



High Peak Borough Council  
*working for our community*

# Memorial Park

## Management Plan

**2021 - 2031**



## **1. Foreword**

Memorial Park provides an invaluable cultural and recreational resource for the local community in Whaley Bridge. It is the only park in the town, and is primarily used for informal recreation, sporting activity and events. Many local residents appreciate the historic value of the park, particularly its connection to the Jodrell family and the War Memorial commemorating the sacrifices made by the local community in 2 World Wars. Although the park had developed over the years to cater for changing needs it was in need of significant investment to meet the needs of the local audience and provide good quality recreational opportunities for the local community and surrounding rural areas that used the park. The successful award of funding in 2009/10 from the Heritage Lottery Parks for People was the beginning of a new era for the park. The park has been revitalised, providing high quality facilities and activities that have improved the quality of life for local residents and visitors to the town.

This management plan seeks to recognise the significant investment that enabled the restoration and renovation improvements to be completed. It will focus on the future management and maintenance of the park, taking into account sustainable considerations that will ensure that any developments or refurbishment are completed in a manner, which are sensitive to local community needs and the nature of the park in terms of its historic, ecological and environmental value.

## **2. Introduction**

This plan will define the current and future management and maintenance of the Memorial Park for a 10-year period from 2021 to 2031 with a review annually. In compiling the plan we acknowledge the essential and valuable contribution from all key stakeholders, partners, councillors and community groups. Without their contribution this plan would be meaningless.

## **3. The Purpose of the Management Plan**

It is imperative that this management plan provides clear direction for the future management and maintenance of the park, ensuring that the park is conserved and enhanced in its entirety whilst balancing the needs of visitors and residents alike.

This management plan seeks to: -

- Take a holistic approach to the future management of the park by assessing professional and community needs and desires.
- To establish a shared vision and objectives for the park.
- Ensure community involvement within the development and management of the park.
- Establish standards that are effective and accountable to ensure clear management and maintenance objectives are identified and implemented.
- Benchmark the park and analyse the management regimes and policies against best practice.
- Prioritise resources and action to ensure effective management of the park and the success of any future developments.

## **4. Responsibility for the Plan**

High Peak Borough Council is responsible for the overall management of all of our parks and open spaces.

The Service Commissioning section of High Peak Borough Council working in partnership with all stakeholders and the community has compiled this plan. Implementation of the plan will also be led by the Service Commissioning section with specific project leads as shown in the Action Plan. Likewise, the monitoring and review of the plan will be led by the Service Commissioning section. It is recognised that regular effective monitoring and review of the plan will ensure that the document evolves to meet changing priorities. However, all key stakeholders and users of the park together with the wider local community will be engaged to ensure that future revisions reflect a combination of views, needs and aspirations.

## **5. Strategic Context of the Management Plan**

The Parks Strategy is the overarching document that sets out the strategic context which informs the management of all our parks. For this strategy to focus on the future effectively, it is important to recognise the key influencing documents and evidence base which frame the provision and development of parks. It is also equally important for people to understand the current context in which parks are managed and maintained as this will play a part in decision making and delivery of future projects which aim to maintain and enhance the parks.

The purpose of our Parks Strategy is to bring these key issues into focus and by doing so:-

- 1) Set the overarching context and direction for the management and development of our parks and green spaces.
- 2) Outline the approach for managing and developing parks and green spaces which considers the Councils resources, management and maintenance responsibilities and the contribution of partners, community and interest groups.
- 3) Highlight a set of principles which will guide future maintenance, investment and community engagement in our parks and green spaces.
- 4) Agree a set of priorities and objectives which focus effort, resources and decision making to ensure that parks and green spaces remain high quality spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- 5) Help secure additional investment and external funding to enhance the parks infrastructure, facilities and opportunities for the benefit of the community.

## **6. Site Details**

### **6.1 Site Address and access**

Memorial Park is situated within the centre of Whaley Bridge and runs almost the complete length of the town. It is a formal urban park but is surrounded by open countryside, adjacent to the Peak District National Park Authority boundary and the Goyt Valley.

