has most of the required components to be considered a destination park.

Normanston Park, Destination Sports Park. Our largest park in area, it is also home to many sports and leisure activities and has most of the requirements to be a Destination Park. The sports offer could be extended whilst still maintaining space for those who use the park for non-sporting activities. Sparrow's Nest, Heritage Destination Park. Dating from around the same time as Kensington Gardens it plays a key role in the heritage of the town but



perhaps its cultural contribution is more important. Home of the former Sparrow's Nest Theatre it still contains three museums, a band stand within a natural amphitheatre and a cinema.

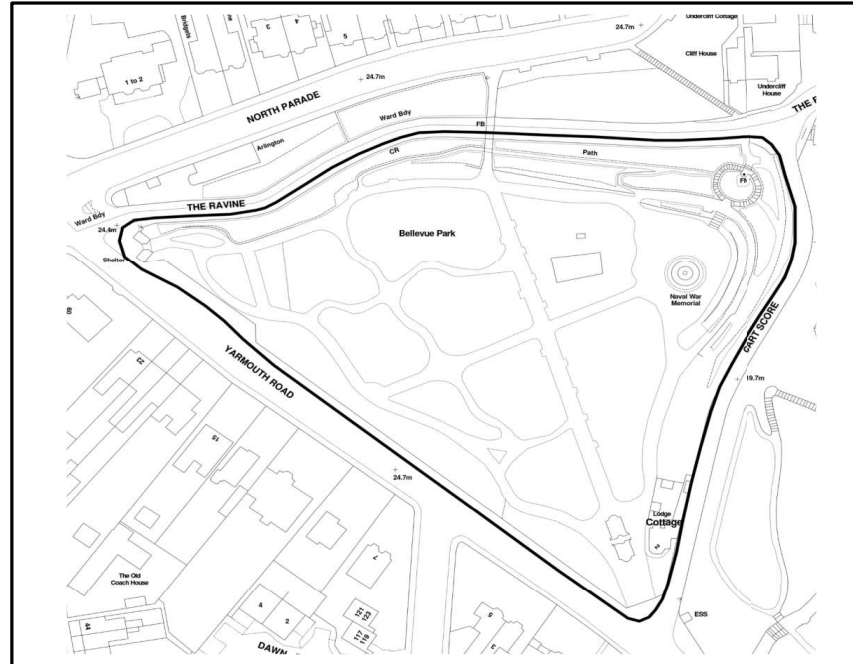
The Ness, Maritime Destination Park. A new, more contemporary park celebrating Lowestoft's relationship with the sea and its position as most the easterly place in the UK.

Therefore, the key themes would be:

- Belle Vue Park – Remembrance/Memory
- Denes Oval - Sports
- Fen Park – Water/Community
- Kensington Gardens – Formal Pleasure Garden
- Normanston Park – Sports
- Sparrow's Nest – Cultural
- The Ness – Maritime

# Individual Park Policy and Plans

# Belle Vue Park, Yarmouth Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4AL



## Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference: SK263069

Area:

Special Status: Grade II listed Park  
Cemetery

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services: Water, Electricity, Drainage      Facilities on site:

Access: Pedestrian access from three points on the north side of the park and pedestrian and vehicular access at the south from Cart Score.

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Tenants: Cottage

Issues: Restrictions due to Grade II status and use as cemetery

Current main use of site:

Park and cemetery, mainly used for walking or passing through.

### Future planned use of site:

Destination Park with the theme of Remembrance/Memory. Although originally the park had a bandstand and would have been a pleasure garden it now has the RNPS memorial as cemetery. The park is Grade II listed and is currently being mapped by Historic England. It is also home to the new Peace garden.

The park falls into the HAZ and as such may gain both financial and professional help in restoring lost features. Initial replanting has been begun in 2018 however this should be an ongoing project. Planting should be reflective of its heritage whilst considering modern public gardening restrictions and to a large extent be at a height of less than four feet to maintain a view across the park.

Key features which we would like to restore would be the original toilets and shelter at the north-west entrance, the lower pedestrian walkways on the slopes of the Ravine and Cart Score with appropriate handrails for safety. Woodland planting on the slopes consisting of spring bulbs (snowdrops, bluebells, narcissus, anemone, aconites), cyclamen, hardy geraniums, ferns etc. A pergola to replace the thatched shelter that was burnt down. Restoration of more original style pathways than the tarmac whilst still maintaining the original path layout. Verification of soil type across the park and, if acidic, planting of Yakushimanum hybrid Rhododendrons and Azaleas. Commission or acquire sculptures. Repair/replace ironwork. Maintain cannons. Add to seating.

#### Projects for 2019

Replanting the bed around the RNPS cemetery. As this is a mainly shady area, we propose that this should be a white border comprising of shrubs and perennials to be funded from the park's development budget

Re-instating and planting of the two beds by the north-west entrance

Repairs to the Jubilee Bridge

Improved signage

Seating

### Resources Required:

Various

### Funding Required:

Once Historic England have completed their work and we have agreed options for the park then appropriate grants could be investigated. Elements could be funded from the Parks Development Budget as well as the Capital programme. We could also look at sponsorship for specific items or Arts Council funding for sculptures

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Norse

## Britten's Piece, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 9BL



### Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK261316/SK263156

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The park is not particularly well designed, so it has a poor layout

### Current main use of site:

The site is a large area of green space which contains play areas, a half basketball court. There is seating along the main pathway however it does not invite you to actually sit and relax. It is used a lot by children traversing to and from the high school but is also a community/family park.

Future planned use of site:

Currently just called “Land and Britten Road”, Britten’s Piece would give the park more of an identity as a Community Park and as it would be named after the composer it could be musically themed (hence the name Piece). The essential elements play score is an 8/9 and there are no missing elements on site. It is recommended that the site be aimed at the junior/teen age group play wise.

Rather than traditional benches (as at present) this park would benefit from community seating and meeting points/pods with wind up bluetooth posts. The site needs short, medium and long-term aims and a design for the finished park should be developed prior to adding any new features which should then be worked into the whole.

The park benefits from a lit pathway

Resources Required:

MUGA

Musically themed play equipment, community seating, bins, meeting points and Bluetooth points, widening the path to provide a pedestrian path and a cycle path, some trees at the Britten Road end of the park and planting to soften the boundary whilst allowing sightlines through the park.

Grass football area with goalposts

Musical artwork and maybe something commissioned to celebrate Benjamin Britten.

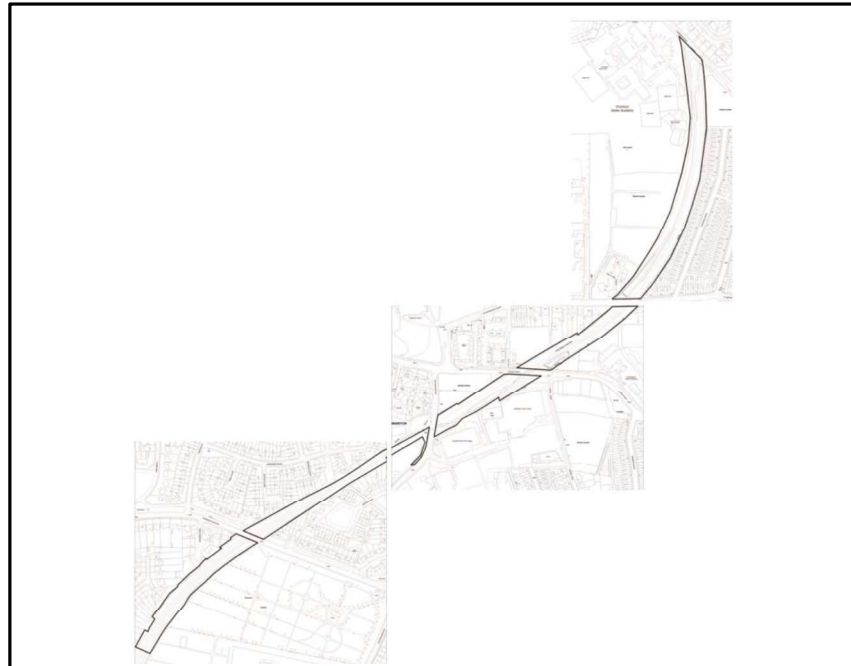
Possibly a small performance area at the west end of the park

Funding Required:

New play equipment built into the play equipment schedule, sponsorship, ACE England and Sports grants as well as seed funds from the Parks Development budget

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No but potential relationship with EPA
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Great Eastern Linear Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Normanston

Site Reference: SK116830

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site: Tarmac pathway, cctv

Access: Various access points along the length

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The park is the remains of the old Lowestoft to Gt Yarmouth railway track and is very long but also very narrow for a park. It is in a dip and there are few locations for activities, there is limited lighting and a lack of visibility over or along it. There is limited cctv. As the town expanded after it was built sewerage runs over the park and there are also drainage & fly-tipping issues.

Current main use of site:

The park is generally used as a transit route than a place to spend time and enjoy. It does however provide a key wildlife corridor through the town.

### Future planned use of site:

The layout of the park prevents a lot of uses however there is a potential working party between the council and Ormiston Denes Academy as well as bringing other partners on board.

Whilst the site would remain essentially a transit park and wildlife corridor, there are improvements which could be made. Park users would like improved lighting and CCTV as the park is often used in low light and good segregation of pedestrians and cyclist areas would be safer. There have been suggestions that hides/screens to watch wildlife would be beneficial. Alternative forms of access have been suggested such as slides as a lot of the park users are young (this would have to be looked into for H&S reasons). Narrow play equipment and games such as hopscotch which could be painted on the tarmac would be preferred particularly in the areas close to the primary schools and maybe seating/bins in those areas reflecting the schools.

A further suggestion is a heritage trail/Lowestoft timeline which could be installed along the length of the park possibly using carved telegraph poles or sleepers as this would provide a reason for people to traverse the park rather than just for getting from A to B. This could be done pictorially as well as via an app.

Planting should remain natural and low maintenance whilst providing cover for wildlife and improving the sense of safety for park users.

The name "The Great Eastern Linear Park" is not used by locals who call it "The Trams". Although not strictly accurate it is possibly a better name than calling it "The Tracks". As "The Trams" is in current general usage it would seem sensible to formally rename it as such and erect new signage.

### Resources Required:

The school would like to start by forming a stakeholder group which we would work on with them and this is currently underway. The initial activities would be litter picks and mapping the park so that an actual plan can be drafted.

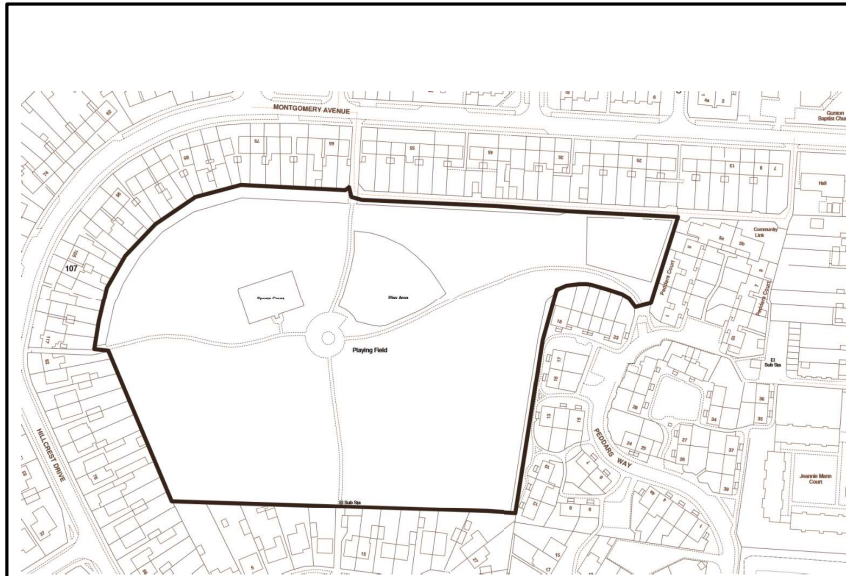
### Funding Required:

The school has a small fund which can be used for the park but other funding would be required however with involvement of the school and colleges as well as other key stakeholders this may open up potential grant pots for which we may need to provide seed money. Lighting and re-tarmacking will be expensive projects but cctv structures are in place. Benches and bins would need to be budgeted for as would play equipment but potentially wildlife screens could be built as part of a project. Signage would also need to be budgeted for.

Stakeholder Group	Yes, forming
Friends Group	Not yet and may form different format
Maintenance Contract holder:	Norse



## Gunton Community Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: St Margaret's

Site Reference: SK261132

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access: Vehicular access from Montgomery Avenue, pedestrian access from Hilcrest Drive, Hilcrest Gardens and Peddars Way

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The park is fully enclosed by housing, no visibility from the road which has positive and negative issues

Current main use of site:

The park is a large site which is predominantly used by children and dog walkers. There is a lot of open space but the site does not have the amenities to make it into a destination park, even with the facilities necessary to gain that status the park has no real parking nearby to allow non-locals to access it.

### Future planned use of site:

The site has a lot of potential and already has good play equipment and a MUGA. There is also a football pitch which is more for fun and not formal competition as there are no changing facilities or parking. The site contains a wildlife area which has not been cared for but could potentially be improved or relocated to elsewhere on the site. All the paths on site intersect in an area which calls out for a public work of art or specimen/notable tree. In the south eastern corner of the park there are some natural hummocks' and planting which could be emphasised to provide a more natural play area to enhance the other play facilities within the park. The park suffers from a lack of seating, bins and planting which would significantly improve the park for the local residents.

