

2020 - 2030



Brantwood Park Management Plan

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Luton

A. Foreword

Luton's greenspaces contribute to delivering our 2020-2040 vision for the town - to achieve a healthy, fair and sustainable town, where everyone can thrive and no-one has to live in poverty.

Luton 2020-2040 is a town-wide vision built around a single-unifying mission for everyone in Luton – to ensure that everyone in our town has the opportunity to thrive and no-one has to live in poverty. Poverty and inequality are at the heart of some of the most significant challenges in Luton.

The value of greenspace has been reinforced during the coronavirus pandemic with Luton's parks, children's play and countryside areas seeing a huge increase in use.

We know that well maintained parks attract people, business and investment to the town. They are socially inclusive spaces providing free access to opportunities for recreation, mental relaxation and just maintaining our health and well-being through being in the great outdoors.

Our greenspaces also contribute to the climate change agenda providing eco-system services to benefit the community. These range from large expanses of grassland that accommodate surface water run-off to trees and shrubs that capture carbon and remove pollutants from the air that we breathe.

The Stockwood Park landscape, its history and veteran trees provide a true sense of place to the local community and provides a place where friends and families can meet with the space required to take exercise in a natural setting while easily observing social distancing.

This management plan, produced with the help of our partners and the local community sets out the current vision for the park and includes information about the local context, history and make-up of the park. In pursuit of excellence, the Luton Parks and Countryside Service manage the park to meet standards set out in the Green Flag Award's Raising the Standard Manual - the nationally recognised quality indicator for parks and green space.

All this is why, as a council, we are committed to protecting and improving our high quality greenspaces.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute to consultations and park user surveys which have informed this management plan for Stockwood Park.

I hope that you continue to enjoy the park and all that it has to offer.

Mark Fowler
Chief Executive, Luton Council



B Background



Brantwood Park is the local Neighbourhood Park for the south area of Luton and serves the community of Luton - in particular the residents of the Dallow Ward.

It is located in the Rothesay Road Conservation Area and located at the junction of Dallow Road and Brantwood Road.

The park has good links with a wider network of community provision within

Dallow Ward which includes Dallow Road Primary School, the local shops, Dallow Downs which is a County Wildlife Site, Ferndale Allotment and Leisure Gardens and Dallow Learning Community Centre. Dallow Downs and Runley Wood trail which leads to Foxdell Recreation Ground and into the countryside towards Caddington and Slip End.

Dallow Ward itself is acknowledged as being deficient in terms of the quantity of open space of recreational value and the ward is also identified as an area of significant health inequalities. Therefore, it is important that facilities in the area are of high quality, accessible and complement each other rather than duplicate provision.

Brantwood Park is designated a local Neighbourhood Park and provides a range of outdoor recreational pursuits to accommodate:

- Contribution to landscape structure
- Sufficient grassed area to provide informal recreational use
- Equipped play provision
- Some youth provision

The park is in a highly visible location central to the local community which it serves. It is therefore not considered necessary to signpost the park approaches. However, due to the parks central location, other local facilities which are not as well located have been signposted from within the park.

It is not planned at this time, to provide information leaflets specific to the park to encourage users from outside of the area. This would be at odds with corporate targets relating to reduction of CO² emissions and in the LBC Environment Strategy to keep the levels of transport movements across the town to a minimum.

In order to fully accommodate all of the requirements of a Neighbourhood Park, Brantwood Park should ideally be in the region of 2 hectares in size and include access to natural areas. Brantwood Park is however, one of the smallest of Luton's Neighbourhood Parks and as a result, is managed as part of a network of open space within the Dallow Road area. This network of green space includes:

- Dallow Downs, a County Wildlife Site which provides access to chalk downlands of significant biodiversity value. The topography of this site makes it of limited value in terms of accessible green space to benefit the local community.
- Dallow Downs and Runley Wood trail, a walking route that leads to Foxdell Recreation Ground and then out into the countryside towards Caddington and Slip End.
- Dallow Primary School and Dallow Learning Community Centre (DLCC) which provide Multi-Use Games Areas and cricket practice nets to compliment the facilities located in Brantwood Park.
- Dallow open space (adjacent to the DLCC)
- Foxdell Recreation Ground (includes Brache Sparta Football Club).
- Ferndale allotments.

In order to increase access to this site and preserve the biodiversity value, careful management of conflicting uses is required to ensure an appropriate balance of provision.

C. The Purpose of the Plan

Luton Borough Council's Parks & Countryside Service has prepared this plan to:-

- ✓ Ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to the development and management of Brantwood Park in line with emerging needs.
- ✓ Identify and address who is responsible for certain aspects of management.
- ✓ Identify, discuss and resolve issues relating to park infrastructure, park users and available resources.
- ✓ Provide a benchmark against which delivery and performance of the identified objectives can be measured.
- ✓ To promote the application of the Green Flag standards across the borough and therefore raising the standards overall.
- ✓ To increase the number of green spaces suitable for a Green Flag Award application.

This Management and Development Plan has been written as a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to Brantwood Park for use by those involved in its management. The Action Plan is revised on an annual basis and the Management Plan is subject to a re-write in 2023.

Luton Borough Council's Parks & Countryside Service is responsible for the management and maintenance of the park. The service is committed to achieving the Green Flag Standard as laid out in the Raising the Standard manual.

The Parks & Countryside Management Team, Parks Officers and Chargehands have all received training in the Green Flag criteria similar to that provided to Green Flag Judges to ensure that they are familiar with the standards required.

D. A Brief History of the Site



In the 1880's, the land known as Brantwood Park was an open field on the south side of Dallow. The site was purchased by the Town Council in 1894 for use as a recreation ground and there is reference to it as 'West Ward Recreation Ground'.

The Union Workhouse for Luton and South Beds District, designed by the Architect John Williams and located on the corner of Dunstable Road and Dallow Road, opened in March 1836. This replaced the previous parish workhouse located in Park Street which according to changes in poor laws of 1834 was too small.