#### **The postal address is as follows:**

Memorial Park, Off Wheatsheaf Close, Whaley Bridge, High Peak SK23 7JB.

It should be noted however that postal correspondence relating to the park should be directed to: Service Commissioning, Buxton Town Hall, Market Place, Buxton SK17 6EL.

Public car parking is located to the side of the sports pavilion and can be accessed from the sports field entrance off Park Road. Although the sports pavilion and MUGA are leased to Whaley Bridge Town Council the car park falls outside the boundaries of this lease and is therefore still managed and maintained by the Borough Council. Disabled vehicle access is available in the park at the Wheatsheaf

and Goyt Road entrances. The Goyt Road entrance gates can be opened to allow vehicle access to the area adjacent to the Memorial. Access at Wheatsheaf Road is limited. The removal of the bollard would only allow vehicle access onto the hard surfacing just inside the park. This entrance is used, for example, at the Remembrance service to assist those who are less able bodied to gain access closer to the park.

A plan of the site is shown below.



LOTTERY FUNDED



**Signage in the park**

## **6.2 Ownership and Designations**

The park sits within the Whaley Bridge ward of the High Peak and is exclusively owned by High Peak Borough Council. The town of Whaley Bridge lies within the High Peak area of Derbyshire with a resident population of approximately 6,500. The site is exclusively owned by High Peak Borough Council and is designated as a Protected Major Park. Although not within the Conservation Area of Whaley Bridge, the park sits closely to this designated area and as such it would be necessary to consult with Conservation Officers before undertaking any major redevelopment of the park.

There are four public rights of way across the site; Footpath 28, 29, 32 and 105. The river Goyt runs along the eastern edge of the park, and as such means that part of the park is also a flood plain. There is a designated wildlife site along the river edge and flood plain area of the park. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have produced a report on the nature conservation value of the site; Whaley Bridge Park and the River Goyt (HP084) Ecological Survey and Assessment.

Memorial Park lies adjacent to the Whaley Bridge Conservation Area. The trees are an essential element of the landscape setting of the Conservation Area and the council will manage the trees accordingly following the principles set out in the Tree Policy and good practice guides.

## **7. Physical Assets**

It is essential to fully understand the physical assets of the park including both natural and manmade features. This will assist in determining the strengths and weaknesses in the information base for the park. This in turn will provide a better understanding of the context of the park and inform how we might develop and effectively manage the park for the future.

Memorial Park has a number of facilities to attract visitors and regular users which includes:-

- **The Memorial and its setting, 1920's original cast iron and pitch pine benches and bespoke street furniture including notice boards, signage and litter bins.**

All these elements were included in the park restoration project to enhance its heritage value and the quality of its facilities.

- **Woodland and tree planting and watercourses including the River Goyt**

The park has a very important woodland habitat which is a key feature of this open space, and is carefully monitored and managed by the council and AES. The River Goyt also runs along the eastern boundary providing important waterside habitats. Toddbrook Reservoir sits above the park on its eastern edge and although owned and managed by the Canal and Rivers Trust, it is very much seen as part of the park landscape with established linking walks from the park to the reservoir and beyond.



**New bridge crossing the River Goyt**

- **Extensive path network (some with natural York stone edgings)**

The park provides many opportunities for walks throughout the historical and natural setting. The quality of these paths was improved as part of the restoration programme greatly improving accessibility through the park.



**Path network within landscape setting**

- **Horticulture Features**

The HLF restoration project for the park included the introduction of a number of soft landscaping elements to recognise the heritage planting detail that may have been evident in the park and this includes rose beds in the memorial area planted with varieties that may have been in the park in the 1920's, ornamental shrub areas to create colour, scent and horticultural interest and native shrub planting.

- **Toddler and junior play area and basketball area**

As part of the improvements to the Memorial Park a new play area was installed for both toddlers and juniors in August 2013. In addition to a range of play equipment the play area project also included elements of natural play and safe access to the river. A basketball area was subsequently installed in this area at the request of the Friends group and local community.