### Resources Required:

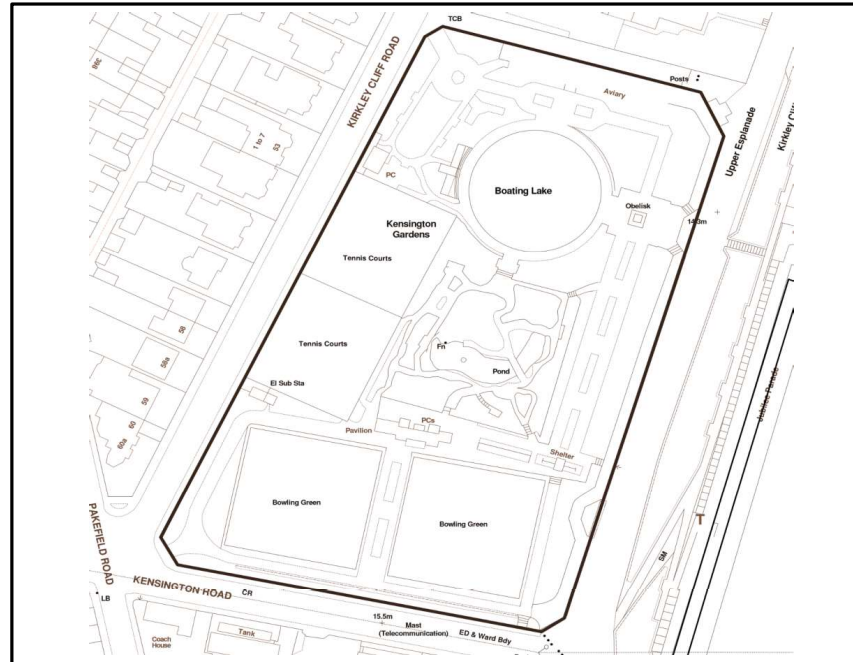
Benches, picnic benches, teenage seating, additional planting/trees, additional hummocks, integration of the nature area into the whole. Definition of areas within the park whilst maintain cohesion across the whole. There could be some benefit from low-level lighting and toilet/changing room provision but this would need to be assessed.

### Funding Required:

The main structures are already in the park, funding would be required for making the mounds and some planting as well.

Stakeholder Group	Not really
Friends Group	There was previously
Maintenance Contract holder:	Waveney Norse

## Kensington Gardens, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference:

Area:

Specification: Destination Park

Covenants:

Special Status: Conservation Area

TPOs:

Services: Water, electricity, drainage, gas?

Access: Four entrances with pedestrian and vehicular access

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Facilities on site: Café, Toilets, Park Keepers Store, Bowling Pavilion, 2 Bowling Greens, 4 tennis courts, Oriental garden, boating lake, kiosk, boats store, memorial, Long border, compost bin, promenade building, noticeboard

Current main use of site:

Park and sports area

### Future planned use of site:

Destination Park based around its heritage as a Victorian Pleasure Garden and its links with Kensington Gardens in London and through that Peter Pan.

### Resources Required:

2019 - Japanese style pergola to replace lost structure in the Japanese garden possibly sponsored or match-funded. Possibly a standard pergola adapted by the Men's Shed

2019 - Planting for Japanese Garden dependent of soil testing

2020 – Apply for Arts Council Funding for commissioned sculptures for the park in order to have them for the centenary. A new Peter Pan sculpture for the fish pond. Either Peter Pan and merfolk or Pen Pan and pirates ship to make it more unique and link in the maritime location to Peter Pan. Possibly a fun second statue of a crocodile with an actual working clock in its mouth emerging from the pond at one end.

Addition to the Bowls Club – linking the café to the bowls club to still maintain the two access points but with a continuous roof, a central covered bench area, and an enclosed extension at the bowls club end to contain bowls equipment at the front and a shallow store at the rear for Friends gardening tools (see diagram).

CCTV possibly in 3 – 4

Drinking Water Fountain

Children's Play area linked to the theme of the park of a more natural style

Seating

Gates

Signage

### Funding Required:

Grant/Capital funding for pavilion

Seating via LTC budget, grants and memorial provision

Pergola by corporate sponsorship in partnership with Friends

Gates/signage. water fountain via sponsorship/LTC budget/CIL/CCT grant?

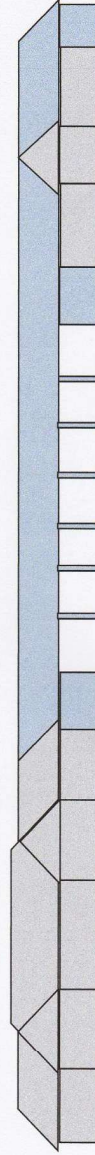
Japanese Garden funded from Park Development budget over a period of three years

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes
Maintenance Contract holder:	Norse

Initial idea for development of Café and Bowls Pavilion at Kensington Gardens

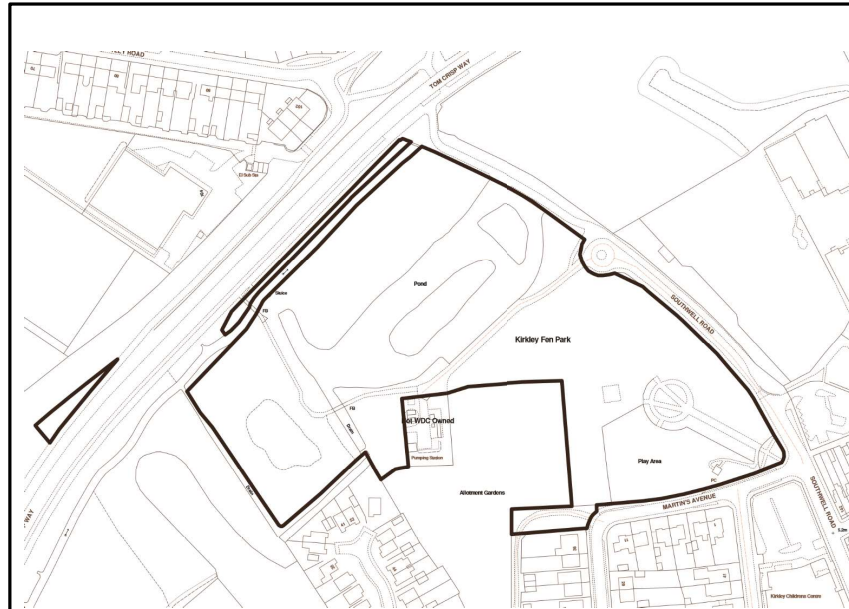


Existing design of two separate buildings with only partial linkage of design and materials



Proposed design changing roof of the pavilion to match the café and linking across to the café. To the right of the café there would be an extension to house an accessible toilet and Friends tool store at the rear. To the right of the Bowls pavilion there would be an extension to house the bowls pushers and equipment with a slightly bigger extension to the left to add a further changing space which would enable the two central rooms of the existing bowls pavilion to be used as a small kitchen/social area. The new covered central area would be supported by columns to match the columned areas being removed at each end of the bowls pavilion with four at the front and six at the rear possibly linked at the bottom by a open wall to make two seating areas.

## Fen Park, Kirkley, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference: SK261230

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

**Access:** The park has several entrances. The two main entrances are off of Southwell Rd and the junction of Southwell Rd and Martin's Road. There are also pedestrian entrances at the junction of Martin's Avenue and Newark Road and from Tom Crisp Way. Additionally, there is an entrance from Tom Crisp Way at the old junction with Southwell Rd which is gated with access only for LTC, Norse, Anglian Water and the Friends.

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

**Issues:**

Large body of water with fish and oxygenating issues. Derelict toilets on site

**Current main use of site:**

Play area, fishing, recreation, woodland

### Future planned use of site:

Ideally Fen Park should be a destination 'wetland' park in the south of the town. It is close to local residents' hearts. The park along with surrounding land forms a wildlife corridor through the southern half of the town which needs to be maintained. There are adjoining parcels of land which would enhance the park if they could be added to our portfolio especially if they could be secured with a dowry. Most important of these would be Kirkley Ham to the north east but also the corridor of woodland running south along Tom Crisp Way to the rear of the Phoenix St Peter Academy as far as to Pakefield Riding Stables. This would secure this land as a nature corridor and provide an excellent public space. Much of the space is natural or semi-natural woodland and this should not be substantially altered.

The site also adjoined allotments owned by LTC as was as a pumping station which can only be accessed via LTC lands. Next to the pumping station is an area of land that we have been contacted regarding its use as a butterfly area.

The majority of the park has always been grass, ponds and woodland and there would be no major plans to change that. Any planting would be around the edges of the park and in the north east corner where the key shaped entrance to the park is, that was previously attractively planted. However, planting should be done to maintain sight lines through the park.

To the south west there is an area of shrubby woodland with a cleared mound which could provide a location for a bike/nature trail.

### Resources Required:

Toilets – renovate existing toilet block

CCTV – improve coverage

Work with the environment agency to install a solar powered aerator for the lake on one of the islands.

Work with Suffolk County Council to investigate transfer of the land and possible dowry

Improved seating and bins

### Funding Required:

Funding for toilets as agreed by council

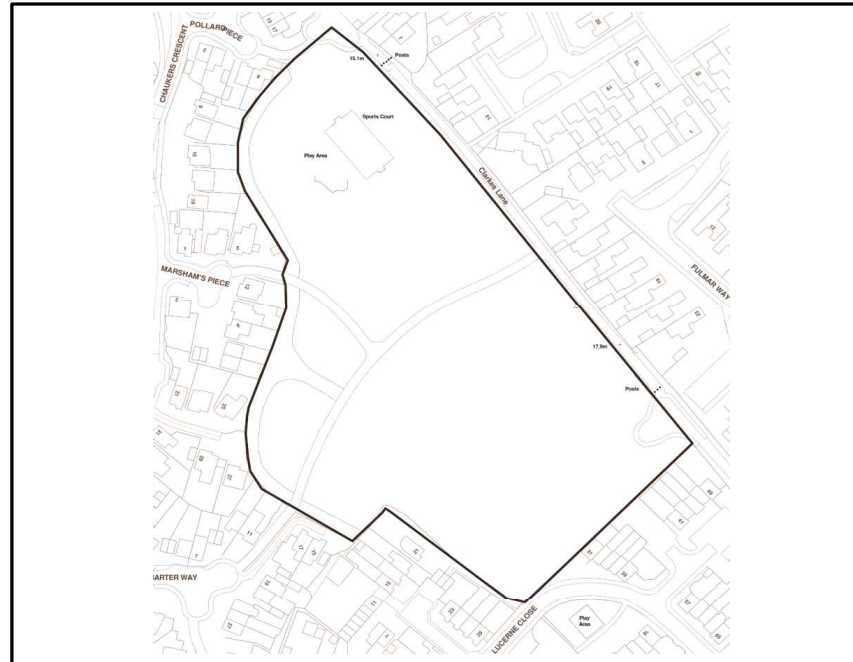
CCTV as part of future budget

Grant via environment agency and matched funding for aerator

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes
Maintenance Contract holder:	Waveney Norse



## Clarkes Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK139067

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site: Play area

Access: The site has several access points for pedestrian, bicycles and motorised vehicles.

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The site is almost surrounded by housing with limited external views across the park for security. Existing facilities may also have been placed without an overall plan

Current main use of site:

It is currently a large open space which does not really attract people to visit or stay. There are good pedestrian and cycle tracks across the park. There is some play provision and good boundary planting.



### Future planned use of site:

Clarkes Lane has the potential to become a destination park in an area of the town that is lacking such a facility. It is a large area of land that is both under used and developed.

A recent LTC survey on the park suggested that some residents would be happy to see an area of the park used for housing if that led to further investment in the park although this might change if the housing was going to be in an area of the park close to them.

Before any development is done on the park it would be wise to put together a scheme for the whole. LTC would like to have a skatepark in the south of the town and, after consulting with experts, this would be the best location for it. It has the benefit of being on a spoke of land which adjoins Oulton Broad and Carlton Colville so grants could be potentially be applied for taking in three parishes.

There are two areas where vehicular access could potentially be achieved which are from the north-west via Clarkes Lane and from the south-east via Lucerne Close. The later would be the better access. This is where there could be potential for locating a car park and toilets/facilities and, if desired, housing. However, the amount of housing should be minimal and any income should be re-invested in the site. It is likely this would be a pre-requisite of any planning permission.

Alongside the skatepark it would be worth considering a bike trail which can be constructed at minimal expense by relocation of earth and some structural work.

If the park is not reduced in size then it is large enough to hold play areas for all three ages of children with enough distance between them. This would be sensible as there is little other play space nearby. It would be wise to site a toddler provision closer to toilets if they are provided with junior provision closer than senior provision.

The park also lends itself to have a MUGA and possibly a community orchard. Planting would need to be considered once an overall plan was developed.

### Resources Required:

A landscape architect/play area designer to develop a concept and layout of the park and include budgets to enable the council to consider grant and further the development of a destination park in this location.

### Funding Required:

Initially funding for the project design

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Norse

## Normanston Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Normanston

Site Reference: SK261598

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site: Café, parking, football pitches, cricket pitches, skatepark, tennis courts, changing rooms, basketball hoop, running circuit, children's' play area

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The changing facilities/toilet provision need updating. There is no toilet provision near to the children's play area

Current main use of site:

The park is mainly used for sports, dog walking and family time. It is also attached to a conservation area managed by SWT.