The building project cost £4,500 and at 200 square foot was designed to hold 300 paupers.

The children were moved from the workhouse in 1898 and the original 1836 blocks which had housed boys and girls, were demolished.

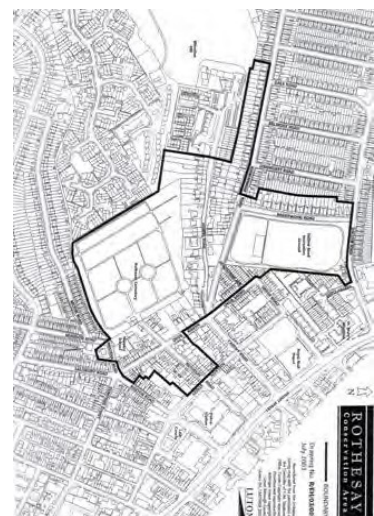
On the site a new red brick infirmary and nurses home was built and officially opened on Friday August 22nd 1913. After 1929, the title



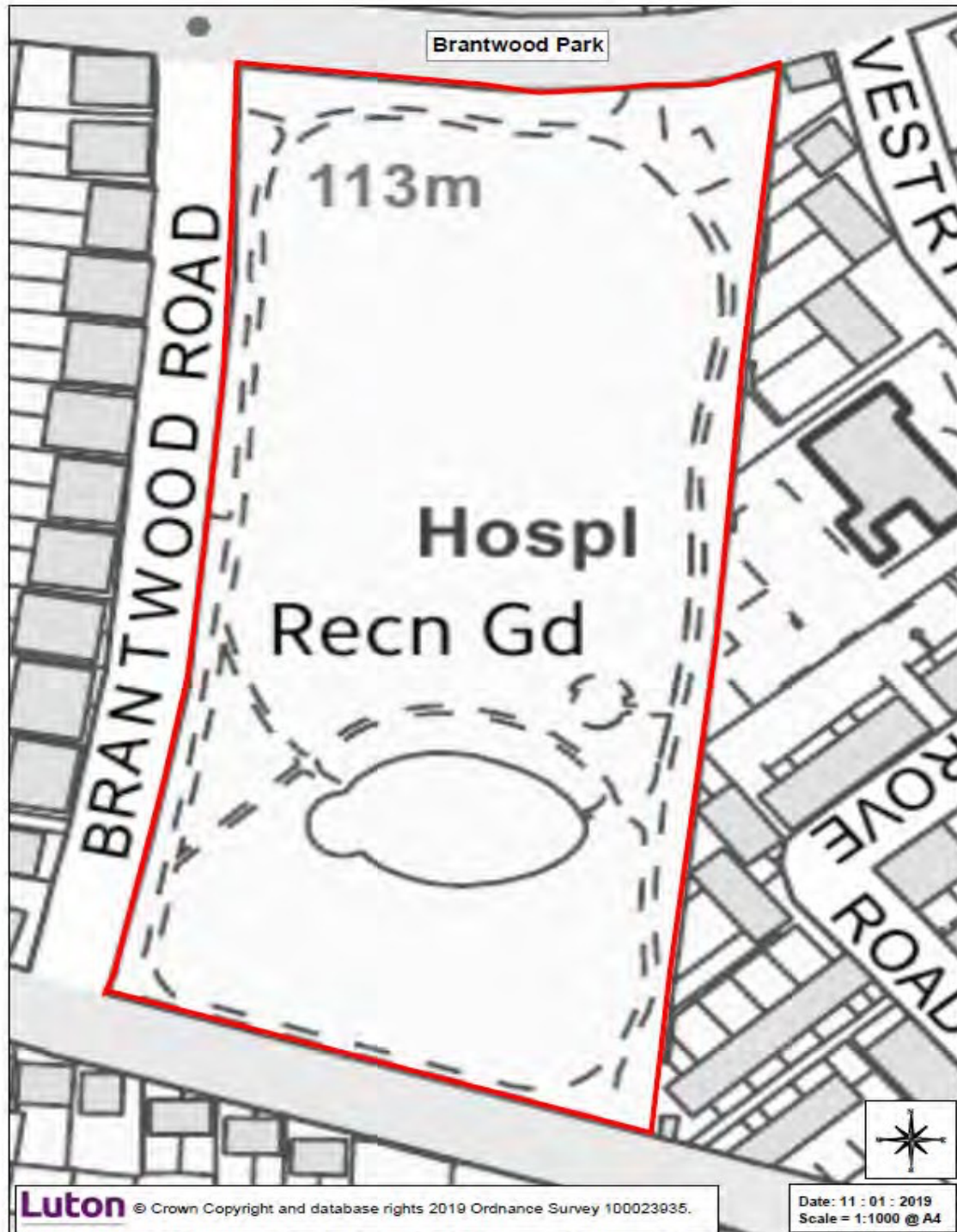
'Workhouse' was abolished and the institution renamed St Mary's Hospital. The wall, still seen in Brantwood Park today, is one of the original walls from those earlier developments.

Maps from the early 1900s show houses along Dallow Road, Gladstone Avenue and Grove Road to the East. The historic maps and photographs available suggest that many of the trees planted around the edge of the Brantwood Park must be around 100 years old.

Conservation and Heritage is a prime driver in how the park is managed by the council and the site now sits within the Rothesay Road Built Environment Conservation Area, an area designated as of significant historical and heritage value. Careful management of conflicting uses is required and the council's Heritage Manager has a measure of responsibility for ensuring that service provision is balanced with the need to take account of the requirement to preserve the character and heritage value of the site.



E. Site Location



Driving Instructions from M1 to Brantwood Park

- Leave the M1 at Junction 10 and take the exit from New Airport Way/A1081.
- Continue on London road to Chapel Viaduct/A505
- At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Chapel Viaduct/A505
- Turn left onto Dallow Road
- Your destination will be on the left.

