



Overdale Park

Management and Maintenance Plan

2022 – 2027



people spaces places

Overdale Park

Management and Maintenance Plan

June 2022

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1 Where are we now?

1.1 Site

1.1.1 Location

Overdale Park covers 0.40 hectares and is located in Astwood Bank and Feckenham Ward. As shown in **Figure 1**, it borders Astwood Bank Allotments along its northern, western and part of its southern border. The remainder of the site is surrounded by housing.

1.1.2 Site Description

Shown in **Figure 2**, Overdale Park is a small community park. The Park was designed in two halves; a formal half to the east and a natural half to the west. The formal half contains mown expanses of grass, wetland area with viewing platform, trees, shrubs, bins, benches, sculpture and footpaths. In the natural area, there is an orchard, grassland, trees and two brook courses with pedestrian access to the Astwood Bank Allotments beyond. Overdale Park provides varied habitat within a local setting. The site is bordered on its west by mature hedgerows that were laid during the construction of the site in 2009.

The Park ideally serves its local community, its design provides open vistas to all sides and therefore provides a 'safe' environment. The formal area of Overdale Park benefits from a circular DDA compliant footpath and there are no steps or stiles to navigate.

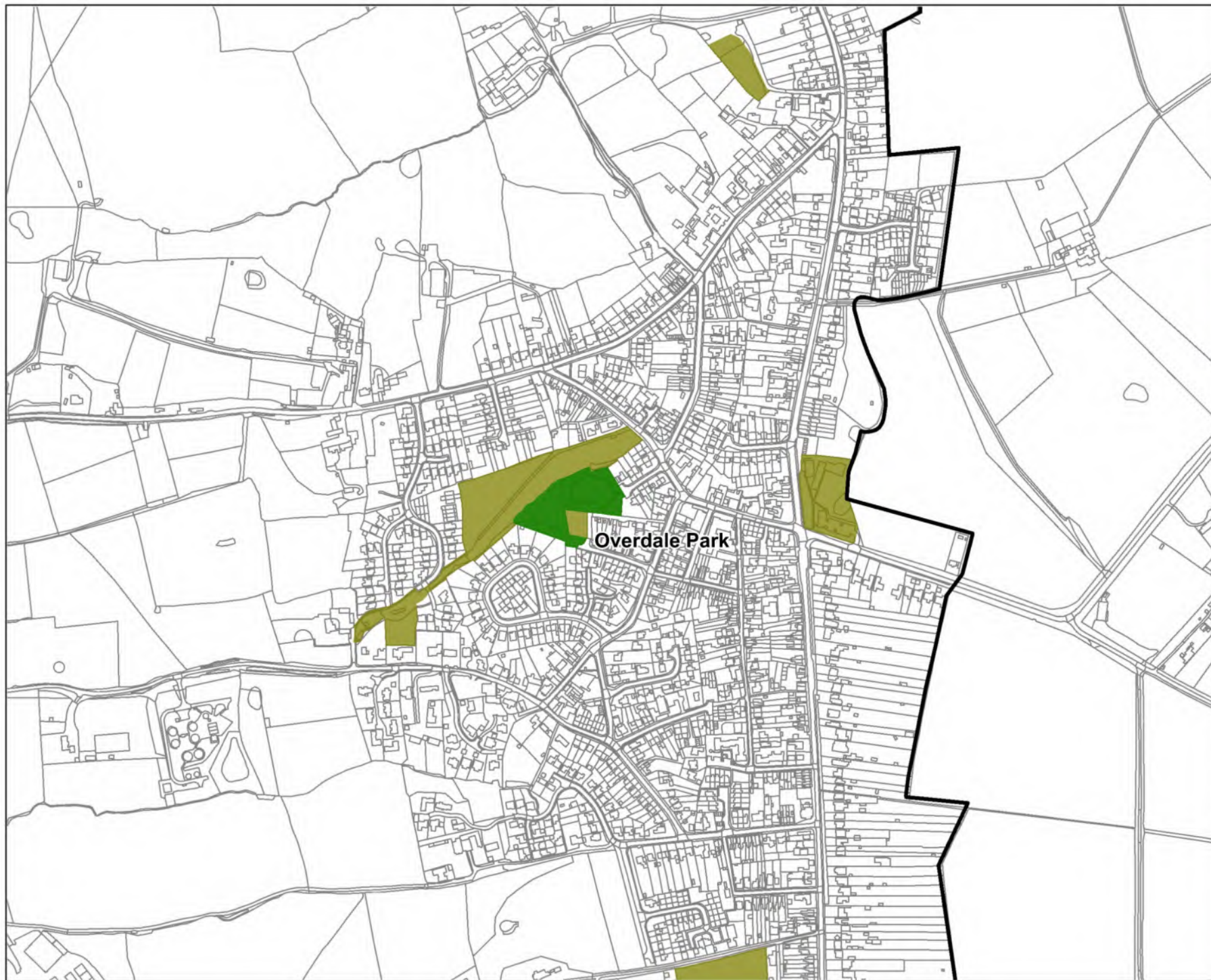
Overdale Park has a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012 Fields in Trust designation: its aim is to protect this outdoor recreational space as part of a UK wide scheme to create a "grassroots" legacy.

Overdale Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 1
Overdale Park Location Plan

LEGEND

-  Overdale Park
-  Other neighbouring open space
-  Ward Boundaries
-  Redditch Borough



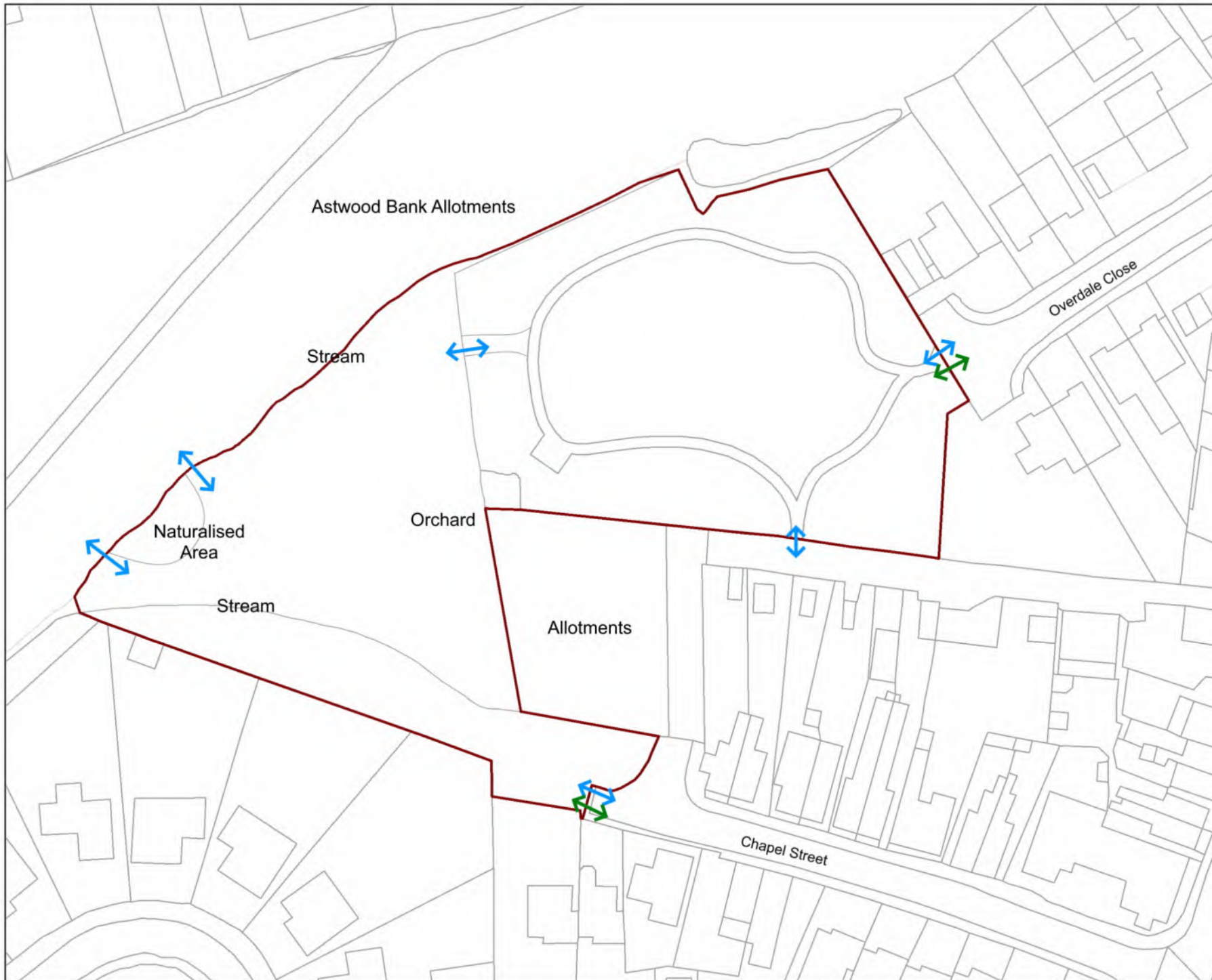
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Overdale Park Management and Maintenance Plan