- **A junior and senior football pitch**

The top part of the park is very much seen as the sports and activity area with junior and senior grass football pitches, multi sports court, pavilion, skate park and pump track. The park is home to Whaley Bridge Football Club and although the council's contractor maintains the grass pitches, the football club members are an extremely pro-active group carrying out a lot of the maintenance work themselves. As part of the improvement works in the park the senior pitch was extended, further drainage installed and a barrier fence erected. The completion of this work ensured that the senior football team could progress to a higher league (Cheshire League).

- **In-situ concrete skatepark and adjacent Pump track for 3 levels, beginners, intermediary and experienced**

Following the successful award of external funding from the Changing Spaces programme and Aiming High fund, a new in-situ concrete skatepark was built in 2012. This funding also enabled the Council to install a pump track adjacent to the skatepark. The pump track has 3

tracks for beginners, intermediaries and advanced users. Both of these elements are extremely popular and very well used.

- **Sports pavilion and changing rooms**

The sports pavilion, including changing rooms was built from Sport England and Football Foundation funding in 1999 and although owned by the council, is leased to Whaley Bridge Town Council who maintain it and hire it out for use. It is primarily used by Whaley Bridge Football Club but can be hired by a variety of sports/community groups.

- **3G Multi-Use Games Area**

This facility is also managed and maintained by Whaley Bridge Town Council and has to be booked for use, but is open to community groups on a pay as you play basis or as a training facility by the football club. Taxal and Fernilee Primary School use it regularly during the week for PE lessons and also after school activities.



**New skatepark installed in 2012**

## **8. Historical/Heritage Information**

The following section details a brief history of the site, an understanding and acknowledgement of its heritage value, the Heritage Lottery/BIG Lottery Parks for People restoration project and interpretation of the heritage and how this is conserved and enhanced. This information is intended to give the reader a brief contextual flavour.

### **8.1 The history of the site as a public park**

Historically, the park as we know it today was divided into two areas. The area where the current children's play equipment is located was known as Weir Fields. Weir Fields was opened officially on

11<sup>th</sup> September 1920 and contained a set of swings and several benches. Due to a strike by the printers at the time, there was no press coverage of the opening ceremony. However, 10 years later, the swings and seats were destroyed in a massive flood.

In the 1930s, up to the Second World War, Weir Fields was the venue for the sports events associated with the Annual Gala, which was organised by the then Whaley Bridge and Buxton Co-operative Wholesale Society. A sports event was held in Weir Fields and refreshments provided at the Mechanics Institute on Market Street in the Town Centre. For many years after the war, the annual Rose Queen Festival was also held in Weir Fields and it also now where the annual bonfire is organised by the Round Table.

The park, except for Weir Fields, was donated to the community in 1921 by Colonel Ramsden-Jodrell in memory of those who gave their lives in the First World War. The unveiling of the Memorial and dedication service was conducted by the Reverend Evans on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1921, and inscribed were the names of 108 local men killed in the war. Since then, the names of those lost during the Second World War have been added. The memorial itself, which is 20 feet high, cost £600 and was constructed from a granite obelisk, rising from Portland stone steps and topped by an ionic cross.



**Unveiling of the cenotaph 4<sup>th</sup> May 1921**

In 1929, Lady Haig, the widow of Earl Douglas Haig the Commander of the British Forces in France during World War I, attended a ceremony in the park at which a total of 1000 ex - servicemen took part in the parade. After the ceremony, Lady Haig planted a copper beech tree in the area just to the right of the Memorial along with a cast iron plaque. The tree still stands today but the plaque is no longer there.

During the Second World War, band concerts were held in the park, as was the annual British Legion Drum Head Service. Anecdotal evidence also confirms that local schools organised a Pageant during the Coronation celebration in 1936. When the park was given to the people, it was managed and maintained from public donation by a trust consisting of four people. In 1936, the newly formed Whaley Bridge Urban District Council took over its management, and the park and Weir Fields were

combined. In 1974, High Peak Borough Council took on the ownership and management of the park and during the following years new play equipment was installed, seating along the various paths and the football pitches were marked up and hired by local teams.

In 2001, Whaley Bridge Town Council organised for an archway to be designed and installed at the Wheatsheaf Road entrance to the park. The arch which commemorated the millennium, was officially unveiled on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2001.

