



SD11

KINGSWOOD PARK PLAN

July 2023



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Kingswood Park: Our park at the heart of our community

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document sets out our plans to restore Kingswood Park and forms part of our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a Heritage Grant. The condition of the park's infrastructure and heritage features has deteriorated over recent decades and there is a tangible risk to its physical and cultural heritage. Our application for delivery phase funding to restore the park and involve a wider range of people with the heritage has been part of a long journey. This has involved many years of fundraising, consultation and surveys by the Council, Friends of Kingswood Park and local community. All parties are now confident that we have a well-rounded, balanced project, that reflects community needs and priorities, and will ensure the park continues as treasured community asset for many decades to come.

Historic Kingswood Park lies at the heart of a disadvantaged urban community where green space is scarce and there are few opportunities to connect with heritage, nature and the outdoors. Our project will benefit a community that was one of the hardest hit in the West of England region by the Covid-19 Pandemic and has poor health outcomes, high numbers of children living in low income families and is the most deprived in terms of crime, education and skills in South Gloucestershire.

Our proposals to build back Kingswood Park will deliver positive change and help the community to recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic. Disability groups will help plan accessibility improvements including paths, play and outdoor learning areas and a new 'Changing Places' facility. A new refreshment facility, enhanced performance space, new toilets and expanded play area will become a vibrant hub from which an inclusive programme of activities and events will bring the community together, meet local needs, reduce social isolation, and involve a wider range of people with the heritage.

Our target is to involve a wider range of people with the heritage and we will do this by engaging existing, and new audiences. We plan to increase the annual number of visits to the park by 12% with a target of 318,853 visits by 2026. We will involve 20,285 participants in our activities and events programme targeting 365 volunteers who will contribute 4986 volunteer hours and we will provide skills / training opportunities for 344 participants.

New native planting, community growing areas and fruit trees will enrich people's connection with nature and green spaces in inclusive ways that improve outcomes for health, wellbeing, training and skills. Our project will enhance wildlife and biodiversity, strengthening green corridors between the park and adjacent areas. The legacy will be a space to thrive, a sustainable park resilient to climate change where heritage plays a central role in making Kingswood a better place to live, boosting work to regenerate the wider town centre and the local economy, and supporting community health and wellbeing.

Subject to a successful outcome for our funding application, we look forward to working with the community to realise our vision and aspirations for the park.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide a plan for a project to restore and enhance Kingswood park, including a range of activities and events that will enable a wider range of people to become involved in the heritage whilst promoting greater enjoyment and appreciation of its heritage and other values. The plan is a supporting document (SD11) for our application for National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) 'Grants for Heritage' funding. It forms one of three planning documents for the park; the others being our Activities Plan (SD1) and Kingswood Park Access Plan

🌐 [Kingswood_Park_Access_Plan_2021.pdf](#) (southglos.gov.uk).

Whilst the park does not contain heritage that might be considered significant at a national or regional level it is hugely important in a local context and a central part of the area's cultural and social heritage. Kingswood is a financially stretched working-class community with a history of working in mining and industry and the local area it is not well-endowed with building or features of heritage significance. The community has little access to other green or built heritage so the park is a vital part of their history and social infrastructure.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic lockdowns and social distancing led to an increase in walking, cycling, exercise and recreation in local areas. This shone a spotlight on the value of parks and open spaces to local communities as people made more connections with nature and heritage in their local green spaces. The use of Kingswood Park increased during the pandemic and it became clear how important the park was for maintaining physical and mental wellbeing. Kingswood Park is a much-loved green space; however, it is located in a deprived urban community that has access to the lowest level of informal recreational green space in South Gloucestershire. The community desperately want to see investment in the park to improve the range and quality of facilities, enhance its landscape and biodiversity and bring the community together through programmes of events and activities. This document sets out a plan to achieve that.

This plan includes a range of activities and events that will promote greater enjoyment and appreciation of the park's heritage and other values whilst enabling a wider range of people to be involved in the heritage. The Covid-19 Pandemic increased feelings of social isolation for many in the Kingswood Community so improving community spirit and pride will be a priority. Work was carried out during the development phase to identify and involve those sections of the community that do not feel connected, and develop activities to meet their needs.

The focus of this document is to demonstrate the need for the project. It does this by detailing a clear understanding of the audience for the park and its heritage, and assesses the needs for the project and those of the local community by considering the following evidence base:

- Needs of the local community drawn from indices such as Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Area, park catchment area profile and health indices
- The results of an extensive consultation with the local community, voluntary groups, partner organisations, residents and professional officers working across a variety of sectors
- The heritage significance of the park within a local context and its role as one of the only significant areas of green space in Kingswood
- Knowledge of the audience for the park and its heritage drawn from surveys and other evidence
- Community use of the park and priorities from the Covid-19 Pandemic
- The vital role of Kingswood Park in the regeneration of Kingswood through the ‘Love Our High Streets’ initiative
- The long-term maintenance challenges, diminishing resources and the impacts of climate change
- The Council’s strategic plans and priorities

The report analyses the evidence base and consultation findings to clearly demonstrate there is an urgent need to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park, and there is overwhelming support amongst the local community to do this. This support grew during the Covid-19 Pandemic which saw increased numbers of people using the park for recreation and exercise with 90% of people stating that it was important to their wellbeing and quality of life. The project will deliver a range of capital works and an extensive programme of activities and events, as described in our Activities Plan (SD1). The Activities Plan is derived from an understanding of the audience for the park. It will help to address local community needs and deliver NLHF outcomes, particularly the mandatory outcome to involve a wider range of people with the heritage. Following on there is detailed consideration of the outcomes that will be achieved by the project, grouped under the six 2021 NLHF ‘priority’ outcomes and three ‘other’ outcome headings, before setting out how the project will create positive environmental impacts.

Finally, the resources necessary to deliver the project are summarised, and timetables, risk registers and a description of how we will evaluate the project are presented. We are confident this report provides compelling evidence of the need to restore and enhance Kingswood Park, and the overwhelming support for this amongst the local community.

2. THE HERITAGE AND WHO IT IS IMPORTANT TO?

2.1 THE HERITAGE AS IT IS TODAY

Kingswood Park is a feature of significant local heritage importance and is included on the schedule of Parks and Gardens, listed on the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (PRN number 12886). It is also designated as a Local Green Space (ref: LGSD411 Kingswood Park) - a new designation introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The park is situated close to Kingswood town centre, 3.5 miles east of Bristol City Centre. It was opened in 1934 to serve the needs of a rapidly expanding and predominantly working-class community. It was designed and laid out by Albert Press who was the Park Superintendent for Kingswood Urban District Council at the time. The park is 3.365 hectares in size and is located in the heart of Kingswood, opposite the Civic Centre and a short walk to Kingswood shopping centre. See Plan 1: Kingswood Park Location Plan.

A video produced by the Southern Brookes Community Partnership entitled 'Kingswood Welcomes You' provides a useful introduction to the area, and it includes the park and Friends of Kingswood Park (FOKP) group.

<https://southernbrooks.org.uk>

Landmarks immediately adjacent the park are the Grade II* listed Holy Trinity Church and closed churchyard, and Grade II Vicarage house. Also adjacent are the Civic Centre building, Park Primary School, Orchard Road allotments, and former Park School buildings now used as a community centre. The park is 270m from the Grade I listed Whitfield Tabernacle, Grade II listed Masters Church and Chapel House and their associated graveyard. None of the latter heritage features are publicly accessible, however restoration works to the Whitfield Tabernacle are now well advanced with plans to develop it as a venue for arts, drama and educational programmes.

Plan 2 shows the park and its main features as they are today. The park has numerous mature trees and can broadly be divided into three sectors.

The northern sector of the park is closest to the High Street and consists of formal gardens comprising lawns, annual flower beds, rose arch and rose beds, mixed borders and mature trees. There is a toilet block situated on the northern boundary of the park, which is accessed from the High Street, and includes a radar key accessible disabled toilet.

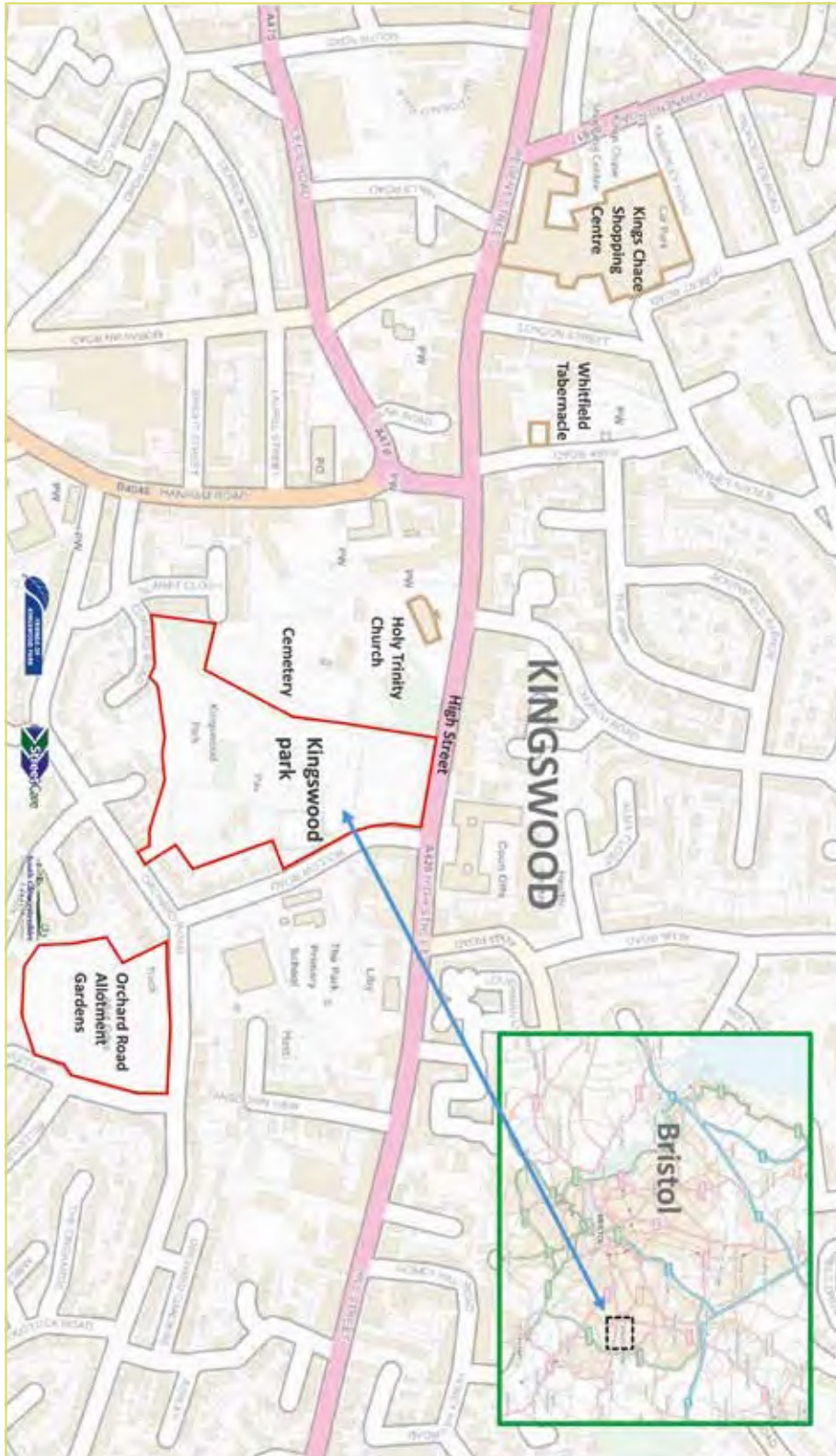
The central sector of the park is situated immediately to the south of the formal gardens and the landform begins to fall away relatively steeply in a southerly direction. There is an amphitheatre, originally constructed in 1949, which is used as a focal point for community events and an older bandstand which no longer has a roof in place. The central area also contains a tennis court and enclosed community garden, children's play area, two seat / picnic bench sculptures, two youth shelters and a basketball area with a hoop.

The southern sector consists of informal grassed areas with spring bulbs and trees, and a fenced off 'wetland area' that is used for Forest School activities. Kingswood Bowls Club is also situated in the southern area of the park and this is leased to and managed by the bowls club. There is also a football goal post and 'kick about' area.

The park is surrounded by residential housing mainly consisting of semi-detached properties built between the 1920s and 1960s as part of the rapid expansion of Bristol. There are, however, older buildings along the High Street.

Plan 1

Kingswood Park Location Plan



2.2 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARK

Kingswood Park is an example of a formal municipal park developed during the 1930s and is only one of two such parks in South Gloucestershire. Deeds show the land for the park was acquired by the Urban District Council of Kingswood on 18 February 1921. There is a 13-year gap between acquiring the land and opening the park in 1934. Further research is required as to whether the land was specifically acquired for the purpose of laying out a park, or whether it was originally acquired for other purposes. However, the Public Health Act 1925 emphasised the need for more public parks. It gave powers to local authorities to acquire, lay out and maintain land for the purposes of games and recreation. Over the following decade many local authorities laid out public parks and this may have provided the impetus to create Kingswood Park. There are newspaper reports in the Western Daily Press in 1927 of District Council discussions over how to fund the park, with a suggestion that capital could be sourced from the National Playing Fields Fund. Further research is required on how the park was funded; however, it was reported in 1932 that there were formal plans for laying out the park.

Between acquiring the land and laying out the park it was leased to a dairy farmer and later used by the local fire brigade to graze their horses. On an emergency callout the firemen had to catch the horses before harnessing them to the fire appliance! A portion of the land acquired in 1921 was also sold to the Church Commissioners to expand the burial ground at the adjacent Holy Trinity Church, at some time between 1921 and 1939 (according to a 1963 note on the deeds).

Much of the initial manual work to create the park was undertaken by 'Test' workers, (unemployed means tested workmen who qualified for unemployment benefit) in the early 1930s

In September 1932 the Council's Parks Committee met on the site of the new park and discussed how it was to be laid out. In November it was announced that the park was being established as a war memorial for Kingswood and by December the work was clearly well under way because the Committee authorised the purchase of golden privet to go along the (dwarf) front railings to the park and for six seats to be installed

A substantial concrete drain was laid across the site (funded by the County Council Highways budget) to help drain the land and prices were sought for the construction of terraces, tarmacadam paths, a bandstand, ladies and gents toilets, and the creation of a new entrance and path from Orchard Road and the employment of a full time employee.

By the summer of 1933 the construction of the paths and terraces was underway and bands were playing within the park during the summer months

In July 1933 Albert Press, the first park superintendent was appointed. and the option of purchasing second hand entrance gates for the main front entrance was being pursued. In September prices were sought for the construction of a children's playground and in November 1933 the first Remembrance service in the park, was held. Funding was also approved for the south (Orchard Road) entrance gates as well as for the erection of a 20 ft (6.5m) greenhouse and a separate tool store

In 1934 the paths and terracing had been constructed at the northern end of the site and the 'Test' workers were being employed levelling the ground within the valley to the south. Stone was brought in to create a rockery including a pond and public toilets were constructed near the Hollow Road Entrance

May 1934 saw folding chairs being purchased for visiting bands and a temporary bandstand was constructed and an ornamental timber arch was commissioned. Other than the provision of the south gates from what is now Edwards Drive and access path across the park from these gates, works seem to have concentrated on the establishment of the more formal northern end of the park during these first two years

The main entrance gates and railings were commissioned in March 1935 and these were completed in May that year. Later in 1935 the Children's Playground was commissioned with funding from the National Playing Fields Association and the newly levelled ground allowed the construction of a Bowling Green and football pitch within the southern part of the site and a permanent bandstand was ordered which was erected in early 1936

No evidence of a formal opening ceremony has been found.

The gates and railings were made by a local person, Mr Charles Hawkins. During WW2 the gates and railings were taken for the war effort. Mr Hawkins took the precaution of taking photographs and was commissioned to make identical gates and railings after the war, with the replacement park gates officially opened on 19 April 1947.

The football pitch was clearly not satisfactory because in 1939 it was replaced by a new one by the Anglo-American Asphalt Co who had won the contract to construct two hard tennis courts on the adjacent land to the north. The tennis courts were opened in May 1940.

During the war years the park was used for a variety of purposes including 'shilling lunches' provided by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, visits by a circus and zoo as part of the holidays-at-home scheme and various concerts and parades such as 'Warship Week', 'United Nations Day' and 'Salute a Soldier'. There were reports that shelters to accommodate 200 people were to be erected and that part of the park was given over to an allotment scheme, presumably as part of 'Dig for Victory', however further research is required to confirm this. A member of the public has described VE day in Kingswood Park as being 'so packed that participants left in fear of their safety'.

Not all the facilities were in place in 1934. The tennis court was installed in 1939 and the amphitheatre constructed around the bandstand in 1949. The bowling green facilities were developed in the 1960s. The park also housed bird aviaries, but these were removed in the late 1960s because of vandalism.

From its inception the park has been the centre of social and cultural life for Kingswood people as well as a place to relax and escape the pressure of hard-working lives. After the war, the park was used by the churches of Kingswood to hold their 'Festival of Witness' services during their annual Whit Monday parades, as well as hosting the annual Kingswood and Hanham horticultural shows. The park has continued to be used for community events and activities up to the present day. Local beauty pageants, circuses and fairs were held for many decades up until the 1990s as well as a range of other events. Community memories that have been collected include concerts and talent competitions in the bandstand, where the amphitheatre would be filled with seating and you had to arrive early to get a seat, as well as ballroom dancing. In 1953, Daredevil Curly dived into a flaming tank of water in the park, about three feet deep. Beauty contests were annual events held in the park up until 1990 and these are well remembered by local people, with judges at the events including Diana Dors, Bill Owen and Donald Sinden. Today the park hosts periodic Armed Forces Days, organised by the Royal British Legion, and maintaining the park's connection to WW2 memories. It also hosts annual family fun days, and Easter Halloween and Christmas events organised by the Friends Group including the recent Platinum Jubilee (2022) and Coronation (2023) celebrations.

A selection of photographs illustrating the history of the park is included in the Project Portfolio (SD12).

Further information regarding the history of the park can be found in the Kingswood Park Conservation Management Plan (SD16).

In 2019, Sandra Lewis, a BA (Hons) student reading History with Heritage at the University of West of England undertook a placement with the Friends of Kingswood Park. Sandra investigated the history of the park and helped support a ‘Park my Memories’ project to collect community recollections and memories. It should be noted that Sandra’s time was limited, and her research only went up to 1950. Further in-depth research and oral history work is required and proposals for ‘Park My Memories’ and ‘Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past’ activities have been included in our Activities Plan (SD1).

During 2020/21 the country was hit by the Covid-19 Pandemic and in Mid-January 2021 Kingswood had the highest infection rate in the West of England. During this time Kingswood Park acted as a sanctuary for local people who visited in increased numbers to relax, enjoy green space and nature and to exercise. There is no doubt that with time, stories relating to the pandemic will become an important chapter in the history of the park.

2.3 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

To fully appreciate who the heritage is important to it is necessary to understand the rich and varied history of the community that live around the park. The area was once part of the vast Royal Forest of Kingswood, owned and used by the King as a private hunting preserve. It contained a mix of woodland, open glades, scrubland, wasteland and moors. Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, land within the Forest was gradually cleared as domestic and industrial demand for the area’s natural resources (wood, stone and coal) increased.

The coal reserves in the area were some of the best available and mining activity grew rapidly during the 17th and 18th centuries, with Bristol being heavily dependent on the coal supplied from the Kingswood collieries. The availability of employment in the industries of Kingswood drew many workers to the area, a large proportion of which settled as and where they could, creating the irregular layout of streets seen today.