F. Brantwood Park Vision Statement

In April 2017 Luton Borough Council launched their online Park User Survey via the council website. This enabled local people to be able to complete user surveys of their local park. This is a rolling survey and each year's results are analysed to inform future management priorities..

The feedback received from the surveys was used to inform this management plan and allowed the Parks & Countryside Service to address the comments, factoring in the needs and requests of the local residents as well as the park users.

Our vision for the park:

- ❖ High levels of community involvement, both informal and with an associated specific parks user group.
- ❖ Highly regarded by the local community who recognise the benefits of the park in providing open space for a range of healthy pursuits and appreciate the contribution of the Park to local culture, heritage and biodiversity.
- ❖ Future development ensures good spatial quality and design and takes into consideration the conflicting uses of the site and the needs of all groups within the community.
- ❖ Used for a range of healthy pursuits, educational activities, community events and to provides enjoyment for local people and visitors of all ages and abilities.
- ❖ Provision of high quality play, sporting and recreational experience for a range of age groups and balance with the need to preserve the spatial quality and biodiversity value of the Park.

G. Brief Introduction to the Management of the Park

The Parks & Countryside Service part of Luton Borough Council's Inclusive Economy Directorate manage and maintain parks, open spaces and outdoor sports provision in Luton.

We maintain all of our parks and open spaces to the standards laid out in the Green Space Quality Manual provided by the London Benchmarking Group to which we subscribe (a copy of this can be provided upon request).

The manual is a guidance document to assist with the setting, maintaining and improving quality standards across our parks and although it is not a technical manual, it is aimed at using common sense principles.

H. Mission Statement for the Parks & Countryside Service

The Parks & Countryside Service is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment within the parks, facilities and open space provision in Luton and to improving both the quality of the environment, the recreational amenities and the enhancement of the lives of those who live and work within the borough.

The service seeks to ensure that all its activities have regard and are referenced to Luton Borough Council's Corporate Objectives and Vision.

The aims of the Parks & Countryside Service are:

- Plan, develop and promote a diverse and balanced leisure use, achieving the maximum benefit for all parks and open space users.
- To conserve and enhance the natural environment and ecological balance in parks taking into account the sustainable needs of the environment and wider community.
- Provide excellent and best value services to all customers.
- To increase, broaden and encourage community involvement and participation in the planning and managing of parks facilities, increasing significantly public awareness of the value of parks.
- To understand and respond to issues of public safety and community concern that relate to parks.
- To maximise support for park development and maintenance through external funding opportunities.
- To provide adequate levels and distribution of parks and open spaces.

I. Aims and Purpose of the Site

Brantwood Park provides the local community with a local Neighbourhood Park. An area of aesthetically pleasing open space which offers free access to opportunities for pursuit of a range of outdoor leisure and social activities. It provides a place for local people of all ages and levels of ability to meet, walk, sit and play.

The strategic plan for provision identifies that Brantwood Park should offer the following range of quality open space facilities to local households within a 300mtr radius:

- Large open area of grassland to accommodate informal recreation
- Children's play area
- Teenage provision
- Fitness equipment for exercise
- Quiet areas for contemplation
- Seating
- Circulation paths

It is acknowledged that unlike Luton's other Neighbourhood Parks, this site which was one of Luton's first public recreation grounds and its setting within the Rothesay Road Conservation Area, makes it a site with high cultural and heritage value.

1.0 A WELCOMING PLACE

Luton Borough Council takes pride in their parks and open spaces and strives to ensure Brantwood Park is a welcoming place for local people and visitors to the town. The park offers the opportunity to host large events throughout the year.

1.1 Welcome

Analysis of the Park Users online survey reports that 50% of the people that use the site visit it more than once a week. This suggests that the site is perceived to be a welcoming place. The survey also indicates that people are encouraged to return on a regular basis. There is a bus stop located within 150m of the entrance which enables visitors from outside the area to visit. Unfortunately, there is no car park but there are limited parking areas on the boundary of the park.

1.2 Good and Safe Access

The User Survey also shows that 17% of visitors to Brantwood Park find it easy to get around and 50% found the park very easy to get around. There were no negative comments about the park in relation to access.

1.3 Graffiti Removal

As part of our aim to make the borough safe, green and clean, we are committed to removing graffiti as soon as practicable. If the graffiti is of a racist or offensive nature, this is removed within 24 hours of it being reported. If it is too large for our Play Area Technicians, the Street Cleansing Team removes it.

Graffiti is removed without the use of chemicals to minimise the impact on the environment.

1.4 Signage



By kind permission of P Rodell, former chair of LFPGS

Interpretation and directional signage is inspected periodically as part of our infrastructure remit to keep it clean and legible. The noticeboard at Brantwood Park is kept updated by our Parks staff.

Signage within the park has been designed in line with the historic value of the park and is keeping with its heritage.

1.5 Pathways

Pathways are inspected on an annual basis and any maintenance is then programmed in to repair any defects.



1.6 Equal Access for All

Park user surveys show that local users are very satisfied with access to Brantwood Park which includes those that have disabilities. The park is accessible in terms of location to the adjacent shopping parade situated in Dallow Road. It is estimated that 9% of people in Luton suffer a disability/long term health problems (including mental health). This is not an insignificant customer group when compared with the 17% who use parks for formal sporting activity.

The health of the population of Luton has been found to be slightly poorer than the England average along with being a slightly higher percentage of working age disabled population than the East of England. Despite this, both statistics show that Luton is still below the GB average.

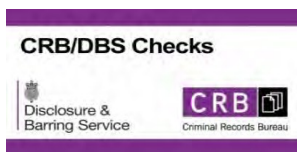
2.0 HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

Health and safety is a high priority to ensuring that all visitors to our parks feel safe and secure when using our facilities.

Council staff working in parks and green spaces are clearly identifiable by their council uniform. This helps with the perception of safety and security.