Figure 2
Overdale Park Site Plan



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- ↔ Vehicle access
- ↔ Pedestrian access



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1.1.3 Designations & Legal Issues

Ownership

The tenure of land known as 'Overdale Park' is freehold and held by Redditch Borough Council.

Covenant and Restrictions

No covenants or restrictions exist for Overdale Park.

Lease and Licences

There are no identified licenses regarding the park.

Various legal agreements and consents authorising utilities to erect/lay and use overhead and underground electricity transmission/distribution lines are in existence.

Planning Status

No formal designation exists for Overdale Park. Overdale Park is located in the Astwood Bank Sustainable Rural Settlement and excluded from the adjacent Green Belt.

Byelaws

There are no current byelaws affecting Overdale Park.

Access

A public right of way runs parallel to Overdale Park and runs the length of the allotment site.

No formal easements or way leaves have been located / identified other than those for statutory services including easements in relation to Eon and Severn Trent Water Authority that allows inspection, maintenance, repair, cleansing, renewal, alteration, removal, replacement and enlargement of their services with 24 hours required notice excluding emergency.

Wider legislation

Overdale Park is covered by a legislative framework, which seeks to address and control behavior and activities within the Council's green spaces. These issues are actively promoted and enforced in partnership with the police, community wardens and other council departments and responsibilities are outlined in the table below.

Legislation	Relevance to green space	Responsible organisation
Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996	Dog fouling, fines and disposal.	Redditch Borough Council
Crime and Disorder Act 1998	Community safety e.g., anti-social behaviour and sight lines.	Police, Redditch Borough Council & strategic partners

Legislation	Relevance to green space	Responsible organisation
Disability Discrimination Act 1995	Access and participation for disabled people.	Redditch Borough Council
Occupiers' Liability Act 1984	Health & safety of visitors.	Redditch Borough Council
Health and Safety Act 1974	Health and safety of visitors and workers.	Redditch Borough Council
Road Traffic Act 1991	Illegal access by motorcyclists.	Police
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Litter, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.	Redditch Borough Council

Table 1 Legislative framework

1.1.4 History

Formally an allotment site, Overdale Park was opened 27 June 2009. At the opening event, a poll was taken to choose a name for the new park and Overdale Park was by far the most popular choice.

1.1.5 Biodiversity

Overdale Park provides a range of habitats and therefore has some biodiversity value. It is bordered by Midland hedgerows containing multiple species including regenerated Elm (*Ulmus procera*). There are also two small ponds and two active stream courses. One of the ponds is adjacent to the allotments and has been planted with marginal species thereby creating a small wetland area.

Limited biodiversity monitoring has taken place at Overdale Park since its creation.

1.2 Organisation

Overdale Park is managed and maintained by Redditch Borough Council. The council operates shared services with Bromsgrove District Council for parks and open spaces and these are set out under the organisational structure section at 1.2.2 below.

1.2.1 Policy context summary

National Policies

National policies of relevance to this Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP) are summarised below.

Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

The Plan was published in January 2018 and updated in May 2019. It sets out six goals for improving the environment, including thriving plants and wildlife and enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. It also looks to manage environmental pressures by improving biosecurity. These will be achieved through ensuring there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work and encouraging more people to spend time in open spaces to benefit their health and wellbeing.

Relevant to this MMP, the Plan targets to create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, plant 180,000 hectares of trees by the end of 2042.

Environmental Bill 2020 (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs)

The Bill was introduced into parliament on 15 October 2019 and re-introduced following the general election on 30 January 2020. The Bill will ensure environmental principles are implemented in law and provides measures to enhance and protect the natural environment, improve air and water quality and tackle waste and resource efficiency. Elements of the Bill relevant to this MMP include establishing the Office for Environmental Protection (a new body which will monitor progress towards improving the natural environment in line with government targets) and supporting the delivery of the 2017 Litter Strategy. The Bill will also make the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England a requirement.

The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy)

The Ten Point Plan was published in November 2020. It aims to mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially another £36 billion from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs.

The Plan focuses on increasing ambition across ten areas, including promoting green public transport, cycling and walking, offering further funding for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce emissions from public buildings and creating new National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Public Health England Strategy 2020 to 2025

Published in 2019, the Strategy sets out priorities for delivering its key aims of keeping people safe, preventing poor health, narrowing the health gap and supporting a strong economy. Priorities include promoting healthier diets and weights by creating vibrant, health-promoting environments and ensuring children have the best start in life by developing healthy places for families that help to reduce inequalities, vulnerability and adversity.

Improving Access to Greenspace 2020 (Public Health England)

Published in March 2020, the report provides an update on the 2014 report. It reviews evidence on the health benefits of living in greener communities, the impact on inequalities in health and makes recommendations to help Local Authorities, policymakers and developers provide equitable greenspaces for communities. Priorities set out by the report include promoting the role of open space in health through interventions, such as green social prescribing initiatives and prioritising improving access to open space, especially in areas of deprivation or where there is poor or unequal access.

Space to Thrive Report

The Space to Thrive Report was conducted by researchers from Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield. It was produced with The National Lottery Community Fund and published in January 2020. Based on its findings, the Report recommends that open spaces be seen as social and physical infrastructure, with investments in both the physical state of the site and activities that encourage its use and bring the local community together. It also recommended open spaces should support health and wellbeing and promote connections with nature through their design and maintenance.

Local Policies

Local policies, including Worcestershire County Council and Council policies relevant to this MMP are outlined below.

Worcestershire Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy 2016 - 2021

The Strategy sets out a vision for Worcestershire to be "healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life", focussing communities and groups with the poorest health outcomes. Six fundamental principles underpin the Strategy, including empowering individuals and families and taking local action. A renewed focus is also placed on the prevention of poor health and wellbeing, with actions including creating a health-promoting environment and encouraging and enabling people to take responsibility for themselves.

Redditch Borough Council Plan 2020-2024

The Plan outlines the Council's vision "to enrich the lives and aspirations of our residents, businesses, and visitors by providing efficiently run and high-quality services, ensuring that all in need receive appropriate help, support, and opportunities". The Council identified six strategic purposes, underpinned by five community priorities. These include improved health & wellbeing and, community safety & antisocial behaviour. The Plan also emphasises the principle of 'people', which includes residents, staff, council members and partners. To deliver the Plan effectively, the Council identified the need to utilise and develop the skills of their team and understand and respond to their performance with a focus on continuous improvement.