The colliers and industrial workers settling in and around Kingswood were fiercely independent and many refused to conform to the Church of England, wishing to have religious freedom to worship in their own way. The persecution of these nonconformists by the monarchy during the 17th century largely ended with the 1660 Act of Toleration. This led to the growth and expansion of nonconformist religions in the area during the 18th century. With it came a period of chapel building, replacing the open-air preaching made famous by evangelists such as George Whitfield and John Wesley at nearby Hanham Mount. The remarkable collaboration and subsequent quarrels between George Whitfield, John Wesley and John Cennick in their mission to the colliers of Kingswood started a religious revival that spread across Britain and America. Splits and disagreements in Methodism itself contributed to the legacy of chapels, schools and Sunday schools of the Free Churches in Kingswood, many of which can be seen today including the Grade I listed Whitfield Tabernacle.

The growth of nonconformist religion in the area also brought with it a growth in the number of wealthy nonconformist industrialists who took advantage of the area’s resources to establish and develop new industries. Fuelled by the readily available coal from the numerous pits in the area, ore from the Mendips and Devon, and with water extracted from the various tributaries and brooks of the River Avon, Kingswood became famous for the manufacture and processing of brass, copper and zinc. Originally just a small-scale industry, by the close of the 18th century William Champion’s pioneering Brassworks at Warmley was the largest commercial brass works in Europe, supplying finished goods locally as well as to the slave trade. The flourishing brass industry also led to a rise in pin-making in the area, with Champion’s site at Warmley at its peak being the largest producer of pins in Bristol. The success of this former cottage industry, bolstered by the introduction of mechanisation in the 1830s, continued well into the 19th century with the construction of several pin making factories in the area.

The boot and shoe trade also grew substantially in the 19th century as a result of mechanisation, and eventually replaced the pin industry as the major source of employment in Kingswood with 10,000 people employed making boots and shoes in Kingswood during WWI. With the introduction of an electric tram depot in Kingswood at the end of the 19th century, many more people were able to live outside Bristol and commute to work. As a result, the population of Kingswood continued to grow, establishing the dense pattern of houses and small factories that characterise the settlement today.

A well-known local manufacturing company that started in 1907 and employed many people in the area was Douglas Motorcycles, which had a 12-acre factory on Hanham Road (400m from the park) and was once the biggest motorcycle factory in the world. Rosie and Irene Douglas (daughters of William Douglas) successfully took part in motorcycle competitions, promoting Douglas Motorcycles throughout the 1920's and 30's by winning trials, hill climbs and other events in a largely male dominated sport. Douglas ceased production in 1957 and S106 funding from the conversion of the old factory site to housing is being used as match funding for this application. In 1988 Kingswood Park hosted the largest ever display of Douglas Motorcycles as part of the Douglas Cavalcade to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the London Douglas Motorcycle Club.

An unusual local story worth recounting is that an elephant from a visiting circus died and was buried outside the churchyard gate at Holy Trinity (a few metres from the park). Some rumours say that this took place in the 1920s, others that the elephant belonged to the Bostock and Wombwell's Circus Menagerie, touring Gloucestershire in September 1891. It is also rumoured that the elephant died from eating yew trees (perhaps in the churchyard?). This story is entrenched in local folklore and is certainly worthy of further investigation to determine whether it is fact or urban myth. Pupils from Kings' Forest Primary School have produced a short video exploring the legend of the Kingswood elephant.

<https://vimeo.com/257581167>

Photographs illustrating the community history and heritage is included in supporting document SD12. Further information regarding the history of the area can be found in the Kingswood Park Conservation Management Plan (SD16).

2.4 WHO IS THE HERITAGE IMPORTANT TO?

The history of the Kingswood community, described above, sets the context when considering who the heritage is important to. Although the park does not contain heritage that might be considered significant at a national or regional level, it is hugely important in a local context and a central part of the area's cultural and social heritage. With the exception of the Grade 1 listed Whitfield Tabernacle (which will become accessible following restoration) the local area it is not well-endowed with buildings or features of heritage significance.

This is a largely working-class community that were traditionally employed in mining, engineering and other industries who led hard lives, worked long hours and had little leisure time. The legacy of a financially stretched and struggling community remains today with the Kingswood area being one of the most deprived in South Gloucestershire. As coal mining and industry developed in the area and housing was built to accommodate the workers there was a recognition (as embodied in the Public Health Act 1925) that there was a need for the community to have access to recreational space where they could relax and enjoy green space and the many benefits that this brings. This was provided by Kingswood Urban District Council, who purchased the land for the site in 1921, and opened the park in 1934. The original purposes of the park envisaged by the District Council were linked to the needs of the local working-class community. Kingswood remains a predominantly working-class community today. The park still fulfils the same functions today as it did in 1934, and this provides a social and cultural link between the heritage of the park and the local community.

Today the area around Kingswood Park has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire, which reinforces the original District Council's recognition of the need to provide a green space and park for the community. It is clear that there is little accessible green or built heritage for the community to enjoy and there has been a lack of investment in the sparse heritage that does exist for many decades.

The presence and quality of the park today is vitally important to the local community because it reflects its community history and social and cultural heritage. Since the park was established, it has been a central focus for community events and played an important role during WW2 to galvanise and bring together the community and provide a green space to escape the pressures of the war. The value of the park as a treasured community resource was also amplified by the 2020/21 Covid-19 Pandemic and surveys show that local people visited the park in greater numbers for exercise and general wellbeing. In the future the park will form an important part of the community's attempts to recover from the pandemic by being a focus for community events and health and wellbeing activities. In this way it will be possible to improve community cohesion and reduce the social isolation brought about by the pandemic.

The value of the heritage to the local community is reflected by the community coming together to form Friends of Kingswood Park in 2005. They are a committed group working to enhance and restore the heritage and promote greater use of it amongst the local community. There have been some initial 'Park my Memories' sessions to start the process of gathering memories about the importance of the park, and whilst these have begun to reveal some information more work is needed.

It is worth noting that Kingswood fits the profile for an area with high numbers of National Lottery players.

2.5 BUILT HERITAGE

The original bandstand was erected in 1936 to replace a temporary structure erected in 1934 when band concerts were already taking place. The remaining bandstand plinth is a much more recent replacement structure and no longer has a roof. The gates and railings are of note and following their removal for the war efforts were re-manufactured and installed shortly after WW2. The amphitheatre was built in 1949 and does not meet modern accessibility standards. The Grade II* Holy Trinity church is located adjacent the park.

2.6 LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The park landscape and natural heritage has significant value because Kingswood has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire. The park was laid out in 1934 and is an example of municipal landscape design specific to that era. The landscape of the park has changed little over the decades and the lay out of the paths, seating and formal planted areas remains the same. The heritage significance of the park to the local area has led to it being included on the schedule of Parks and Gardens (South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record PRN number 12886).

The main elements of the parks natural heritage are the many mature trees, wetland area and the valuable bird, bat, amphibian, reptile and invertebrate populations that the park supports. Although situated in a densely populated urban area the park connects with other green spaces including the Holy Trinity churchyard and cemetery, allotments and a network of residential gardens that back on to the park and link to other green areas. Taken together they represent a hugely valuable natural heritage asset.

Collectively these natural heritage assets provide the opportunity to better connect habitats and green spaces in Kingswood, forming urban wildlife corridors with the park acting as a natural hub, providing habitat improvement opportunities that will enhance nature and biodiversity.

3. LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

To demonstrate the need for a NLHF project at Kingswood Park it is important to develop a profile of the local community to identify and understand local needs. It is the local community who are the audience for the park and will benefit from the restoration and enhancement of its heritage and the activities and events that will be delivered. It is important that these activities and events are responsive to local needs so that the local community can derive maximum benefit.

Several sources of information have been used to develop a profile of the local community, which forms the audience for Kingswood Park; these are:

- Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Proxy Indicator Profile: 2013
- South Gloucestershire Priority Neighbourhood Analysis 2019
- Kingswood Park Catchment Area Profile 2022
- The Health Profile for South Gloucestershire (Published by The Department for Health 2019)
- South Gloucestershire Priority Neighbourhood Health Indicator Profile 2017
- Kingswood 'Love Our High Streets' Initiative

3.1 KINGSWOOD PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Kingswood Park is located in the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Area.

3.1.1 WHAT ARE PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS?

South Gloucestershire contains sizeable pockets of multiple deprivation and the Council has identified six Priority Neighbourhoods where it will take particular action to work with individuals, community-based organisations and key stakeholders to identify local needs and to encourage activities to address them. The Priority Neighbourhoods are clusters of lower super output areas (LSOAs)¹ that feature in the bottom 20% nationally in the indices of multiple deprivation (IMD). Action in these areas is identified as a priority in the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy 2036 and Council Plan 2020-24 (see Section 4 below).

The Council and its partners including the police, health authorities, housing, fire service and voluntary agencies have made a commitment to work with local voluntary organisations and community groups to make a difference in these areas.

Each of the Priority Neighbourhoods has a community lead group that has set local priorities and drafted an action plan to combat the issues that lead to the low ranking. The aim of the priority neighbourhoods programme is to "narrow the gap", to improve quality of life for residents in these areas, by targeting work to increase access to opportunities and raise aspirations. The headline priorities can be summed up as health and wellbeing, crime and safety, and education, training and employment. Themes running through this work are early intervention, support for families, encouraging volunteering and celebrating assets.

The role of Community Engagement Officers within the Council is to help coordinate the approach such as:

- supporting community lead groups in their organisation and establishing new projects
- linking with council departments and partner agencies to maximise the potential of their involvement
- gathering information on services and new initiatives, both national and local, to inform our work

3.1.2 KINGSWOOD PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD ANALYSIS

There are two sources of information to help identify local needs at Priority Neighbourhood level:

Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood proxy indicator profile: Research and Consultation Team, South Gloucestershire Council, December 2013 (Appendix 1).

This profile presents a range of proxy indicators of deprivation for the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood. For each indicator, comparisons are made between the priority neighbourhood and the relevant South Gloucestershire and, where possible, national averages. Although the data is a few years old, it is the last comprehensive overview produced by the Council for Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood and provides a good overview of deprivation within the community.

Key points to consider are:

- The population of the priority neighbourhood was estimated to be 14,800 (mid-year 2012). The area has a higher proportion of older residents (18.2%) and a lower proportion of working age people (62.9%) than the South Gloucestershire average
- The Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimant rate was 3.5% of the working age population, above the South Gloucestershire and national averages (1.7% and 3.1% respectively)
- The young JSA (aged 18-24) claimant rate was 8.4% considerably higher than both the national (5.8%) and district (3.9%) averages
- 13.3% of the working age population were claiming key out-of-work benefits, which was above both the district (6.6%) and national (10.9%) averages
- 66% of Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYSFP) pupils living in the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood achieved a 'good' level of development. The achievement rate of children living in the Priority Neighbourhood is lower than the local authority average (70%), but slightly higher than the comparable national average (64%)
- The average capped GCSE and equivalent points at the end of Key Stage 4 for pupils living in the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood was 332.9 points, which is slightly lower than the local and national averages (343.5 and 343.3 points respectively)
- In March 2012, 7.3% of the relevant resident population of the Priority Neighbourhood were Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET), which is higher than the South Gloucestershire average (4.8%)

Note that more recent health indicators are covered in section 3.3 below.

English Indices of Deprivation 2019 South Gloucestershire Priority Neighbourhood analysis produced by: Insights and Engagement Team November 2019 (Appendix 2).

Since 2015 there has been relatively little change in overall levels of deprivation within the priority neighbourhoods (when measured by the composite IMD). Of the 23 LSOAs which make up the PNs: 87% (20 LSOAs) have not changed NQ position, 4% (1 LSOA) has become more deprived, and 9% (2) have become less deprived.

Kingswood is the only priority neighbourhood containing an LSOA that has become more deprived since 2015. LSOA E01014926, the New Cheltenham road area, has moved from NQ2 into NQ1. Kingswood is also the PN with the largest proportion of LSOAs which have become more deprived across the domains (24%).

The key facts identified for Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood (comprising of nine LSOAs) were:

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD):

- 44% of LSOAs (4) within the PN are within National Quintile 2 and 44% (4) are within NQ3
- E01014926 – the new Cheltenham road area has dropped one national quintile level, now falling into NQ1 for the IMD domain. This is the most deprived area in Kingswood (ranked 2nd in South Gloucestershire overall)
- Since ID2015: One of the nine LSOAs within the Priority Neighbourhood has changed national quintile position (E01014926 as outlined above). All other LSOAs in this PN have experienced no change in their national quintile position for the IMD domain since 2015

Domains:

- The PN is most deprived in terms of the crime domain with 4 of the 9 LSOAs (44%) falling into NQ1 for this domain. This is closely followed by Education for which 33% of the LSOAs are in NQ1
- Out of all domains, the most deprived LSOA is E01014926 – the New Cheltenham Road area which is in the most deprived 20% nationally for 5 of the 8 domains. It is ranked 2,380th nationally in terms of the 'Education domain', which is the lowest rank for any LSOA in any domain for Kingswood PN
- All of the domains, except employment, have become relatively more deprived in at least one LSOA since ID 2015
- Since ID2015 some of the biggest increases in deprivation within the PN have been observed in the 'Barriers to Housing and Services domain' – where 89% of LSOAs have decreased 1 or more national quintile positions
- Since ID2015 some of the biggest decreases in deprivation within the PN have been observed in the 'Living environment domain' – where 56% of LSOAs have increased 1 or more national quintile positions
- Analysis of how individual LSOAs within the PN have changed national quintile position since 2015 in each of the eight domains suggests that 61% of LSOAs have not changed quintile position, 24% have become more deprived and 14% have become less deprived

■ 3.2 PROFILE OF KINGSWOOD PARK CATCHMENT AREA 2022

The Council's Insights and Engagement Team (IET) has produced a **Kingswood Park Catchment Area Profile 2022 (see Appendix 3)**. This comprises five LSOAs as shown on the profile map, with a total population of 9,677 people. Key findings from this profile are:

- The Kingswood area is one of the most deprived in South Gloucestershire. The average proportion of children living in low income families in the Kingswood catchment is 14%, whereas the average across the South Gloucestershire area is 9%. The New Cheltenham Road area (E01014926) has 2.5 times the number of children in low income families compared to the South Gloucestershire average, while having only 1.2 times the average number of children living in the area
- The catchment has a higher number of people in their 20's and early 30's compared to the South Gloucestershire average, but a lower number of people aged 40-70. Overall, the catchment area age profile is broadly the same as the national (England and Wales) average. The proportion of people aged 0 to 14 is identical, but the proportion of people aged 15 to 64 is 0.5% lower than the national average whereas the proportion of people aged 65+ is 0.6% higher
- One LSOA, E01014826 (New Cheltenham Road area), has three domains in the worst quintile nationally, meaning it is in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in the country for income, employment and crime. It is the second most deprived LSOA in South Gloucestershire overall and the second most deprived LSOA in terms of income and employment specifically
- Two out of five LSOAs rank in the second quintile nationally overall, meaning they are in the 20-40% most deprived bracket. These are E01014924 (Downend Road / Worcester Road area) and E01015007 (Holy Trinity Church / Orchard Road area)
- The Kingswood Park catchment area contains the first and second most deprived LSOAs in South Gloucestershire in terms of crime (E01015007, Orchard Road and E01014924, Downend Road)

The Kingswood Park Catchment Area Profile 2022 contains an Acorn Demographic Profile which provides an estimate of the likely characteristics you might expect to find in the catchment area. Key findings are:

- There is likely to be a higher proportion of people who are unemployed in the catchment area than there are in the whole South Gloucestershire area
- There is likely to be a significantly higher number of people on welfare benefits such as Universal Credit and Income Support in the catchment area compared to the whole South Gloucestershire area
- There is likely to be a significantly high number of people suffering from mental illness / anxiety / depression / nerves in the catchment area compared to the whole South Gloucestershire area
- 39% of the population in the catchment are likely to have a household income of £20k or less

The 'financially stretched' and 'urban adversity' population types are over-represented in the Kingswood catchment area compared to the average for South Gloucestershire, whereas the 'affluent achievers' and 'rising prosperity' population types are under-represented. More information on the characteristics of these categories can be found by following the link in the Kingswood Park Catchment Area Profile 2022 document.

3.3 HEALTH AND ACTIVITY NEEDS

The **Health Profile for South Gloucestershire (Published by The Department for Health 2019 – Appendix 4)** identifies pockets of health deprivation in South Gloucestershire, the most deprived being in Priority Neighbourhood areas. Life expectancy is 5.7 years lower for men and 6.9 years lower for women for the most deprived areas of South Gloucestershire than in the least deprived areas.

The latest figures on more detailed health indicators for Priority Neighbourhood areas are contained in the **South Gloucestershire Priority Neighbourhood Health Indicator Profile 2017 (see Appendix 5)**. This profile contains information on the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood area and the key findings for the area are:

Demographic

- It has an estimated population of 15,155. The age distribution of this area fits closely with the age distribution of the South Gloucestershire population.
- The proportion of children in low-income families is 24.3%, compared to the South Gloucestershire average of 13.5%.

Over-arching indicators

- Age-standardised mortality from causes considered preventable per 100,000 persons is 211.8 persons, which is a significant increase compared to the South Gloucestershire average of 146.3.
- Age-standardised rate of premature all-cause mortality per 100,000 persons is 373, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 269.
- The premature cancer mortality rate in 'All PNs' combined (146.4 per 100,000) shows a statistically significant difference to 'Non-PNs' (114.4 per 100,000). The small numbers involved means there is no statistically significant observations to be made in regard to specific PNs.
- The premature cardio-vascular disease mortality rate in 'All PNs' combined (87.2 per 100,000) shows a statistically significant difference to both 'Non-PNs' (52 per 100,000) and South Gloucestershire (57.2 per 100,000). The small numbers involved when looking at individual PNs means there is no statistically significant observations to be made in regard to specific PNs.
- The biggest cause of Years of Life Lost (YLL) is malignant neoplasm (cancer), though this is lower than the proportion of YLL to cancer at a South Gloucestershire level. Disease of the digestive system and respiratory system show a slightly elevated proportion of YLL than that observed at a South Gloucestershire level.

Child health

Childhood obesity - 22.8% of Reception children are overweight or obese compared to the South Gloucestershire average of 17.7%.

The proportion of children with excess weight tends to increase from reception to Year 6 where 38% of children are overweight or obese compared to the South Gloucestershire average of 28%.

- The proportion of mothers smoking at time of delivery is significantly higher (19%) than the South Gloucestershire average of 10%.
- Emergency hospital admissions for ‘viral induced wheeze’ per 10,000 0-9-year olds is significantly higher at 1,879 than the South Gloucestershire average of 739.

Lifestyle

- Age-standardised rate of alcohol specific hospital admissions per 100,000 persons is 933.8, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 540.1.
- Age-standardised rate of hospital admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of drug related mental health and behavioural disorder per 100,000 persons is 182, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 107.
- Age-standardised rate of smoking attributable hospital admissions in people aged 35 and over per 100,000 persons is 1595, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 1361.

Morbidities

- Age-standardised rates of emergency hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of cardio-vascular disease per 100,000 persons is 1065, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 862.
- Hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of coronary heart disease per 100,000 persons is 475.6, which is significantly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 365.1.

Respiratory disease

- Kingswood PN area has significantly higher rates per 100,000 than the South Gloucestershire average for chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and influenza and pneumonia.

Mental health

- Age standardised rates of persons admitted to hospital for intentional self-harm per 100,000 persons are significantly higher at 229.7 than the South Gloucestershire average of 144.3.

Older People

- The age and sex standardised rate of emergency hospital admissions of people aged 65+ with a mention of dementia is significantly higher at 3627 than the South Gloucestershire average of 2498.
- The rate of emergency admission for falls in all PNs combined (2134 per 100,000) shows a statistically significant increase compared to Non-Priority Neighbourhoods (1861 per 100,000). Individually, no single Priority Neighbourhood shows a statistically significant difference to rates observed at a South Gloucestershire level.

The above data provides compelling evidence that there is a need for activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing as part of a wider project to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park. Health outcomes are worse for the people of Kingswood across all age ranges and it is important that activities include a focus on children and young people and older people, and are accessible and inclusive to all, including minority ethnic communities.