2.1 Child Protection

Luton Borough Council has a safeguarding policy and training programme that all staff are encouraged to attend.



All personnel likely to come into contact with children or vulnerable adults are DBS checked and a copy of their certificate is held on their personnel file. For this group of employees safeguarding training is mandatory.

2.2 Protection Against Unauthorised Encampments

There is a barrier at the entrance to the park on Dallow Road which helps prevent unauthorised encampments on the park. This is locked at all times unless access is required by our Parks staff or contractors in order to carry out work.

2.3 Health & Safety Policies

Luton Borough Council takes a proactive and comprehensive approach to the management of health and safety in parks including:-

- Every employee reads and signs the Council's Health and Safety Policy
- Training needs are identified via the council's 'Check-In' procedure (Appraisal) and training implemented.
- Employees undergo health checks including hand and arm vibration assessments and hearing tests.
- All machinery is now fitted with a Hand and Arm Vibration tag which monitors its use and notifies management if this is being used too long by each employee
- A Lone Working policy is in place to protect employees.

2.4 Legislative Issues

The Parks & Countryside Service must take account of the requirement to ensure that a number of statutory duties are undertaken:-

- **The councils duty to ensure Health and Safety in relation to Parks and Open Spaces**
This includes tree inspections, play site inspections, inspection of grounds within the Parks responsibility.
- **The council as a principal litter authority has a statutory duty to undertake cleansing activities under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.**

In addition there is a requirement to comply with the following LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

- COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health)
- Pesticide Legislation
- Planning Policy Guidance 17
- New European Playground Standards (BS EN 1176, BS EN 1177)
- Reduction in Green Waste Targets
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)
- Race Relations Amendments Act

2.5 Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities

A dedicated team of Play Area Technicians qualified in Playground Standards, maintenance and health and safety carry out regular play area inspections which are recorded on our Down To Earth Play database which holds a record of all play equipment, specifications, records of damaged/broken equipment and surfacing. There is also an audit trail of insurance claims that are raised within the play area on that site

All issues raised are recorded on the council's reporting system (APP also known as Flare) and the issues are assigned to the relevant officer for a response where the area is then either repaired or the area is made safe.

Community led events are encouraged and supported with the Risk Assessment procedures required.

An audit was undertaken of the children's play provision to assess needs in the following categories:-

- Ability to meet requirements of DDA (Disability Discrimination Act)
- Health & Safety Audit
- Play Value Audit

This information along with those from other park users, street surveys and input from the LBC Disability Officer informed the Park Improvement Project which invested £585,000 into the park; introduction of a new play facility, basketball provision for young people, seats, lighting and making improvements to signage and entrances. Until recently, toilet facilities were available in the park but due to continuous vandalism, they were removed as part of the budget restrictions placed on the council.

2.6 Safe Equipment and Facilities

Play area inspections are carried out quarterly by our Play Area Technicians who inspect each piece of equipment and report their findings by means of inspection sheets and arrange for remedial works to be carried out as required.

All of our play equipment meets the European Standard for play equipment (EN1176) and our play area surfaces meet the European Standard for play surfacing (EN1177).

- Members of the public can report issues with play or other equipment by contacting our Customer Services department on via our mobile app which can be downloaded at <http://environment.luton.gov.uk/reports/home> or twitter at [lutoncouncil](https://twitter.com/lutoncouncil) or <https://twitter.com/lutoncouncil>. We carry out inspections at parks buildings. i nspections include identifying repair issues tests for Legionella and checking fire alarms.

2.7 Community & Personal Security

The Parks & Countryside Service staff provides an important visible presence on site whilst carrying out their maintenance work.

In addition to this, Luton Borough Council has local Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Neighbourhood Enforcement Team who have community safety accredited powers (the first in Bedfordshire).

Their role is to ensure residents and visitors respect the local environment including our parks and open spaces and provide additional support in areas where anti-social behaviour has been identified.

2.7.1 Local Problems

The area has suffered vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the past few years but this has since reduced with the assistance of the local Police Community Safety Officer and Luton Borough Council employ Enforcement Officers who are deployed to 'hot spot' areas including patrolling the parks.

2.8 Control of Dogs/Dog Fouling

The local Dog Wardens offer assistance, providing an education and enforcement role in relation to dog fouling and the need to keep dogs under control. If there is an increase in dog fouling, the Dog Wardens increase levels of visits to the park.

Park users are made aware of the fines for allowing their dog to foul and are increasingly proactive in terms of using the dog bins that are on site. The council's Enforcement Officers utilise the Keep Britain Tidy campaign materials to reduce the number of incidents.

The parks Countryside Service has a dedicated litter crew who are also responsible for emptying dog waste bins. This task is carried out several times a week and more frequently at the weekends during the summer months.

Installation of CCTV within the Park

- 2.9** During previous consultations with the local people and park users, it was identified that they would feel more secure if CTCV were installed in the park. Funding has since been secured and CCTV is in operation which is monitored by staff at the Town Hall.

WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN

- 3.0** As a Parks & Countryside Service we take pride in our parks and green spaces and therefore like to ensure they are well maintained and clean at all times. Evidence from the Park User online survey shows that 67% of the people that visit the site find the standard of cleanliness fair or above.

There is evidence of wear on the park furniture i.e. Lamp posts and noticeboards which the Parks & Countryside Service is aware of but due to austerity on our maintenance budgets, this will be dealt with when the funds are available.

The Parks & Countryside Service is working to better relocate/update the litter/ dog bins in the park but this is dependent on budget restrictions.

Litter and Waste Management

- 3.1** Luton Borough Council has a Waste Management Strategy (2016-2026) which is adhered to by the Parks & Countryside Service. During the summer months, the Parks & Countryside Service has a dedicated litter team who empty park bins including at weekends.

Luton Borough Council is committed to recycling 100% of its green waste and are making efforts to reduce waste and energy consumption.