### Future planned use of site:

The park is the key destination sports park in the north of Lowestoft but needs investment and consideration to achieve its potential.

Key considerations to achieve this are:

Improvement of the existing changing rooms, toilet and café. Provision of toilets and changing space is geared towards men. There are two possibilities which should be explored either demolishing the whole and rebuilding a purpose-built replacement two-storey building with changing facilities and public toilets on the ground floor and café/restaurant on the first floor with lift access. The second would be to keep the existing structure but re-purpose the layout and enhance with a single-storey, wrap-around structure encompassing changing rooms, public toilets and ground floor café/restaurant area.

Replacement of old tennis pavilion. This would be a ready location to site a second set of toilets close to the children's play area. It would only need to be a one or two multi-functional cubicle structure, which could be prefabricated. There is an existing concrete foundation and the services to the site were capped and should still be available. WDC should have ring-fenced insurance funds which only had the demolition costs of the fire-damaged pavilion extracted. We are reliably informed this should amount to around £33,000 which should cover the bulk if not the entirety of this project.

Witches Garden Bike Trail. The wooded area in the south-west of the park is known as the Witches Garden. It is overgrown and not really considered part of the park. This could be turned into a bicycle trail (it is understood that it might already be used unofficially in this way) but by specifically making it into a designed area it would reduce safety risks and improve use possibly leading to a reduction in the other uses. It would also make the areas easier to maintain.

Tennis Courts. There is an excess of tennis courts in Lowestoft however there are regular users of these courts but generally only three of them. It would be practical to reduce the number of courts (retaining those favoured by the tennis players) and erecting a new fence between the two sections along with a new gate. The newly formed area could form a multi-use area. It would not be big enough to be a stand alone MUGA however its surface would make it an ideal hockey training area which is lacking in the north of the town and it could also potentially be used for some other sports such as basketball widening the use of the facility and use by younger generations.

MUGA. It would be sensible to install a MUGA at Normanston. The best location for this would be in the area currently housing the knock-about football pitch as a MUGA would provide this facility as well as being able to be used for basketball, netball, volley ball and other sports. If we were to do this it would be practical to provide a level surface and wheelchair access which would need to be built into the process. Siting would need to be carefully considered to avoid

the underground power supply and it may be cheaper to raise the ground than try to lower it to make it even.

Outdoor Gym. Council has already been considering installing an outdoor gym and as the main destination sports park this should be our initial location. Looking at an overview of the park and the other installations we are discussing there are three possible locations depending on layout and council have already agreed to invite in companies to look at the site and draft proposals. The three possible locations are:

- The south west corner bounded by the tennis courts, Leathes Ham and Constable Close. This is a relatively square, flattish area of land which could have a rotational form of outdoor gym.
- To the north of the 'running track' on the grassed area between it and the backs of the houses on Normanston Park so that it could be used in conjunction with the running track.
- South of the skate park and east of the football pitches making in convenient to the changing rooms and café.

Skatepark. The skatepark is relatively self-contained and well used. It does need a lot of ongoing general maintenance but does require specific work from time to time. This should be considered and a budget provided. There is the potential to light the skatepark. It was approved by Suffolk County Council Highways Department and Environmental Health at the time the skatepark was built and all the necessary services and ductwork were included in the build to future proof for this possibility.

The running track. This is currently an adapted path and not a really running facility. Installation of a better surface and the costs involved could be investigated. The runners, as well as dog-walkers, have requested lighting along the path. The cost was considered prohibitive but that was without knowing the information regarding lighting the skatepark. The feasibility of installing low-level downlighters (either connected to the mains or via solar panels) could be investigated as part of the overall long-term plan for improvements to the park.

Table tennis. There are currently two concrete outdoor table tennis tables which rarely see use. We should investigate the cost of outside paddles and balls and speak to the café about whether they would be willing to hold them and lend them out on deposit. We should also ensure that information on how to borrow paddles and balls is by/on the table tennis tables.

Football/Cricket pitches. These are not used as much as previously and we need to gain more info on this. There are issues as the top pitches slope and the bottom pitches can flood. This is due to a layer of clay beneath the park and how it slopes and causes an unusual water table. It would be difficult to solve and probably expensive and might not lead to an increase in usage. There may be the same issue with the underground electric supply which affected the children's play area. Adult football play is reducing as is cricket and whilst provision is currently still being used, we need to be considering potential usage in ten- or twenty-years' time. Interestingly there is still a growth in youth football and the

main centre in north of the town is Barnards Meadow which is adjacent.

In the western half of the park there is also the potential to place an area which could be more landscaped in a zen style and used for yoga and Tai Chi. There has been positive public expression about this possibility and it could work well near to the north-west entrance from Normanston Drive or Lakeland Drive and engage another type of park user and exercise activity.

With all of this it will be important to work with experts to plan out a scheme and locate each element to form a whole, build a schedule and costing and look for funding.

The Council will also need to maintain a long-term view of sports and leisure development to ensure that we don't just provide what we have always provided and seek to work with health and leisure specialists to maximise the use and benefits of our sports parks.

Seating. Normanston is probably not that short of seating because of the nature of its usage however the nature of the seating could possibly be addressed. Are traditional park style heritage benches the best option? Would they be better sited elsewhere and replaced with something more suited to the use of the park? If they are memorial benches, would those who donated them be happy with them being moved? Are they in the best locations? There are some excellent sports style benches available even skateboard specific. Maybe we need more picnic benches or communal seating? This could all be investigated.

#### Resources Required:

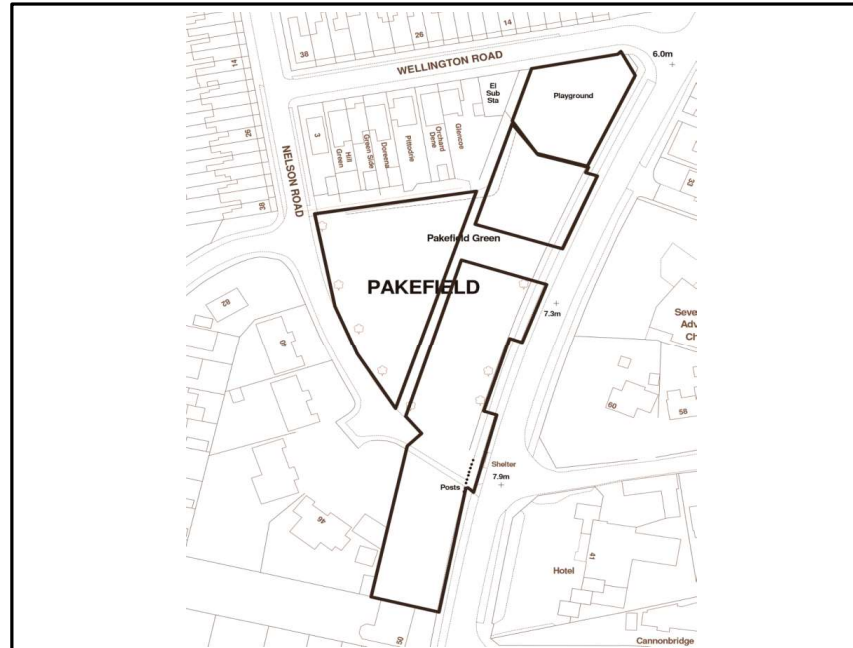
Survey and plan engaging help from experts

#### Funding Required:

Some significant investment and grants would need to be explored but improvement could also be budgeted for over a significant period if a plan were developed.

Stakeholder Group	Yes although not functioning
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Norse

## Pakefield Green, Pakefield, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference: SK261114 (part of)

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

It does not appear as if the whole site has been transferred to LTC. The site has a high chain link fence along the boundary of London Road to prevent balls going into what was the main road however lack of egress along that side restricts access to the park from the east except at either end.

Current main use of site:

Open Space and play area with good visibility across the site

### Future planned use of site:

The site has good junior play equipment, replacement of which will need to be built into the play equipment schedule however new toddler provision will need to be considered first as this is an important play space in Pakefield.

There is a small grassed football pitch which should be maintained however it would be beneficial to replace the goal posts with combination goalposts/basketball hoops to make the space more flexible although the surface may need to be considered as well if this was actioned. This would provide some of the facilities of a MUGA where an enclosed MUGA would be too dominant.

Whilst teenage play provision would not be feasible it might be possible to provide teen meeting points in the more shaded area at the south end of the park.

Consideration for communal seating should also be given especially in the area of toddler provision which may be better closer to Nelson Road.

### Resources Required:

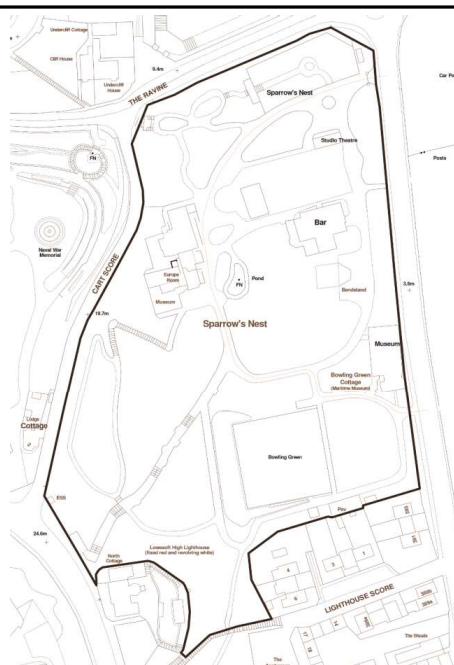
Toddler play equipment,  
Combination goals/basketball ends(surface?)  
Communal seating/bins  
Boundary planting along the south side of the rear access to the houses on the south side of Wellington Road  
Teenage meeting points  
Signage  
Tree review and possible planting

### Funding Required:

Allocation of funds within the play equipment budget schedule of works  
Parks Development budget built into schedule  
Sponsorship

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Sparrow's Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference: SK261656

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

**Access:**

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Park



#### Future planned use of site:

Sparrow's Nest will be the Destination Culture Park in Lowestoft. It was home to what was once an iconic theatre in the town and still houses three museums, a movie theatre, a restaurant and a very popular café and bowling green used by three clubs. It is a natural amphitheatre and has a shell designed band stand which can also be used/adapted for outdoor projection as well as one of the town's beacons.

Sparrow's Nest still has most of the bones of what made it one of the premier parks in the town. It would not be practical to restore some areas of the park however it should be possible to restyle them to maintain the feeling of the park whilst adding a slightly more modern planting palette.

The older Japanese garden with its water features would be too costly to restore and maintain and we have a better example which we should restore at Kensington Gardens. It is proposed that we work with East Coast College to create a sensory garden in this area with the old pond being turned into a mini "maze", the rockeries planted with tactile, aromatic or bright plants and a living willow structure planted on the northern raise areas where currently steps lead to nowhere. To replace the missing ponds and provide the sound of running water a self-contained solar wall fountain and tank would be place against the wall where the steps lead down from the Cart Score entrance.

Between the Japanese Garden and the old Rose Garden is the terrace which is surrounded by a box/privet hedge which is coming to the end of its life. It is proposed that we consider replacing the hedge with a pergola to provide height and interest as well as planting opportunities which would house communal seating and overlook the new replacement to the rose garden.

The old rose garden was removed several years ago and the few roses which are left do not to wall in the location. This space had been a rose garden for more than half a century and would probably need most of the soil replaced if growing roses again was thought about. This area however does appear unloved as it currently it and the location and the all year-round attraction of the park would allow us to develop a winter garden (i.e. one which had interest all year around but comes into its real glory over the winter months).

Along the eastern boundary of the park we would like to see whether it is possible to use the wrought iron fencing which we may get from CEFAS to replace the wooden fencing and open up the view into the park. As part of this we need to consider commissioning a new entrance between the bowls pavilion and the Maritime Museum to attract visitors and link across to the Ness.

The Japanese entrance from Yarmouth Road needs to be restored and we are working with East Coast College on this. The old line of box/privet behind this should be removed as most of it is dead and the soil improved and planted with Lavender as not only would it look nice it would also serve to mask any smells from anti-social behaviour. The old central handrail which led down the steps and path down to the main part of the park need to be restored for safety and reasons.

the benches in the recesses along this path need to be re-installed to provide resting places during the climb/descent.

Consideration needs to be given to the planting in the upper area of Sparrow's Nest and this is where one or more of the potential National Collections could come to the fore.

Handrails also need to be considered near to the Lighthouse Score entrance to the park and down to the bowling pavilion as this area can become slippery. The concrete water tank in this area and the natural springs need to be investigated to see how they might be used to help irrigate the park.

The old second bowling green that is now just grass needs to given a use and something to welcome visitors into the park.

The pond in the centre of the park requires planting and the depth considered as it may not currently be deep enough to sustain fish. It needs surface cover, marginals and oxygenators. Unfortunately, the fountain is not really compatible with water lilies if they are too close so other alternative need to be considered, flowering marginals will help enhance the pond and attract pondlife such as dragonflies etc. The aim should be to get the pond to a level to sustain some fish.

In line with the culture theme of the park it would be fun to have outdoor games tables such as chess/draughts, snakes and ladders etc

Park signage is also important especially information and interpretation signage.

We should investigate the potential of working with the Moviemakers and the Marina to see if the movie theatre could be used as an arthouse cinema or similar as this could help both of them out and possibly benefit Giardino's as well.