Also at this time, plans were being developed with the Whaley Bridge Sports Association, the Town Council and High Peak Borough Council, for the development of a new multi sports area and changing facility. This had been identified as a need within the local community and was included in the Whaley Bridge Sports Development Plan. It was agreed to construct the new facilities next to the existing football pitches. An application to Sport England for £130,000 was successful and further match funding was secured from the High Peak Borough Council, Whaley Bridge Town Council and Whaley Bridge Football Club.

The facility was officially opened in 2002 and is now currently managed and maintained by the Town Council under a long-term lease from the Borough Council. The pavilion, which has a communal room and changing facilities with showers is primarily used by Whaley Bridge Football Club, although the Memorial Park ranger/gardener also has agreed use of the facility during normal working hours. Further development of the park continued to focus on sports and young people's provision at the top of the park. A skatepark facility funded through a variety of organisations including the Countryside Agency, WREN, Tesco and Whaley Bridge Town Council was officially opened in June 2002. A small BMX track was installed a year later in the summer of 2003.

### **8.3 The Heritage Lottery/BIG Lottery Parks for People Fund Restoration Project**

In 2009 the Council were successful in securing a development grant from the Heritage Lottery/BIG Lottery Parks for People fund for the park and subsequently submitted a Stage 2 application in April 2010 to secure funding for a wide range of improvements to the park. The restoration of the cenotaph and memorial area formed a key part of this project together with enhancement of the main entrances to the park and the installation of a new play area.

The successful delivery of this project has created the opportunity to instigate a long-term vision for the future of the park which will include improved management, maintenance regimes and community engagement.



**Refurbished cenotaph and memorial area 2014**

## **9. Value Assessments**

### **9.1 Heritage Value**

The park has significant heritage value, of particular note is the cenotaph and memorial area. A separate Conservation Management Plan for the Memorial Park sets out the historical value and heritage significance of the park.

### **9.2 Educational Value**

Memorial Park provides a valuable educational resource which is frequently utilised by the local primary schools, beavers, cubs, scouts and brownies. The Ranger continues to work with all these groups to encourage outdoor activities and learning experiences in the park. Bug hunting, balsam bashing and tree planting are all activities that have been well attended by the local community groups. In addition, both schools have participated in projects to learn more about the World Wars and the significance of the park to remember those who lost their lives. Fruit trees have been planted by schoolchildren to create a small orchard and several dry stone walling courses have taken place in the park.

More recently, a new Forest Schools area was created and now sessions are being run weekly by Taxal and Fernilee Primary School after training with teaching staff from school who now run the activities themselves. Working with the Ranger and Friends group, further organised educational and training opportunities are planned.



**Entrance to new Forest School Area**

### **9.3 Recreational Value**

Memorial Park is the only park serving the local community of Whaley Bridge and in the absence of a leisure centre and very few other recreational facilities; it is an extremely valuable recreational resource. This lack of access to parks and recreational facilities is exceptional in a town of this size. The park therefore provides a range of well used sports and play related amenities.

### **9.4 Amenity Value**

The park is located centrally in the town. As shown from the demographic information it serves a large and diverse community. Particularly given its location it provides an essential amenity resource for the town affording recreational facilities and forming an oasis within the semi urbanised community of Whaley Bridge. This amenity value has a significant impact on the quality of life for residents. The corresponding economic value of the park is also significant as the park provides a quality of life that will attract economic activity in the area. The park is seen as one of the key attractions in the town, and as such is a priority for enhancement. It also links the town to other locally significant heritage attractions such as the Transshipment Sheds, Peak Forest Canal and the Toddbrook Reservoir.

### **9.5 Ecological Value**

The park is a valuable green space located in a semi-rural environment. The close linkages with the Peak District National Park provide an important wildlife corridor to the open countryside, and its natural features provide important habitats for flora and fauna such as birds, small mammals, and invertebrates, and an ecological survey and assessment of the park was undertaken by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust in 2005.