Horticultural Maintenance

- 3.2** Maintenance standards are carried out in accordance with the Green Space Quality manual (202) published by the London Parks Benchmarking Group.

Results from the online survey show that visitors perceive the maintenance of the park to be of a good standard in relation to the maintenance of the flowers, flower beds and shrubs.



3.3 Arboricultural Maintenance

The Parks & Countryside Service is responsible for the management and maintenance of the council's tree stock. The strategic approach to tree management is currently subject to review. It is policy that **all** trees on council owned property are deemed to be protected. The council's Arboricultural Officer only recommends removal where there is a health and safety concern.

The service utilises a computerised tree management system (Arbortrack) to assist in the management of the town's tree stock. The system is linked to a Graphical Information System (GIS). Tree inspections are recorded on site via hand held tablets.

The Parks and Countryside Service are currently working closely with Treework Environmental to review the Luton Tree Strategy in order to align more closely with the Environment/Climate Change Strategy. A draft of this strategy is now complete.

3.4 Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

3.4.1 Building Maintenance - Council buildings in Parks are managed via the council's Property and Construction department and is the responsibility of the Parks & Countryside Service in-house team to ensure they are clean and well maintained.

Regular checks are carried out to ensure buildings are safe and secure and carries out regular testing of the water, heaters and other elements of the maintenance check.

3.4.2 Infrastructure Maintenance – All play areas are regularly checked by our Play Area Technicians as outlined above (2.1 Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities). These inspections allow the Parks & Countryside Service to provide a continued high standard of safety and cleanliness as well as extending the life expectancy of the equipment.

A full and up to date list of play equipment and specifications is held by the Parks & Countryside Service Play Area Technicians who undertake regular inspections in line with the Play Area Inspection procedure laid out in the Parks & Countryside Service Quality Management System. A copy of the inspection sheet is shown over the page.



The Play Inspection sheet below is part of the audited ISO9001-2018 Quality Management System and provides the asset list of play equipment for the park.

**INSPECTION/ACTION SHEET
FOR PLAY SITES
LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

DATE TIME
INSPECTOR
SITE No: 17. Brantwood/Dallow Road

	PLAY COMPONENT & SAFETY SURFACE	SAFE & SECURE	FAULT	IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN
1.	Approach to Site			
2.	Signs			
3.	Gates (x3)			
4.	Fencing			
5.	Bins			
6.	Seats			
	a) Picnic Benches			
	b) Olerton Tree Bench			
7.	Surfacing			
	Wet Pour			
8.	Tarmac			
9.	Swings (2 x Bay) - Cradle			
10.	Swings (2 x Bay) – Flat			
11.	Module with Slide			
	Bahamas			
12.	Module with O/H Spinner			
	Hip Hop			
13.	Module with O/H Rings			
	Disco			
14.	Module with Tyres			
	Rock			
15.	Roundabout (DDA)			
	Revolution			
16.	Roundabout			
	Speedway			
17.	Roundabout			
	Rope Web			
18.	Roundabout			
	Overhead			
19.	Supernova			

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20.	Spring Rockers (x3) a) Crazy Gander			
	b) Crazy Nellie			
	c) Crazy Scrambler			
21.	Talking Flower			
22.	Mushrooms Rubber Stepping Stones			
23.	Rope Web			
24.				
25.				

Sheet Checked		Date:
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ITEM	RECTIFICATION	WORK COMPLETED	DATE	NOTES

VANDALISM COST

ITEM	Additional Comments

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A full list of specifications for equipment to aid the Play Area Maintenance Team is held electronically in the DTE Play Management System.

3.5 Equipment Maintenance

Well maintained equipment is critical to the health and safety of our operatives, users of the park.

- All staff are appropriately trained in the use and maintenance of equipment.
- Risk assessments are in place for all equipment and are updated where required. These are available to all personnel and held within the main head office.
- Machinery is only operated by trained staff.
- All staff wear the appropriate uniform and personal protective equipment whilst at work.
- Vehicles and machinery are maintained to a high standard by our Fleet Department in order to prevent inefficient running and potential leaks of harmful substances
- Fuel and other materials are secured and stored in agreed storage containers/areas.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

4.1 Managing Environmental Impact

The Parks & Countryside Service has regard to the council's Corporate Policy, their Environmental Strategy and to a number of other key documents including:-

- Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) (www.bedscape.org.uk/BRMC/newsite/index.php?c=bedslife_bap)

The Parks & Countryside Service continues to work to meet the requirements of these key documents by minimising the impact of the service on the environment. The service is now using electric utility vehicles for parks maintenance and is starting to replace existing machinery with battery powered tools. The team currently use battery powered leaf blowers and an electric mower.