#### Resources Required:

As listed throughout the above

#### Funding Required:

There may be the possibility of funding via grants for some of this work especially with Historic England doing topography of the park and it falling within the HAZ. It is not listed so we are not as restricted as with Belle Vue however it is in a conservation area. There may be other funding pots which may become available either to partners or ourselves. Some elements, if planned into a schedule may be able to be funded from the Park development Fund.

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## The Denes, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Site Reference: SK264425

Area: Special Status:

Covenants: 30<sup>th</sup> December 1891 and the slopes 6<sup>th</sup> April 1899. All purchased under 164 of the 1875 Public Health Act to be public pleasure land

TPOs:

Services: Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site: Soil Type:

Issues: Legal issues. Definition of the use of the site i.e. open space, park etc. The site also used to be landfill so there are restrictions on disposal of material from the site, it is also part of a potential flood plain.

Current main use of site: The site is natural open space which is used for a variety of social activities including dog-walking, running, cycling, horse-riding, nature/wildlife appreciation and sea-fishing from the adjoining sea wall

#### Future planned use of site:

The results of the public survey showed that the majority of respondents would prefer the site to remain public open space without a lot of major changes. Amenities could include a bicycle trail utilising the lower cliffs and the area adjacent to the Denes Oval, improved seating including picnic benches and barbecue stations, an outdoor gym (although this may be better located with the Denes Oval itself), cross-country style running/walking track trail within the grassed area, interpretation/information boards on heritage/wildlife etc as well as signage and maps of the areas and signposting to other areas. There is also a need for an open, daytime, larger events area which has vehicular access and parking which this area could fulfil. The site could also provide space for a more natural children's play area relying on landscape rather than equipment. A minority of survey respondents suggested that a café/toilet provision would be beneficial but this would need to be balanced with maintaining the natural environment and the flood risks.

Due to historical issues it is recommended that there should be no further long-term leasing or disposal of land on the Denes (excluding the Denes Oval) and that any non-LTC proposed development should engage with LTC-approved full public consultation paid for by the potential developer.

#### Resources Required:

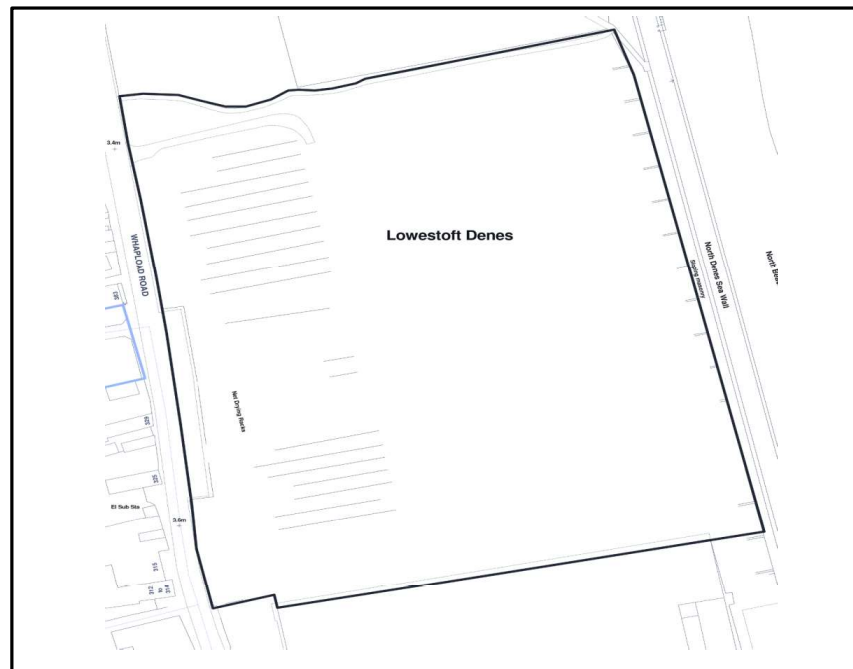
See above, possible profession fees to cover plans and budget

#### Funding Required:

There is some funding within the LTC budget which could act as seed funding for grants/sponsorship, events might generate income which could be reinvested.

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	Yes?
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## The Ness, Lowestoft, Suffolk



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Area:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Access:

Species on Site:

Issues:

Site Reference: SK 264678 (part of)  
SK264415 (part of) SK119272 (part of)  
Special Status:

Facilities on site:

Soil Type:

Current main use of site:  
Open Space

#### Future planned use of site:

The Ness will be the newest and most easterly park in the town and the UK. It is currently being developed as a project between LTC and WDC with funding from the Coastal Communities Trust and is due to be completed by the end of 2019.

The park will enhance the existing natural environment and habitat whilst providing a gateway to Ness Point via a new ramp and staircase. The drying racks will be refurbished and the ropewalk and liver-reduction trench highlighted. An education/performance space will be explored as well as a themed play area for juniors and teens. Provision of onsite toilet provision is being explored and additional funding applications are being considered for augmented reality, interpretation and activities and art.

#### Resources Required:

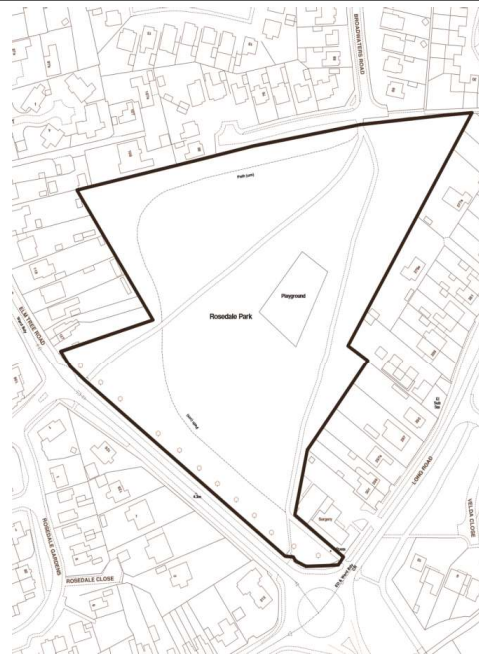
No specific resources needed at this time and future resources budget for within 2019/20 budgets or there forth. Costing for the replacement of any infrastructure on site will be acquired as part of the development and replacement cost divided by lifetime to provide a capital cost to include in future budgets.

#### Funding Required:

Funding for development of the park is being sourced via grants.

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder	

# Rosedale Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk



## Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK261260

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

The site is currently used as a park with grass football are and play area. It has two lit paths going through the park.

### Future planned use of site:

Rosedale is a sizeable park but lack the facilities and parking to make it a destination park making it a community park.

The Junior play equipment in the park has only been installed since the foundation of LTC however the Toddler provision could be enhanced and could do with extra picnic benches as well as a children's themed bin within the play area.

The full-size football pitch area has been lost and the knockabout area has only one mini goal these could do with replacing with possibly a MUGA or MUGA ends.

There were benches along the hedge line on the northern edge of the park which could do with replacing (2+)

There are also some trees missing from the tree line alongside the road and the paths and play area could benefit from additional tree planting.

There are at least three different types of bins in the park which should be standardised to two types with regular bins at the three entrances plus a child-friendly bin(s) at the play area.

The park is used by youths in the evenings so a specific area with meeting point/hub seating and maybe WIFI/Bluetooth column in the eastern recess could be positive.

By nature, this is an open space style park so does not need a lot of shrub/perennial planting although some of the boundaries might be enhanced by this and the play area might be enhanced by sensory planting.

### Resources Required:

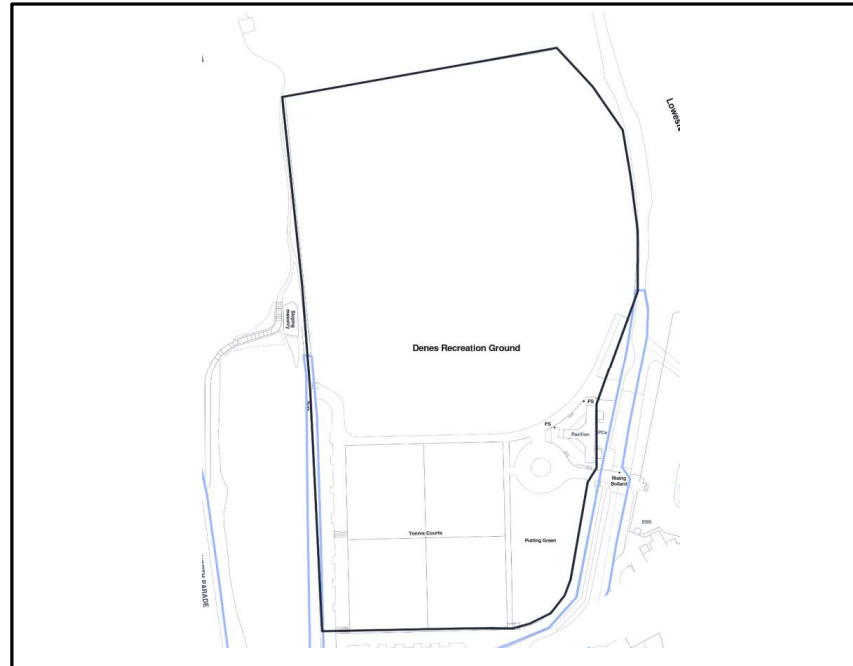
Toddler play equipment  
Community seating  
Meeting points/pods  
Bins  
Trees  
MUGA and/or MUGA ends

### Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse



# The Denes Oval



## Current Site information

Ward: Gunton

Site Reference: SK261620

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The Denes Oval falls within a conservation area and the HAZ. The wall and entrances of the park have been allowed to fall into disrepair and were passed to the town council in a dangerous state. They were due to be leased back to WDC as they had funding to at least make repairs to the walls. However, that funding has not been forthcoming. There is also a large gap in the boundary wall in the north-west corner where WDC demolished the old camp site toilet and shower block but did nothing to replace it. There are asbestos issues in the pavilion which the town council is remedying however the issue was known about prior to transfer.

**Current main use of site:**

The site is home to the Lowestoft Tennis Club and the Lowestoft Cricket Club and is a sports destination park.

**Future planned use of site:**

The Oval will remain a key sports facility in the north of the town and we will look to enhance the facilities. A major factor in the sustainability of the site will be obtaining sports grants to improve facilities. In order to access these grants, we will need to consider long term leases with the clubs in the same way that we have with the Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club. Discussion will need to take place with the clubs, Sentinel and the council on how best to progress both the leases and any funding applications.

There is a lot of potential for improvements to the site and increasing usage. Rather than simply building a wall in the gap caused by the demolition of the old shower block we should discuss with the club and funding bodies as well as the planners/conservation officer the possibility of replacing it with a new building housing indoor cricket nets providing all round practice and training facilities as well as improved clubhouse facilities. If this was possible funding wise and the cricket club were agreeable then it would allow the tennis club to have more space in the existing pavilion.

The surfaces of the upper tennis courts need to be reviewed and options considered and the tennis club would like to install pay-as-you-go floodlights to enable evening play to be extended to longer periods of the year.

We could investigate the cost and potential usage of installing a running track around the outfield of the cricket pitch. This would not be a competition track but purely for exercise/practice use and, if floodlit, may provide a safe running facility.

The putting green at the Oval does not see a high level of use but is high maintenance so it would be worth investigating whether this area could be better utilised. The site has virtually no parking so this could be a consideration as could say an outdoor gym or a combination of the two especially for disabled parking.

The external wall needs a lot of work but could possibly be done in stages if it is to be replaced like for like. Modern building materials mean that it could be reconstructed without encountering the same issues in the future and this is being explored and costed.

**Resources Required:**

The resources are listed above

#### Funding Required:

Funding may be available via sporting bodies and grants as well as WDC capital budgets. Sponsorship may also be available. Due to the Haz there may even be heritage funding.

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Kirkley and Pakefield Recreation Ground



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference: SK266222 & SK263005

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Awaiting clarification from WDC that land registry issues have been resolved.

Current main use of site:

The site is the main LTC sports facility in the south of the town and lease to the Kirkley and Pakefield Community Sports and Social Club

#### Future planned use of site:

The site should become the main destination sports park in the south of the town. The club is keen to develop as a community hub and want to add more facilities at the club starting with a children's play area. They have invested in a 4G pitch and have 35 teams playing on site. The club currently have lease but would like a longer lease as it would enable them to apply for grants. There is a clubhouse which is used for club events, community hire and community events. All profits from the club are re-invested in the site or the teams. Potentials for the site also include running and training facilities and possibly an outdoor gym. They operate their own burger van on site and have improved changing facilities.

Although not strictly necessary for the site or the club it would enhance the area if the adjoining Pakefield Green and Pakefield Park became part of the asset in time.