The woodland area is of significant ecological importance, supporting several species of birds and mammals. Bluebells and other woodland under-storey flora species are also found, and the lying deadwood provides a key habitat for invertebrates. There is potential to further develop the woodland under-storey and manage the woodland sympathetically to fallen and standing dead wood. The mature trees offer roosting and nesting sites for birds as well as providing a source of food. A bat survey carried out in 2009 identified that bats are present in the park. As well as the potential to erect bird boxes, bat boxes should also be considered as summer roosts. There is a badger set in the woodland area behind the Memorial, as well as fox dens with regular sightings.

Running along the edge of the park boundary, the river also has significant ecological value, supporting a variety of fauna such as kingfishers, grey heron and dipper, aquatic invertebrates, brown trout, other fish species and eels; there has also been a recent sighting of an otter. The riverside vegetation extends into the park creating wetland areas that also have the potential to be developed.

## **10. Management Responsibilities**

High Peak Borough Council is responsible for the overall management of the Memorial Park. We work with partners, community and interest groups to develop and deliver projects that improve the green space.

Alliance Environmental Services (AES) is contracted by the Council to undertake the day-to-day maintenance of the park and they also have the budgetary responsibility. A schedule for the associated standards of maintenance is defined by the contract with AES, and the park itself has a specific maintenance schedule found in [Appendix 1](#). This park also benefits from a Park Ranger position who is employed by AES. This post was originally funded by the HLF as part of the restoration programme but was then retained by the council. Although the Park Ranger has responsibility for park maintenance and health and safety, the role also has a significant community participation element working closely with the Friends group and other community organisations as well as running events and activities.

As well as undertaking the regular day to day maintenance in the park, the Ranger has also focussed on enhancing areas for biodiversity which include creating a hibernaculum next to the small pond in the park, building a 'bird café' where feeders have been installed and park visitors can sit and watch the birds as well as a series of interpretation boards for butterflies, trees and insects as well as a bug hotel.



### **Hibernaculum – ‘Toad Abode’**

Since taking up the role in 2020, the Park Ranger has been involved in a range of activities and initiatives to protect and enhance biodiversity as well as ensuring the park is pivotal in contributing to the health and wellbeing of the local community and supporting individuals to enhance their learning and development. Recent initiatives include:-

- Completion and Opening of Forest School
- Regular forest school sessions being run weekly by Taxal and Fernilee Primary School
- New accessible path installed for access to the Bird Café
- Planning and initial creation of linear woodland path in the park - connecting the bird cafe to the wildlife pond area
- Planting of 50 tree saplings in various areas
- One on one sessions with a volunteer with learning difficulties (fortnightly) March 23 to present
- Regular volunteer session on weekly basis; mentoring and varied tasks for their development in this sector from June 23 to present
- Installing new nest boxes including tawny owl box and also a hedgehog box
- Pride month awareness - informative posters in notice boards, progress flag flown, rainbow bunting on bridge entrance
- Various awareness month/week info in the notice boards including Mental Health Awareness Week, South Asian Heritage Month, Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month.
- 7 new Interpretation boards installed around park including butterflies, fungi and British birds.
- Monthly group volunteer tasks, working with the Friends group, including Himalayan balsam bashing, path maintenance, bird box surveys
- Weekly litter pick volunteer sessions
- Quarterly school holiday club sessions including tree ID, bug hunts and tree planting



**One of the new interpretation panels  
Butterfly Interpretation**

The park also plays a key role in raising awareness and supporting wider national campaigns including Love Parks Week and Pride Month.



## 11. Health and Safety

Health and safety is of primary concern for the Council. AES are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and management of the site and this includes keeping the park safe for the public to use. Daily visual inspections, six monthly in-depth surveys and regular tree inspections are all part of the suite of checks and procedures, which are in place. These will ensure that all issues, repairs and replacements are identified quickly and scheduled into the work programmes as necessary.

The park has a site-specific risk assessment which is reviewed and updated annually by the Operations Service Lead (AES). All AES staff are given specific training to ensure they are always operating in a safe manner. Any work on our parks and open spaces, which are carried out by external contractors, partners, community groups/volunteers are governed by the Council's health and safety policies, which they must abide and follow.