Chemical Use

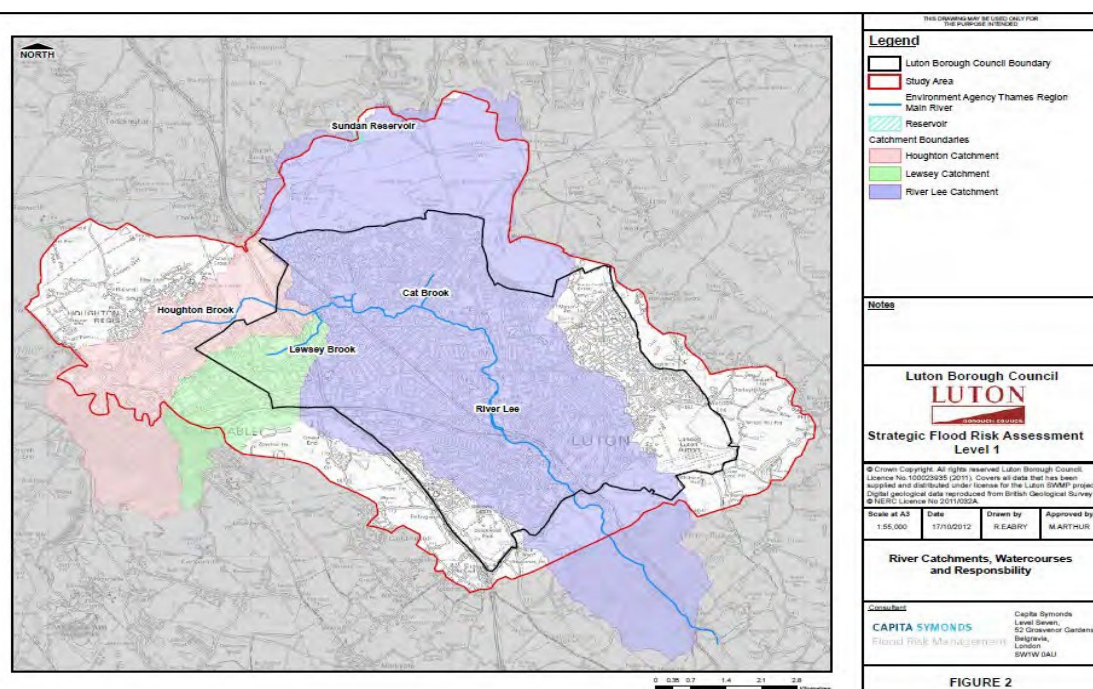
- 4.2 The Parks & Countryside Service no longer uses herbicides and pesticides in the general park maintenance regime and where chemical application is required it is done so in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Peat Use

- 4.3 The Parks & Countryside Service avoids using peat or products containing peat wherever possible.

4.4 Climate Change Adaption Strategies

Luton Borough Council has a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which includes the latest adaption strategies. The River Lea is the responsibility of the Environment Agency to coordinate the management of any flood risks from the watercourses across the area.



Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Map

The Parks & Countryside Service is represented on a sub group of the Local Strategic Partnership (The Environment, Climate Change and Stewardship sub group). The group are responsible for monitoring the council's performance in relation to delivering the priorities in the Sustainable Communities Plan. The service is also actively involved in the setting up of a Local Nature Partnership for Bedfordshire.

5.0 BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

The Parks & Countryside Service is committed to preserving biodiversity, landscape and heritage. Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, it gives regard to the value of conservation and biodiversity.

5.1 Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora

The Parks & Countryside Service refers to the Greenspace Quality Manual which was developed by the London Benchmarking Group (202). It applies these standards to all areas of the park.

The mowing regime in parks has been relaxed over recent years to improve biodiversity and respond to budgets reductions. Grass cutting is carried out by our in-house team who are aware of the standards expected (see Appendix 2).

Yellow rattle has been sown in the longer areas to reduce the vigour of dominant grasses and encourage a greater diversity of flora.

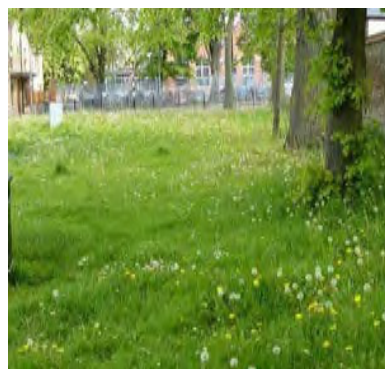
5.1.1 Wildlife

A protected species survey of bats and breeding birds was undertaken in Brantwood Park which identified trees of significant biodiversity value.

5.2.2 Improving Biodiversity

A number of projects linked to improving biodiversity have taken place in Brantwood Park which include:-

- The Parks & Countryside Service Arboricultural Officers have prepared a survey to inform tree management at the site.
- Bird box building events have been carried out in conjunction with the local schools and are now installed amongst the trees around the park
- The Bedfordshire Bat Group have established bat boxes in the park and were carrying out active monitoring. Many of these boxes have now been damaged and are in line to be replaced.



By kind permission
of Paul Rodell,
member of LFPGS

- The laurel hedge is going to be replaced with a native hedgerow and monitoring of the floral interest in the unmown areas will happen annually.

6.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LEVELS OF USE

Luton Borough Council is committed to involving the local community and providing opportunities for local people to participate and feed into the management decision making process.

The Parks & Countryside Service has an online customer User Survey which informs management of how the park is meeting expectations or where improvements can be made. This information is invaluable to the service as it provides feedback in relation to the needs of the community.

The council has devised an app which anyone can download to their mobile phone/tablet which enables them to report issues directly to the correct department so that they can be dealt with in a timely manner (Love Clean Streets). From this, the Parks & Countryside Service can obtain information about all issues relating to the park.

The Parks & Countryside Service encourages community projects within the park and is committed to building relationships with local groups and voluntary sector organisations.

6.1 Community Involvement in Management and Development

- Members of the public are given opportunities to provide feedback about the council's services through council meetings held each quarter and can make funding bids to a local grant fund to deliver priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Governance Action Plan.

- The Your Say Your Way initiative provides opportunities to consult local people about local priorities.



- Ongoing opportunities to provide feedback and views about the park via the Parks inbox widely marketed/ advertised through the Luton Borough Council newspaper, via the LBC website and the media channels as described in the Marketing section.
- There has also been community involvement in the park through consultation with local groups and organisations including Dallow Education Trust, Groundwork Luton and Bedfordshire and Dallow Road Primary School.
- Dallow Road Primary School uses the park for educational activities including a box building events.
- The Luton Obesity project used the park as a venue for activities.
- Community clean up days in the park and surrounding streets organised in partnership with LBC.
- Luton Friends of Parks and Green Space support existing parks interest groups and provide opportunities for networking and sharing of best practice. The group has developed into a strong, self-managed group and meets on a regular basis.

6.1.1 Information on Levels of Use

It is estimated that there are in excess of 19 million visits a year to Luton's parks and green spaces. This is a very high level which has not previously been acknowledged.

The Parks User online survey shows that 67% of the people that visit Brantwood Park rate the design as good or very good and 84% of the users rate the appearance of the park as either good fair or above.