#### Resources Required:

Play equipment

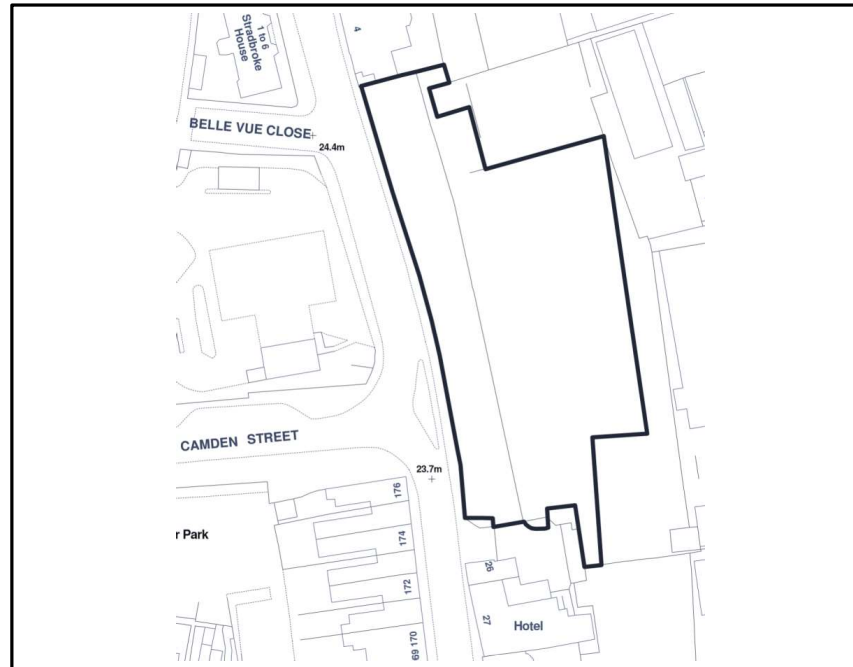
#### Funding Required:

Funding for play equipment

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes
Maintenance Contract holder	Kirkley & Pakefield Community Sports & Social Club

# Open Spaces

## The Town Green, High Street, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Site Reference: SK261917

Area: Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services: Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site: Soil Type:

Issues: Accumulation of uncleared scrub on cliff face

Current main use of site:

A grassed area with the town sign and an information board about the largest wartime bombing raid which led to the creation of the space. The area also descends down the cliff where it is wooded with scrub trees, whose height blocks the sea view for most of the year. The site also houses a wayfarer sign and a Marina Theatre information board.

**Future planned use of site:**

The site should remain as the town green and as a mainly grassed area also some planting could improve the ascetics of the site and soften some of the signage. Additional communal seating would be beneficial as would litter bins. It would also be a good location for public art.

**Resources Required:**

Seating/bins, planting, public art

**Funding Required:**

There may be CIL from potential development/redevelopment nearby together with sponsorship of artworks.

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Waveney Norse



## Daffodil Lane



## Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK38204

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

A group of three pieces of land culminating in an almost triangular piece of land with trees along one side with no identity or practical use

Current main use of site:

Open space

#### Future planned use of site:

The site could lend itself to being a toddler's play area but it is not that far from Uplands Community Centre or Clarkes Lane which would both probably provide better locations for play. The amount of tree cover would preclude its use as a community garden or orchard and the lack of vehicular access and the nature of the site would be likely to preclude development. The only option would seem to be maintaining as open space whilst adding a community seating area, some planting and some wildlife provision. It could benefit from an identity rather than referring to as land at Daffodil Walk possible calling it Daffodil Hyrst or the like as a Hyrst is an old English name for a grove of trees.

#### Resources Required:

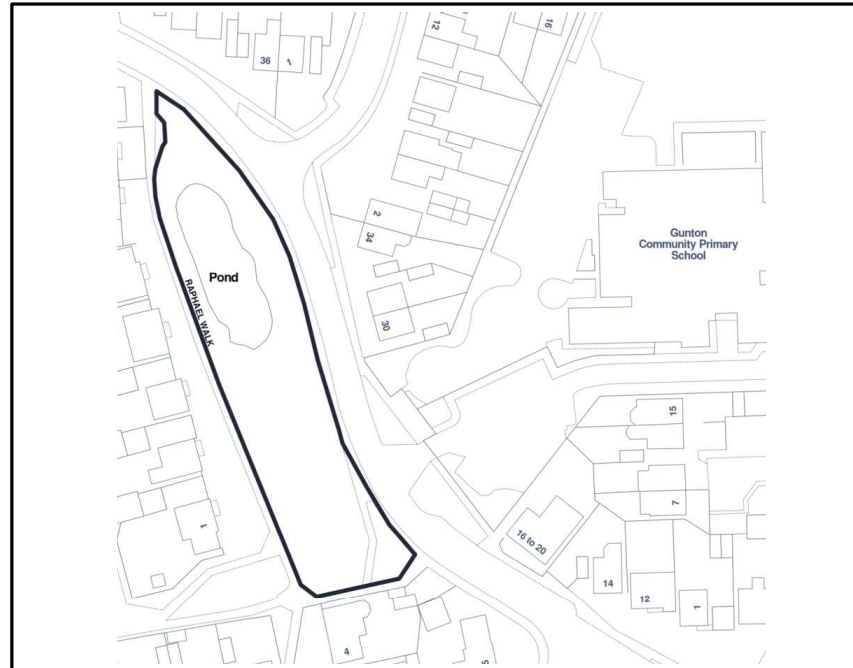
Seating, bins, signage, planting and wildlife hotels

#### Funding Required:

The majority of funding could be planned into the parks development budget over the next five years as part of the schedule of works. The wildlife provision could possibly be created with local schools or the community centre.

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Gainsborough Drive Pond Area



### Current Site information

Ward:

Site Reference: SK37205

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs: An estate wide TPO covers the trees on site

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site: Moorhen, Mallard

Soil Type:

Issues:

### Current main use of site:

The site is an area of open grass with a tree-lined pond. Other trees are dotted around the site.

#### Future planned use of site:

The area will remain open grass with the existing pond and trees. Some trees have recently been lost and following LTC Tree Policy should be replaced and it is agreed that we will work with the Friends groups to decide species and location. The Friends group have yet to set their aims and policies (which will need to be agreed with LTC) but they would like to have a duck/moorhen refuge in the centre of the pond and develop the opportunities for birds to breed and live there. The site has recently undergone a major clear-up and it has been agreed to leave the pond area for a year to enable it to re-establish before deciding on any planting around the pond. We had nature conservation experts visit and they have recommended some key aquatic planting which should be carried out this year.

#### Resources Required:

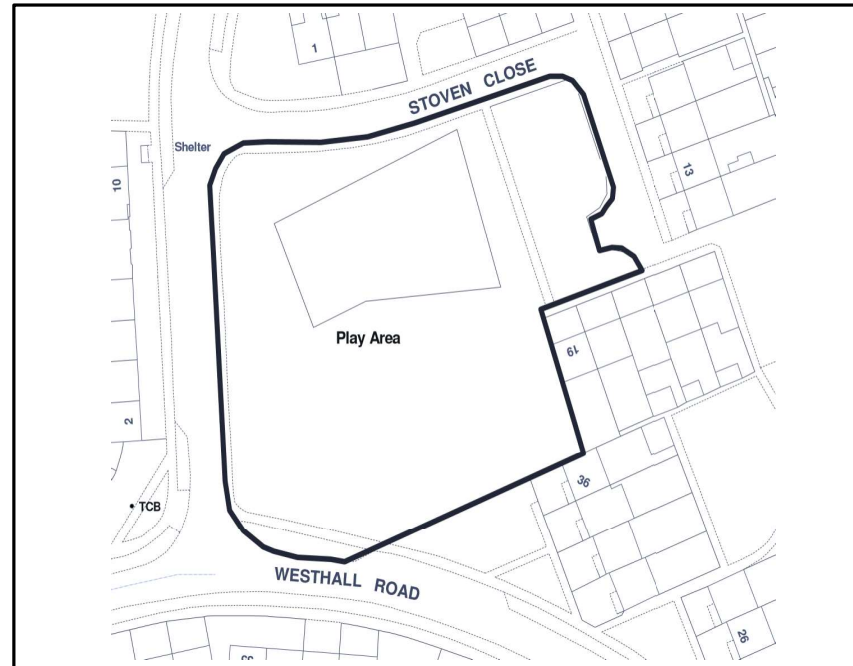
Replacement trees, seating, bins, noticeboards, some planting around seating, aquatic plants

#### Funding Required:

Some funding such as aquatic plants, replacement trees should be able to be funded by LTC in 2019. Other costs should be considered and built into an ongoing development budget.

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Land at Stoven Close



### Current Site information

Ward: Site Reference: SK263058

Area: Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services: Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site: Soil Type:

Issues:

Although recently renewed there are only three pieces of play equipment and a solitary picnic table. The play area has no paths leading to it. The SK plan does not match the boundaries of the site.

Current main use of site:

A fenced play area within an open grass area

**Future planned use of site:**

The play area could do with an additional piece of equipment and there could potentially be funds within the 2018/19 budget to achieve this. Council has already approved an additional wheelchair friendly picnic bench for the play area.

The site lacks planting and shade and this need to be considered

**Resources Required:**

A

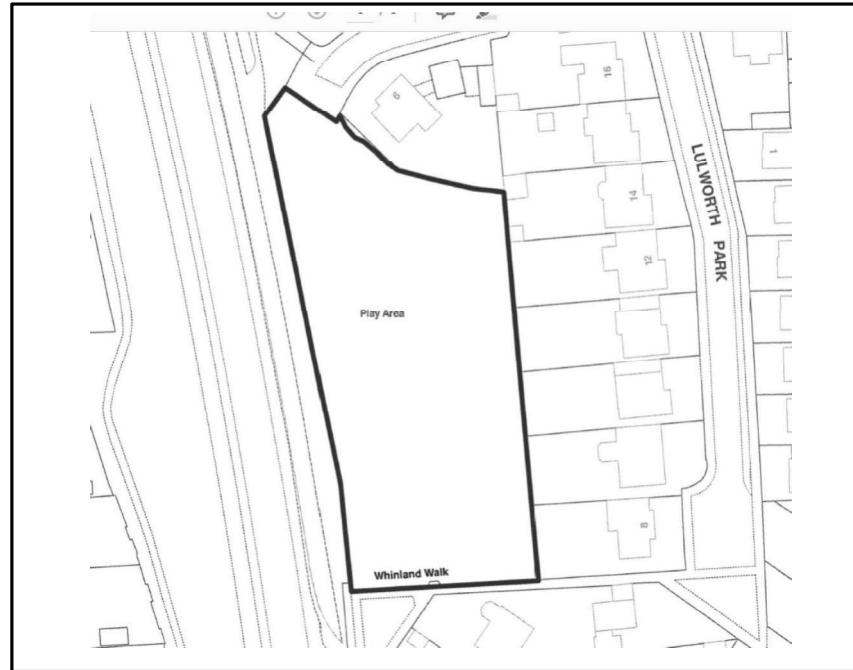
**Funding Required:**

Stakeholder Group Yes/No

Friends Group Yes/No

Maintenance Contract holder:

## Thirlmere Walk



### Current Site information

Ward: St Margaret's

Site Reference: SK261301

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access: Vehicular access from Thirlmere Walk and pedestrian access from Millennium Way and Lulworth Park

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

An enclosed space which only really has visibility from the main entrance areas.

Current main use of site:

This space is nearly large enough to be considered a satellite park and borders Millennium was along one length however due to the dense tree and hedge planting this is not that noticeable. It is used a lot by Benjamin Britten pupils on their way to and from school and is a well-used play space.

**Future planned use of site:**

Sentinel recommend sustaining and improving toddler and junior provision stating it is not suitable for teen provision however the local community advise that it highly used as a congregation place for teenagers due to its proximity to the high school. Bearing in mind the size of the site perhaps both usages could be considered by careful planning.

**Resources Required:**

Family/community seating, teenage meeting hubs with wind up broadband, bins, management signage

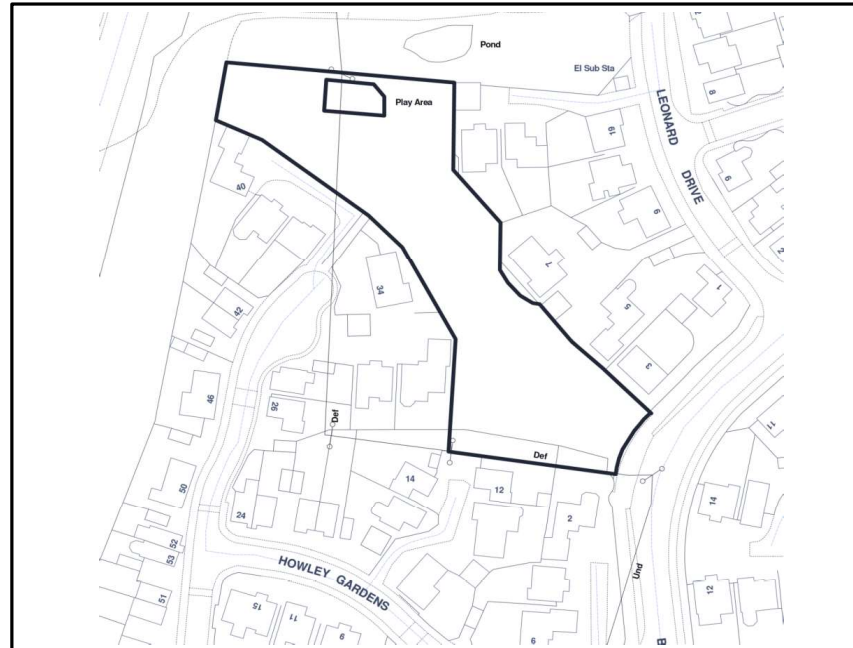
**Funding Required:**

Replacement of play equipment needs to be built into the play equipment schedule, seating, bins and hubs built into the development budget and signage worked into an overall signage plan. There may be some development in this area so there may be some development funding.

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse



## Parkhill Play Area



### Current Site information

Ward: St Margaret's

Site Reference: SK247306

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The site has no identity and is a longish narrow strip of land.