Borough Of Redditch LPLAN No. 4 Adopted January 2017 (under review)

The Local Plan is based on the vision outlined in the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy. It is envisaged that by 2030: "Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, good health and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in". The Council developed 13 objectives to deliver its vision, including maintaining the natural environment and landscape, adapting to climate change, and enhancing cultural and leisure opportunities. Several policies outlined in the Plan are also relevant to the management and maintenance of open spaces; Policies 12, 13 and 14 ensure the protection of existing open space (both designated and incidental) and require the creation of new open space as part of new development. Policy 43 also refers to the protection and enhancement of open space as leisure and tourist attractions.

The Redditch Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)

The Redditch Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together public, private, business, community, and voluntary sector representatives. The LSP holds quarterly meetings to update all partners on projects and discuss ideas or concerns, funding opportunities, and national or regional priorities changes. Their purpose is to provide an overview to ensure resources are distributed effectively and the needs of local communities are met. They work towards the vision that "Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, and good health and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in".

Redditch Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2017 – 2022 Active Redditch

This Strategy sets out the vision "to create a healthy and active community within Redditch by providing access to a range of opportunities which increase levels of participation, reduce health inequalities; enhance health and wellbeing, resulting in an improved quality of life" by 2022. Its purpose is to guide decision-makers, practitioners and agencies involved in sports and physical activity. It covers six themes based on national outcomes and regional priorities. These include creating healthier, more inclusive communities and providing safe spaces to play and be active. Overall, the Strategy forms a tool for partners to undertake future planning, delivering ideas and local initiatives, empowering communities to implement projects within their areas. It seeks to facilitate sharing knowledge between partners to help develop action plans.

1.2.2 Organisational structure

Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council share the same management team as shown in **Figure 3** overleaf. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for strategic planning alongside the Deputy Corporate Executive (DCX) and Strategic Director. The CEO and DCX form the Senior Management Team and are responsible for the Council's overall performance. The Director of Finance and Resources is responsible for managing the Council's resources, including facilities, personnel and budgets. Under the management of the CEO, DCX and Director of Finance and Resources are the Council's departments, each with its own service head, as shown in **Figure 4**. Bromsgrove and Redditch Council's operate a number of shared services.

Figure 4 on page 11 shows the fourth-tier managers who report to the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services.

Figure 3 Heads of Service

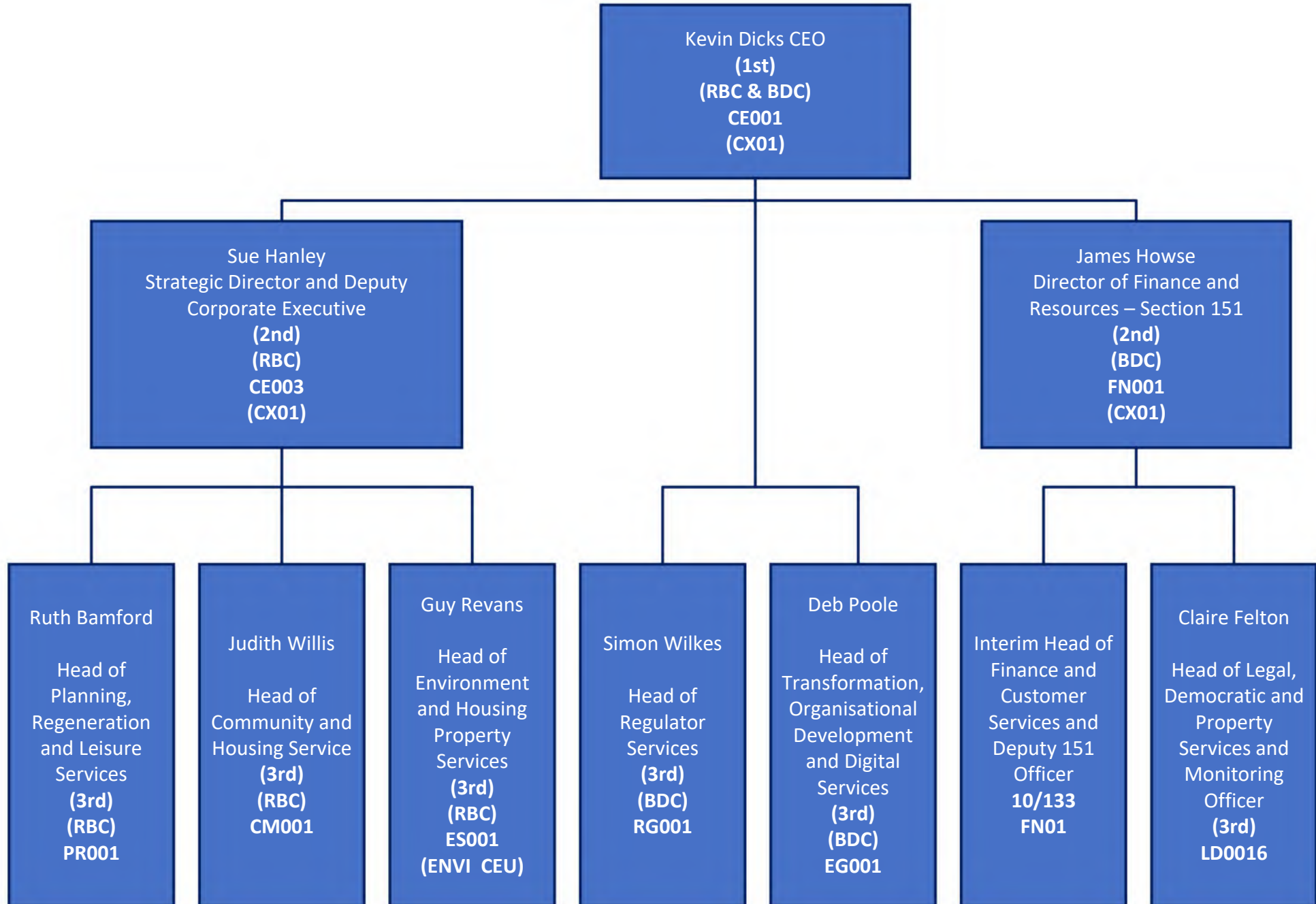
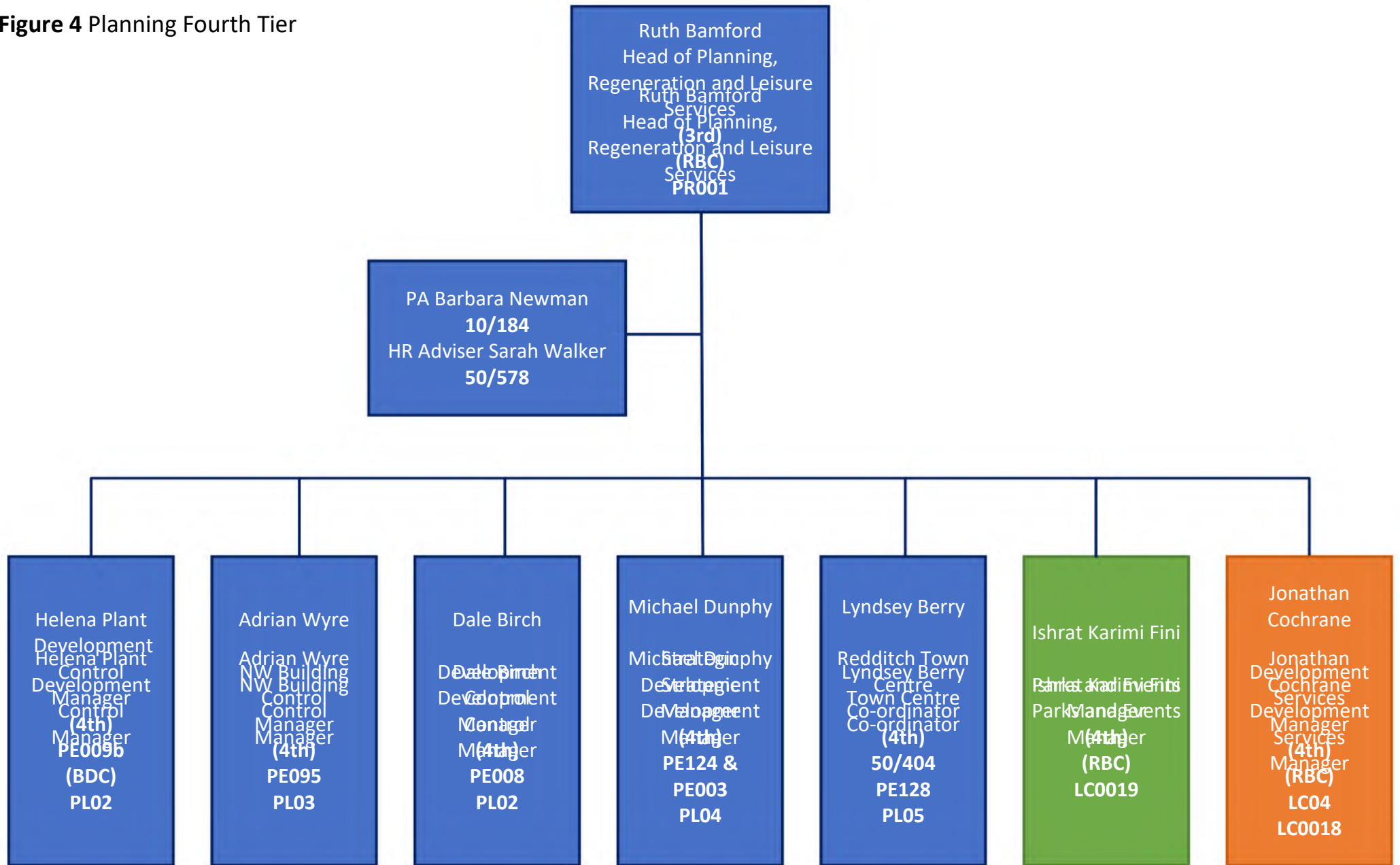