Consultation with the South Gloucestershire Public Health team identified child and adult obesity as a priority which has been increased by the pandemic (there are strong links between obesity and poorer outcomes for people who contract Covid-19). Clare Cook, Public Health Programme Lead: Healthy Lives also highlighted an opportunity to promote interventions aimed at improving physical activity participation among older adults that should be acceptable and accessible to minority groups. Older adults from minority ethnic groups experience a relatively higher burden of physical inactivity compared with their counterparts from non-minority ethnic groups. (Inactivity being a significant risk factor for non-communicable disease). The minority ethnic population for Kingswood is 6.1% which is higher than the South Gloucestershire wide figure 5% (2011 Census).

3.4 IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN KINGSWOOD

During the Covid-19 Pandemic it became clear that infections, hospitalisations and deaths disproportionately affected people from communities with higher levels of deprivation. This was certainly the case for Kingswood which suffers some of the poorest health outcomes indices in South Gloucestershire. In January 2021 during the third wave Kingswood North East MSOA had an infection rate of 1001.8 on 16th Jan and prompted the following article in Bristol Live.

🌐 <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/suburb-bristol-continues-one-worst-4915692>

This infection rate was the highest in the West of England at the time. The link between deprivation and Covid infection rates became clearer as the pandemic progressed. Access to greenspace was an important aspect of people's attempts to maintain wellbeing during the pandemic, particularly to a community like Kingswood that has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire.

3.5 ECONOMIC NEEDS - KINGSWOOD 'LOVE OUR HIGH STREETS' INITIATIVE

Funding of over £26 million has been obtained for a programme to regenerate Kingswood Town Centre and the High Street, including shopping centre transformation, public realm, heritage and cultural renewal. The restoration of Kingswood Park is to form an integral part of a broad town centre Masterplan, which will provide a huge boost to the local economy.

In November 2018, the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) agreed to fund a £10 million programme to reinvigorate High Streets in the WECA constituent councils, which includes South Gloucestershire. This funding was identified to test a series of pilot projects aimed at tackling the challenges that some of our mature High Streets are facing in an age of internet and out-of-town shopping and the detrimental impact of vacant premises. South Gloucestershire Council successfully put forward Kingswood as a location with a traditional High Street and a rich heritage and was awarded £3million to develop a package of projects to reinvigorate the area and tackle some of the challenges that have been reported from the community.

The UK Government then announced a competitive Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme for which South Gloucestershire Council was able to register two Expressions of Interest (EoI). The EoI for Kingswood succeeded in progression to Full Business Case (FBC) and that FBC was submitted to the Government on 31 July 2020. On 26 December 2020, Kingswood was awarded £12.5m in FHSF to support the FBC, one of 57 places to receive a partial award. Both South Gloucestershire Council and WECA then committed further funding worth more than £10m to ensure delivery of the three core elements of the FBC. Together these multiple funding streams support the Kingswood regeneration programme which seeks to:

- increase the number of people visiting Kingswood high street
- cleaner, safer and active streets with high quality public spaces and cleaner air
- bring empty premises back into use and upgrade the quality of high street premises
- provide new employment opportunities and enhance the training offer for existing business
- promote awareness of the heritage of the high street
- provide a mix of new development opportunities and experiences to the high street
- promote walking and cycling opportunities, access to green spaces and improved health and wellbeing opportunities
- develop local skills with a focus on new technology

As of April 2023, funding has already delivered the following:

- Appointment of a Senior Urban Designer to lead the Masterplan
- Development of the Masterplan for public consultation in 2021, and publication of the Masterplan in May 2022
- Action to tackle empty premises through combined work of enforcement, environmental health and anti-social behaviour teams
- Works completed to stabilise walls and reinstate the roof of the Grade-I listed Whitfield Tabernacle. Plans to further develop it as an arts / educational centre being developed and expected to commence 2024.
- Purchase and operation of an Electric Ecosweeper on Kingswood High Street and the installation of solar-powered compaction bins on the High Street
- Successful NLHF development phase application to deliver a comprehensive package of improvements and connectivity enhancements for Kingswood Park
- Acquisition of the Kings Chase Shopping Centre in 2022
- Further commercial assessment of other strategically significant property

The three core investment packages in the FHSF FBC are:

- Acquisition and redevelopment of the Kings Chase Shopping Centre
- Public realm investment package including the proposed pedestrianisation of Regent Street; and
- Heritage and cultural renewal through the full restoration of the Grade-I listed Whitfield Tabernacle and surrounding Conservation Area

The regeneration programme recognises the role of Kingswood Park to improve social cohesion and bring the wider Kingswood community together. It sees the park as a prominent and vital part of the wider Kingswood High Street public realm and that the restoration of the park will add value to the High Street regeneration programme, attracting further footfall and boosting the local economy. The Kingswood Love Our High Streets project awarded £20,000 to support the development of a development phase NLHF application in recognition of the importance of the park to the enhancement of the local area, its economy, heritage and High Street.

As part of the project a comprehensive master-planning exercise is being undertaken linked to the new South Gloucestershire Local Plan. Its aims are to:

- identify key employment sites around the High Street and identify particular types of employment which should be facilitated through the plan
- allocate sites for housing with policy criteria on number of homes and planning conditions for each allocation
- identify key sites (particularly on the High Street) for potential for regeneration and strategy for unlocking development (ownership, site assembly, land remediation)
- link to public realm strategy and projects to improve shop fronts, air quality, walking environment and street scene in the town centre
- heritage strategy to raise profile and status based on the area's international importance in the history of religious non-conformism and early industrialisation, while securing investment in designated heritage assets
- multifunctional green infrastructure plan with vision for street trees, sustainable drainage, parks, corridors with identified projects for new development to contribute to plan proposals
- open space strategy for formal sports provision
- transport package to support urban living to include enhancing public transport interchanges and bus stops

The latest version of the Masterplan for Kingswood can be found at the following link [Kingswood-Masterplan-Final-online-landscape-version.pdf](#) (southglos.gov.uk)

and this sets out its purpose, vision and key initiatives. The need to restore and enhance Kingswood Park is fully integrated into the Masterplan. The overarching themes for the Masterplan are - Distinctly Kingswood, A Town Centre for All, Diversity and Vitality, Promoting Quality, Sustainable Living, Attracting Investment.

Relevant primary aims are strengthening the cultural and historic heart and enhancing and connecting green space; the restoration of Kingswood Park is a vital component of this and will help to deliver the Masterplans key strategy for green infrastructure.

Key initiatives for the Masterplan include restoring Whitfield Tabernacle and enhancing Kingswood Park, a pedestrianisation scheme, redevelopment of the shopping centre, improving and connecting routes, better accessibility, improved streets and public spaces and improved residential developments.

It is clear that the broad regeneration programme for Kingswood recognises the vital role of Kingswood Park in the regeneration of Kingswood. All the measures are in place therefore, for potential NLHF investment in Kingswood Park to complement and support the wider initiative to regenerate Kingswood and achieve many of the NLHF outcomes, including 'the local economy will be boosted'.

Regeneration of Whitfield Tabernacle

One of the priority projects of the ‘Love Our High Streets’ initiative is the regeneration of the Grade 1 listed Whitfield Tabernacle. This is located close to the park (within 250m) and had fallen into a serious state of disrepair and been subject to arson and vandalism such that its structural soundness was increasingly threatened. Whitfield Tabernacle was commissioned by George Whitfield in 1741. Its history mirrors the development of the Evangelical revival of the mid-18th Century and a more detailed account of its history and value can be found in www.whitfieldtabernacle.org/

At the end of December 2019, it was announced that a grant of £682k was awarded by WECA to repair the Tabernacle, install a new roof and open the building to the public. This has been matched with a further £138k from Historic England. Please see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-50957220> . The stabilisation work has now been completed and new roof installed. Funding has been secured the Future High Streets Fund and WECA and plans for heritage and cultural renewal are now proceeding with the full restoration of the Grade-I listed Whitfield Tabernacle and opening of the building as a cultural, educational and performing arts centre. The next phase of work inside the building will commence later in 2023.

3.6 NEED FOR THE PROJECT FROM A LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE PERSPECTIVE

Over the last few decades the fabric and condition of the park has deteriorated. The need for the project from the perspective of long-term maintenance is evidenced in the following reports:

3.6.1 KINGSWOOD PARK ACTION PLAN: DETERIORATIONS SEPTEMBER 2014

A report was written by FOKP in 2014 because of their concerns and frustrations about the deterioration in the condition of the park. A number of the more easily affordable deteriorations have been dealt with since then, however there are longer-term more significant items such as stonework, coping replacements, repair and replacement of railings, path surfacing and path edgings that it has not been possible to deal with because of the level of investment required. A copy of the report can be supplied on request.

3.6.2 KINGSWOOD PARK ACCESS PLAN 2021

This report identifies that the accessibility of the park has been reduced because of the deterioration in path surfaces which have widespread cracks, bumps and surface breaks due to tree root heave, weathering, and wear and tear. The report recommends a number of improvements including:

- Resurfacing all paths and widening a number of paths
- Providing a dedicated disabled parking area
- Improving the accessibility of step flights
- Providing more seating and rest points
- Refurbishing the toilets to ‘Changing Places’ standard
- Enhancing the accessibility of the amphitheatre / bandstand area
- Creating a circular route around the park
- Providing on-site interpretation and signing
- Developing the community garden into a more sensory experience

A copy of this report can be found here

 [Kingswood_Park_Access_Plan_2021.pdf](#) (southglos.gov.uk)

3.6.3 KINGSWOOD PARK: CONDITION SURVEY REPORT 2019, PARK FOOTPATH WORKS SURVEY 2019

South Gloucestershire Council's Structures Team were commissioned to carry out a full condition survey of the park and the work was carried out in August 2019. The condition survey was based upon observations at the time of inspection and involved a visual, non-intrusive assessment of the state of repair and condition of the elements and sub-elements of the subject buildings and structures, with focus on identifying principal defects and significant maintenance issues that will likely be required over the next 20 years. The forward works have been categorised as being required in years 1-9 or 10-20. The report identified the investment required over the next twenty years to maintain the buildings and structures of the park. These figures are now out of date and a current estimate of the costs involved is included in section 9 below.

South Gloucestershire Council's Design and Operations Team was also commissioned to carry out a full assessment of paths in the park and provide an estimate for resurfacing and other works required following the recommendations of the Kingswood Park Access Plan 2021. Again, these costing are now out of date and current costings for path works are included in section 9.

Although the costings identified in the above two reports are now out of date, they supported the need for substantial investment in the fabric of the park to ensure it can meet the needs of the local community for decades to come. The reports have been used to guide the development of our capital improvement proposals, which if implemented with NLHF support, will lead to a reduction in long-term maintenance liabilities and costs in the park. Copies of the reports can be provided on request.

3.6.4 SUMMARY OF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT COSTS

The Kingswood Park Management and Maintenance Plan (SD13) sets out the current management and maintenance costs for Kingswood Park. It is estimated that total annual maintenance costs are £98,204 (2022/23).

3.7 LOCAL NEEDS

The needs and priorities identified in section 3 have been analysed and included in the summary of local needs in section 6 below. It is important that the project to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park and develop a range of activities and events will help to address many of these needs.

4. STRATEGIC EVIDENCE BASE: NEED FOR THE PROJECT IDENTIFIED IN STRATEGIC PLANS AND COUNCIL POLICIES

There are a number of strategic plans and policies that help identify the needs and priorities of communities in Kingswood and the wider South Gloucestershire area. These plans have been developed by various partnerships following wide-ranging consultations. The main strategic needs identified are to invest in children and young people, to improve health and wellbeing for all ages, to address the impacts of climate change (mitigation and adaptation), to promote safer and stronger communities and improve community cohesion and inclusion for all, and to value the environment (including conserving and enhancing biodiversity).

The principal plans and priorities that support the need for the restoration and enhancement of Kingswood Park and inform the delivery of inclusive project activities are as follows:

Council-wide strategic policies

- South Gloucestershire 2036 – ‘A great place to live and work’ (Sustainable Community Strategy 2016)
- South Gloucestershire Council: The Council Plan 2020-2024
- South Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2018 – 2023
- Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030
- Children, Young People and Families Partnership Plan 2016 - 2020
- South Gloucestershire Physical Activity Strategy 2015 - 2020
- Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership (SSCSP) 2017 - 2021
- South Gloucestershire Economic Development Strategy 2012 - 2016

Environment, open spaces and development policies

- South Gloucestershire Local Plan 2018 – 2036
- South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (2016 - 2026)
- The West of England Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework (2020-2030)
- Greener Spaces- The South Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan 2021
- South Gloucestershire Council Open Spaces Audit 2010
- South Gloucestershire Council Tree Asset Management Strategy 2018.

Health and wellbeing policies

- Nature & Health in the West of England 2019 (West of England Nature Partnership)
- South Gloucestershire’s Healthy Weight and Obesity Strategy 2014 - 2020
- South Gloucestershire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2017 - 2021
- South Gloucestershire Adult Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2017 - 2021
- South Gloucestershire Council Equality Plan 2019 - 2022
- South Gloucestershire Local Accessibility Strategy 2017 - 2019

A summary of the needs and priorities identified in each strategy relevant to Kingswood Park is provided below. There is a discussion in each plan summary on how our proposals for Kingswood Park will contribute to achieving its aims and objectives:

4.1 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2036 – ‘A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK’ (SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE’S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2016)

🌐 <https://www.southglos.gov.uk//documents/Sustainable-Community-Strategy-2016.pdf>

South Gloucestershire’s Sustainable Community Strategy is the shared vision of the people who live, work and visit South Gloucestershire; working together to meet today’s requirements without damaging the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It has been developed by the South Gloucestershire Partnership which is made up of private, public, voluntary and community organisations who work with communities to identify and tackle local issues. It sets out the context for the area’s four key priorities (place, economy, communities and health) and their high-level outcomes.

The project to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will contribute to achieving the following policies set out in the Community Strategy:

Our place

Enhance our natural and built environment, develop low-carbon, health promoting, integrated communities with a strong sense of place connected by well-planned transport networks.

- Open spaces. Conserve and enhance our green spaces, networks and countryside for the benefit of people, wildlife and the wider environment
- Local pride. Care for our villages, towns and neighbourhoods and our countryside to retain and enhance their appearance, sense of place, civic pride and historic connections
- Communities. Ensure the social, cultural, health and education needs of all residents are met
- Low carbon South Gloucestershire. Encourage the transition to a more sustainable lifestyle

Our economy

Maximise opportunities to access first class education: reduce attainment gap and prosper through a balanced economy, a well-trained workforce and sustainable jobs for all.

- Support local business growth: improve productivity and competitiveness
- Town and district centres. Sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres

Our communities

Engage people of all ages so they feel they belong and can help provide local solutions; support communities so they are safe and feel safe and have access to services of an optimum quality.

- Building a stronger community and voluntary sector. Build strong voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises by stimulating the sector and strengthening resilience and robustness
- Participation of young people. Encourage young people to make a positive contribution to their communities and enable their views and voices to be heard
- Focusing resources. Provide most help in areas where the need is greatest
- Engaging communities in decision making. Increase the extent to which local people understand and influence decisions in their locality
- Be safe and free. Reduce deprivation in our poorest neighbourhoods and support community-based initiatives and work
- Encouraging initiative. Work with and support communities to help themselves and each other
- Promoting equality and improving cohesion in our communities. Help vulnerable people; tackle inequality and bring people and communities together
- Be safe and feel safe. Reduce the level and impact of crime and disorder on our communities and improve public confidence

Our health

Promote personal wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and deliver high quality physical and mental health and social care services which protect our most vulnerable and offer people greater choice and control within strong, self-supporting communities.

- **Best start.** Give children the best start in life and help them achieve their full potential; protect them from harm and neglect
- **Healthy lifestyle.** Help people make healthy choices and enjoy a healthy lifestyle; ensure the design of communities encourages play, recreation and active lifestyles
- **Reduce inequalities.** Address the needs of our communities through positive prevention and early intervention; protect the vulnerable and provide extra help and support to those who need it most

4.2 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL: COUNCIL PLAN 2020-2024

 **Council Plan 2020 - 2024 | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council** (southglos.gov.uk)

The Council Plan sets out the Council's ambitions for the area that will help to deliver the priorities outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy which specifies the vision and priorities for South Gloucestershire, together with a number of priorities that the Council wishes to pursue itself over the period 2020-2024.

Our priorities for Kingswood Park align with the overarching priorities of the new Council Plan to take action on the climate emergency, the nature crisis, reduce the inequalities gap and deliver value for money.

The Council Plan priorities are:

1. Creating the best start in life for our children and young people
2. Supporting those most in need and helping people to help themselves
3. Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth
4. Realising the full potential of our people and delivering value for money

Detailed actions and targets are set out in delivery frameworks and departmental service plans. The priorities are brought to life through a package of 20 commitments each with its own dedicated Action Plan. Specific commitments included in the plan that a project to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will help to deliver are:

Priority 1

– Creating the best start in life for our children and young people

- We will raise educational outcomes
- We will support all children and young people to achieve positive mental health and wellbeing
- We will ensure that children and young people are supported in their early years
- We will work to eliminate child poverty across South Gloucestershire

Priority 2

– Identifying and supporting those most in need and helping people to help themselves

- We will ensure people have access to the best possible information, advice, and guidance to support themselves and their families
- We will shift the balance of support towards prevention
- We will support the most vulnerable adults to maintain and promote their independence
- We will enable communities to work together to help improve their lives and address the problems that are important to them
- We will ensure that people feel safeguarded and supported in our care, at home and in their communities

Priority 3

– Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure and growth

- We will clean streets and maintain roads effectively
- We will lead the response to the climate emergency and deliver on our commitments
- We will promote clean, affordable, high quality design of new and existing communities
- We will plan to join up housing and appropriate infrastructure such as schools and transport networks that make it easier for people to get around, prioritising sustainable and low carbon travel choices
- We will enable people and business to recover and thrive within cohesive communities that value diversity

Priority 4

– Realising the full potential of our people and delivering value for money

- We will demonstrate how well we deliver value for money in the services we provide and commission from others
- We will increase our commercial operations to generate income to support council services and use our assets for maximum benefit to our communities
- We will work as one council providing staff with the skills, tools, and support to perform at their best, promote equality of opportunity for all and live our values
- We will develop our digital infrastructure to support residents and staff in day-to-day life

4.3 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2018 – 2023

The vision of the strategy is:

'A climate resilient South Gloucestershire with a thriving low carbon economy and lifestyle reflected in our travel, homes, businesses and communities.'

The Council has identified five priorities to enable the transition to a climate resilient and low carbon South Gloucestershire. They are:

- Increase resilience to the changing climate so that South Gloucestershire remains a safe and healthy place to live and do business
- Enable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption in homes, transport and businesses in South Gloucestershire
- Enable the development of secure supplies of renewable and low carbon energy by individuals, community groups and industry
- Support new development to minimise additional associated greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate low carbon technologies and build in climate resilience
- Develop the low carbon economy

- Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will contribute to targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in South Gloucestershire. A more attractive and enhanced park environment and facilities will encourage more local people to use it and avoid the need to travel to other green spaces further away. This will contribute to reduced carbon emissions by reducing the need to travel using vehicles. The good public transport links to the park will be promoted by the project.

Opportunities to improve the efficiency of energy use in the park will be explored and fleet and maintenance equipment will be replaced by electric powered alternatives by 2023.

Replanting / new landscape design in the park will meet the challenge of climate adaptation and resilience, including design using reduced CO2 hard landscaping materials and plants propagated by volunteers on site in peat-free compost (reducing road miles and loss of CO2 storage in peat).

4.4 CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY 2020-2030

On 17th July 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency. This means that the council is saying that the global climate is in a state of breakdown and that this is an emergency situation and that we all need to urgent take steps to address this situation by preparing for the local impacts of climate change and by reducing our carbon emissions.

The council has pledged to provide the leadership to enable South Gloucestershire to become carbon neutral by 2030. In addition, the council is signed up to the UK100 pledge that commits to net zero council emissions by 2030 and net zero area-wide emissions by 2045. To respond to the Climate Emergency the council now sets out an area wide Climate Emergency Action Plan each year until 2030. The document can be viewed here

[Climate Emergency Strategy \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://southglos.gov.uk)

The key themes are:

- Buildings/built development
- Transport and infrastructure
- Renewable energy
- Resources and waste
- Green Infrastructure and nature recovery – includes landscapes, trees, plants and wildlife
- Adaptation/resilience

The Climate Emergency Strategy document has a 10-year lifespan 2020-2030 and provides an introduction to annual Council Climate Emergency Action Plans. It explains the Council's principles and general approach to delivering the aim of South Gloucestershire being carbon neutral by 2030. The Council produces an annual Climate Emergency Action Plan which is reviewed annually to assess progress.