Current main use of site:

The site is currently a linear area of grass with a small play area at the northern end which is not visible from Bentley Drive of the surrounding roads. The site is poorly laid out but is the only play area for its catchment

### Future planned use of site:

The site should continue to be open space however a redesign of the site layout should be planned to prepare for when the current play equipment reaches its end of life.

The open space needs its own identity to tie in with the roads around it which are named after rugby players. A suggestion might be "Bracken's Pass" with park elements tying into the rugby theme.

### Resources Required:

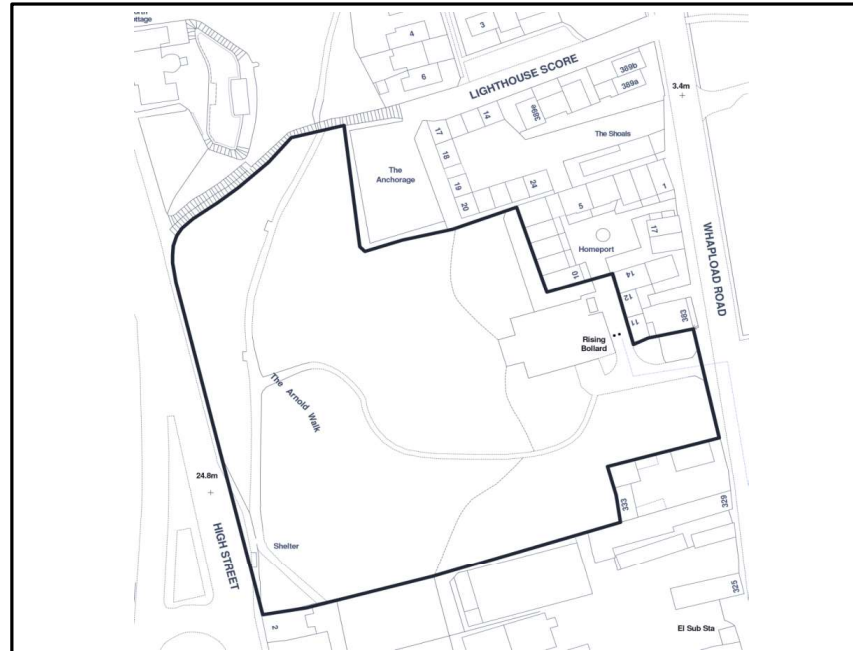
Family friendly/community seating including picnic tables, teen seating such as pods or bleachers, bins, signage/management signage, planting, wildlife shelters such as butterfly and bee hotels etc

### Funding Required:

Play equipment replacement should be built into a play equipment schedule. Benches/bins can be built into the planned budget for park development/planning funding. Possibly work with local schools on wildlife shelters. Signage is a project across all our sites

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Arnold's Bequest, High Street, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference: SK261315

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants: Held under trust as a charity

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access: Vehicular & pedestrian access from Whapload Road, pedestrian access from the High St and Lighthouse Score

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Site has steep slopes and natural spring(s) which make it complicated to make accessible to all users. Parts of the site are leased to local residents.

Current main use of site:

The site is mainly wooded with some level areas which could be cleared. There are two main paths on the site. One goes North-South on the top West of the site, the second exits this path about halfway along its length and heads down the slope eastwards to Whapload Road. There is a bin store at the upper level as well as parking and bin storage for adjacent properties at the bottom.

### Future planned use of site:

There is much debate over this site with many wanting it to remain a natural, wooded area whereas others think it could be restored to echo the lost “hanging gardens” of Lowestoft. There is actually more call for the former in this area as it adds a different habitat to the canvas of open spaces in this area.

There are one or more natural springs on the site which do cause damage to the north-south path. It is proposed that we investigate placing a culvert under the path and direct the spring towards that, once under the path either a clay lined pond or collection of smaller ponds descending the slope could be added which would be relatively shallow and make wildlife friendly ponds rather than duck or fishponds. The slope of the paths cannot be easily made shallower so to mitigate this the handrails need to be re-installed and seating added at regular intervals. Brambles and invasive species need to be cleared and native planting added to provide interest. There is a largish plot in the south-west corner of the lower level which could be cleared and possibly used as a nursery area for the council if cctv etc was installed. The site has its own intrinsic beauty which instead of being radically change would be better is enhanced.

The new bin store at the top of the Bequest has not been completed as it should have been. It needs a black wood treatment so that it recedes from view and then planting is required around it to blend it even more into the natural habitat. This could be done with such plants as holly, escallonia or pyracantha which would provide evergreen screening and interest with the bonus of spines/prickly leaves which would deter fly-tipping in the area.

Despite the slope this could be one of the key routes from the High Street to the Ness and therefore finding a way of putting in a longer shallower route top to bottom could be investigated.

### Resources Required:

Culvert and pond(s) work

Re-instate and improve rustic style handrails

Install rustic benches and bins

Native woodland planting and bulbs

Signage and information booth directional and about the bequest and the family are needed

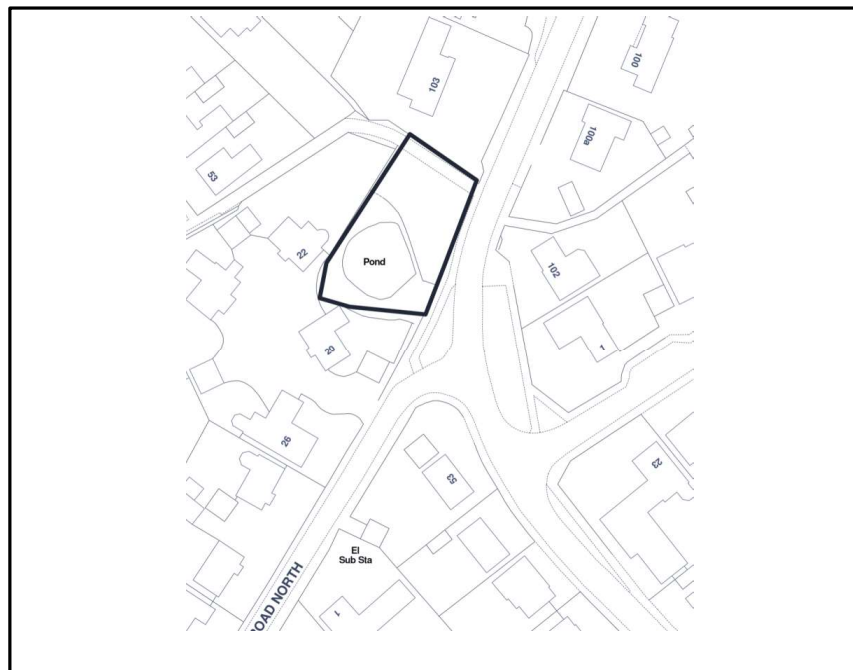
### Funding Required:

The site falls outside the town council budget and has limited income so funding will have to be sourced. There is the potential of using the bottom east of the site for a small housing development (if the bequest and planning allow) to enable funds to be raised to make the above improvements to the site

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	Yes potentially
Maintenance Contract holder:	None at present

# Play Areas

## Uplands Road North



### Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK149861

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Open space which has not been fully maintained

Current main use of site:

Open space

**Future planned use of site:**

There is local interest in forming a group to maintain this area and the pond. Because of the location of site and the pond area it would be difficult to use the site as anything other than open space.

**Resources Required:**

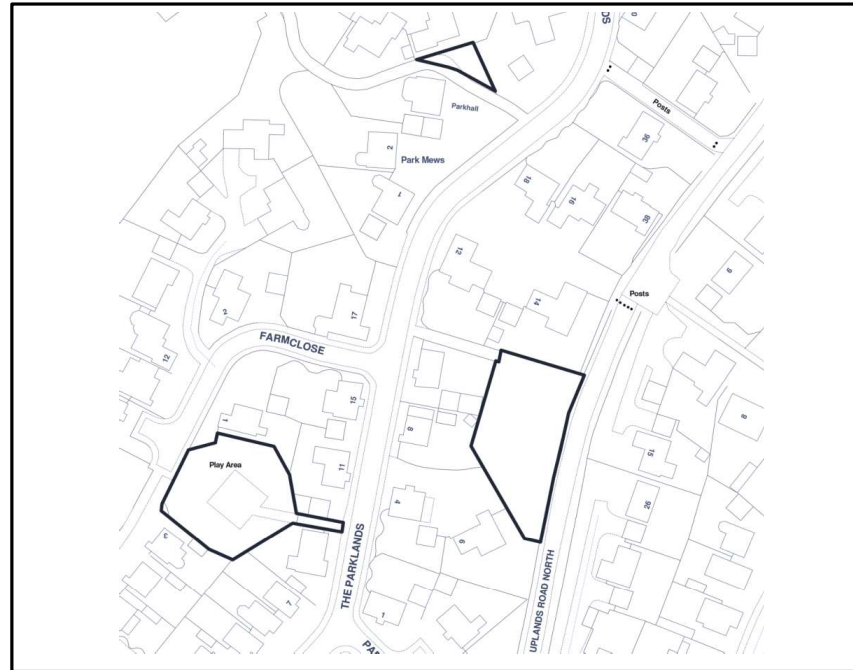
May need initial help from contractor to get site to a maintainable standard.

**Funding Required:**

Some initial costs but the Friends groups is just forming and as yet no concrete suggestions have been put forward which could be costed.

Stakeholder Group	Yes potentially
Friends Group	Yes potentially
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Uplands Road North/Playground off the Parklands



### Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK99243

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

The parklands playground is situated in a hollow and is a locked playground with limited access because of this the council is concerned it has health and safety implications as well as liabilities

Current main use of site:

The parklands site is currently a play area whereas the Uplands site is currently open space



### Future planned use of site:

The preferred plan would be to close the parklands play area and investigate selling or developing it any profits from which would go into the play areas reserve for improving other play areas. The primary site which funds from the Parklands would go towards would be this uplands site.

### Resources Required:

Play equipment, seating, bins, signage, planting.

### Funding Required:

Possibly funded from sale/development of Parklands site

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Playground at Turnberry Close



### Current Site information

Ward: Tom Crisp

Site Reference: SK48735

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

This is a small site

Current main use of site:

Open space where former HA play equipment was removed

**Future planned use of site:**

Sentinel's recommendation is that the site be declassified as a play area however it is the only play area within that ward and with the other piece of open space shown on this map is the only provision that LTC has in this newly created ward for the town council! Bearing this in mind prior to declassifying it would be wise to carry out formal public consultation in the ward to gather their views and to also research the number of children and age ranges in the ward to assess potential demand.

**Resources Required:**

Survey

Data on residents

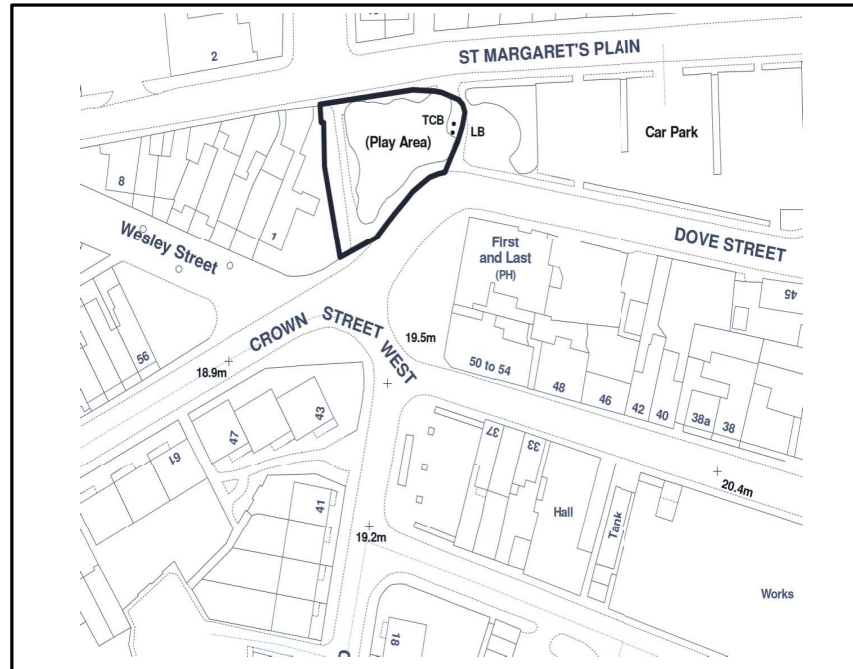
Any further resources would be dependent on the outcome of this research

**Funding Required:**

Survey and data acquisition

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## St Margaret's Play Area, Dove Street, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference: SK261301

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Small site with no room for expansion

Current main use of site:

Main play space in the area

**Future planned use of site:**

The site is a key play site in this area. It does need a complete overhaul and redesign which should probably be scheduled for 2020/21 as although it is a priority there are other sites which precede it due to safety concerns. There is limited space for equipment which should be aimed towards toddlers and juniors and careful thought will have to be provided to seating due to limited space

**Resources Required:**

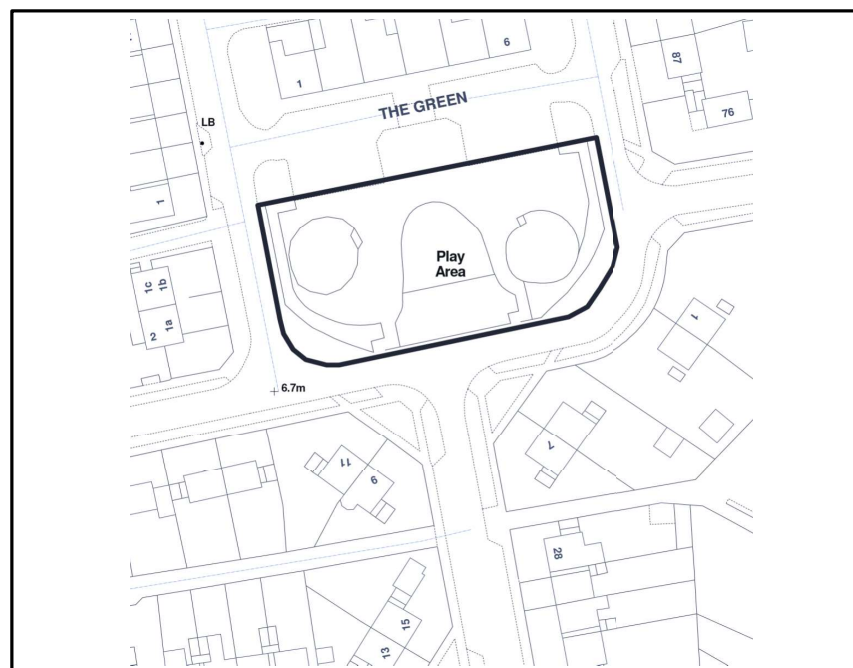
Management signage

**Funding Required:**

Needs to be built into refurbishment schedule using play area budget funding

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Whitton Green Play Area, Hawthorn Avenue, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Elmtree

Site Reference: SK260461(Part)

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

This is a largely hard surface play area with a lot of fences

Current main use of site:

Play area

### Future planned use of site:

Play area.