Figure 4 Planning Fourth Tier



Parks and Events Services

Figure 5 shows the organisational structure of Parks and Events Services, headed by the Parks and Events Manager. The service includes the Parks Operational Team, the Projects and Events Team and the Parks Development Team who oversee the following:

- Management and Delivery of Council, Community and Business Events within Parks and Civic Spaces (Including management of the Christmas Light Contract)
- Project management and monitoring of s106 monies
- Advising on the leisure and cultural implications of planning applications
- Parks development
- Play management
- Contract management (lease) facilities within parks
- Manage the Service Level Agreement in place with Rubicon Leisure Limited Company (sports, physical activity leisure centres and building management), a council-owned leisure company
- Stewardship programme
- Water risk management
- Allotment provision
- Management of heritage assets
- Woodland conservation and management
- Football pitch bookings
- Land management / Grounds Maintenance
- Woodland conservation and management
- Management of heritage assets

The Operations Team, under Operational Team Leader, manage and maintain strategic sites: Arrow Valley Park, Morton Stanley Park, Sanders Park and Lickey End Recreation Ground. The Team are responsible for golf course management (fine turf and sports pitch management) and maintenance at Pitcheroak Golf Course. They also manage and carry out equipment maintenance on all play areas in Redditch and Bromsgrove, as well as managing and doing some maintenance work on football pitches at the following sites:

- Greenlands
- Green Lane Pitches (Morton Stanley)
- Old Forge and Pathways (in Arrow Valley)
- Terrys Field
- Lickey End Recreation Ground
- Charford

- Braces Lane
- St Chad's Park
- King George Vth Playing Field

The Operations Team have a management role in many of the smaller green spaces across Redditch and Bromsgrove but do not do regular maintenance, this is done by the Place Teams. Place Teams (described below) carry out tasks such as litter picking, routine play area inspections and grass cutting. The Operations Team get involved when things such as bridges, fencing needs replacement as they hold budgets for this kind of work.

Maintenance, such as tractor mowing, hedge flailing, is carried out with assistance from the Environmental Services Team. Although the Operations Team manage the football pitches, it is the responsibility of the Environmental Services Team to carry out day to day maintenance.

Development Services

As shown in **Figure 6**, Development Services is headed by the Development Services Manager. Development Services deliver a range of practical projects that encourage residents to participate in arts, sports and heritage activities. The team also offers organisational development support to the leisure and culture sector. They act as a specialist advisory service internally and externally concerning all matters relating to sports, arts and heritage. They currently oversee the following:

- Health intervention projects to reduce symptoms and pain e.g. due to MS, COPD, Dementia, and Cancer, postural stability, obesity, low mood and anxiety (Public Health)
- Targeted activity and creativity programmes in ward areas of low engagement
- Activity and creativity programmes with target groups, such as those with low engagement levels due to disability or youth at risk, vulnerable residents, BAME communities
- Economic impact projects such as community arts in shop windows, pop up museums, public art installation encouraging footfall and secondary spend
- Community safety projects through deterrent positive activities
- Public realm enhancement through public art commissioning, temporary activities to improve place
- Activity and Creativity Consortium management to deliver externally funded projects
- Providing organisational development support to clubs, societies, venues (circa 300 per annum)
- Developing civic pride through awards and recognition schemes