Analysis of the online user survey results shows that when customers are asked what improvements they would like seen to the park, the main concerns were in relation to safety and security issues. All comments related to the anti-social behaviour that is taking place including substance abuse (mainly alcohol) which is prevalent on/around seating areas. This has been brought to the attention of the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Team who regularly patrol the site in order to reduce this type of activity. More information about the levels of use can be found in the appendices and was provided by means of our online survey which is currently under revision and will be online in due course.

7.0 **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION**

7.1 **Marketing and Promotion**

The Parks & Countryside Service employs a market-driven approach to marketing. In order to find out what customers want from their local park, the council provides a range of online community channels that enables people to interact with each other and share information about events within the park, their experiences and provide feedback.

Luton Borough Council have a dedicated web page to Brantwood Park which can be found on our Parks and Open Spaces page.

The Parks & Countryside Service posts information on the noticeboards within the park including ways to get involved in helping to enhance the parks and open space through volunteer groups and activities. We also have our own volunteer activities which we promote through various channels including physical posters and our parks newsletter.

Reports show that parks with the Green Flag Award in Luton achieve significantly higher satisfaction ratings than other local parks and green spaces and therefore the service uses the Green Flag criteria as a quality control management tool.

JOIN OUR PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS



Sign up to our mailing list

Gardening and nature conservation volunteer opportunities. Tools and basic training provided.
Contact us for our full programme.

Mondays
10am - 3.30pm
Nature conservation work.
Location changes each week.
Contact us for more details.



Thursdays
10am - 12pm
Gardening at Wardown Park



Email parksvolunteers@luton.gov.uk
or text 07738 294258



7.2 Appropriate Information Channels

Luton Borough Council provides a range of appropriate information channels that can be accessed by the public. These include:-

- Luton Borough Council webpage (www.luton.gov.uk)
- Facebook (www.facebook.com/lutoncouncil/)
- Instagram (www.instagram.com/lutoncouncil/)
- X(@lutoncouncil) or (<https://twitter.com/lutoncouncil>)
- Flickr (www.flickr.com/photos/lutonboroughcouncil/)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/lutonboroughcouncil)

Each of the above sites are closely monitored by our Marketing and Communications team to ensure they are used appropriately and remove any contributions that break the rules or guidelines of the relevant community.

7.3 Events and Special Events

Local groups are encouraged to hold events at Brantwood Park. Organisations wishing to use this as their venue are supported to provide the required documents (i.e. insurance/risk assessments)

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic no events were held in Brantwood Park last year.

MANAGEMENT

- 8.0 A Green Space Strategy Review was carried out by the Greensand Trust on behalf of Luton Borough Council which informed the Local Plan 2011-2031. This document highlights the importance of green spaces as well as setting appropriate standards of provisions to meet community needs.

The Parks & Countryside Service use the Green Flag criteria along with customer feedback to inform the management planning process for the future improvement and development of the park.

8.1 Staffing Structure

The Parks & Countryside Service benefits from a dedicated team of Parks maintenance and staff who are trained to carry out the maintenance tasks required within the park. The Parks Staffing Structure can be found in the appendices.



8.2 Quality and Performance



The Parks & Countryside Service operates a quality management system (ISO 9001-2018) and benchmark with other local authorities through the APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Performance Network.

The service is developing management plans for all of Luton's district and neighbourhood parks. The plans will set out the vision and purpose of each park and include an improvement action plan.

At an operational level, monthly area inspections are undertaken by the Parks & Countryside Service Area Supervisors who take action to resolve any issues and resolve problems.

8.3 Training & Qualifications

The Parks & Countryside Service is committed to ensuring their employees are competent in undertaking a range of horticultural, arboricultural, conservation and grounds maintenance to meet the needs of the service. The service currently has 1 apprentice.

8.4 Financial Management

Procurement is monitored as part of the quality management system and a team monitor all spend above £5000. Orders are raised on the central system called Authority Financials Purchasing (AFP). This allows the service to monitor and track expenditure. Any orders above the £5000 threshold have to be raised via our in-house Procurement Team following a stringent process in line with the UK law by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

9.0 Improving the Park

The service actively seeks funding to deliver the park Action Plan. Where possible, we encourage customers to contact the Friends Group so they can become actively involved in obtaining funding for projects identified.

The council has devised an app which anyone can download to their mobile phone/tablet which enables them to report issues directly to the correct department so that they can be dealt with in a timely manner (Love Clean Streets). From this, the Parks & Countryside Service can obtain information about all issues relating to Brantwood Park. Many of these issues have been addressed and as a result, the park has maintained the Green Flag award accreditation, the national quality indication for parks and open spaces since 2006.

10.0 Linked Policies and Strategies

The future management and development of Brantwood Park has to be considered within the context of the current policies and strategies. These include:-

- Luton Local Plan 2011-2031
- Luton Tree Policy and Tree Strategy 2021-2030
- Luton Investment Framework 2015-2035
- Luton Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-2023
- Luton Green Infrastructure Plan
- Green Space Strategy Review (2014)
- Luton Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2016-2031
- Equal Opportunities Policy and Strategy (Luton Borough Council)
- Luton Strategic Vision for Sport & Physical Activity
- Playing Pitch Strategy for Luton Borough Council 2014-2021
- Environment/Climate Change Strategy

BRANTWOOD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX 1

Continuous Improvement Action Plan

Brantwood Park Continuous Improvement Action Plan 2024-2034

✓ = Achieved • = Planned

Action ID	PRIORITIES 2019/2029	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	Who	Notes
1. A Welcoming Place														
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
1.1	Update and repair signage at Ashburnham Rd entrances			•									Playground Technician, Operations Manager	Planned
1.2	Keep noticeboards up to date	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator	Ongoing
2. Healthy, Safe & Secure														
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
2.1	Repair and replace broken equipment in the playground		✓										Playground Technician and Operations Manager	Completed
2.2	Update and repair damaged playground equipment (balance beam)			•									Playground Technician and Operations Manager	Planned this year
3. Well Maintained and Clean														
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
3.1	Replace damaged and redundant bins			•									Operations Manager	Planned
3.2	Fill in pot-holes and repair footpaths			•									Operations Manager	Planned
3.3	Explore local groups to support litter picking in the park		✓	•	•								Horticultural Coordinator	Explored with some groups, continuing to do so
4. Environmental Management														
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		