Climate Emergency Action Plan funding has been allocated towards the creation of a composting area in Kingswood Park and will help raise awareness of wider park proposals whilst contributing to the carbon neutral target.

4.5 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2016-2020

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/children-young-people-families-strategies>

The vision of the plan is 'enabling every child and young person to thrive. Children and young people should have a good start in life, be safe and do as well as they can, while being able to access support when necessary'.

Five outcomes are identified for children and young people:

- Be safe from harm
- Do well at all levels of learning and have skills for life
- Enjoy healthy lifestyles
- Have fun growing up
- Feel they have a choice and influence

Specific priorities relevant to proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park and deliver a comprehensive range of activities and events to encourage greater community use, enjoyment and appreciation of the heritage by the widest possible audience include:

- Increase numbers of young people participating and engaging effectively in their communities
- Improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disability
- Support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning
- Support educational settings to improve attendance and develop positive behaviour
- Encourage physical activity and healthy eating
- Ensuring young people have a clear route to employment and training so they can participate in a growing economy
- Improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Increased engagement and participation, voice and influence of young people
- Improved public perception of anti-social behaviour in the local area
- Reduction in childhood obesity at reception and Y6
- Children and young people have fun growing up
- Increased percentage of young people who are in employment, education or training

4.6 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2015 – 2020

The South Gloucestershire Physical Activity Strategy sets out a framework for promoting physical activity in South Gloucestershire and the commitment to the long-term approach of increasing the uptake of physical activity everyday within South Gloucestershire. Currently around a quarter of the adult population in South Gloucestershire are not managing 30 minutes of physical activity a week. The Council has the responsibility of championing increasing everyone's activity every day. In South Gloucestershire the Council wants to increase the number of people being active at the levels that will promote their health and wellbeing.

Reducing physical inactivity within South Gloucestershire is a key strategic priority. There is a need to ensure physical activity provision is integrated into planning and implementation across themes of social care, education, environmental planning and transport policies, recognising that participation in physical activity can take many forms and the way people participate will continually change to reflect lifestyle pressures in order to have a sustained effect.

The Strategy specifically references the importance of green space and its link to greater levels of physical activity and associated health benefits. People living in areas with large amounts of green space are three times as likely to be physically active than people living in areas where there is little green space, whilst children living in areas with more green space had lower BMI scores than children living in areas with less green space. The provision, accessibility and maintenance of safe and attractive green space is deemed critical to the strategy. Equally opportunities for promoting physical activity in areas with little green space should be developed.

Key priorities are set out under the themes of ‘People’, ‘Places’ and ‘Programmes’. Proposals to engage the widest possible audience in the heritage at Kingswood Park will contribute to achieving the following key priorities set out in the Strategy:

Active People

- Working towards active living being the easy and enjoyable choice and being a normal part of daily life for people living in South Gloucestershire
- Working towards prevention and early intervention for people at risk of health inequalities resulting in poor health and long term associated conditions due to inactivity
- Involving communities in jointly developing locally tailored solutions to meet their needs
- Working together to connect people and families with high quality fun physical activity opportunities across the lifespan to be active as part of their daily lives
- Advocating the provision of positive physical activity experiences for all children by increasing the range of physical activity provision in schools. Establishing healthy attitudes to physical activity as part of good health from an early age

Active Places

- Working across disciplines including transport, housing, streetcare, highways maintenance and planning to improve existing developments in South Gloucestershire, thereby making it easier for people to be physically active as they go about their daily lives
- Exploring wider physical and social settings to maximise community assets to embed physical activity opportunities in to daily activities
- Provision of a high-quality public realm in South Gloucestershire will provide open spaces where children, teenagers and older people freely use a variety of spaces for a range of activities
- Advocating the maintenance and protection of public green space and the public realm to a high-quality standard, to be safe, attractive and welcoming including developing the potential of assets we already have

Active Programmes

- Making physical activity visible by promoting clear, consistent, simple value-based messages widely, being creative with the use of social media and new technologies to signpost and connect people, families and key audiences to opportunities to be more active every day
- Supporting community participation amongst those with the lowest levels of physical activity by facilitating co-production of interventions, putting local people's ideas at the heart of planning physical activity to meet their needs and remove barriers
- Integrating prevention messages into the training of volunteers, including Community Health Champions, who can provide support for people in terms of creating physical activity plans and goals as well as supporting them into physical activity opportunities, building participant self-worth and self-efficacy
- Ensuring sports and leisure opportunities are visible and accessible among populations with levels of highest inactivity especially women, disabled and ethnic minorities
- Promoting partnership working on programmes including Walking for Health, local park runs, school gates running, recreational running groups and routes within South Gloucestershire

4.7 SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2017 - 2021

🌐 **South Gloucestershire Council** (ourareaourfuture.org.uk)

The Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership co-ordinates and delivers actions to develop safer and stronger communities in South Gloucestershire tackling complex community safety and crime issues which require an agreed multi-agency approach. The plan addresses the issues that most affect local individuals, families and communities.

Kingswood Park plays a significant role in the lives of local residents. In the 2022 Questionnaire Survey (see section 5.5.6) 46% of respondents had safety concerns or concerns surrounding anti-social behaviour. Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will be designed to reduce these concerns and will contribute to achieving priorities set out in the plan, specifically:

Strengthen and Improve Your Local Community:

- Build safer, stronger and more cohesive communities
- Improve wellbeing for residents and communities
- Reduce crime and fear of crime
- Diverse communities will be engaged and well understood
- Local priorities are addressed
- Increase community involvement in civic life

4.8 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2012 - 2016

🌐 <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/oaof/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2014/12/Economic-development-strategy-2012-16.pdf>

South Gloucestershire has a diverse economy ranging from rural and home grown small and medium enterprises to world leading companies in key high growth sectors vital to the national economic recovery. These include aerospace, advanced engineering, defence, micro-electronics and silicon design.

The area continues to develop and grow but pockets of social and economic deprivation still exist. Helping people back into work as well as raising young people’s aspirations through top class educational and vocational experiences will improve personal achievement, social and economic well-being and reduce the gap between prosperity and deprivation. Excellent educational provision underpins a healthy economy which is the bedrock of future success.

One of the seven key strategic economic development objectives identified in the Strategy targets is the need to sustain town centres:

1. Business competitiveness and economic growth
2. Business development and support
3. Training, skills and workforce development
4. Education in our schools
5. Sharing the benefits of economic growth
6. Employment land and premises
7. Town and district centres – to sustain and improve the vibrancy and vitality of town and district centres

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will add value to current initiatives to revitalise the vibrancy and vitality of Kingswood town centre, helping to achieve the NLHF outcome to ‘boost the economy’ (see section 3.5).

Environment, Open Spaces and Development Policies

4.9 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN (2018 – 2036)

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/plans-in-preparation/new-south-gloucestershire-local-plan-2018-2036>

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, the policies articulate the Government’s vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policy framework recognises the role that Local Authorities play in conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and the contribution that good quality open spaces make to the health and well-being of the communities they serve.

The new South Gloucestershire Local Plan (2018 – 2036) is comprised of three documents - the Core Strategy, the Joint Waste Core Strategy, and the Policies, Sites and Places Development Plan Document (DPD).

The South Gloucestershire Core Strategy (2006 - 2027) is the key document forming the strategic component of the Council’s Local Plan. It sets out a vision for the area based on evidence, community objectives and the detailed spatial strategy for future development in South Gloucestershire to 2027. Also included are policies and programmes for the general location of new development, its type and scale, and the resources to deliver it, as well as the protection of what is valued about the area.

Policy CS2 – Green Infrastructure: This policy seeks to ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is planned, delivered and managed as an integral part of creating sustainable communities and enhancing quality of life. The policy recognises the social and environmental benefits green infrastructure provides. The policy also recognises the importance of other activities, such as the Kingswood Park project, have with enhancing the multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of Green Infrastructure assets. The policy is as follows:

The Council and its partners will ensure that existing and new Green Infrastructure (GI) is planned, delivered and managed as an integral part of creating sustainable communities and enhancing quality of life, considering the following GI objectives:

- Realising the potential of GI to assist with mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change
- Delivering high quality multi-functional and connected open spaces (including Green and Blue Infrastructure)
- Protecting, creating and improving recreational, play, access and local food cultivation opportunities
- Protecting and enhancing species and habitats, and creating new habitats and wildlife linkages between them
- Conserving and enhancing landscape character, historical, natural, built and cultural heritage features
- Securing ongoing management and maintenance and creation of GI assets
- Joint working with partners, including neighbouring local authorities
- The attainment of the above objectives should be addressed by development proposals and Local Plan Documents

The Core Strategy makes specific reference to recreation, play and access - GI can accommodate routes for walking, cycling and horse riding and includes accessible open spaces which people visit for formal and informal recreation, exercise, community activities, social interaction, and all types of play (for example equipped / built, natural, imaginative and creative). GI allows for improved connectivity between urban, urban fringe and rural assets for people and wildlife, and can also connect people with places of work and community facilities. GI benefits people's health (mental and physical) and well-being, and provides opportunities for learning and studying. South Gloucestershire benefits from a significant number of long-distance footpaths and cycleways, supported by the local network of rights of way. Design and quality of open spaces / local green spaces is covered in Policy CS1.

The project to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park will help to achieve many of these GI objectives.

The Policies Sites and Places Plan (PSP Plan) was adopted on 8 November 2017 and forms part of the South Gloucestershire Development Plan.

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/PSP-Plan-Interim-Web-Version.pdf>

The PSP Plan contains detailed planning policies to manage new development, allocate and safeguard sites for various types of development.

The PSP Plan includes Local Green Spaces designations - a new designation introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework. Both Kingswood Park and the adjacent Holy Trinity Church cemetery are designated as follows:

LGSD411 Kingswood Park (Woodstock Ward)
 LGSD410 Kingswood Cemetery (Woodstock Ward)

Designated Local Green Spaces are spaces which are of particular importance to communities and which they wish to see have special protection that rules out new development other than in very special circumstances. Policy detail is set out in policy PSP4 which states inappropriate development proposal(s) within a designated Local Green Space, as shown on the Policies Map and listed in Appendix 2 of the Local Plan, will only be acceptable in very special circumstances. Very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the designated space by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

The construction of new buildings on Local Green Spaces is inappropriate. Exceptions to this are:

- the provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, outdoor recreation and cemeteries, as long as it does not conflict with the purpose of designating the Local Green Space; or
- the extension or alteration of a building, provided that it does not result in a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building, in line with Policy PSP7; or
- the replacement of a building, provided the new building is in the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces.

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park and specifically the new toilet block building will comply with the Designated Local Green Spaces policy.

4.10 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (2016 - 2026)

🌐 <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/local-biodiversity>

The South Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) utilises the West of England Nature Partnership Ecosystem Service Mapping to provide a strategic overview to help direct ‘on the ground’ delivery through a parish and community-based approach. This approach includes ecological network and opportunity maps and individual Parish and Town BAPs which set out aspirations for every part of South Gloucestershire.

The South Gloucestershire BAP provides an identity and focus for nature conservation work throughout South Gloucestershire. Local businesses, organisations, statutory bodies, parish and town councils, groups and individuals can all make a valuable contribution.

It is used internally within the Council in making planning decisions, in formulating policy and informing all relevant areas of the authorities work – and externally, working cooperatively and in partnership with other organisations and the wider community of South Gloucestershire.

Objectives of the plan that are relevant to proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park are:

- Ensure that the Council considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions
- Improve the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by South Gloucestershire Council
- Raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world

The Council's Biodiversity Team, Bristol Natural History Consortium and Avon Wildlife Trust Team officers will work in partnership to deliver our 'Making Space for Nature' activity, with target beneficiaries recording the wildlife and biodiversity of the park and adjacent Holy Trinity church yard and planning how to make a richer, more diverse space for wildlife habitats and species. Beneficiary groups will take part in guided wildlife walks, I.D skills and awareness sessions to record the birds, bats, insects, small mammals, reptiles, wildflowers and other species. See the Activities Action Plan (SD1) for further details.

The adjacent Holy Trinity Church is an area of natural and cultural heritage significance. The front section of the churchyard is very old and the only remnant of ancient, non-amenity grassland in the area. The trees are mature and excellent for wildlife. It is a quiet haven from the hustle of the high street. The more modern burial area adjacent to the park is also a valuable space for biodiversity. The fencing sadly separates the two sites for species such as hedgehogs. There are also links to a green corridor via Orchard Road allotments. The cemetery area supports slow worms, hedgehogs, a wide range of invertebrates, fungi, small mammals such as field vole, and a range of birds including green and lesser spotted woodpecker. The park and Holy Trinity Church site offer tremendous potential for biodiversity enhancements.

A key aim of the BAP is to connect habitats and green spaces, creating wildlife corridors. Kingswood Park, Orchard Road allotments, Holy Trinity Churchyard and adjacent residential back gardens all offer the opportunity to connect with other green spaces and provide habitat improvement opportunities that can help address biodiversity loss.

4.11 THE WEST OF ENGLAND STRATEGIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK (2020-2030)

<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/joint-green-infrastructure-strategy>

The West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (WoEJGIS) translates national legislation within a local context and sets out the vision, priorities and regional programmes for Green Infrastructure across the West of England. The Joint GI Strategy informs the emerging West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Spatial Development Strategy, and WECA Climate Emergency Action Plan. It provides the strategic context for green infrastructure delivery, including opportunities for working across local authority boundaries. The strategy identifies a shared vision, objectives and principles for green infrastructure across the West of England and green infrastructure of strategic importance. It identifies the benefits delivered by green infrastructure, including as part of new development and urban regeneration. The WoEJGIS is intended to facilitate action by:

Providing key concepts and tools to enable a consistent approach to GI across the West of England

- Promoting the development and use of a GI shared evidence base for Local Plan development and other joint or local plans and strategies, and the development of projects/business cases, to contribute to GI enhancement.
- Setting out the role and the current extent of the existing GI network, and identifying both issues and new opportunities for enhancement.
- Recognising the need to prioritise the planning, development of investment in, and monitoring of GI as part of the response to the climate and ecological emergencies, and to new duties including Biodiversity Net Gain and the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

- Highlighting the means by which organisations, communities and partnerships can work collectively to create and sustain a fit for purpose GI network across the West of England.
- Providing a prospectus for partners to develop projects to enhance and extend the GI network.

The Strategy identifies 8 GI Outcomes are sought as part of an integrated approach to GI in the West of England:

- Improved and better-connected ecological networks
- Greater resilience to climate change
- Sustainable water management
- Health and wellbeing for all
- Create and maintain sustainable places
- Create and maintain valued healthy landscapes
- Support sustainable and local food production
- Build a resilient economy

The Strategy identifies the value of connectivity between principal urban areas and green assets and the role of GI in supporting sustainable growth, particularly at priority growth locations like Kingswood. Kingswood Park is a key area of urban green space with linkages through Kingswood Town Centre and east to the urban fringe.

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will strengthen the local and strategic green infrastructure network by measures such as:

- The role the park plays in the regeneration of Kingswood Town Centre and building a resilient economy
- The restoration of Kingswood Park and recognising the role it plays in addressing the impacts of climate change and resilience going forward
- Opening the park to the widest possible audience and promoting awareness of the importance of green spaces and use of green infrastructure
- Improving the management of green infrastructure assets like Kingswood Park and their value within the urban community
- Developing opportunities to increase multi-functionality of green spaces – a park with improved access for all
- Creating new links into the strategic network for people, wildlife, and natural ecosystems – for example the activity proposal for a new Kingswood Heritage Trail will link cultural and heritage assets using the wider green spaces network

4.12 GREENER SPACES - THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (2021)

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/green-infrastructure-strategy>

High quality public open spaces, access to the countryside and a healthy natural environment play a key role in making South Gloucestershire ‘a great place to live and work’. Well managed, thriving green spaces are critical to optimise climate change resilience, biodiversity and air quality as well as providing inspiring environments for recreation, health and wellbeing and sustainable travel.

In a time of significant development growth across South Gloucestershire and the West of England, increasing pressures on resources and rising environmental risk factors, a strategic approach to management of green spaces and the natural environment has been identified as a priority for South Gloucestershire.

Greener Spaces (The South Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan) sets out the following vision for green infrastructure across South Gloucestershire:

Greener places where people and nature thrive

The Greener Spaces strategy priorities for new and existing green infrastructure in South Gloucestershire are all of relevance to Kingswood Park:

- Improved and better connected ecological networks
- Greater resilience to climate change
- Sustainable water management
- Health and wellbeing for all
- Create and maintain sustainable places
- Create and maintain valued healthy landscapes
- Support sustainable and local food production
- Build a resilient economy
- Stronger working together

Kingswood Park is one of over 11,000 areas of green space owned and managed by the Council. Greener Spaces sets out asset management plan requirements for all the Council’s areas of public open space, adopting an asset management approach enabling the Council to manage green space assets effectively by assessing the condition of green space assets alongside requirements, costs, and priorities to inform decision making enabling the council to:

- Manage budgets effectively - plan and prioritise budgets over the long and short term.
- Make informed decisions - hold information about our assets to inform decisions including investment through maintenance or renewal to deliver our priorities and achieve longer term value for money.
- Sustainability - deliver greater and more sustainable long-term benefits to keep assets at the point of optimum maintenance (balanced between cost and quality)
- Deliver multiple benefits - for people, places, and nature.
- Reducing risks – effective maintenance, inspection, and management plans in place to fulfil statutory responsibilities and reduce risks.
- Secure funding and investment - increase opportunities to secure further investment.
- Apply a holistic and integrated approach - Integrating green space design and maintenance considerations at the start of planning and design requirements.

The Greener Spaces asset management plan section brings together open space assets into groupings which have similar purposes and management requirements. Kingswood Park is included in the Asset Management Plan for Formal Parks (larger public open spaces characterised by distinct built and landscape heritage features such as bandstands and formal gardens). Having a high number and wide range of facilities such as, toilets, cafes, play and sport facilities, formal parks have high levels of recreation usage including community events which serve a wider area). The Formal Parks asset management plan sets out development aspirations for Kingswood Park in line with the Kingswood Park NLHF application.

4.13 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL OPEN SPACES AUDIT 2010

<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/Documents/PTE110025.pdf>

The Council completed a study of open spaces, outdoor sport and recreation facilities across South Gloucestershire in 2010. It included an audit, a local needs assessment and a set of local standards for open spaces, outdoor sport, recreation and play facilities. The audit identified all types of open space and recreation facilities, assessing each type in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Key points from the audit in respect of Kingswood Park are as follows:

- Kingswood Park falls within the East Fringe of the Bristol Urban Area which has 1.13 ha per 1000 population of informal recreation space (including parks and gardens, amenity green space and green corridors) and is below the recommended standard of 1.4 ha. The East Fringe has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire.
- There are only a small number of sites in South Gloucestershire (11) that are classified as 'parks and gardens'. Kingswood Park is one of these
- In surveys, respondents from the East Fringe were more likely to use parks and gardens more frequently than respondents from other areas, with 20% using them daily and a further 27% using them weekly

The vision for parks and gardens in the Open Spaces Audit is as follows:

"A landscaped area laid out and managed to high standards, which is well maintained, safe to visit and provides pleasant areas to walk, sit, and relax while enjoying floral and landscape features, shrubs, trees and other natural characteristics. The area should be tidy, free from vandalism, litter and dog fouling. Appropriate facilities for the size of the site, such as paths, water features, bandstands, recreation facilities, play spaces, seats, bins, toilets, lighting etc should be in a good state of repair".

Kingswood Park falls within an area that has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire and is below the recommended standard of 1.4 ha per 1,000 population. This highlights the need for a project to restore and enhance Kingswood Park and improve the quality of the park in an area where there is a lack of green space.