Figure 5 Parks and Events Service

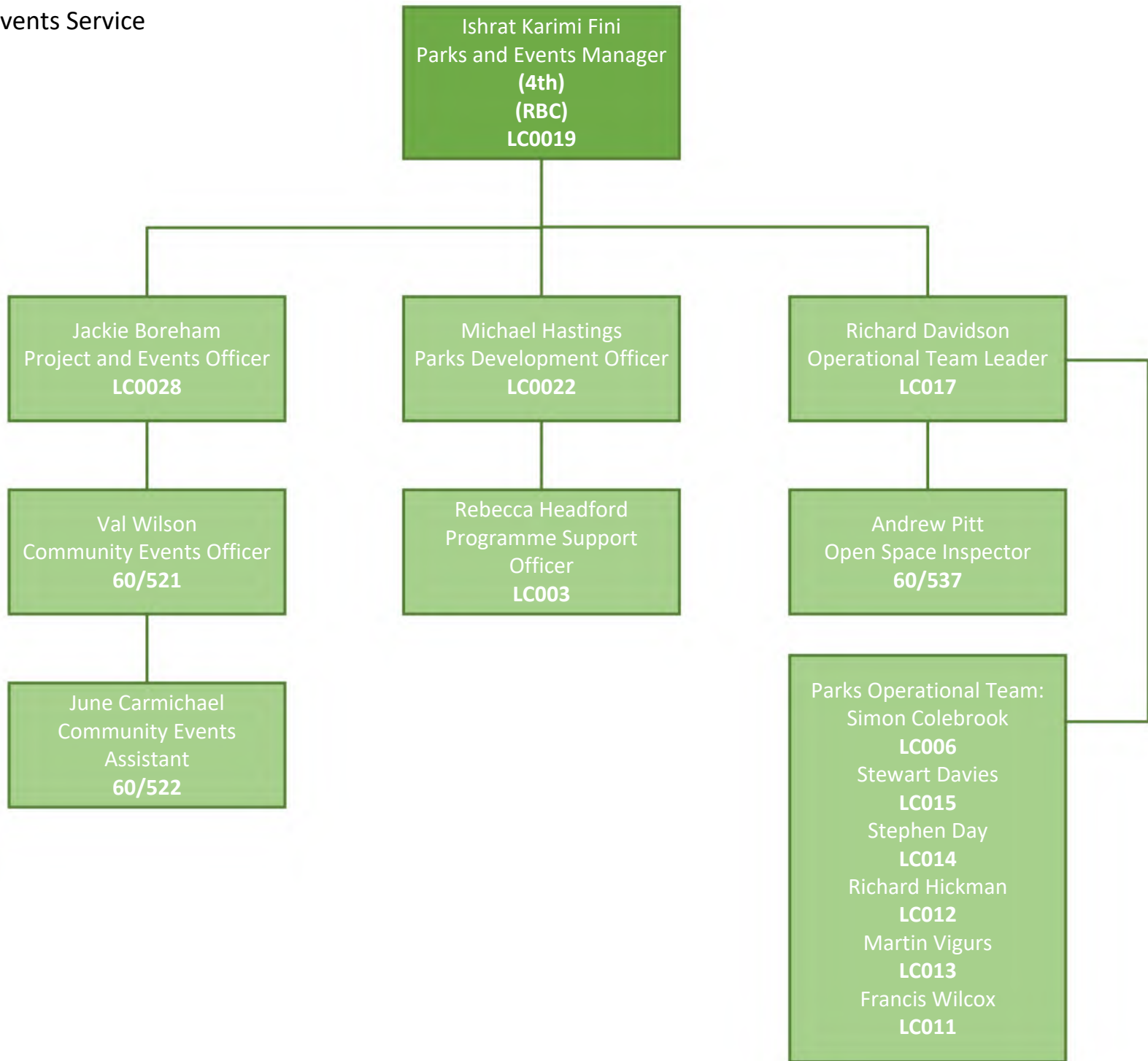
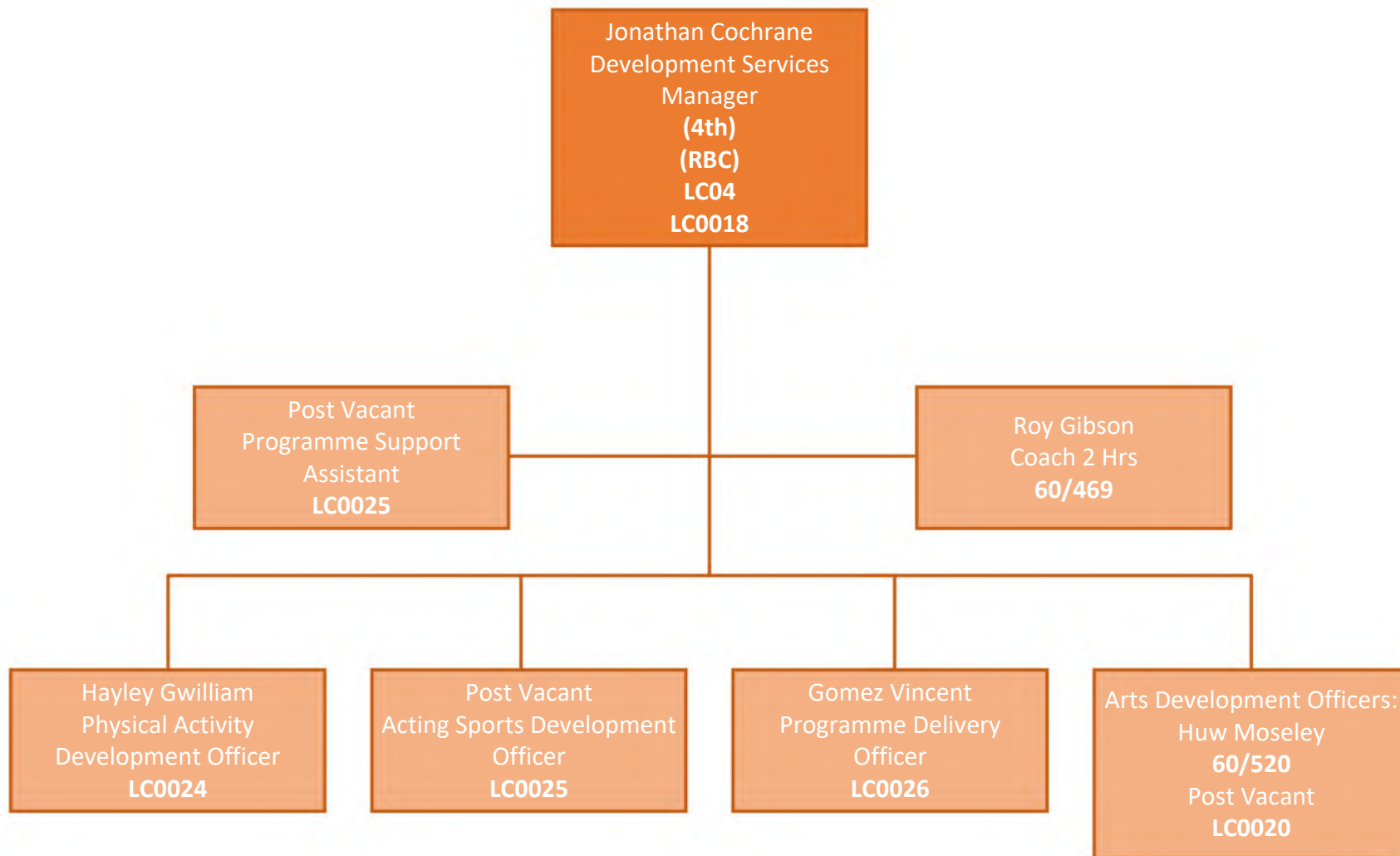


Figure 6 Development Services



Core Team and Place Teams

The Core Team and Place Teams sit within Environment and Housing Property Services, shown in **Figure 7**. The Teams carry out all of the ground maintenance work across Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District excluding some works on the four strategic sites. They work closely with the operations Team detailed above.