## 12. Involving Communities

It is well recognised that for any park to be successfully managed it must respond to the needs of the local community and park users. Actively engaging and encouraging community participation and involvement is essential in the continued development of the park. Community and interest groups including 'Friends of the Parks' are a vital and valued support network and play an important role in assisting with maintenance and development projects. These groups also can provide additional capacity, undertake selected maintenance tasks and can attract additional funding to improve the parks. The Friends of Memorial Park are a very active group who aim to:

- Provide a community focus for the park
- Take practical action to improve the park
- Raise the profile of the park
- Continue to raise funds to improve the park

Following the delivery of the restoration and renovation of the park, the group was reinvigorated with new members and are now integral to the protection and development of the park, ensuring that the long-term sustainability of the park is managed with local community input.



**Friends of Memorial Park at the Park Open Event**

The group, who meet on a monthly basis, are involved in a variety of activities and events in the park from practical tasks such as tree planting and assisting the Ranger in creating a new woodland path and Forest School area, as well as running events such as the Christmas Lantern Parade through the Park which is incorporated into the wider Christmas light switch on event in the town. Their activities and events are publicised through press releases in the local papers, posters in the on-site notice boards, posters and flyers sent to the local schools and displayed in the library, shops, cafes and churches as well as their Facebook Page.



**The Friends group and Park Ranger creating the new woodland path**

Whaley Bridge benefits from a wealth of community organisations, many of whom see the park as integral to projects which enhance the town and we are keen to work with an support community involvement and initiatives which promote and enhance the town's green spaces. Due to their long standing knowledge and experience the Friends are looking to develop a wider 'umbrella' group and link with other community organisations and groups who are involved in the protection and development of the town's green spaces and play areas, to ensure that improvements and developments are being looked at holistically and resources identified.

The use of parks for events is something we want to encourage and the Memorial Park is already well used by Taxal and Fernilee Primary School, the Royal British Legion and has a very popular Junior parkrun on a Sunday morning.



**Junior parkrun**

### **13. Marketing and Communications**

High Peak Borough Council has the responsibility for managing Memorial Park and has a variety of communication mechanisms that can be utilised to give feedback on the performance and continued relevance of this Management Plan. As the Council is committed to reducing the need for paperwork there is an increased reliance on the use of the relevant sections of the High Peak Borough Council Website. The Council has both a Facebook page and Twitter account

- Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/highpeakbc>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/HighPeakBC>

For anything specific to Memorial Park the link below gives a number of options for how customers might get in touch.

- <https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/1664/Memorial-Park-Whaley-Bridge>

The Council can also be contacted by writing to **Service Commissioning, Buxton Town Hall, Market Place, BUXTON. SK17 6EL**

## 14. Action Plan

The Parks Strategy provides the guiding principles, headline priorities and objectives for the management and development of our parks and following on from this, we are able to develop specific site action plans. These plans identify our priorities, linked to the Strategy, and ensure they are appropriate, relevant, resourced and provide a flexible and realistic approach to realizing the aims of the Management Plan.

### Parks Strategy Objectives

- Objective 1** We will review maintenance regimes to ensure our parks and open spaces are maintained to a high standard, in an affordable and sustainable way and consider improvements to increase and enhance biodiversity and positively affect climate change. (addresses priorities 1, 2 and 4)
- Objective 2** We will ensure that infrastructure and heritage features are protected and well maintained, in accordance within the resources available to the Council. (addresses priority 1, 2, 3 and 4)
- Objective 3** Encourage and enable positive physical and mental wellbeing by developing strong partnerships with community groups, sports clubs and other stakeholder groups to ensure parks fulfil their potential for enabling healthy lifestyles for all ages. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 4** Ensure that parks are safe and accessible places for the whole community and that the highest possible standards of health and safety are maintained by our service providers, event organisers and when engaging the community in projects. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 5** Actively encourage community engagement and involvement in the protection, maintenance and development of our parks. (addresses priority 3 and 4)
- Objective 6** Effectively manage internal budgets and attract external funding wherever possible towards the ongoing maintenance and the future development of our parks. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)
- Objective 7** We will review park management plans and their associated actions plans annually to ensure these objectives are being delivered against effectively. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)
- Objective 8** We will create a Parks Development Fund to be used to make improvements to our parks and green spaces. (addresses priority 1,2,3 and 4)