4.14 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL TREE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018

DRAFT tree asset management plan (southglos.gov.uk)

Kingswood Park is characterised by a number of significant mature trees which enhance the amenity of the park landscape. Several trees are believed to have been planted to mark the Queen's coronation. A number of trees are now showing decline as a result of disease, fungal decay and the impacts of soil compaction. The Council is also developing a new Ash Dieback Action Plan to respond to the specific challenge faced by canopy loss and the dangers of ash dieback. Several mature trees in Kingswood Park are already showing advanced signs of ash dieback and their replacement will require the full input of the local community

The management of trees in the park, in terms of safety, the impact of climate change and replacement presents a challenge to the Council.

The South Gloucestershire Council Tree Asset Management Plan sets out how the Council manages its tree assets along highways and within public spaces, and the response to requests from the public to carry out work to them. It sets out how the Council maximizes the value of its tree assets, and aims to increase tree cover to respond to climate change, improve biodiversity and enhance landscapes.

Trees are identified as one of the primary features of our public parks and open spaces, and the plan recognises the wide range of direct and indirect environmental, social and economic benefits trees provide – strengthening the environment by cooling the air and shading, improving air quality and removing pollutants, increasing biodiversity, intercepting rainfall to reduce flooding, their aesthetic value and role in encouraging recreation and exercise, and in bringing economic benefits.

The management and enhancements of tree assets in Kingswood Park meets the wider vision and aims set out in the Tree Asset Management Plan, specifically:

- Recognising trees in Kingswood Park as valuable assets by recording and communicating the significant aesthetic, ecological, social, cultural and historic benefits they provide
- Championing the value of trees in the park for improving health by encouraging the use of open spaces for play, exercise recreation and active lifestyles, and in absorbing airborne pollutants
- Maintaining and improving tree cover through tree planting within urban areas
- Encouraging the conservation, positive management and the appropriate planting of trees in villages, towns and countryside through the help of voluntary groups
- Planting a replacement tree nearby or elsewhere when a tree has to be felled
- Managing and maintaining the Council's existing tree assets in the park and meeting its legal obligations for tree safety

The proposal to restore and enhance Kingswood Park will include measures to develop a tree management plan for the park, involving the local community in its development and subsequent actions to manage the park's trees. Two volunteers will also be trained in tree inspection techniques and act as volunteer wardens.

Health & Wellbeing

4.15 NATURE AND HEALTH IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND 2019 (WEST OF ENGLAND NATURE PARTNERSHIP)

<http://www.wenp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Nature-Health-in-the-West-of-England.pdf>

The benefits of nature for human health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, are increasingly well understood. Current national policy supports the integration of nature into healthcare systems. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan specifies actions to integrate environmental therapies into mental health services and promote the linkages through a three-year Natural Environment for Health and Wellbeing programme. The NHS and Public Health England are committed to driving a 'whole person' approach to health that considers the wider determinants of health and wellbeing for which the natural environment plays a key part.

Nature benefits health and wellbeing in many ways and support different levels of need. There is a growing range of opportunities and activities in the West of England to support Nature and Health across this spectrum.

Nature in everyday life represents the role of everyday engagement with nature for health and wellbeing, e.g. gardening and outdoor exercise.

Nature-based health promotion includes more targeted activities to support health and wellbeing, such as Walking for Health.

Green Care refers to nature-based therapies or treatment interventions for people with a defined need, such as mindfulness in nature, walking in nature, therapeutic horticulture, woodland wellbeing, water-based therapies, care farming, conservation volunteering or ecotherapy.

Nature-based health interventions can support people with a wide range of needs: across mental health, social care, occupational therapy, addiction, learning disabilities, strokes, sensory disabilities and dementia, among others.

West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) has collaboratively identified actions to help mainstream nature-based health services in the West of England. WENP's Nature and Health Strategy group is working to drive these actions forward locally

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park are supported by our Activities Plan (SD1) that includes nature-based health interventions and green space health and wellbeing activities.

4.16 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S HEALTHY WEIGHT AND OBESITY STRATEGY 2014 – 2020

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/13af3811077d4274316bc0cdbce05979/Healthy-Weight-Obesity-Strategy.pdf>

Obesity has increased dramatically over the last 25 years within Britain. The majority of the adult population and 30% of children are either overweight or obese and it is estimated that, without clear action, these figures will rise to almost nine in ten adults and two-thirds of children by 2050.

The Healthy Weight and Obesity Strategy sets out the Council's plan to reduce the prevalence across the district, translating national policies into local action, whilst also meeting the needs of local people. It outlines how organisations will need to work together to ensure addressing obesity is integrated into high level strategic plans. The aims of the Strategy are to reduce the burden of death, disability and distress due to overweight and obesity in South Gloucestershire, focusing efforts on lasting societal and environmental changes that enable people to maintain a healthy weight; while informing and empowering people to make healthy choices.

This will be achieved by delivering evidenced based programmes across the life course to prevent overweight and obesity, and improving the management provided for those children and adults who are above the healthy weight range.

The Strategy sets out specific cross cutting key priorities for the built environment in addressing obesity and interventions to behaviours to change the environment we live in to facilitate healthy behaviours. Whilst all priorities are cross-cutting, the section on built environment is of specific relevance to Kingswood Park:

- Support the development of high-quality green space and infrastructure
- Develop an environment that promotes physical activity as part of daily life e.g. a sustainable transport network that makes walking and cycling the default form of travel around our communities
- Create environments that support health-promoting behaviour
- Incorporate Health Impact Assessments (HIA's) into all new and existing housing developments
- Developing local accessibility standards and thresholds (based on population, quality and accessibility) which identify 'hotspots' for under-provision and allow for a more effective targeting of resources
- Support the development of residential travel plans that promote sustainable / active travel for local journeys
- Work with planners to assess the feasibility of restricting the number of fast food outlets in communities, especially near schools

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park are supported by our Activities Plan that includes activities promoting healthy lifestyles that can contribute to measures to maintain healthy weight and reduce obesity.

4.17 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY (JHWS) 2017 – 2021

🌐 https://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/download/healthandwellbeingstrategy_1034.pdf

South Gloucestershire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS) 2017-21 sets out key areas of focus and actions, to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of people living and working in the area.

The strategy is produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board in collaboration with the voluntary sector and local community groups, and acknowledges that health and inequalities are largely determined by where people live, their lifestyle choices, and wider social, economic and environmental factors. The vision is that:

“All people in South Gloucestershire have the best start in life, live healthy and happy lives and age well in health-promoting communities. They feel encouraged and enabled to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and to care for themselves, and have access to health and care services that reflect their needs when required”

The Strategy sets out four key areas for collective action, one of which is to ‘maximise the potential of our built and natural environment to enable healthy lifestyles and prevent disease’ – underpinning the proposal to restore and enhance Kingswood Park supported by an Activities Plan that includes health and wellbeing activities.

There is strong evidence that the places, communities and homes within which we live shape our health and emotional wellbeing. Well-designed places can promote active lifestyles by encouraging walking, cycling, use of public transport and active recreation. Access to and use of quality green open space is shown to reduce mental fatigue and stress. Places with good public amenities and assets encourage people to get more involved in their communities, help strengthen social networks and build community resilience.

The strategy sets out the need for neighbourhoods to be safe, sustainable and inclusive places which enable healthy choices, encourage active lifestyles and promote mental and emotional wellbeing.

The Strategy promotes collective action to maximise the potential of the built and natural environment to enable healthy lifestyles and to improve physical and mental health.

4.18 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ADULT MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING STRATEGY 2017 - 2021

<https://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/amhews>

The Adult Mental Health Strategy was developed by South Gloucestershire Mental Health Partnership. It covers work from public awareness and early interventions, through to acute care. The strategy was developed from the Adult Mental Health Needs Assessment, providing local partners with a comprehensive picture of the current and projected future mental health needs in South Gloucestershire.

The Strategy sets out the Council’s approach to improving adult mental health built around three key areas:

- **Mental Health Promotion:** Work to develop a culture and environment that promotes positive mental health. This includes issues such as education, housing, employment, transport, cultural and sporting opportunities, helping individuals and communities develop their own approach for improving mental health.
- **Mental Illness prevention:** Addressing the mental health inequalities faced by some groups and approach to reducing the gap between their quality of life and the rest of the population. Working with communities and the voluntary sector to meet different needs flexibly.
- **Treatment and Rehabilitation.**

The benefits of nature and being in outdoor green space for mental health and wellbeing are widely acknowledged. Activities for health and wellbeing in the Kingswood Park Activities Plan can help provide an environment that empowers the people and community of Kingswood to promote and sustain their own mental health.

4.19 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL EQUALITY PLAN 2019 – 2022

 **Equality policy and plan | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council** (southglos.gov.uk)

Integrating equality into all aspects of the council's work provides the opportunity to significantly and continuously improve and develop services by making them more appropriate and responsive to the needs of people. Good equality approaches and practices significantly impact on the council meeting the needs of customers and communities. Embracing diversity is a core Council value. The Council cares about diversity and respect and champions equality of opportunity for all. The Council's Corporate Equality and Diversity Policy details its commitments and aims and is committed to valuing and treating all people with dignity and respect. The Council's approach is threefold:

1. To recognise that people, whether as communities or individuals, will have specific needs that need to be recognised and addressed in order for them to develop their full potential
2. To acknowledge that the majority view is not always right and the rights of minorities will need to be protected
3. To mainstream equalities into all aspects of our policy development and service delivery

The Equality Plan sets out the Council's strategic aims for equality in South Gloucestershire. It demonstrates the Council recognises and is committed to delivering fair and equitable outcomes for all those who live, work and study in South Gloucestershire. The Equality Plan objectives are:

- To ensure a consistent approach to managing equalities
- To ensure fair treatment for all by Council services
- To reduce any gaps in service use and take-up
- To continuously improve equality of opportunity for our employees and job applicants
- To advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people

Proposals to restore and enhance Kingswood Park and engage more and a wider range of people with the heritage will be guided by the Council's approach to inclusivity and equality:

- Welcoming and celebrating diversity
- Developing a shared understanding of the essence of equality which is to value and treat all people with respect and dignity
- Promoting equality of opportunity;
- Through policies, services, employment, contracting, and funding practices ensuring that no service user, employee or job applicant will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, colour, impairment, marital status, lifestyle and culture, religion or belief, nationality, race gender, sexual orientation, gender identity;
- Taking all possible steps to eliminate discrimination, and undertaking action to remedy past discrimination and disadvantage
- Actively demonstrate diversity within South Gloucestershire in all communications material
- Equality is central to our identification of local priorities and underpins all the services delivered.

4.20 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2017 - 2019

<https://edocs.southglos.gov.uk/accessibilitystrategy/>

South Gloucestershire is a place where all children and young people enjoy a safe and healthy life, achieve their maximum potential and thrive in their community. The Council ensures children, young people and their families are provided with integrated, accessible and equitable services which are designed to target early intervention and support on disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people and their families; be flexible and user-friendly and involve children, young people and their families and put children, young people and families at the heart of what the Council does.

The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have access to the curriculum and to the physical environment. Improving access to education is vital to improving inclusion within mainstream schools, ensuring equality of opportunity, ensuring access to employment opportunities and in ensuring that all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Proposals for Kingswood Park will include accessibility enhancements that benefit the widest possible audience including improving the accessibility of the physical environment through play and Forest School / outdoor learning wild play areas.

4.21 OTHER STRATEGIC INDICATORS

The health, economic and community benefits of engagement in local green spaces and nature are also well evidenced in the following reports:

- Environment Bill 2019-20 (HM Government)
- West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Nature Recovery Network mapping and methodology 2019
- Our 25 Year Plan to Improvement the Environment 2018 (DEFRA)
- NHS Long Term Plan 2019
- South Gloucestershire Dementia Strategy 2017 - 2020
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (South Gloucestershire)
- Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces (Public Health England 2014)
- The Natural Environment White Paper – the Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. (HM Government, 2011).
- Green space access, green space use, physical activity and overweight (Natural England 2011)
- The National Ecosystem Assessment' (DEFRA, 2011)
- The Marmot Review - 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives', (Strategic Review of Inequalities in England, 2010)
- Ecotherapy: The New Agenda for Mental Health (MIND, 2007)

4.22 SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC PLANS AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The project to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park and develop a range of activities and events will help to achieve many of the aims and objectives of the strategic plans and policies listed above. It will do this by enabling more and a wider range of people to engage with the heritage, supporting the needs of children and young people, improving health and wellbeing for all ages, addressing the impacts of climate change locally, promoting safer and stronger communities and by conserving and enhancing the environment and biodiversity.

The needs and priorities identified in the strategic plans and policies have been analysed and included in the Summary of Local Needs in section 6 below.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

An extensive programme of consultation has been undertaken to develop / inform proposals for the Kingswood Park NLHF bid, both prior to the development phase application, and during the development phase itself. The aim of the consultation has been to allow the local community, Friends Group, voluntary groups, organisations and professional officers to develop proposals to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park, and also develop proposals for a wide range of learning and participation events and activities. The objectives of the consultation were to identify the following:

- How the local community and key user groups value the park, why they go there and what improvements they would like to see?
- Provide information to develop an audience profile
- Understand why some sections of the community do not use the park, what are the barriers faced, and what would make a wider range of people use the park?
- What proposals should be taken forward to restore and enhance the park, ensuring that its heritage is better managed and in better condition?
- The need for improved or new facilities in the park (refreshment concession and accessible toilets)
- Any additional needs / priorities arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Ideas for events, activities and projects that will meet the needs of the local community and target beneficiaries, and fulfil six NLHF priority outcomes for 2022/23 including the mandatory outcome for a wider range of people will be involved in the heritage

5.2 KINGSWOOD PARK: A CONSULTATION TIMELINE TO DATE

A wide-ranging series of public consultations have taken place over the last eighteen years, all of which have been used to develop ideas for individual projects and activities in Kingswood Park, and to develop proposals to restore and enhance the heritage of the park. A timeline of this work is provided below:

2005: Establishment of Friends of Kingswood Park

A meeting was organised by the Community Spaces Team on 17 May 2005 to discuss local community concerns over anti-social behaviour in the park and to establish a Friends Group. Members from the Friends of Page Park group were in attendance to provide advice and support along with local councillors and 23 members of the local community. The group discussed a wide range of concerns over anti-social behaviour and the condition of the park and around half the people who answered a question about safety at the meeting said they did not feel safe in the park. People supported having more events in the park and there was support to establish a Friends Group. An action plan was developed and agreement to hold another meeting in June 2005 to discuss establishing the Friends of Kingswood Park.

Prior to the meeting the Community Spaces Team distributed 1,300 questionnaires in the park catchment area and the meeting note states that 72 were returned. Unfortunately, the results of the survey cannot be found.

In June 2005 a committee was appointed and the Friends of Kingswood Park was established, adopting a constitution in January 2006. It then operated as a voluntary group of local residents and park users whose aim is to protect and improve the park and its facilities for the community and future generations. The Friends Group has operated since that time. There was a short period when the group was comparatively dormant leading to a refresh and relaunch in 2014. Since then the group has worked closely with the Council's Community Spaces team, acting as the voice of the local community in terms of making improvements and encouraging greater community involvement in the management of the park. The group has worked with the Council on a number of public consultations, through public meetings, surveys and other consultation events and activities.

The Friends of Kingswood Park has raised funds for park improvements and held many events and activities over the years to encourage greater public enjoyment and understanding of the park including annual Easter egg hunts, annual family fun days, treasure hunts, Halloween events and Christmas carols. The group co-ordinate regular volunteer workdays undertaking gardening and maintenance tasks in the park and are running a 'park your memories' project to gather community stories and memories about the history of the park. They also carry out volunteer workdays to enhance Kingswood High Street and wider area (under the name Springwood) and encourage more people to become involved and make Kingswood a better place to live, work and visit.

The Friends Group has its own Facebook page

 <https://www.facebook.com/ourkingswoodpark/>

The Facebook page includes many photos and videos of community events and volunteering activities and these illustrate the excellent work that the group undertake in the community.

In addition to regular volunteering activities The Friends Group has been involved with a number of projects over the years including:

- 2005/6 – fencing off the wetland area and creating a safe dog-free outdoor learning space
- 2007 - installation of finger post and enviroscape tiles to path adjacent to play area to allow vehicle access to bandstand area. Creation of two flower beds replacing a conifer hedge by an old rose arch site. New fence installation along Hollow Road boundary.
- 2008/9 – Installation of new exercise equipment installed and youth shelter
- 2010 – bench art installation and refurbishment of main gates
- 2015 – development of new community garden area
- 2017 – installation of new rose arch

The group has raised funding to support projects in the park including the following successes:

- Asda Foundation - £1,000 towards Fun in the Park event 2019
- South Gloucestershire Council Area Wide Grant - £1,000 towards a park-wide Disability Access Plan 2019
- S106 funding from South Gloucestershire Council - £8,846.60 towards cost of new rose arch 2017
- S106 funding from South Gloucestershire Council - £27k for new community garden in 2015

- Big Lottery Community Spaces Grant - £24.5k for bench / picnic area art installation in 2010
- South Gloucestershire Area Forum - £3,340 Pride of Kingswood Fun in the Park summer Event 2006
- Charities Aid Foundation Fund - £3,200 for tool store small shipping container 2018
- Merlin Communities Grant - £1,000 for water bowser 2018
- South Gloucestershire Council Area Wide Grant - £1,148 expenses involved with Friends Forum project 2019
- South Gloucestershire Council Member Awarded Grant - £1,000 towards cost of park Disability Access Audit 2019

The Friends Group have also been financially supported to run events and activities by Tesco, Merlin, local shops and businesses, Kingswood Congregational Church, Free Methodist Church and others.



Friends Group Receiving RHS Award 2018



Park NLHF bid Master Planning Meeting November 2019

The group is registered with the RHS 'Its Your Neighbourhood scheme', and in their first year gained a 'Level 3 - Advancing' award certificate. Their work in Kingswood Town Centre also gained a 'Level 2 - Advancing' award certificate. An excellent achievement.

In March 2019 a steering group was established with the Friends Group to guide the development of the development phase NLHF bid. This will continue into the delivery phase.



During the Covid-19 Pandemic FOKP had to cease works in the park and local community for much of the time in line with Government guidance. After a pause of many months the group began to hold on-line Zoom meetings later in 2020 which was challenging and numbers participating were reduced. NLHF project steering group meetings on zoom re-commenced in 2021, and FOKP meetings started in person meetings in 2022. Numbers involved with the group dropped during the Covid-19 Pandemic and there have been some challenges with reenergising it. FOKP are holding events (e.g. an open evening walk on 28th March 2023) to attract new members and rejuvenate the group. The delivery of such a large-scale project over three years will present challenges and it is important the group is able to adapt to increased pressures and changing circumstances by building their resilience. As a result, we have included a ‘Friends of Kingswood Park – Becoming More Resilient’ activity in our Activities Plan (SD1) where South Gloucestershire CVS will be commissioned to provide a comprehensive programme of support to grow and strengthen the Friends Group.

2006: Pride of Kingswood Fun in the Park event

This was the first fun in the park event run by the Friends Group, it was very successful and started the process of engaging the community in events to celebrate and enjoy the park which have continued to the present day.

2008: Kingswood Park action plan

An action plan was compiled following consultation with members of Friends of Kingswood Park. The purpose of this action plan was to form a framework for an eventual long-term management plan for the park and guide projects to improve the park and benefit park users. The action plan looked at themes such as ‘A welcoming Place’, ‘Healthy, Safe and Secure’, ‘Clean and Well Maintained’, ‘Sustainability’, ‘Conservation & Heritage’ and ‘Community Involvement’.

2009: Kingswood Park development plan

Following further consultation with the Friends Group, the 2008 action plan was worked up into a more detailed development plan for the park which had four broad aims:

- To enable people to gain access to a safe, pleasant, friendly and varied outside environment
- To provide a focus for outside activities for the whole of the Kingswood community
- To encourage the community to use and take pride in the park
- To open the park up to as wide a group as possible ensuring equality of access

A series of objectives and actions were developed for the Council and Friends Group to take forward.