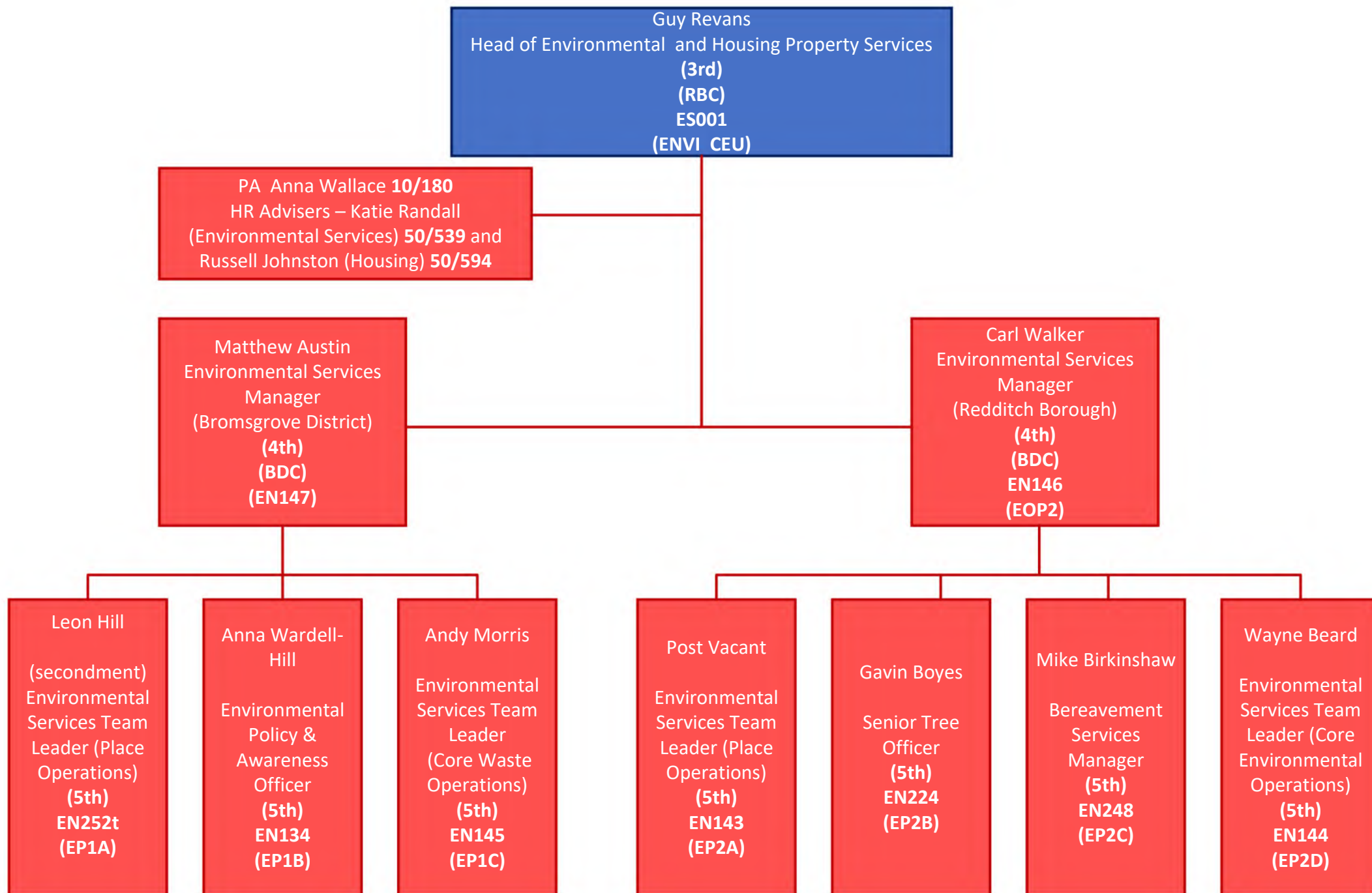
The service area is led by the Head of Environment and Housing Property Services. The Team is divided between two Environmental Services Managers (**Figure 7**).

The Environmental Services Manager (Bromsgrove District) manages work on Lickey End Recreation Ground, St Chad's Park and George Vth Park. The team also support litter picking and some of the ground maintenance within Bromsgrove sites.

The Environmental Services Manager (Redditch Borough) oversees the Tractor Team who are responsible for large scale mowing and seasonal hedge flailing and scrub encroachment clearance at all sites, as well as ad-hoc graffiti removal. The team are also responsible for the following work:

- Arrow Valley Country Park - Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Morton Stanley Park - Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Batchley Pool and Brockhill Park – cleansing/emptying of litter bins, Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements
- Overdale Park - cleansing/emptying of litter bins, Land Drainage – culvert checks, ditch works/improvements

Figure 7 Environmental and Housing Property Services



1.2.3 Current management and maintenance arrangements

Operations Team

The Operations Team manages and maintain strategic sites, including Overdale Park.

Place Teams/Core Team

The Place Teams carry out regular mowing, seasonal hedge flailing and scrub encroachment clearance, plus any ad-hoc graffiti removal. They are also responsible for checking the culverts and any ditch works and improvements.

The full Grounds maintenance schedule for Overdale Park is included in **Appendix A Ground Maintenance Schedule** on page 39.

1.3 Community

1.3.1 Demographics of Catchment

Overdale Park is located in Astwood and Feckenham Ward.

- Total population = 6,056
- 48.1% male & 51.9% female

	Astwood and Feckenham Ward	Redditch
18 & under	20.2%	23.4%
18 - 24	5.4%	5.9%
25 – 44	19.8%	26.7%
45 - 64	30.3%	25.3%
65 over	24.4%	18.7%

Table 2 Age Profile

The surrounding ward of Astwood and Feckenham appears to have an older population when compared to the wider borough. Those aged between 45-64 are 5% higher within the ward compared to Redditch and those aged 65+ are 5.7% higher within the ward when compared to Redditch. This suggests that it is a popular area for retirees.

An average of 82.8% of 16–64-year-olds are economically active, slightly below the average within Redditch.

Ethnic profile:

- White 94.0%
- White other 2.3%
- Mixed 1.6%
- Asian 1.0%
- Black 0.8%
- Other 0.3%

Just below 4% of residents are of BAME ethnicity, significantly lower than BAME population within Redditch. However, it is important to note that data at ward level is only available from 2011, and data for the borough is taken from 2016 estimates. Therefore, it is likely that there will be some variation.

Average life expectancy:

- Male 82.2
- Female 87.7

Both are higher than average life expectancy within Redditch, female life expectancy is significantly higher by around 4 years.

15.2% of resident’s day to day activities are limited a lot or a little, just over 2% lower than those within Redditch Borough.

The surrounding ward of Astwood and Feckenham has low levels of deprivation. It contains Lower Super Output Areas considered to be in the top 20% most affluent in England.

1.3.2 Current Use

Overdale Park primarily provides space for informal recreation. It was designed to be suitable for walking and enjoying the open space and natural areas. Although there is no formal provision, the mown areas also provide space for more active enjoyment, such as play and ball games.

At present Redditch Borough do not monitor visitor numbers at any of their sites. However, a borough-wide online consultation in 2020 asked respondents about their frequency of visits to Overdale Park. As shown in **Chart 1**, use of Overdale Park increased during lockdown. Over half of respondents (58.6%) said they visited less than monthly, however, during lockdown this was reduced to around a third (35.7%). Exactly half (50.0%) of respondents said they visited at least once a week during lockdown. As of September-October 2020, the proportion of respondents visiting Overdale Park remained above pre-lockdown levels, with 59.1% visiting at least monthly.



Chart 1 How often do you visit Overdale Park? (Never use omitted)

1.3.3 Current Events and Activities

At present, there are no events and activities that take place at Overdale Park.

1.3.4 Current Volunteer Participation

The Astwood in Bloom group meet bi-monthly to undertake weeding, litter picking and path clearance at the site. The group has around 20 members.

1.3.5 Recent Consultation

As part of the 2020 community consultation, respondents were asked what would improve their experience of Overdale Park (

Chart 2). With 38.3%, the most popular improvement was the addition of walking routes, including leaflets and guides. This was followed by more furniture (29.8%) and better website information (27.7%).

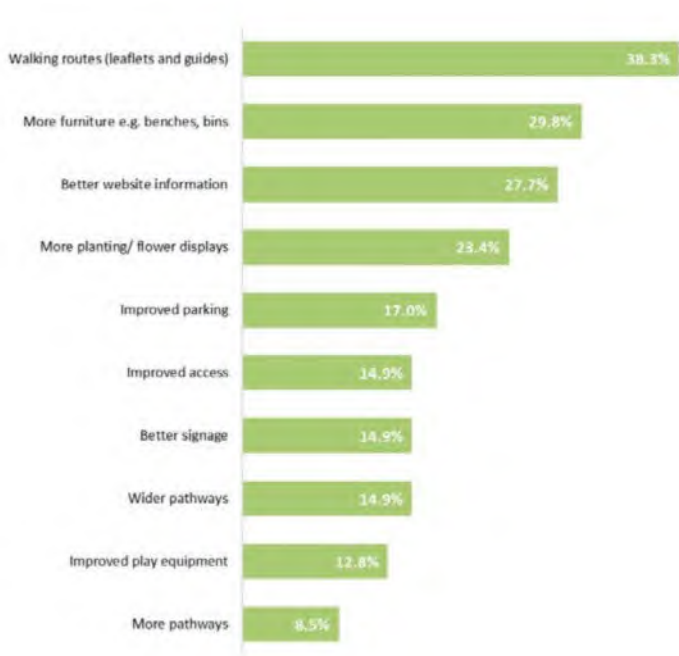


Chart 2 What would improve your experience in our parks and open spaces?