The play area seems to have gradually evolved as each element seems to have slightly different fencing or surfaces. The majority of the surfaces are either tarmac or hardstanding of some kind with a small (enclosed within an enclosure) grassed area with a couple of picnic benches.

The WDC Communities Team recently did a survey on site (February 2019). Unfortunately, LTC was not invited to take part even though it was held on our land. It would be useful to see the result of that survey especially with regard to the play area so that we could understand usage. There are two high fenced ball game areas both with a single basketball hoop but also useful for kickabouts. However, are both needed? If not, could one be dismantled and repurposed as a different area such as a teens meeting point? Is the fence between the play area and the grassed sitting area actually necessary? In our other play areas, the seating is in the play area and there would still be protective fencing all the way around. Could the tarmac/hardstanding between the play area and the shops be broken up and have some planting and community seating to soften the area? Are the fences powder coated or painted? If it's the later, then painting the tall fencing in either black or dark green could make them recede into the background, the black fencing and yellow gates of the play area are less of an eyesore than the grey fencing. Removing the fencing between the play area and the grassed area would also allow items to moved around to provide more space for play and seating.

### Resources Required:

A lot depends on the answers to the above questions  
Access to the WDC survey

### Funding Required:

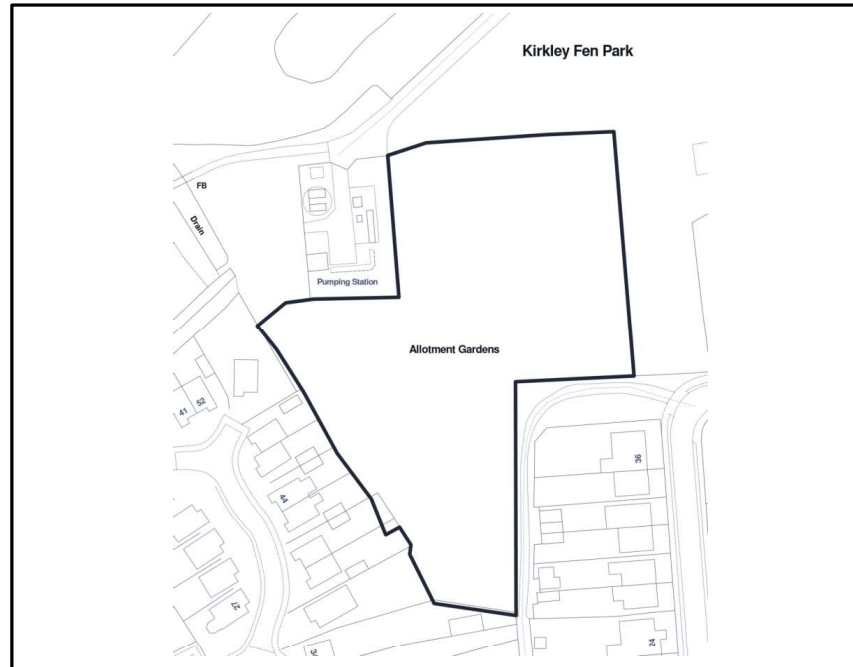
There would be little required for actual play equipment, the majority of costs would be for re-landscaping, changing surfaces, additional seating and planting but this would be a significant amount. However, the play equipment was installed in 2010/11 so it is probably coming up to half life.

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

# Allotments



## Southwell Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward:

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Allotment

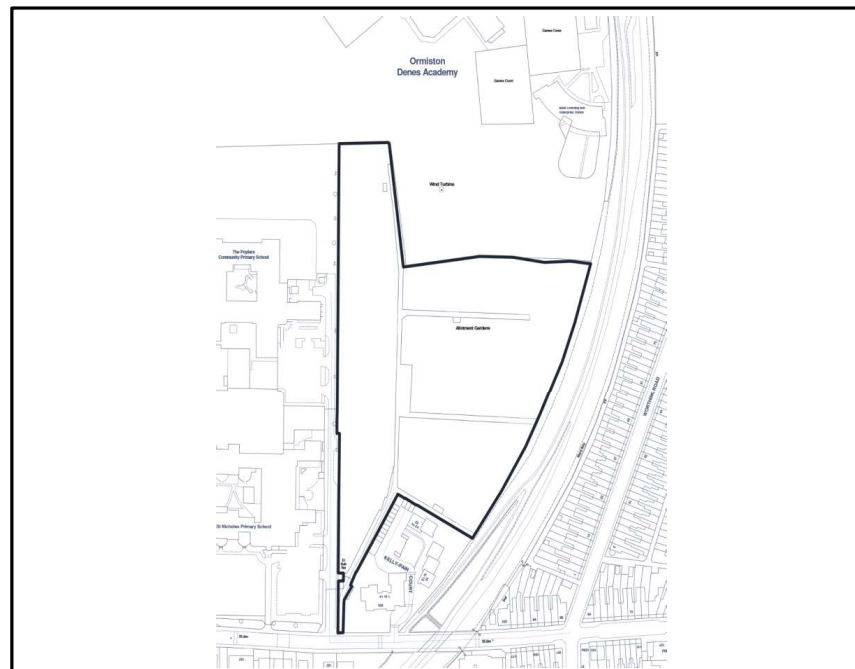
Future planned use of site:  
Allotment

Resources Required:

Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## St Margaret's Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Normanston

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

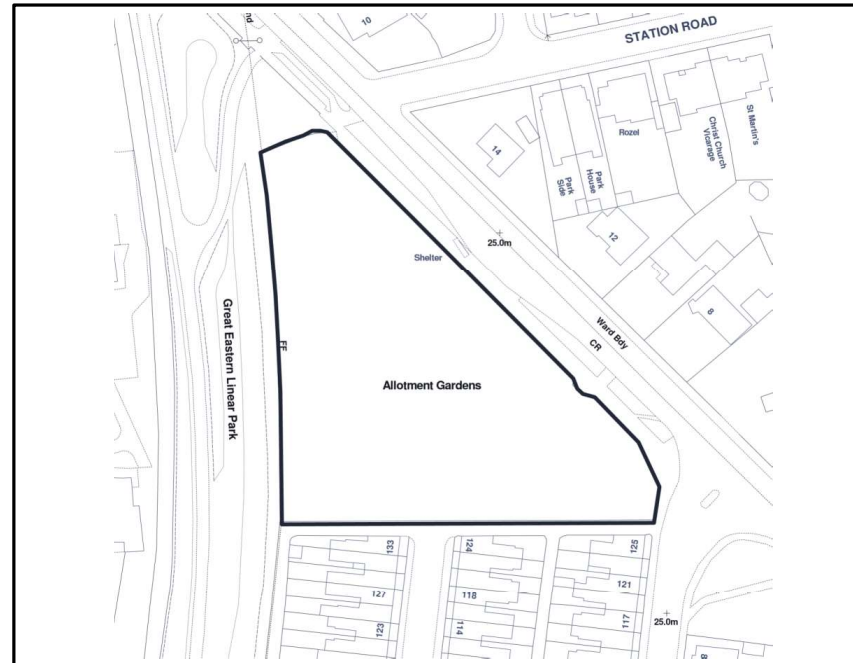
Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Yarmouth Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward:

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Saxon Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Allotment

Future planned use of site: Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association



## Prospect Place Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

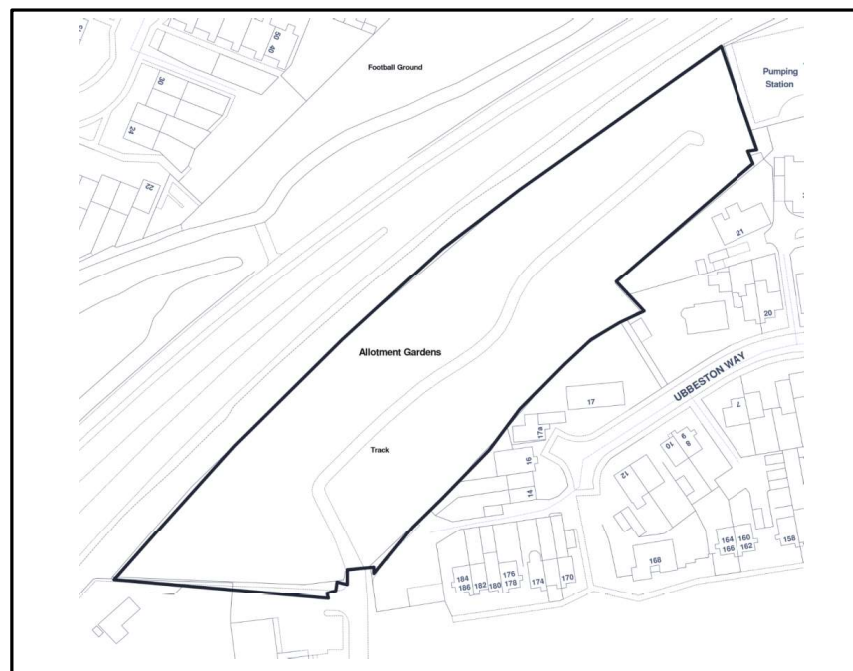
Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Stradbroke Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Allotment

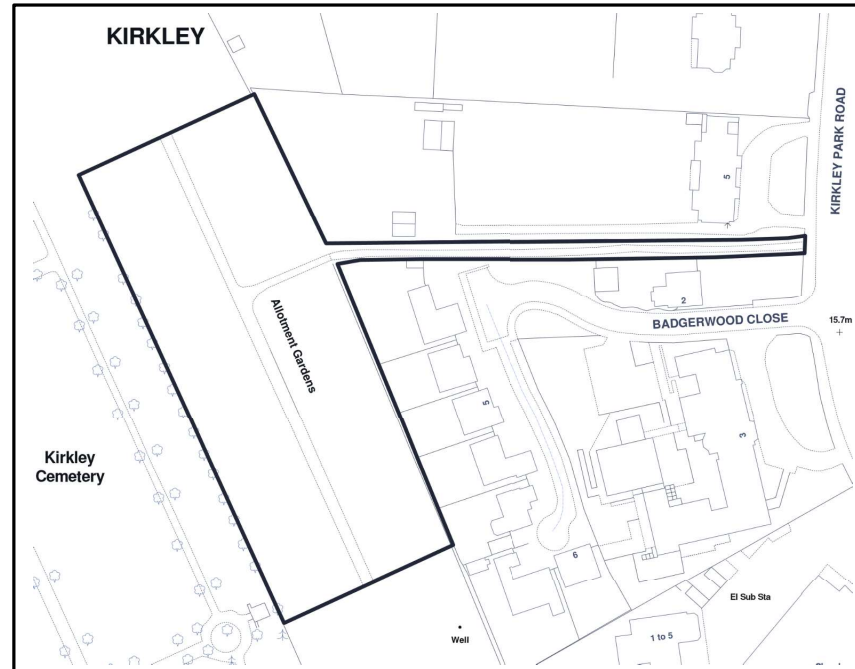
Future planned use of site:  
Allotment

Resources Required:

Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Kirkley Park Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

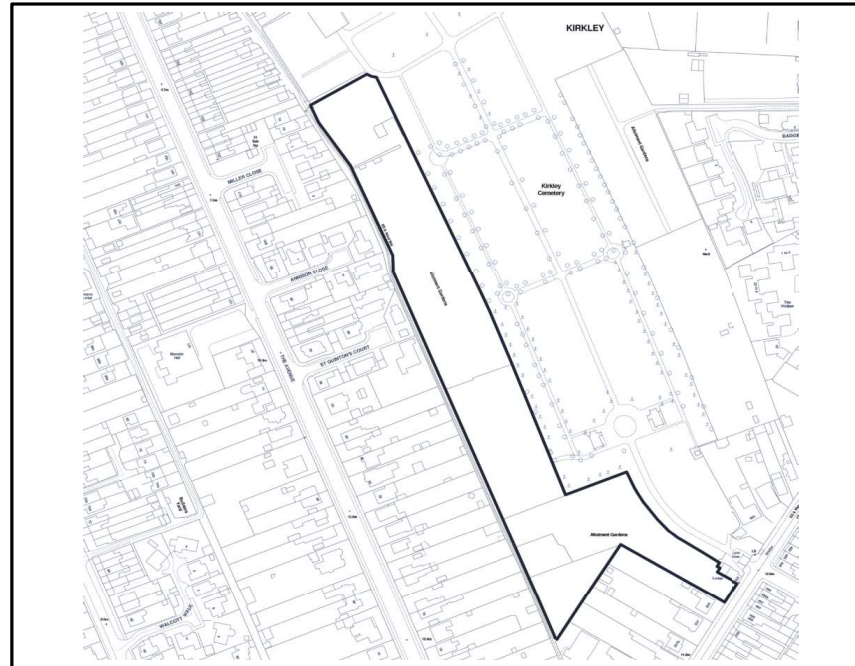
Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## London Road South Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