2013: Dreamscheme consultation with young people

Kingsmeadow@Made Forever is a registered charity aimed at preventing isolation, reaching out to those already in isolation and tackling unemployment. They work with individuals, families and young people facing multiple challenges. For more information follow the link to <http://kingsmeadowmade4ever.org.uk/>

Dreamscheme is a project run by the charity and is a 'free, fun out of school activities group which actively involves the children with their local community. Dreamscheme runs in all the school holidays and is for children aged 8-16 years unaccompanied or under 8 with a parent'. The aim is to 'build children's confidence and skills, offering the chance to try new experiences, meet new people and visit new places together. We encourage the children to actively help out in the community. We work on a points system that rewards the children with a fun activity or trip at the end of the holiday sessions.' For more information follow the link <http://kingsmeadowmade4ever.org.uk/our-services/activities/dreamscheme/>

In March 2013 young people with the Dreamscheme project visited the park and assessed various aspects of it, taking on the role of 'young inspectors'. Their recommendations are listed below :

- More equipment was needed for young people e.g. a zip wire, and existing equipment needs to be repaired
- Link with local schools for consultation on what kind of facilities young people would like to see put in place
- We accepted that there could be more information elsewhere e.g. the adjoining library, but felt there was just not enough signage or information boards
- Council website needs to be updated. Links need to be given to public transport
- Parking should be looked at. Is it possible to use local council buildings for accessible parking during specific events?
- Some specific disabled parking bays should be made available for visiting the park
- The park could have a Facebook page to advertise its events

2015: Masterplan consultation

In 2015 South Gloucestershire Council and The Friends of Kingswood Park began work on a masterplan for the park. To help decide what to work on first, and what improvements have the support of the local community, a survey was carried out to obtain the views of those who use the park and of local residents.

A dedicated consultation webpage was set-up and respondents were able to complete the survey on line, to download and print a copy of the questionnaire from the webpage or complete the survey through paper copies distributed by the Friends of Kingswood Park. The consultation period was open from 29 May 2015 until the 20 July 2015. 123 people responded to the consultation by completing the survey.

The survey form included a plan of the park which divided it into a garden zone, play and fitness zone, nature zone and 'other'. It then listed a series of project ideas under each zone and asked whether people thought it was a good idea – answering yes or no.

2017: Make My Play consultation

In 2017 Friends of Kingswood Park carried out a consultation to develop ideas and raise funds to improve the play area. The group carried out a consultation using mood boards provided by play manufactures to establish the ten most popular items of kit and spoke to 50 carers in the park, representing around 100 children who use the play area. In addition, Park Primary School (which is adjacent to the park) consulted 50 of their pupils. The Friends Group estimated that £215k would be required and raised almost £900, which they are holding as match funding for play improvements. The Friends Group submitted a bid to Big Lottery Reaching Communities for funding for the play area, however it was not successful as this funding stream does not fund capital improvements.



Play area consultation gazebo at Fun in the Park – June 2017

2019: Kingswood Park Access Plan – Consultation with South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group

A consultation morning was held with South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group on 21 October 2019 to understand issues with the accessibility of the park. Members of the group toured the park with officers who had carried out an access audit and a picnic lunch was held to discuss ideas and recommendations. The findings and comments were incorporated into the Kingswood Park Access Plan report to inform the proposals to restore and enhance the park.



Disability Action Group Survey October 2019

A report on the visit of the DAG group is included in their January 2020 newsletter.

A copy of the Kingswood Park Access Plan 2021 is available here [Kingswood_Park_Access_Plan_2021.pdf](#) (southglos.gov.uk)



2019: Community consultation for development phase NLHF Heritage Grant application

An extensive round of community consultation and survey work was carried out in 2019, this is described in section 5.3 below.

2020/21: Community consultation to develop resubmission of development phase NLHF Heritage Grant application

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic NLHF closed its funding programmes in 2020 and our original funding bid was withdrawn. During 2020/21 surveys were carried out to assess changes in the use of Kingswood Park and other greenspaces and community priorities. This work (see sections 5.4 and 5.7.4 to 5.7.8) has been used to inform and update our resubmission.

2022/23: Community consultation to develop detailed plans during the development phase

A final round of consultation work was undertaken to develop our plans for capital works, activities and interpretation and signing. This is described in section 5.5 below.

5.3 CONSULTATION 2019

Between March and October 2019, a detailed round of consultation was carried out to meet the objectives described in section 5.1.

The methodology for carrying out the consultation is set out below.

5.3.1 PLANNING THE CONSULTATION

Before undertaking the consultation, planning work took place with the Friends of Kingswood Park to scope out the consultation process and consider the variety of project beneficiaries, organisations and individuals who should be consulted and might benefit from the project. The Council's Insights and Engagement Team were also involved in the design process and provided advice on consultation techniques and survey design.

The basic structure of the consultation was as follows:

- Identify key contacts
- Design a 'consultation flyer' and send to all key contacts
- Erect banners in the park to publicise the consultation
- Organise a series of face to face meetings with respondents to the consultation flyer, and from follow up emails and phone calls to key contacts
- Develop a questionnaire survey (paper and online) to allow the public to provide their views on activities and events, and provide more information regarding the park audience
- Provide consultation information on the web, and the opportunity for feedback
- Consultation display in Kingswood Civic centre, opposite the park

- Consultation display staffed by Friends of Kingswood Park, every Wednesday for four weeks in Kingswood Shopping Centre and Sainsbury's Local

Each stage in the consultation is described in more detail below.

5.3.2 IDENTIFYING KEY CONTACTS

To identify key organisations and contacts, discussions were held with teams across the Council including community engagement officers, officers working with children and young people, open spaces managers and public health officers. Following these discussions, a draft list of key contacts was drawn up to identify project beneficiary groups, voluntary organisations, professional officers with experience of the need and organisations and individuals supporting priority groups, community and voluntary groups, local elected members, stakeholders and interested individuals. The draft list was circulated to Friends of Kingswood Park for their agreement and any obvious contacts which had been missed were added

Following agreement of the key contact list, a total of 84 groups, two strategic partnerships and 37 individual officers and seven local politicians including the leader of South Gloucestershire Council and MP for Kingswood were contacted either by email or letter, with a consultation flyer attached (see 5.3.3 below). The contact details for all beneficiary groups, voluntary organisations, professional officers, organisations and individuals consulted is provided in Appendix 6, with a summary set out below:

Organisations, voluntary and beneficiary groups

- 16 x schools / preschool groups
- 13 x community groups
- 1 x Kings Chase Shopping Centre
- 8 x community associations / partnerships
- 13 x churches, faith groups and religious organisations
- 4 x black and minority ethnic groups
- 5 x conservation, wildlife and horticulture groups
- 3 x history / heritage groups
- 4 x scout / guides associations
- 3 x youth organisations
- 2 x parish councils
- 10 x other groups / interests including the police
- 1 x sports club
- 5 x beneficiary groups
- 1 x disability action group
- 1 x drug and alcohol abuse service

Strategic partnerships

- 5 x economic and skills partnerships
- 1 x health and wellbeing partnership

Professional officers

- 14 x health and wellbeing, inclusion, public health, active lifestyles officers
- 3 x green space management officers
- 1 x arts development officer
- 1 x apprenticeships officer
- 2 x senior officers in Environment and Community Services
- 2 x economic development officers
- 2 x sustainability / climate change officers
- 2 x grounds maintenance officers
- 2 x biodiversity / tree officers
- 3 x heritage / archaeology / conservation officers
- 1 x Love Our High Streets urban planning officer
- 2 x planning officers
- 1 x research and consultation team manager

Elected members and MP

- 4 x elected members for local Council wards
- 1 x Executive Member for Communities and Tourism (Cllr Rachel Hunt)
- 1 x Leader of South Gloucestershire Council (Cllr Toby Savage)
- 1 x local Member of Parliament (Chris Skidmore MP)

5.3.3 CONSULTATION FLYER

A consultation flyer was developed to introduce the Kingswood Park NLHF bid. Adopting the strap line 'Our Park at the Heart of Our Community' the flyer set out the main aims for the heritage grant application and asked for ideas for projects to encourage local people to enjoy the park more and learn about its heritage, develop new skills or just participate.

A copy of the 2019 consultation flyer is provided in **Appendix 7**.

5.3.4 FACE TO FACE MEETINGS, EMAIL AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS

A week after the initial contact emails and letters were sent out, follow up emails and telephone calls were made to a representative cross-section of voluntary groups and organisations to arrange face to face meetings to further scope the project and identify project needs, priorities and ideas for events and activities. Printed copies of the flyer and questionnaire survey (see section 5.3.5 below) were made available at meetings.

Between July and mid-September 2019, a total of 43 meetings with community representatives and officers took place. Further consultation took place via email correspondence and telephone interviews. Face to face meetings were held with the organisations and individuals listed below to help identify local needs and develop ideas for learning and participation activities.

- Friends of Kingswood Park – regular planning meetings and site visits.
- Kingswood Children’s Centre
- Kingswood Library
- Siston Parish Council
- Holy Trinity Church - Reverend Beverley Charles
- Kingswood Heritage Group
- PSCO Police Beat Team
- Freedom Church
- TCV
- Be Empowered Farm Futures
- Over 50s Forum
- CVS South Glos
- Creative Youth Network
- Access West
- South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group
- Kingswood Bowls Club
- Connecting Kingswood
- Southern Brookes Community Partnership
- Kingswood Shopping Centre Manager
- Park Community Centre
- Made Forever Community Centre
- Job Centre Plus
- Bristol City Council Parks Commercial Opportunities
- Kingswood Business Association
- Our Lady of Lourdes School Kingswood
- Park School Kingswood
- Digitech School
- DHI– Drug & Alcohol Abuse Service
- Hanham Health Centre
- Warmley Park School
- Courtney Road Primary School
- Kingswood Museum
- Playaway Preschool
- Breakthrough
- Mark Luck – Kingswood Snr Design & Planning Officer (SGC)
- James Cook – Strategic Planning Advisor (SGC)
- Rebecca Loaring - Specialist Health improvement CYP Mental and Emotional Wellbeing (SGC)
- Alison Caitlin - Arts Officer (SGC)
- Jane Marley (Heritage Officer) - SGC
- Alison Finn – Active in Life (SGC)
- Brian Gardner - Team Leader Healthy Lifestyles (SGC)
- Streetcare Grounds Operations
- Jane Gulliver - Setting Support Officer Children, Adults and Health (SGC)
- Ian Gethin - Planning Conservation Officer (SGC)
- Bernice Britton - Apprentice placement officer (SGC)
- Dee Moxon - Arts Enlarged
- Alison Richards - Street Cleansing Co-ordinator (SGC)
- Helena Craig – Black2Nature

The feedback from this consultation work together with previous consultation findings has been used to scope the project and identify local needs and priorities. Notes from the meetings and email / telephone responses are included in a table in **Appendix 8**.

5.3.5 KINGSWOOD PARK QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY 2019

A questionnaire survey was developed in consultation with the FOKP and IET to find out more information about the audience for the park and their ideas for activities and events. The purpose of the questionnaire was to find out the following:

- More information to help draw up an audience profile
- Why people visit the park?
- What prevents them from visiting more?
- The kinds of events and activities that would improve their enjoyment and make them visit more
- Views on the future of the toilets
- Views on the need for a refreshment facility / cafe
- Opportunities for volunteering that people would like to take part in?

The questionnaire provided a brief overview of the project and posed a number of open and closed questions. The questionnaire utilised a design and layout to compliment the consultation flyer, and again adopted the strap line 'Our Park at the Heart of Our Community'.



Questionnaire Survey Launch July 2019

2,500 copies of the questionnaire were delivered to residents surrounding the park. Further questionnaires were distributed via the mobile consultation display in Kingswood Civic Centre and the weekly Friends of Kingswood Park consultation display in Kingswood shopping centre precinct / Sainsbury's Local. In addition, a consultation gazebo was organised by the Friends of Kingswood Park at the 'Fun in the Park' event on 9 June 2019.

An online version of the survey was also set up, details for which are summarised below.

5.3.6 CONSULTATION VIA THE WEB

To make the 2019 consultation as accessible as possible online resources were set up and were made available throughout the consultation period.

South Gloucestershire Council Kingswood Park web page.

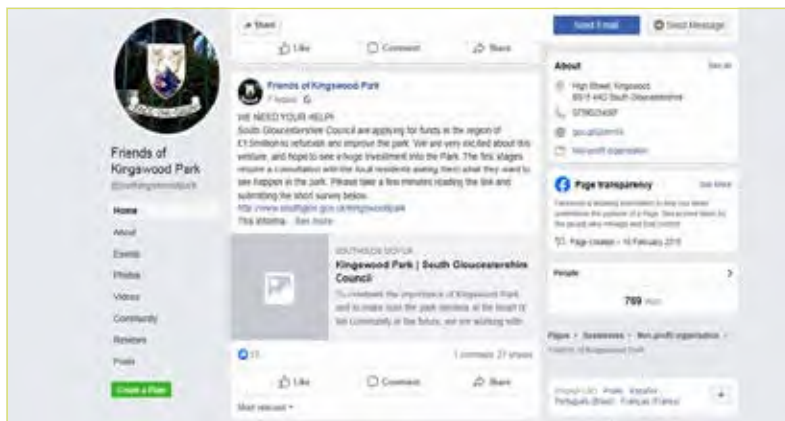
<https://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/kingswood-park/>

Forming part of the South Gloucestershire Council web site, this page provided an introduction to Kingswood Park, information about the NLHF application and how people can take part in the consultation and a link to the online survey.

Friends of Kingswood Park Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ourkingswoodpark>

During the consultation period the Facebook page included a link to the survey and information about the consultation and NLHF bid.



Screen shot of Friends of Kingswood Park Facebook Page – August 2019

South Gloucestershire Council consultation portal

This consisted of a dedicated page on the South Gloucestershire Council Public consultations portal with information about the Kingswood Park round one application and how people can take part in the consultation. The portal provided a direct link to the online version of the questionnaire survey and pdf copies of the consultation flyer and questionnaire.

There is no link to the portal web page here as it is no longer live.

5.3.7 CONSULTATION BANNERS

Two PVC-free large printed vinyl banners were manufactured and erected at strategic points around the park (externally and internally) to promote the consultation and web address for the online survey at www.southglos.gov.uk/kingswoodpark



Consultation banner on High Street frontage – August 2019



Consultation banner on remains of the bandstand – August 2019

5.3.8 MOBILE CONSULTATION DISPLAYS

Two information displays were developed and made accessible to local people during the consultation period

Friends of Kingswood Park consultation display



Every Wednesday for four weeks a display was erected in the Kings Chase shopping centre precinct or outside Sainsbury's Local and staffed by members of the Friends group. People were able to ask questions, discuss ideas and complete questionnaires. Dates were Kings Chase shopping centre 10am - 12am on 14, 21, 28 August and 4 September 2019, and Kingswood Sainsbury's Local store 2.00pm - 4.00pm on 21 and 28 August.

Civic Centre Display

During August and September 2019, a display was erected in the foyer / reception area of Kingswood Civic Centre, directly opposite the park. Background information to the bid and questionnaire surveys were made available with over 100 questionnaires completed and posted in the ballot box.



5.3.9 CONSULTATION GAZEBO

The consultation gazebo was erected in the park on 21 August 2019 to obtain the views of park users. People were able to find about the NLHF application, discuss their ideas for restoring and enhancing the park, and complete questionnaire surveys. A post it note board was available to leave comments.



Gazebo in park on 21st August 2019

Comments were as follows:

- Build a tree house / fun house
- Tea hut / kiosk
- Plant lots of flowers
- Clean the toilets
- Uneven bars for gymnastics
- Hiding house / tree house
- Rounders pitch
- Slide
- Big slide
- Cricket pitch
- Bowling for all
- Drinking fountain
- More tyre swings in the play area
- Zip wire
- Nice plants
- Better teen shelter
- Water splash pad or paddling pool
- Provide a zip wire
- Trampoline
- Improve the play area / equipment
- Table tennis table
- Climbing wall
- Improve basketball area
- More picnic benches / places to sit
- Bigger play area
- Improve the play area – needs updating
- Sort the toilets out
- Make play area bigger
- Somewhere to get drink / refreshments
- Better play park please

- Toilets need a blinking good upgrade
- Gymnastics equipment in play area

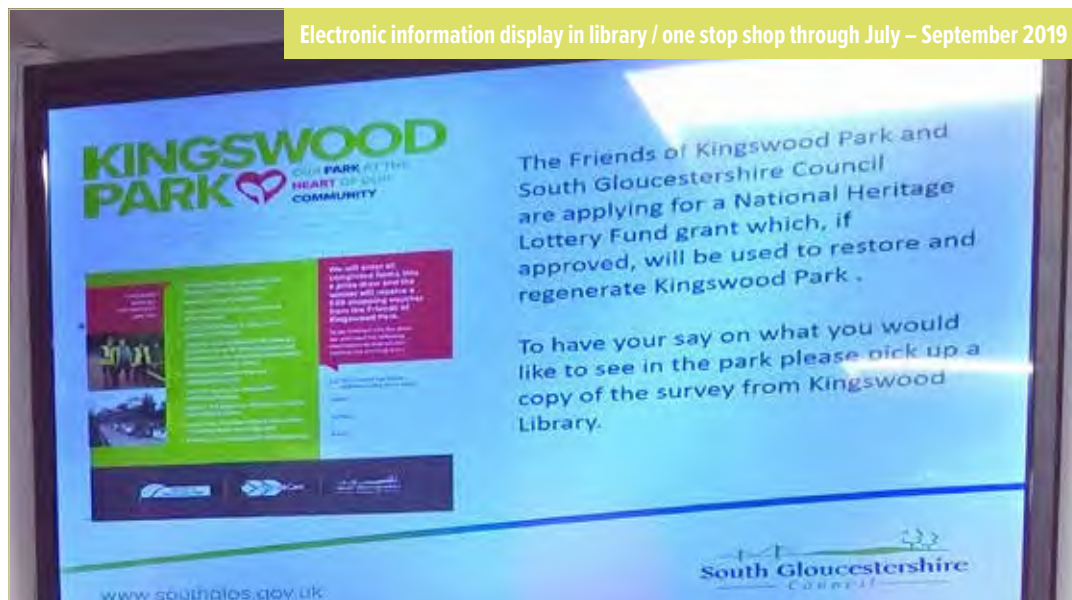
The feedback reveals that the main priorities / needs identified were to improve the play area, upgrade the toilets, provide a refreshment outlet and increase provision for sports. There was also support for more seating and picnic tables and enhancing the landscape with more planting.



Post-it note consultation display – 21 August 2019

5.3.10 INFORMATION IN KINGSWOOD LIBRARY AND ONE STOP SHOP

Consultation flyers were made available in Kingswood Library and One Stop Shop. The consultation was also publicised on the electronic information screen during the consultation period.



5.3.11 CHRIS SKIDMORE (MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR KINGSWOOD) - CIRCULAR AND FACEBOOK POST

The consultation was also publicised in Chris Skidmore’s regular email circular to his constituents as follows:

Kingswood Park Lottery Bid

Like so many in our community, the Council wants to celebrate the importance of Kingswood Park and to make sure the park remains at the heart of the community in the future, and so are working with the Friends of Kingswood Park to apply for a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant (NLHF). The council is seeking to repeat the success at Page Park in Staple Hill where a similar approach resulted in £1.6m lottery funding that has transformed the park and seen visitor numbers soar.

You can support this lottery bid for Kingswood Park by putting forward your ideas and views to Richard Aston or Janice Suffolk in the Community Spaces team at South Gloucestershire Council. Their details are: ☎ 01454 863725 or ✉ richard.aston@southglos.gov.uk or ✉ janice.suffolk@southglos.gov.uk or 🌐 www.southglos.gov.uk/kingswoodpark



5.4 CONSULTATION 2020/21

The consultation work undertaken in 2019 was used to develop our first round NLHF bid and this was submitted at the end of February 2020. Unfortunately, shortly after bid submission the grant programme was suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and our application was withdrawn. This was because NLHF needed to redirect its resources to support the heritage sector through the crises.