2 Where do we want to be?

This section sets out an analysis of the current performance of the site using the Green Flag Award criteria and then draws on information from site assessments, community consultation and discussions with key council staff to develop a series of recommendations for the future management, maintenance and development of Overdale Park. The following section sets out all of the actions arising from this assessment, also later captured on a Masterplan.

For more information on the Green Flag Award scoring criteria please visit:

<https://www.greenflagaward.org/how-it-works/judging-criteria/>

2.1 A Welcoming Place

2.1.1 Welcoming

The level access from Overdale Close is via a pedestrian gate on to a cobble stone surface which leads directly onto the self-binding gravel footpath. There is also vehicular access off Overdale Close. There is a clear view into the site revealing mixed specimen trees and shrubs in the grass areas, signage, well defined paths, benches and sculptural elements. Other pedestrian entrances include: rear of houses on Chapel St; two separate entrances from the Astwood Bank allotments and a pedestrian and vehicular access point off the end of Chapel Street.

See Plate 1

2.1.2 Good and Safe Access

The path provides access around the site: to the pond viewing platform; to the central grassed area with the “Gate-Way” sculpture; to the meadow/orchard (natural) area which leads to the Astwood Bank allotment site and to the pedestrian access gate which leads out onto the service road to the rear of the houses on Chapel St. The pond area is fenced with recycled plastic post and rail with mesh to limit access. The gradient is gentle and the absence of steps and kerb edges on the site provide easy access. The access to the meadow/orchard (natural) area is good. There are informal paths around this grassed area.

2.1.3 Signage

Signage at the main entrance at Overdale Close is good. The information board states the name of the park, the authority and provides up to date information inside a well-designed “tamper-proof” locked cabinet. There is a “Welcome to Overdale Park”, “Enjoy your visit” wooden ladder sign that has a contact telephone number and a further smaller wooden board that bears the Fields in Trust plaque. There are temporary information sheets attached to some of the fruit trees and at the entrance from the Astwood bank allotments. There is also a temporary “pick up after your dog” penalty notice near the pedestrian entrance at the rear of the houses on Chapel St.

See Plate 2

Recommendations

1. Install information board in the Orchard area to replace the temporary information sheets attached to the fruit trees and “sorry not for general use” notice OR display this information in the display cabinet at the Overdale Close entrance.
2. Improve signage to discourage dog fouling.

2.1.4 Equal Access for All

The path around the site has a gentle gradient and the absence of kerbs and steps throughout the site provides good access for all park users including wheelchair users and buggies. There are accessible benches alongside the path providing ample resting stops for those with limited mobility.

Overdale Park MMP

Plate 1



Image 1
Entrance off Overdale Close



Image 2
Pedestrian entrance to rear of houses on Chapel St



Image 3
Entrance off Chapel St



Image 4
Pedestrian access from Astwood Bank Allotments

Overdale Park MMP

Plate 2



Image 1

Good signage at Overdale Close entrance



Image 2

Temporary information sheets



Image 3

Temporary information sheets



Image 4

Pick up after your dog sign

2.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

2.2.1 Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities

The site has an adequate provision of bins, benches, paths, trees and shrubs. There was no evidence of planned activities at the site. However, the Astwood Bank in Bloom (ABIB) Community Group have been involved through the support of Natural Networks (Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust) in the creation of the orchard, clearing out the wetlands area, tidying up of beds, planting native shrubs, installation of bird and bat boxes and the creation of wildlife friendly environments.

Recommendation
3. Consider additional planting to; provide seasonal colour/interest, benefit wildlife and enhance sculpture. The circular gravelled areas would provide possible locations for additional planting.

2.2.2 Safe Equipment and Facilities

Facilities on site were generally in a safe condition. See Plate 3 image 1

Recommendations
4. Repair, replace or remove the rotted timber uprights near to Sculpture.
5. Consider alternative materials to sheep netting and metal poles to protect shrub planting.

2.2.3 Personal Security

The site has clear and open views into and around all areas with open vistas to all sides. There was no evidence of anything/anybody on site that would be detrimental to personal safety. See Plate 3 images 2,3,4

2.2.4 Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

There are bins around the site for dog waste disposal and a dog waste bag dispenser. There is a dog waste penalty notice attached to the fence by the service road pedestrian entrance. However, there was significant evidence of dog waste around the site on every visit. See Plate 2 image 4

Recommendation
6. Improve dog fouling signage and penalty notice/ encourage collection of dog waste by owners.

Overdale Park MMP

Plate 3



Image 1
Unsuitable shrub protection



Image 2
Open vista



Image 3
Clear views



Image 4
Open views

2.3 Well Maintained and Clean

2.3.1 Litter and Waste Management

There was little evidence of general litter on site. All the bins appeared to have been recently emptied and were in reasonable condition. There was a section of post and rail fence in the brook course. There were broken pieces of timber from the sculpture area around the park.

2.3.2 Horticultural Maintenance

The grass cutting and shrub maintenance is being carried out to a good standard.

2.3.3 Arboricultural Maintenance

Trees on site appeared to be in a safe condition. Some mature trees on site have significant overgrowth of Ivy. Trimming back of Ivy was observed on site but this method will not be an effective removal technique in the long term.

Recommendations

- 7. Remove redundant tree stakes. Adjust tree stakes and tree ties accordingly.
- 8. Remove/replace all failed whips along hedge line.
- 9. Remove Ivy on mature trees by “girdling”: cut through vines all the way round the tree at ankle and shoulder height – strip away section between the two cuts. Ivy can then be easily removed after approx. 12 months.
- 10. Consider professional hedge laying of hedge line that divides the formal and informal portions of the site.

Also see 2.6.2 Recommendations below

2.3.4 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

Some areas of path surfacing have evidence of erosion. The cobbled surface under the bench has been damaged.

Recommendations

- 11. Resurface paths where needed with self-binding gravel.
- 12. Repair/replace cobbles beneath benches.

2.3.5 Equipment Maintenance

Not applicable

2.4 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

2.4.1 Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora

ABIB carried out improvements to the wetland area, orchard and native shrub area in 2020. It appears that these areas are being well maintained for the benefit of native flora and fauna.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Consider the possibility of managing the grassland in the “natural” area as a meadow to further encourage native flora and fauna. 14. Continue with maintenance of wetland area to benefit native species.

2.4.2 Conservation of Landscape Features

There is evidence of litter in both streams.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Remove litter from both streams.

2.4.3 Conservation of Buildings and Structures

The “Gate-Way” sculpture that was opened in 2012 is in good condition. However, some of the timber uprights near the sculpture have been removed/become rotten. Some of these pieces of timber were observed around the site.

Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Consider future repair/replacement/removal of the vertical timbers around circular gravel areas.

2.5 Community Involvement

2.5.1 Community Involvement in Management and Development

There is involvement of the local ‘In Bloom’ volunteers. It is not clear how this is advertised.

2.5.2 Appropriate Provision for Community

There is appropriate and good quality provision for the community at this small community park.

Recommendations

17. Liaise with Astwood Bank in Bloom to see what training and support needs they have.
18. Liaise with Astwood Bank in Bloom about recruiting additional volunteers and securing more regular involvement in the park.