## Memorial Park Action Plan 2021 -2031

### Objective 1 To protect and enhance biodiversity, address the effects of climate change and ensure the park is sustained for the future

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to review current maintenance regimes to identify best practice that reflects emerging principles which address biodiversity	Spring 2024	Within existing budgets	HPBC/AES	Existing	Friends Group/DWT/Biodiversity Whaley	On site interpretation panels/signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Explore further opportunities to create wildlife habitats within the park	Spring 2024	Unknown	HPBC/AES/Friends	Existing/ External funds	AES/Friends/Biodiversity Whaley /DWT	On site interpretation panels/signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Continue to work closely with CRT as reservoir works are completed in terms of required landscape and biodiversity enhancements	2025/26	As part of CRT improvement works	CRT	CRT	HPBC/AES/Friends	On site interpretation panels/signage in noticeboards/ social media channels/CRT publicity channels	
Undertake further wildlife surveys	2024/25	N/A	AES/HPBC/DWT/Friends	Existing	AES/HPBC/DWT/Friends	On site interpretation panels/signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	

**Objective 2 To protect and preserve our heritage features**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to work closely with the Canal & River Trust regarding the ongoing restoration work to Toddbrook reservoir and impact on park heritage.	2025/26	Unknown	CRT/HPBC	CRT	HPBC/CRT/ Friends group/ Town Council/Football Club	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels/CRT publicity channels	
Explore options for new formal bandstand suggested by Friends group and wider community	2024/25	Unknown	HPBC/Friends	External	Friends groups/HLF	Wait until a decision has been made.	

### Objective 3 To identify opportunities for encouraging physical activity

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to promote and maximise the opportunities for physical activity within the park.	Ongoing	Unknown	HPBC	HPBC/ Active Derbyshire/ Public Health/Friends group	Whaley Active/ Public Health/ Active Derbyshire/Friends group/AES	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Continue to support the junior parkrun weekly event.	Ongoing	N/A	Parkrun organisers	Existing	Parkrun/Friends/HPBC	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Explore Walking Group opportunities with the community to use park/pavilion as 'hub' for led walks	Summer 2024/2025	Unknown	HPBC/Friends/local community	Existing/ external	HPBC/Friends/local community/Town Council	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Continue to work with Town Council to increase use of multi-sports court – walking football etc	Ongoing	Unknown	Town Council/ wider community	External	HPBC/Friends/ Town Council/ wider community	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	

**Objective 4 To ensure our parks are safe, welcoming and accessible for the communities they serve**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Organise works needed to improve the bottom riverside path, including drainage.	March 2024	£8,000	HPBC/Norse	UKSPF	HPBC/Norse/Friends	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Repairs needed to top path running along woodland edge	March 2024	Unknown	AES	Existing	HPBC/Friends	Press release/Social media/Friends FB page	
Develop campaign and awareness programme to tackle dog fouling	Feb 2024	Unknown	HPBC-Enforcement/ Friends/	Existing	HPBC/Friends/AES	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Friends group to deliver programme of practical activities to assist Park Ranger e.g. re-paint benches, clean railings	2024/ 2025	Unknown	Friends/AES/ HPBC	Existing	Friends/HPBC/AES	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	

### Objective 5 Actively encourage community engagement and involvement

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to support the Friends group with practical activities and events.	Ongoing	Unknown	HPBC/Friends/ wider community	Unknown	AES/other organisations	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Work with Whaley Bridge Football Club in terms of re-instatement of the junior pitch and enhancements to the senior pitch when CRT vacate the site – negotiation with CRT	2025/26	Costs to be obtained from specialist sports turf contractors	CRT/HPBC/ Friends	Unknown	CRT/Town Council/HPBC/other organisations	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels/CRT comms channels	
Promote wider use of Forest School area by other organisations and community.	2024/25	N/A	AES/HPBC/ Friends	Existing	AES/Friends/wider community/other organisations	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Park Ranger to continue to support fortnightly volunteering activities with learning disability programme.	Ongoing	N/A	AES/HPBC	Existing	AES/HPBC/Health and Social Care	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	