As the Covid-19 crises unfolded, the nation became aware of the importance of green spaces to local communities who were accessing them in greater numbers. Parks became a focal point for relaxation, enjoyment of green space and nature, socially distanced socialising and exercise. The value of parks to deprived urban communities like Kingswood, which have low levels of access to green space was particularly high. We realised it was important to try and capture any changes in use of Kingswood Park, or any additional community needs and priorities as a result of the pandemic. Further consultation work was therefore carried out in 2020/21, although the methods of consultation were constrained to online consultations by social distancing regulations.

Data was gathered through the following surveys:

- 2020 Viewpoint Greenspaces in Lockdown Survey
- 2020 South Gloucestershire Green Spaces Pre-Engagement Survey
- 2020 Connecting Kingswood Survey
- 2020 Kingswood Park Covid 19 Survey
- 2021 Google Mobility Reports

In addition, the use of the park was monitored by automated counters which were installed at all entrances in September 2019. The findings from the surveys and counter data are described in sections 5.7.4 to 5.7.13.

5.4.1 KINGSWOOD VOICE PRESS COVERAGE

In April 2021 a front page article was included in the local newspaper Kingswood Voice. This reported on how important local people had rated parks and green spaces in the Connecting Kingswood survey (see section 5.7.6) and that Kingswood Park is the ‘jewel in our neighbourhood’s crown’. Further articles in the paper detailed plans for the restoration and enhancement of the park and progress with the NLHF bid.



5.5 CONSULTATION DURING DEVELOPMENT PHASE 2022/23

Following the award of a NLHF development phase grant further consultation was required to work up detailed plans for our capital works and activities. This took place during 2022/23 and is described below:

5.5.1 ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Development phase funding supported the employment of a part-time Activities Development Officer (3 days per week) for 12 months. The priorities for the post were as follows:

- Development of an Activities Plan including fully costed Action Plan
- Review of the audience and their needs, including new audiences / audiences not identified in the Outline Activities Plan
- Deliver activities taster sessions during the development phase, testing the needs and ideas for events and activities via consultation with residents, park users, community groups, voluntary groups and professionals in various fields
- Review information about the audience and ideas for activities and events taken from the results of questionnaire surveys undertaken during the development phase
- Review the contribution of proposed activities to achieving NLHF outcomes, including the mandatory outcome for a wider range of people to be involved in the heritage
- Review the needs identified in the development phase bid in light of new consultation and survey work
- Consider needs / challenges presented by the Covid-19 Pandemic

5.5.2 STEERING GROUP

In January 2022 a Steering Group was formed consisting of the Project Development Manager, Activities Development Officer, Landscape Architect, Place Improvements Manager, Partnerships and Delivery Officer and the Principal Research, Intelligence and & Consultation Officer from the Council. Representatives from FOKP and beneficiaries groups were invited to attend, however none were forthcoming due to on-going Covid concerns and availability. Regular updates were provided by email and by officers attending FOKP meetings on-line and later in person. The steering group met regularly throughout the development phase to guide the project including activities updates on the agenda.

5.5.3 PROGRESS REVIEW GROUP

Quarterly Progress Review Group meetings were held with the NLHF Senior Investment Manager and NLHF appointed Project Support Mentor, the Project Development Manager and Activities Development Officer, Landscape Architect and Place Improvements Manager. The development of the activities programme was discussed at these meetings.

5.5.4 ACTIVITIES & INTERPRETATION WORKING GROUP

In 2022 an Activities & Interpretation Working Group was formed. The make-up of the group was as follows:

- Janice Suffolk – SGC Activities Development Officer
- Alison Catlin – SGC Arts and Culture
- Jo Goodred – SGC Public Health
- Jane Marley – SGC Museums and Heritage
- Sandra Lewis – Resident
- Pat Rooney – SGC Ward Councillor
- Joel Watson – SGC Early Help Coordinator
- Zaya Morris Taylor – Southern Brooks
- Martyn Hinam – Kingswood Active Centre
- Margaret Slucett – Over 50s Forum
- Dan Petley – Brick Project
- Fraisia Bruist-Papasian – Brick Project

The group met in April 2022 to review and prioritise the activities and events that were included in the Outline Activities Plan and activities were discussed and prioritised using a red, amber and green rating as follows:

- **Green** – activity / event to be retained and worked up further
- **Amber** – further scoping work required
- **Red** – discard activity as considered to be low priority

The green and amber rated activities were taken forward for further consultation and planning. Comments made were as follows:

- Overall, a good variety of activities
- Concern over electronic media - the take up of apps is sometimes not that good. They need to be targeted - families, mindfulness and exercise would be great on an App
- Could be linked together on a really good website
- Remember tech moves on and 2 years is long time is what is scoped now actually being available when the project starts
- Think about environmental impacts, printing and banners should be recyclable
- Think about covid pressures on activities that are very school dependant
- Trails are great especially if we could use a small elephant at each stop on the trail to make it more interesting and link it all back to the park

Other ideas for activities were also discussed.

The group met again in July 2022 to discuss the interpretation inventory and draft themes for the Signing & Interpretation Plan. The group were happy with the story of the park and themes proposed, but thought important to limit the number of themes. The group also thought it was important to take forward a theme regarding the areas reputation for being rebellious and lawlessness.

Following the development phase consultation work the Activities and Interpretation Working Group combined with the Landscape Group to meet again in March 2023 to consider and agree the final Activities Action Plan (see section 9.2 below). All were happy with the final Activities Action Plan, the group reinforcing their support for at least two officers to deliver the plan.

5.5.5 WEB & FACEBOOK CONSULTATION

 **Kingswood Park restoration | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council** (southglos.gov.uk)

This page, hosted on the Council’s website, provided regular updates throughout the development phase on proposals for Kingswood Park, information about the NLHF application and how people could get involved.

The Council’s Streetcare facebook page has also been used to provide regular updates and raise awareness of activities development work, and activities taster sessions. Posts have included bespoke short video clips to raise awareness of particular elements of our consultation work, some examples of which are provided below.

The Kingswood Elephant | The Kingswood Elephant - fact or fable - is part of the heritage of the area - which we hope to tap into as part of our planned £2 million National... | By South Gloucestershire Council StreetCare | Facebook

As part of... - South Gloucestershire Council StreetCare | Facebook



The Friends of Kingswood Park also shared all posts on their facebook page, together with posting their own messages to raise awareness of activities development work and activities taster sessions.



5.5.5 KINGSWOOD REGENERATION NEWSLETTER

An online Kingswood Regeneration has provided regular updates during the development phase to raise awareness of activities development work including consultation events and taster sessions. An extract from the August 2022 newsletter is below:



5.5.6 DEVELOPMENT PHASE QUESTIONNAIRE

A survey of local people as carried out using a questionnaire in July / August 2022. The purpose was to collect baseline information, views of development proposals, support for a refreshment facility, and information to help develop the Interpretation and Signing Plan. The questionnaire was promoted via a poster erected in the park and local community venues and 2000 questionnaires were distributed to the community. See section 5.7.9 below for more details.



5.5.7 MEETINGS, EMAILS AND TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS

Between February and September 2022, the Activities Development Officer conducted 35 face-to-face meetings with community representatives, voluntary sector organisations, and potential partners to help plan and work up the ideas for activities and events. The feedback from this consultation, together with previous consultation findings undertaken for the development phase application were used to formulate plans for each activity and event. During the consultation meetings were held with the following people / organisations:

- Hannah Panes - Creative Youth Network
- The Park Primary School
- Kingsmeadow@Made Forever Centre
- Deaf Awareness Event
- Tenaya Cummings - South Gloucestershire Playscheme and families
- Residents/Park Users
- Jim Whittaker / Raf Ackbar - Friends of Kingswood Park
- Tracey Kovacs – Cool Ventures
- Secondary Schools
- Zaya Morris-Taylor - Southern Brooks Community Partnership
- Jackie Brimming – Kingswood Library
- Paul Volker - S.Glos Council Public Health
- Tom Matthews - Sprytar
- Joel Watson - Early Help Team
- Steve Machon PPG - Robyn Clark Practice Manager
- Vicky Robinson / Reverend Beverley Charles - We are BS15
- Fraisia Bruist-Papasian - Brick Project CIC
- Debbie Evans - Community Cohesion
- Kingswood Childrens Centre
- Nainesh Pandit - Sari (Stand Against Racial Inequalities)
- PCSO – Kingswood Police Beat Team
- Mark Austen - Low Sight Group Plus
- Paul Broadhead - Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership
- Christina Wheeler - resident
- Mud Pie Explorers CIC
- Courtney Road Primary School
- Penny Baker – Krunch South West
- Sam Sayers - Beacon Rise Primary School
- David Hull - Freedom Church
- Anthony Hill - Community Learning
- Choices 4U Officers – South Glos Council
- Martin Hynam Active Centre Kingswood
- Kingswood Bowls Club
- Steve Spiers - South Glos. Green Social Prescribing
- Alison Caitlin - Arts Development Officer
- Simon Penfold – South Glos Council Tree Officer
- Rowena Kenny – South Glos Green Infrastructure Officer
- Friends of Kingswood Park – general meetings through 2022/23
- Kingswood Regeneration Team Officers (South Glos Council)

5.5.8 TASTER SESSIONS AND ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

A programme of activities taster days and consultation events were delivered between April and September 2022. These provided an opportunity for the community and target audiences to sample some of the activity ideas, gauge their popularity, raise awareness and test our activities proposals. These are all summarised below:



Family Nature Session – 23rd February 2022

Held in the community garden area and delivered by Council’s Volunteer Groups Support Officer. A session for families to make bug hotels, put up bird boxes and tidy up the community garden and main park beds. This was held during the school half term holidays and was well attended by 5 families and 2 regular Friends group volunteers.



Brick Project Mandala Event – April 2022

Working with the Brick Project (Brick Project CIC Create Collaborative Public Art) to create a communal art painting activity in the park and promote social cohesion. Participants were invited to paint an individual piece of art that forms part of a collective mandala mural. The final mandala was displayed in Kingswood Library.



Whilst taking part attendees were given a list of activities from the Outline Activities Plan to gauge what activities people would like / be interested in getting involved with. A total of 47 people took part in this activity, and approximately 70% were from minority ethnic groups. The activities with most support were:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Music performances | Celebrate heritage of the park | Heritage arts |
| Nature space | Tree project | Play activities |
| Community events | Themed trails | Wellbeing circuit |
| Yoga | Adult fitness equipment | Scooters |
| Trampolines | Pond back | Drawing/sketching |

Other comments made were:

- English is not the first language of a lot of people
- Activities should be free where possible
- Amphitheatre used by a lot of people with younger children to ride bikes / play ball games
- Play provision strongly supported

Creative Youth Network Engagement Sessions with Young People

Creative Youth Network (CYN) is a charity that helps young people, no matter what their background or circumstances, to reach their potential. They use creative arts and youth work activities to achieve this. From April to September 2022 the Creative Youth Network conducted a survey with young people in Kingswood through detached youth work sessions in the park, and on-line. They also delivered taster sessions in the park, including Parkour and song writing. The aim was to record the thoughts and attitudes of young people towards the park, and what potential activities they would be interested in participating.

Common themes on barriers to young people not staying in the park or spending much time there were:

- Too dark in the evening
- Nothing to do
- The park does not feel safe in the evenings
- Lack of shelter or roof spaces

Workshops were facilitated to discuss these issues in more depth and the following recommendations were developed:

- More lighting and safe spaces required
- Shelters and sheltered seating
- Basketball court and space for ball games
- Place to go scooting or skating
- Café or tuck shop to buy food and drinks
- More trampolines (the one in the park is very popular)
- Playground suitable for teenagers e.g. climbing wall, outdoor gym, and zip wire
- Performance space for music and comedy (specifically somewhere with electric so music can be played from speakers such as DJs etc.)

Consultation drop-in sessions - Made for Ever Youth Centre – April / May 2022

Made Forever is a community hub covering the New Cheltenham area of Kingswood. They have a café and drop-in sessions for residents. Two sessions were run to look at what activities the users of the centre would like to see in the park. The most popular activities were:

- Music performances – especially catering for the younger age group
- Youth activities
- Play activities
- Activities around climate change



It was clear during the sessions that many participants struggled to understand what the word heritage meant, and so this led us to review the language we used in other consultations. The theme that came through strongly is that Kingswood Park is a resource for local people and does not lend itself to becoming a destination park as parking is limited. The photograph shows a feedback board from this event.

South Gloucestershire Playscheme day – May 2022

South Gloucestershire Playscheme offer free play sessions for children from 5-11 years who live or go to school in South Gloucestershire. The play sessions are run during all school holidays. The organisation delivered a play scheme day in the park in May half term holidays 2022. 97 adults and 146 children attended and activities included pebble painting, glitter tattoos, nerf wars, garden games, parachute games, name the teddy and a raffle. The following feedback was recorded –



- Parents really want activities that are free
- Would like more music / concerts / festivals in the park
- A place where they can buy food and drinks in the park would be good

38% of the parents said they would have stayed at home if the activity had not been running.

Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Event – 5th June

The Friends of Kingswood Park organised a big free party in the park to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Funfair rides were booked and a giant LCD screen was used to show the procession in central London. The community were invited to bring a picnic to the park on the Sunday to watch the parade and the Kingswood BS15 offered some free picnics to people who usually use food banks so that nobody was excluded from the event. The Activities Development Officer coordinated a drop-in session with a gazebo with visuals and proposals plans enabling people to find out more about activities proposals with the opportunity to leave feedback and ideas.



Festival of Nature – 15th June 2022

A volunteer work session was run in conjunction with the Bristol Natural History Consortium and advertised through their website as part of the Festival of Nature. Despite a lot of interest and inquiries only 3 people attended the session. The Council subsequently arranged weekly volunteer sessions in the park, which have been held every Wednesday since then, for example in March 2023 there were 5 workdays covering seed growing, weed identification and management, plant ID, bedding maintenance and softwood cuttings propagation.



Park School workshop sessions – July 2022

The Activities Development Officer and Development Project Manager worked with teachers from The Park Junior School in classroom sessions, encouraging pupils to design the play improvements they would like to see in the park, as well as activities. This including drawing sessions to display their ideas. Whilst their ideas centred on proposals for the play area, they recorded preferences for activities which included music performances, nature space and tree climbing, play and activities for young people, shows and community events like fun in the park.



Play ideas from the Park School workshop sessions the park – July 2022

Heritage day consultation gazebo and elephant – 23rd July 2022

The Activities Development Officer coordinated a drop-in Saturday afternoon session with a gazebo and an artist was commissioned to make an elephant puppet as a visual aid to attract people. The gazebo was set up close to the play area, the aim being to engage park users to provide feedback for our activities proposals and asking for stories of the park with focus on WW2. 72 adults and 45 children attended, many liking the elephant puppet.

Activities that scored highest were:

Music performances	Heritage arts project	Themed trails
Nature space	Tree / biodiversity projects	Play activities
Natural play	Youth events	Walking
Wellbeing activities	Community celebration events	

Interesting stories and anecdotes included:

- We met “Raving Norman” who won the talent contest back in the 1950’s with his band – he has promised to give us photos of the event and his life history!
- There is supposed to be a tunnel that runs under the park from the Church to what is now Sainsburys
- During the war the women used to sit on Warmley Hill and wait for Parachutes to fall so they could collect the silk to make Wedding Dresses and knickers
- The fish pond was filled in after some children put something in the water and killed all the fish
- Alan May designed all the floats for the Kingswood Carnivals
- The Kingswood Miners played a leading part in the 1831 Bristol Riots
- Several people can remember stories of weddings in the park
- That the amphitheatre it is also known as the ‘Magic Circle’ due to the reverberation of sound when standing in the middle

People had lots of anecdotal stories of the war years but there is very little photographic evidence. The events and parades in Kingswood are well remembered and there are many people who took part in these who are still live and have photos. The elephant story is a draw for all generations. Visual art displays and interpretation are a really positive way to engage with the Community.

Walking Well Group – weekly from August to December 2022

A weekly Walking Well group led by FOKP volunteers was established and an average of 5 participants took part. Some did not come back as they were looking for a longer walk. Most people had heard about the walk-through Kingswood Health Centre. One participant spoke little English and so thought this would be a great way to practice her English.

Buggy Fit – weekly from August - October 2022

Weekly buggy fit sessions were delivered by accredited coach. Sessions were popular with an average 5 parents per session. The reliability of the provider was an issue which will need to be resolved in the delivery phase.

Health and wellbeing day – August 2022

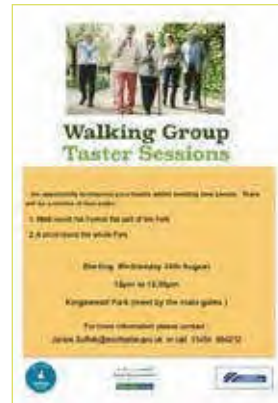
A health and wellbeing taster session was due to be delivered by the Kingswood Active Centre offering fitness sessions, zumba, circuit training, and tai chi. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to staff shortage at Kingswood Leisure Centre.

Kingswood Town Centre consultation events

A consultation display was erected at two community events held in Kingswood Shopping Centre and people’s views were sought on park proposals and ideas for activities and events, these were:

Connecting Kingswood consultation event – 31st March 2022: Community awareness event organised by Connecting Kingswood networking forum. The Activities Officer attended with boards to display the Outline Activities Plan an engage shoppers for their ideas.

Park proposals consultation event at Kingswood Shopping Centre – 31st August 2022: A consultation session attended by the Development Team, providing the opportunity for the public to learn more about proposed improvements and activities. The Elephant puppet was in attendance and very popular with young children.



5.6 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND RESULTS

Feedback from consultations undertaken in 2019 and 2021 was analysed and used to develop the proposals for capital works and activities in our successful 2021 development phase application and Outline Activities Plan. Development phase funding then allowed us to carry out further consultation work during 2022/23 to develop more detailed plans for capital works and activities. An overview of the feedback from the two phase of consultation is provided below.

Consultation prior to development phase bid (2019-21)

Analysis of feedback gathered in the meetings confirmed the needs that were identified through the Priority Neighbourhood profile, park catchment profile and health profiles and economic / long-term maintenance needs (as described in section 3 and summarised in section 6). In addition to these meetings there was email correspondence and telephone discussions with a range of other organisations and individuals

The consultation meetings revealed strong support amongst professionals and the local community for the restoration and enhancement of the park, and for events and activities that will encourage greater public enjoyment and appreciation of its heritage. They also demonstrated a high degree of need and support for wellbeing activities as well as enthusiasm amongst the community and beneficiary groups for future involvement in activities and events and to take part in volunteering opportunities.

The needs identified through the consultation meetings contributed to the list of local community needs summarised in section 6. During the meetings, discussions also considered who were the audience for the park and its heritage, and who were the potential target beneficiaries. This information also contributed to the development of the audience profile presented in section 7 below and section 1.5, Activities Plan (SD1).

Consultation during the development phase (2022/3)

Analysis of the feedback from the many consultation meetings and events confirmed the needs identified in section 6 and provided information and ideas to work up the ideas for capital works, and the activities and events developed during our development phase bid. The additional consultation and taster sessions reinforced the strong support amongst the local community and professionals for the restoration and enhancement of the park, and for events and activities that will encourage a wider range of people to enjoy and learn about its heritage. It demonstrated that there is a high degree of enthusiasm amongst the community and beneficiary groups for future involvement in activities and events and to take part in volunteering opportunities. A common theme was that activities should be free at the point of use, reflecting the pressures many face in light of the rising cost of living. It also demonstrated a high level of support for a refreshment facility within the park, improved accessibility, and improved amenities, specifically the toilets and the play area.

The consultation work also provided further information to refine our audience profile for the park and its heritage, what their needs are, what learning and participation activities would help address those needs and who are the potential target beneficiaries. This information, along with the results of a number of surveys (section 5.7 below) has helped us to develop our audience profile for the park, which is set out in section 1.5, Activities Plan (SD1)

For physical wellbeing activities, we learnt that a programme of reoccurring activities is important in demonstrating certainty to potential participants. Walking group weekly tasters showed that as an activity becomes established people will join the group through word of mouth. Family sessions are popular especially in school holidays. Activities being free at the point of use is crucial in an area / community facing real challenges with the cost of living crisis. And reliability of supplier and coaches is very important especially for sessions such as Buggy Fit and Fitness sessions.