2.6 Management

The sources of information for this section are the Green Flag site assessment and the community consultation

2.6.1 Tree Survey

A Tree Survey was last carried out at Overdale Park on 21 April 2008, prior to the site becoming a park. It identified five groups of trees and hedges, including a group of Elm (*Ulmus procera*) regeneration on the western boundary and a mature hawthorn hedge. It recommended these be retained when the site was developed into a park.

The survey concluded the “overall quality and condition of the trees and hedge lines on the site is poor” and that the major trees required extensive work. The survey noted the growth vigour and life span on the trees, especially the Ash, on the northern and western boundaries was affected by the wetness of the ground, as they were located near an active water course.

As part of park development, the survey recommended maintenance pruning work on all major tree and the removal of trees in very poor condition. It also suggested planting varieties of trees suited to the wet ground conditions on the northern and western boundaries, such as Alder (*Alnus* spp.) or Willow (*Salix* spp.), as well as planting of new trees should be carried out to widen variety of trees on site and improve age structure. The hedge lines also required renovation pruning work and replanting.

Recommendations

19. Carry out an updated Tree Survey to ensure recommendations from the previous Survey have been carried out and identify new recommendations now the site is an established park.

2.6.2 Water Safety Inspections

No water safety inspections have taken place at Overdale Park.

Recommendations

20. Carry out Water Safety Inspection.

2.6.3 Community consultation

The chart below shows what the consultation process has discovered.

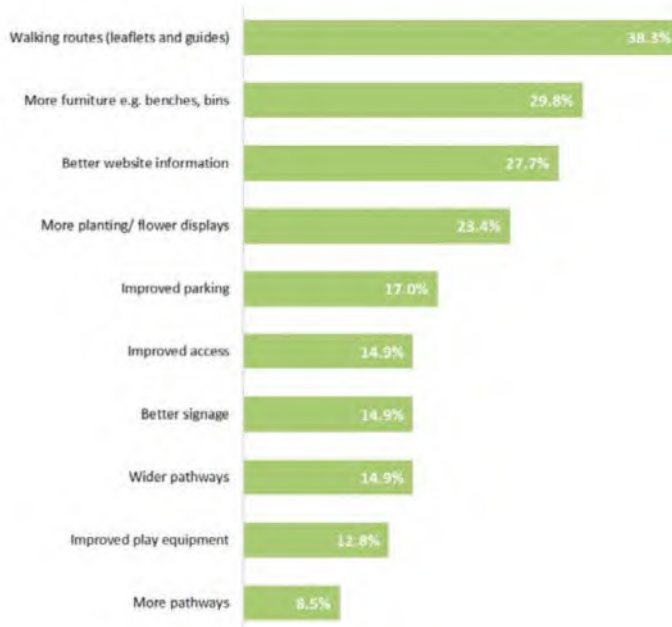


Chart 3 What would improve your experience in our parks and open spaces?

Recommendations

21. The Council could consider the development of local walking guides.

22. More local site specific consultation could be carried out to identify any detailed improvements.

3 How will we get there?

The action plan below brings together all of the recommendations in section 2 above and considers a reasonable timescale for their implementation along with an indicative lead officer and also any resource or financial implications

It should be noted that generic actions across all 8 priority parks are picked up in the overall Priority Parks Strategy.

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
A Welcoming Place					
1	Install information board in the Orchard area to replace the temporary information sheets attached to the fruit trees and “sorry not for general use” notice OR display this information in the display cabinet at the Overdale Close entrance.	2022/2023	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams. Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
2	Improve signage to discourage dog fouling.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams. Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
Healthy, Safe and Secure					
3	Consider additional planting to; provide seasonal colour/interest, benefit wildlife and enhance sculpture. The circular gravelled areas would provide possible locations for additional planting.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams. Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
4	Repair, replace or remove the rotted timber uprights near to Sculpture.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams. Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
5	Consider alternative materials to sheep netting and metal poles to protect shrub planting.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
6	Improve dog fouling signage and penalty notice/ encourage collection of dog waste by owners.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams. Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
Well Maintained and Clean					
7	Remove redundant tree stakes. Adjust tree stakes and tree ties accordingly.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
8	Remove/replace all failed whips along hedge line.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
9	Remove Ivy on mature trees by “girdling”: cut through vines all the way round the tree at ankle and shoulder height – strip away section between the two cuts. Ivy can then be easily removed after approx. 12 months.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
10	Consider professional hedge laying of hedge line that divides the formal and informal portions of the site.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers Specialist Contractor	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
11	Resurface paths where needed with self-binding gravel.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers Specialist Contractor	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
12	Repair/replace cobbles beneath benches.	2023/24	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers Specialist Contractor	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage					
13	Consider the possibility of managing the grassland in the “natural” area as a meadow to further encourage native flora and fauna.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
14	Continue with maintenance of wetland area to benefit native species.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
15	Remove litter from both streams.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader	Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
16	Consider future repair/replacement/removal of the vertical timbers around circular gravel areas.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams Volunteers	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
Community Involvement					
17	Liaise with Astwood Bank in Bloom to see what training and support needs they have.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer		Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time

Recommendation		Financial Year	Lead Officer(s)	Partners	Resource implication
18	Liaise with Astwood Bank in Bloom about recruiting additional volunteers and securing more regular involvement in the park.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer		Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
Management					
19	Carry out an updated Tree Survey to ensure recommendations from the previous Survey have been carried out and identify new recommendations now the site is an established park.	2022/23	Parks Development Officer	Council operations teams & arboricultural specialists specialist contractors	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
20	Carry out Water Safety Inspection.	2022/23	Operations Team Leader		Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
21	The Council could consider the development of local walking guides.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	County Council Marketing/communications teams	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time
22	More local site specific consultation could be carried out to identify any detailed improvements.	2023/24	Parks Development Officer	Marketing/communications teams	Parks and Open Spaces budget and staff time

Figure 8 overleaf visually shows the site-based improvements that are set out above.

**Overdale Park
Management and
Maintenance Plan**

**Figure 8
Overdale Park
Masterplan**

- LEGEND**
- Site boundary
 - ↔ Pedestrian access
 - ↔ Vehicular access
 - Main entrance



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4 How will we know when we have arrived?

The management plan will be reviewed annually by the council team along with any key stakeholders to track its implementation.

The Action Plan will be formally reviewed annually, with progress recorded and future actions reviewed and prioritised.

Appendix A Ground Maintenance Schedule

Month	Jan					Feb				March					April				May				June				
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Litter and bins cleansing (Winter - Twice Wkly Mon/Fri)																											
Litter and bins cleansing (Summer - Three Wkly Mon/Wed/Fri)																											
Hedges - Spring/Autumn																											
Grass Mowing, each site approx every 2 weeks																											
Play Inspections - Routine Weekly Winter x 1																											
Routine summer twice weekly																											
Operational Monthly																											
Annual Inspections (independent)																											
Water Course/Pond - monitoring - general works																											
Woodland Coppicing, winter pruning, thinning tree works																											
Shrub bed pruning (General) Early Spring (wk 12)																											
Hard Surface Weed control/Spraying																											
Garden Maintenance, weeding, pruning etc																											
Water Risk Assessment (Annual) as required																											
Mechanical Sweeping																											
End of season mowing, cutting back																											
Env Services work Hways / gritting / Vas signs etc / culverts																											
Kerb edges, gullies																											
Wild flower / reed bed maintenance																											
Volunteers																											
Meetings																											
General customer enquiries interacting with members of the public																											
Dead animals / trapped birds / fly tips / fallen trees																											
Installing bins, security hoops, fence repairs, fishing pegs																											
Event preparation																											