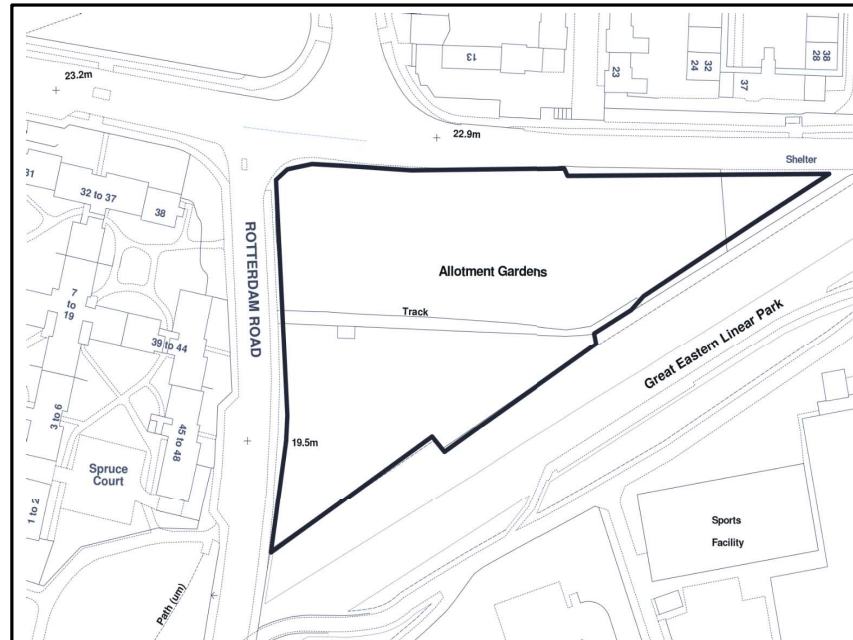
Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association



## Church Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Normanston

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Allotment

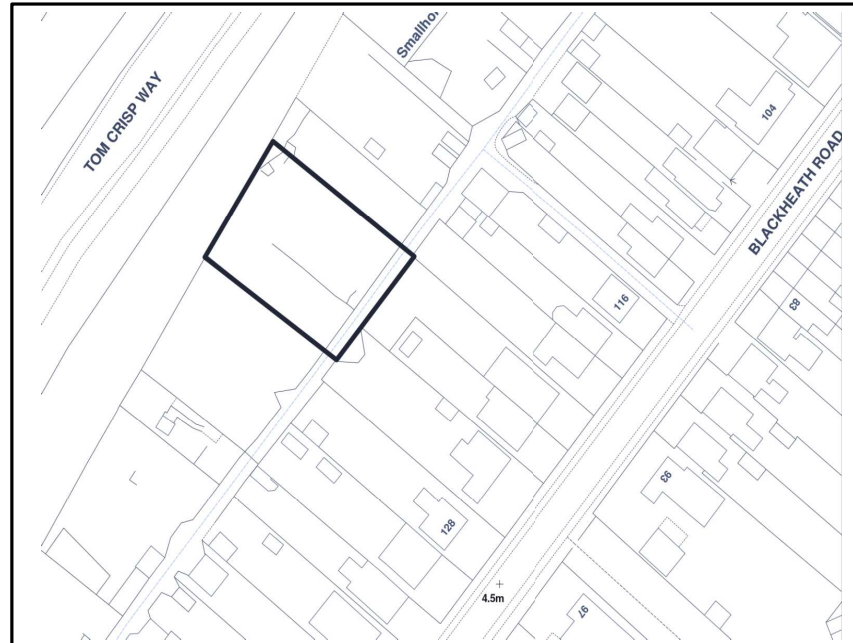
Future planned use of site:  
Allotment

Resources Required:

Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Blackheath Road Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Pakefield

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Water Lane Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:	
Allotment	
Resources Required:	
Funding Required:	
Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association

## Normanston Allotments



### Current Site information

Ward: Normanston

Site Reference:

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:  
Allotments

Future planned use of site:  
Allotment

Resources Required:

Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	Yes/No
Friends Group	Yes/No
Maintenance Contract holder:	Lowestoft & District Allotment Association



# Sundry Sites

## Amenity Land Delius Close, Lowestoft, NR33 9DN



### Current Site information

Ward: Gunton

Site Reference: SK261057

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Lack of vehicular access to the site reduces any potential and therefore suggestion of community orchard with local friends' group.

Current main use of site:

Open Space

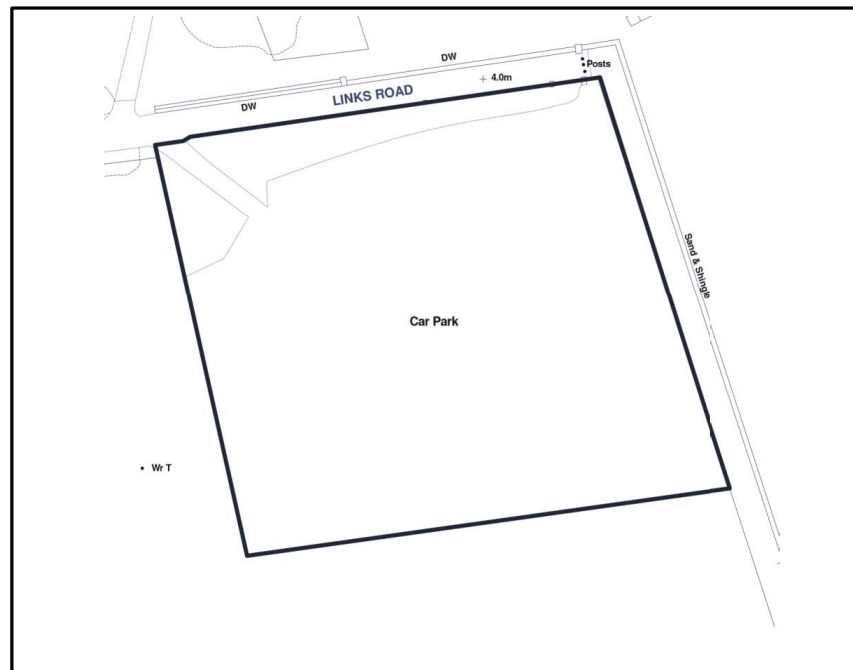
Future planned use of site:  
Community orchard

Resources Required:  
Fruit Trees

Funding Required:  
Funds for fruit trees from Park Development of via grant aid to group

Stakeholder Group	Yes
Friends Group	Yes potentially
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

## Links Road Car Park



### Current Site information

Ward: Gunton

Site Reference: SK265011

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Unmade, free car park

**Future planned use of site:**

Unmade free car park

**Resources Required:**

General repairs

**Funding Required:**

None

Stakeholder Group

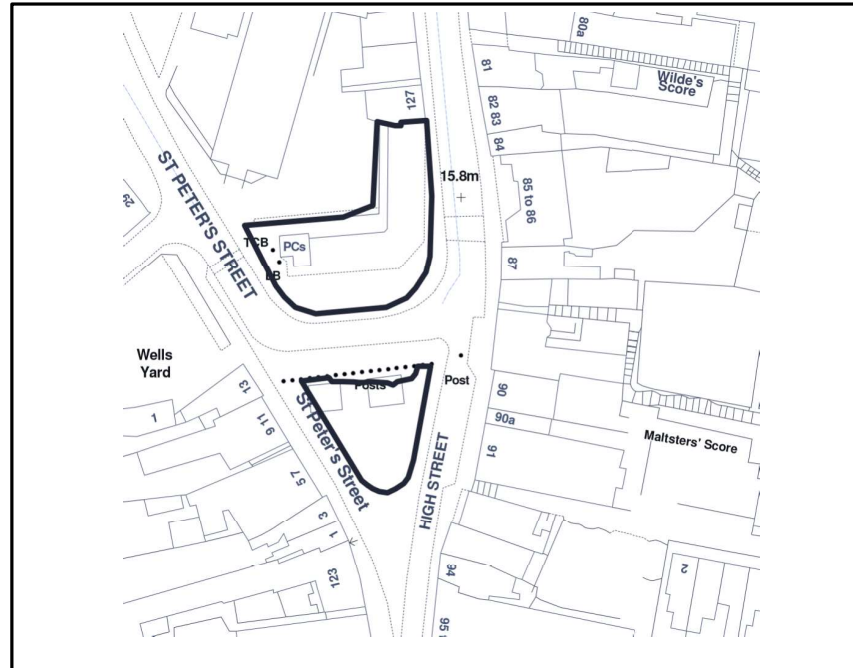
Yes/No

Friends Group

Yes/No

Maintenance Contract holder:

## Triangle Market Place, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Harbour

Site Reference: SK265227

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues: The charter market is situated here which prevents markets being held elsewhere however this is a key part of Lowestoft history. The market is dissected by a road and the lower section is surrounded by roads and although it is pedestrianised, we are having issues getting a permanent closure of the roads. The sails have been a waste of space since their erection since they don't actually keep the area underneath them dry and stalls within the sails area aren't actually covered by the charter market.

Current main use of site:

Limited market and pedestrian area however motor vehicles do cross the area as well

#### Future planned use of site:

The council are committed to revive a market in some form on this historic site and some stalls operate on site at present.

Council has discussed the possibility of demolishing the sails and the public toilets and replacing them with a three-storey building on the same site in the style of the adjacent Victorian building. On the ground floor would be either small starter units or an indoor market with bi-fold doors to allow a more open market feel in good weather. These would be accompanied with new integral public toilets. Above this would be social housing consisting of one- or two-bedroom flats or studio apartments. Car parking and bin storage would have to be considered in the planning and we would need to hire a local architect to design. The aim would be for rental income to cover the payments on any loan taken out to do the development.

#### Resources Required:

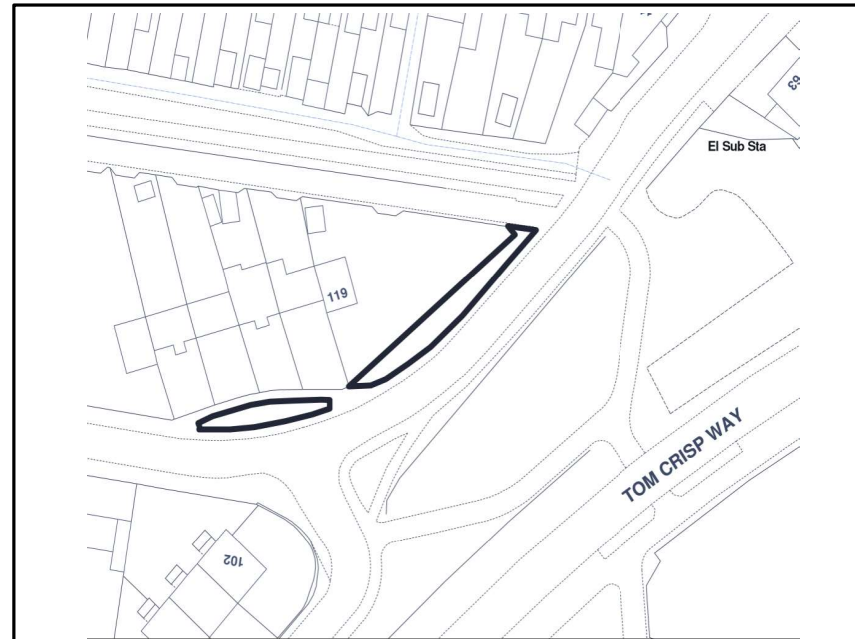
Draft architectural designs followed by finished designs and full costings  
Outline planning and then full planning  
Initial funding to deal with both of the above  
Public consultation  
Funding application  
Tender  
Leases for tenants etc  
Nabma membership?  
Different market contacts

#### Funding Required:

As per above

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder:	

## Land Adjacent to Notley Road, Lowestoft



### Current Site information

Ward: Kirkley

Site Reference: SK260419

Area:

Special Status:

Covenants:

TPOs:

Services:

Facilities on site:

Access:

Species on Site:

Soil Type:

Issues:

Current main use of site:

Verge



### Future planned use of site:

This is two thin strips of land which are essentially verges. One could potentially be sold/offered to the garden of the house it adjoins. The other bit is surrounded by pavement so really has no practicable use.

Ideally this land would get transferred back to WDC or SCC as it should not have been transferred to LTC in the first place as it is verge and the larger pieces of land directly adjacent have been retained by the principal authority.

### Resources Required:

No resources really required

### Funding Required:

Stakeholder Group	No
Friends Group	No
Maintenance Contract holder	Waveney Norse

# Conclusion

## Conclusions

The concepts and plans outline in this strategy are designed to give the council the basis for developing a schedule of works and appropriate budget to main and improve its open spaces. This document should be a living document.