Park Ranger to continue to mentor and support weekly apprentice volunteer.	Ongoing	N/A	AES/HPBC	Existing	AES/HPBC/Friends	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Deliver weekly litter pick sessions with community and further explore volunteering opportunities.	Ongoing	N/A	AES/HPBC	Existing	AES/HPBC/Friends/wider community	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	
Organise activities with Taxal and Fernilee School Holiday Club.	Ongoing	<b>N/A</b>	AES/HPBC/ Friends	Existing	AES/HPBC/Friends After School Club/wider community	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels	

**Objective 6 To ensure effective financial management of resources**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to work with the Friends group to develop projects and secure funding where appropriate.	Ongoing	Unknown	HPBC/Friends	External funds	HPBC/Whaley Bridge FC/Friends group	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels.	
Continue to support Whaley Bridge AFC to secure funds for improvements to the senior pitch, in line with discussions with the CRT regarding the junior pitch.	2025	Unknown	HPBC/CRT/WBAFC	Existing	AES/Allotment plot holders	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels.	
Ensure s106 funds allocated to the park are utilised and maximised to ensure added value.	Ongoing	Unknown	HPBC	External	HPBC/Friends	On site signage in noticeboards/ social media channels.	

### Objective 7 Review and Monitoring

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Annual condition review of park infrastructure including seating, bins, paths	Annual	Unknown	AES/HPBC	AES/HPBC/Friends	Friends group	N/A	
Continue to apply for Green Flag status for the park and ensure standards are maintained	Annual	Application fee	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group/wider community	Press release/Social media/Friends FB page	
Annual review of action plan for the park	Annual	N/A	HPBC	Existing	AES/Friends group/wider community	N/A	

## Appendix 1 – Routine Maintenance Schedule

An asterisk Indicates As Required

Feature	Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>General Amenity Grassland</b>	Mowing (to include specification for formal parkland ie weekly if this is achievable)			2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			16
<b>Fine Lawn</b>	Mowing - weekly				1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
	Fertiliser Application				1		1							2
<b>Heritage Grassland</b>	To be confirmed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust													
<b>Shrub Beds - Formal</b>	Weed/delitter (routine pruning)			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			15
	Winter Cultivation			1							1			2
<b>Rose beds</b>	Weed/delitter			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			15
	Winter/Spring prune			1								1		2
	Pest and disease control (natural methods only)				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
	Mulch											1		1
	Fertiliser Application			1										1
<b>Shrub beds - Informal</b>	Weed/delitter				1	1	1	1	1	1	1			7
	Top up bark mulch			1										1
<b>Herbaceous</b>	Spring maintenance			1										
	Summer maintenance				2	2	2	2	2	2	2			14
	Winter maintenance											1		1
<b>Hedge - Beech</b>	Hedge cutting							1				1		2
<b>Autumn Leaves</b>	Clearance												1	1
	Mulch											3	3	6

<b>Paths / hard Surfaces</b>	Blowing/Sweeping	1	1	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	30
<b>Water Courses</b>	Inspect and keep clear of detritus	Daily (working week)												
<b>Whole Site</b>	Litter Collection - daily				1	1	1	1	1	1				6
	Litter Collection - weekly	1	1	1							1	1	1	6
	Graffiti remove as and when it is identified within 24 to 48 hours													
	Dog fouling - remove and dispose when identified													
	Vandalism - make safe and either repair or report for remedial action within 24 hours													
<b>Playground Equipment, Skatepark and BMX Track</b>	Inspections - visual	Daily (working week)												
	Inspections - playground inspector	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
<b>Football Pitches</b>	As part of Parkwood Contract through Glendale													
<b>Memorial</b>	Wash down base and memorial inscriptions											1		1
	Removal/repositioning of wreaths and tributes											1	1	2
<b>Litter Bins</b>	Empty - Daily	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
	Wash Down				1					1				2
<b>Benches</b>	Wash Down				1					1				2
	Repaint Iron Work/Re-treat Timber with Solignum													*
<b>Signage</b>	Wash Down				1					1				2