4.1	Replace Parks vehicle fleet with smaller electric vehicles	✓												Greenspace Manager	Completed
5. Biodiversity, Heritage and Landscape															
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34			
5.1	Seek funding to replace bat and bird boxes			•	•								Senior Arboricultural Officer	Planned	
5.2	Reduce vegetation from the heritage boundary wall on Eastern edge		✓										Head Park-keeper	Completed	
5.3	Monitor effect of yellow rattle sowing on Eastern edge		✓	•									Horticultural Coordinator, Head Park-Keeper	Ongoing	
6. Community Involvement															
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34			
6.1	Continue to explore community groups to support to create 'Friends' group.	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator, Greenspace Manager	Ongoing	
7. Marketing and Communication															
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34			
7.1	Use digital newsletter to promote park activities	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator	Ongoing	
7.2	Promote newsletter and parks user survey through posters.	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator	Ongoing	
8. Management															
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34			
8.1	Application for Green Flag assessment	✓	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator	Ongoing	
8.2	Update Continuous Improvement Action Plan	✓	✓	✓	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Horticultural Coordinator	Ongoing	
8.3	5-year review of Management Plan		✓					•					Operations Manager and Horticultural Coordinator	Completed	

8.4	Create specialist 'Parks Team' to prioritise management of Green Flag Parks	✓												Greenspace Manager & Operations Manager	Completed
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BRANTWOOD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX 2

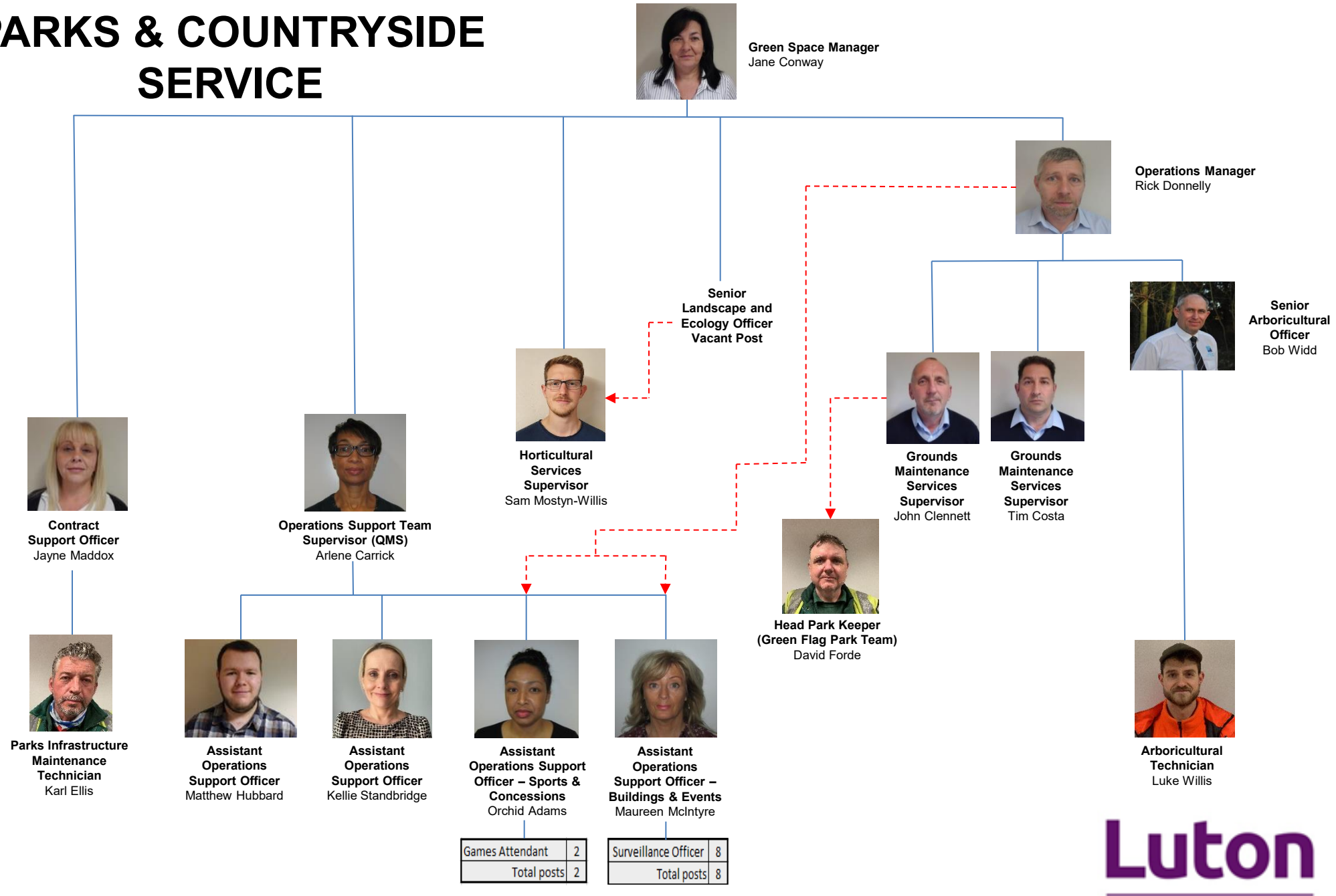
Grass cutting plan

BRANTWOOD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

APPENDIX 3

Environment Strategies

PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE



2020 - 2030



Brantwood Park Management Plan

luton.gov.uk

Luton