5.7 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS FROM QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEYS

A total of seven Kingswood Park surveys were undertaken between 2015 and 2022 (2015 Masterplan Survey, 2019 Questionnaire Survey, 2019 Young Person's Survey, 2020 Kingswood Park Covid 19 Survey, 2022 Development Phase Survey, 2022 Kingswood Health Centre Walking Survey and 2022 Observational Survey) to help develop our proposals. In addition, a further two South Gloucestershire wide surveys have informed our analysis during the pandemic (2020 Viewpoint Greenspaces in Lockdown Survey and 2020 South Gloucestershire Green Spaces Pre-Engagement Survey). A 2020 Connecting Kingswood Survey has provided further information on wider community priorities and needs during the pandemic, revealing that social isolation and not feeling part of the community is a particular issue for some. Three additional surveys were conducted during 2022 to help establish our evaluation baseline during the development phase and we have also monitored public use of South Gloucestershire green spaces and Kingswood Park through Google Mobility Reports & automated counter information.

The findings from the various surveys and counter information are described and analysed below, in chronological order:

5.7.1 2015 MASTERPLAN SURVEY

As described in section 5.2 the purpose of this survey was to help decide what potential improvements to the park would have the support of the local community and should be included in a masterplan for the park. The survey form included a plan of the park which divided it into a garden zone, play and fitness zone, nature zone and 'other'. It then listed a series of project ideas under each zone and asked whether people thought it was a good idea – answering yes or no.

Copies of the Consultation Report September and Consultation Report 2015 – Supplementary Information can be provided on request. The main consultation report includes 'break percentages'; where each option is considered in relation to the votes cast for all options in the question. The supplementary report also includes 'analysis percentages'; where each option is given a percentage based on the yes / no votes given to each question.

Key findings from the survey were as follows:

- 80% of those who completed the survey said that they would increase their use of the park if the proposals were implemented
- A large majority of respondents (92%) rated their satisfaction with the park as it is now as either very good, good or 'it's alright'
- Most respondents use the park on a weekly basis (44%)

Garden zone

- Restoring the Rose Arch (89%) and More Benches (89%) were the two options that received the most support
- There was also support for better planting and redesign floral circle (both 70% in favour)

Play and fitness zone

- Refurbishing the Play Equipment (90%) and Play Equipment for Older Children (91%) were the two options which gleaned the most support
- There was also support for an Area for Young People (87%), Replace Goal Posts (84%), Refurbish Basketball Net (84%) and a Central Dog-Free Area (81%) on analysis percentages. The options that received the most negative votes on break percentages were Central Dog Free Area with 22% and Replace Goal Posts with 19%

Nature Zone

- Tree Trail (label the trees) received the largest amount of support with 93% saying yes
- Other proposals received significant support including Nature Trail (88%), Create a Meadow (79%), Bulb Planting (80%) and Woodland Walk (81%), Native Hedge (72%) and More Trees 66%
- Native Hedge and More Trees also received the highest negative score on break percentages with 16% and 20% of no votes

Other proposals

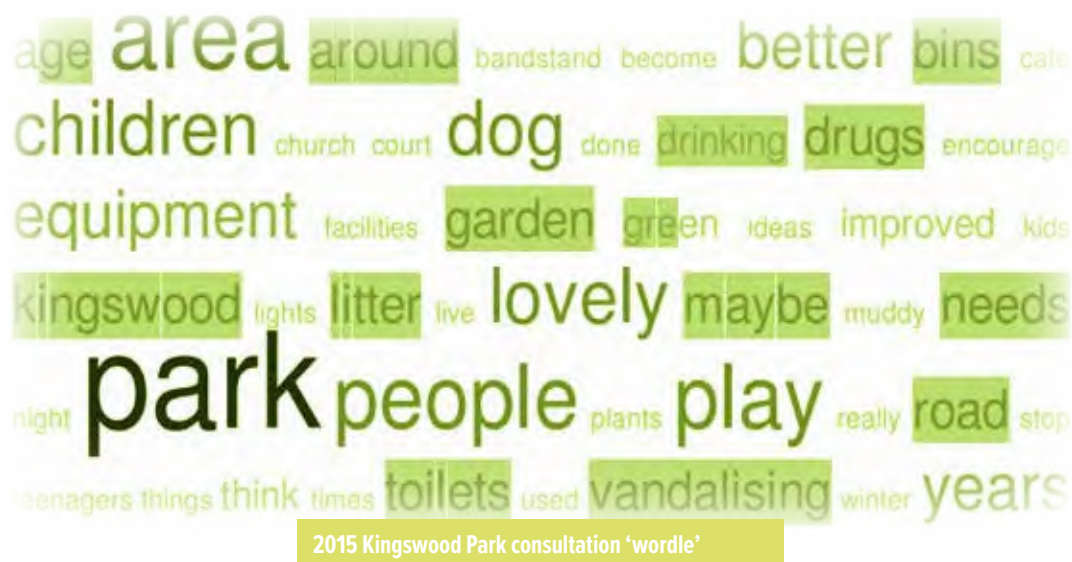
- Improvements to the Toilets (95%) and having Refreshments / café (88%) were the top two most supported 'other' proposals
- Additional proposals that received significant support were Kingswood Heritage Trail (84%), Improve Paths & Access (76%) and Refurbish Edward Road gates & Pillars (69%)
- Using the break percentages the negative ratings show comparatively high disagreement with the proposals for Murals on Park Buildings (24%), Refurbish Edward Rd (19%) and Sculptures (18%)

The 2015 Consultation Report includes a detailed breakdown of the responses and comments that were left against each of the four questions and the general 'do you have any other comments' question. Analysis of the comments revealed the following:

- The issue raised most frequently is vandalism, drinking and anti-social behaviour, making the park feel unsafe
- Improving the play equipment and varying it for different age groups received the next largest number of comments
- The addition of refreshments or a café received strong support
- Improving the toilets also received strong support
- A number of comments related to the behaviour of dogs, dog litter or general litter

The 2015 Consultation Report included a 'wordle' or 'word cloud' which is a different way of representing the comments and views of respondents. It takes all the text used by those who completed the survey and presents it in a creative way that highlights and enlarges the words and phrases used most often.

The wordle created using text from survey respondents is shown below:



There are a small number of positive words highlighted such as lovely and green, but also a number of negative words such as vandalising, drinking, drugs, litter, and stop. These are balanced by several hopeful and future looking words such as better, encourage, become, improved and ideas.

In summary, the 2015 survey clearly demonstrates that there is strong community support for the following:

- Tackle anti-social behavior
- Upgrade and improve the play area and facilities for older children
- Refurbish the toilets
- Enhance landscape and biodiversity
- Provide a refreshment facility
- Improve access, paths and park infrastructure and provide more benches
- Improve sport facilities (basketball, table tennis and goal posts)
- Provide a tree trail and Kingswood heritage trail

5.7.2 2019 QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

The purpose of the questionnaire survey was to find out more information about the audience for the park and their ideas for activities and events. A young person's survey was also created which ran alongside the main survey, results of this are described in section 5.7.3 below.

There was a total of 448 responses to the survey, 264 paper responses and 184 online responses were completed. The survey results are included in the report - Kingswood Park National Lottery Heritage Bid Consultation Output Report South Gloucestershire Council October 2019 in Appendix 10.

How often do people visit?

- 62% of respondents to the survey visit or use Kingswood Park once or a few times a month. 15% use the park once a week or more often. 13% of respondents use the park a few times a year and 11% said that they never use the park.

What activities do people do in the park?

- Over three quarters (78%) indicated they use Kingswood Park to get some fresh air. Over half of respondents (58%) indicated they use the children's play area. 46% of respondents use the park to walk or walk the dog and 41% said they visit with friends / family with the same percentage saying they attend community events in the park. 38% eat lunch / picnic in the park, 34% enjoy wildlife and 25% use the public toilets.
- For physical activities 11% use the sport facilities, 9% cycle / ride a bike and 8% run / jog in the park. In addition, 6% said they had visited the park on an organised educational / school visit.

Other reasons given by people for visiting the park were:

- To enjoy the open space playing with my great grandchildren
- Evening walk
- Enjoy the park as a historic venue
- Attended monthly Sunday in the Park
- Walk with the baby
- Weekly buggy fit class
- Walk through to get to where I am going
- Walk and enjoy the lovely flower beds
- Buggy fit
- For fun time
- Use public toilets - no they are disgusting
- I very often walk through to get to High Street, I like to admire the flower beds
- Assistance with planting, littering picking, events etc.
- Pleasant way to walk to Sainsbury's
- Photography
- Occasional once in last 2 years
- Visiting Pokemon Go location with my children
- When great grandchildren visit
- Armed Forces Days etc
- Just to let grand children have space to run and be a child
- Volunteering in the park
- Attending an organised "park your memories" event, Spring 2019
- Police patrol
- Help run Sunday in the Park with Freedom church
- I was on a stand at a fun day representing Healthwatch
- Church in the park
- Sunbathe!
- Sunday in the Park

29 other reasons were given, seven comments were made that they use the park for walking and exercise type activities, seven comments were made that they use the park for events and community activities and three comments were made that they use the park to play with their children or grandchildren

Barriers – what prevents people from visiting the park or visiting more often?

The largest number of respondents (49% nearly half) said that they were prevented from visiting Kingswood Park more often by the lack of facilities. A quarter of respondents (25%) had safety concerns or concerns surrounding anti-social behaviour.

Other barriers included: lack of parking (24%), quality / maintenance of the facilities (23%), lack of activities (22%) and disabled access (3%).

A small percentage of respondents considered the cost of getting there (1%) and difficulty of accessing public transport (2%) as barriers to visiting the park.

A total of 53 other comments were made for reasons that prevented them from visiting Kingswood Park. The most common themes were:

- poor facilities and equipment for children (eight comments)
- toilets being in poor condition (six comments)
- no interest in the park (four comments)
- don't have any free time to visit the park (three comments)
- insufficient parking (three comments)
- safety concerns (two comments)
- worried about dogs in the park (two comments)
- that they were elderly or could not access the park (two comments)

Which events or activities would improve people's enjoyment of the park or make them visit more?

- The most popular events and activities were 'more live music / celebration events for all the community' (62%) and 'organised activities for children / families / people of all ages and abilities' (62%)
- 56% would like there to be wildlife / environmental themed heritage activities including family nature days, wild play sessions, outdoor seasonal events and wildlife surveys.
- 50% of survey respondents would like to see celebration events (e.g. religious and cultural days / armed forces days / public holidays')
- 46% would like health and wellbeing and exercise activities
- 42% would like to see local history and park heritage, stories of the park and its role in the Kingswood community
- The activities that received lower levels of support were helping design new park art works, and art and craft based activities (26%), opportunities to learn practical conservation tasks and horticultural skills (25%), more sporting activities (22%), producing new Kingswood Park leaflets, information panels and website information (18%), guided walks and talks (17%), and educational / school visits (16%)

What other activities or events would people like to see in Kingswood park?

185 open ended comments were left against this question.

- The largest mentioned theme was that they would like to see a café or refreshments facility (54 comments)
- The play area should be improved, and facilities updated for all children of all ages (52 comments)
- The toilets need improving (20 comments)
- More sports clubs and facilities for sports (11 comments)
- More activities involving nature and wildlife (11 comments)
- Would like a swimming or splash pool (10 comments)
- More benches or seating areas are needed (9 comments)
- There were also comments made about a possible skate park (8), making the park bigger (8), better control of dogs (8), live music events (5), improve parking (5), pond / lake (4), better disabled access (4), info / community board (4), craft / farmers market (3), zip wire (3), improve security CCTV (3), improve pathways (3), and walking / running groups (3)

The future of the public toilets?

- The largest number of respondents to the survey (43%) indicated that they think the toilet facility should be kept in its current location and updated. 30% of respondents felt that the toilet facility should be relocated in the park. 20% had no preference. Only 7% felt that the existing toilets are fit for purpose.

Proposals for a new refreshments facility or café. To what extent did people agree that this would benefit the community?

- In total, 88% of respondents agreed that a refreshment facility or café would benefit the community and of these 68% strongly agreed.
- Only 6% of respondents disagreed it would benefit the community and 5% were not sure.
- 99% of respondents would use the refreshment facility / café in the summer, slightly less (88%) would use the facility in spring, 78% would use the facility in autumn and over half (59%) would use the facility in winter.

Are people interested in volunteering?

- 62% of respondents to the survey were not interested in volunteering.

For those who indicated that they would like to volunteer:

- 19% said they would like to volunteer with nature and wildlife conservation.
- 15% would like to join the friends of Kingswood Park.
- 13% would like to be a gardener or volunteer by helping to grow plants for the park.
- 11% would like to organise activities and events for the community.
- 6% were interested in litter picking or repairs.
- 6% would like to research local history.

A total of 29 other comments were made regarding ‘other’ activities. These were mostly reasons as to why they were unable to volunteer or stating that they are already volunteering. One comment was made about creating community artwork and games and one comment was made about extending the bowls club.

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- The most popular activities in the park are to get some fresh air, use the children’s play area and walk or walk the dog
- The most significant barriers to visiting the park or using it more are a lack of facilities, safety concerns or concerns surrounding anti-social behaviour, lack of parking, the quality of facilities and lack of activities
- The most popular events and activities that would make people visit more are more live music / celebration events for all the community and organised activities for children / families / people of all ages and abilities
- There is overwhelming public support to refurbish the toilets
- The community strongly support a café / refreshment facility
- A significant proportion of people are interested in volunteering

5.7.3 2019 YOUNG PERSON’S SURVEY

A young person’s survey was created and ran alongside the main survey described in section 5.7.2 above. There was a total of 34 responses to the survey. Given the relatively low number of responses the results have to be viewed with some caution, however the views obtained still provide a useful indicator of opinion among young people.

How often do you use Kingswood Park?

- 44% of young people use the park once a week or more often, 18% use it once / a few times a month. 29% a few times a year and 9% never use it.

What activities do young people do in the park?

- 88% of young people said they use the park to get some fresh air and 68% young people use the children's play area. 59% visit with friends and family. 56% enjoy nature and wildlife. 50% use the park for relaxation, 38% to play sport or games and 35% to eat lunch / picnic
- 32% of respondents use the park to walk or walk the dog and 32% have visited on an educational / school visit. 24% use the public toilets and 24% have attended community events
- For physical activities 18% use the sport facilities, 27% cycle / ride a bike and 27% run / jog in the park.

Would you agree or disagree?

- 53% of young people agreed that 'everything in the park is clean / there is no litter' whilst 29% disagreed
- 56% of young people also agreed that 'nothing is broken or damaged' whilst 18% disagreed
- Only 12% of young people agreed with 'I'm happy to use the toilets' 59% disagreed with this
- 73% of young people agreed that 'there is a choice of things to do' whilst 12% disagreed

Which of the following things would make the park a better place for young people?

- 62% indicated that activities for children and families would make Kingswood park better for them
- 59% would like live music
- 53% would like to help design park art works, and art and craft activities
- 53% would like celebration events e.g. religious and cultural days / armed forces days / public holidays.
- 53% would like to learn gardening skills and how to look after wildlife, nature days or wildlife spotting
- 26% said they would like history and stories of the park
- 15% said they would like guided walks and talks

Is there anything which stops you from visiting Kingswood Park / visiting more often?

Only 16 of the young people answered this question, of those:

- 56% are prevented from visiting the park / visiting more often because the park is too far away, or they use a closer park
- 31% indicated that they don't feel safe there
- 25% said there is nothing fun to do there

Other reasons given by the young people for not visiting more often were (nine comments made):

- Boring innit
- Scary children on bikes travelling in parks
- I don't have the time to go there
- The toilets are dirty
- Four comments indicated that there is not a reason that prevents from using the park
- One comment was that they would not use park at night

What other activities or improvements would you like to see in Kingswood Park?

A total of 26 comments were made in response to this question. Themes and number of comments were as per below:

Theme	Number of comments
Play facilities for older children	11
Football pitches / goalposts	6
Café	6
Zip line	3
Race track	3
Mini golf	3
Shade / shelter	3
Volleyball	3
Toilets improved	3
Tennis / table tennis	2
Sports facilities	2
Benches	2
Splash pool	1

Better play facilities for older children was the most common theme.

If a refreshments facility / café were provided, what times of year would you be most likely to use it, if at all?

- 57% of young people said they were likely to use the café in spring.
- 79% of young people said they were likely to use the café in summer.
- 45% of young people said they were likely to use the café in autumn
- 40% of young people said they were likely to use the café in winter

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- Interestingly the most popular activities are the same for young people as the main survey - to get some fresh air and use the children's play area
- The most significant barrier to visiting the park is it is too far away, however a significant proportion (31%) say they don't feel safe there which is higher than the concern about anti-social behaviour (25%) in the main survey
- The most popular activities for young people to increase their use of the park was the same as the respondents in the main survey - more activities for children and families and live music
- Better play facilities for older children was the most supported improvement to the park
- Young people support a refreshment facility / café and would use it

5.7.4 2020 VIEWPOINT GREENSPACES IN LOCKDOWN SURVEY

To help ensure the delivery of high-quality services the Council maintains a 'Viewpoint Panel' consisting of 2,293 local residents. Members of the panel are consulted on a regular basis on key topics that will impact local communities and are given the opportunity to take part in around 4 surveys a year. In June 2020 members of the panel were asked for feedback on their use of green spaces, including how it had changed during the lockdown. 871 surveys were returned, giving a response rate of 38%. A copy of the Viewpoint survey findings is contained in **Appendix 11**.

The results of the survey apply across South Gloucestershire, and are not specific to Kingswood Park.

Main reasons for visiting green spaces

The main reasons to visit green spaces were the same before and after lockdown, to enjoy natural scenery and wildlife (+1%), relax and enjoy peace and quiet (+4%) and to exercise (+1%). There were slight increases during lockdown in these reasons for visiting, as shown in brackets. Unsurprisingly there were big declines in other reasons to visit – children's play areas (-22%), play sports (-9%), café visits (-14%), picnics (-6%), attending events (-18%) as many of these were closed. Spending time with families and friends (-20%) also declined due to coronavirus regulations.

When asked to explain any other reasons why a respondent may have visited green spaces, the most frequent response was not actually related to visiting green space at all. The most frequent comment made was that respondents couldn't visit due to ill health, vulnerability or shielding.

How often did you visit green spaces before lockdown?

Almost all respondents visited a green space at least weekly before lockdown (85% at least weekly).

Over 65's

Slightly less likely than average to use a green space at least weekly (82% compared to an average of 85%), but still a high proportion of use

Retired people

Slightly less likely than average to use a green space at least weekly (81% compared to an average of 85%), but still a high proportion of use

Health

People who describe themselves as long term sick were significantly less likely to use green spaces than people with all other employment statuses (23% weekly use). These people are more likely to use a green space yearly (55%) rather than never (6%)

Disabled people were significantly less likely to visit green spaces at least weekly than non-disabled people (76% of disabled people visiting weekly vs 86% non-disabled)

Ethnicity

People from a BAME background were significantly less likely to visit green spaces at least weekly than people from a White British background (55% compared to 86%)

Since the start of lockdown, have you been using green spaces more or less than before?

48% of respondents have used green spaces more since lockdown, and 28% having used green spaces less.

Age

People aged 16-44 significantly more likely to have used green spaces more (64%), compared to people aged 45 to 64 (40%) and people aged 65+ (19%)

Priority Neighbourhoods

Respondents living in priority neighbourhood areas were significantly more likely to use green spaces less (47% respondents living in PN areas, compared to 25% rest of district)

Housing

People whose housing does not have access to an outdoor space were significantly more likely to use green spaces more (96% no outdoor space vs 45% with outdoor space)

Health

Disabled people were significantly more likely to visit green spaces less when compared to non-disabled people (51% disabled people using green spaces more vs 25% non-disabled)

What are the main reasons you are visiting green spaces MORE often than before lockdown?

Exercise and playing sport were the most frequent reason to have used green spaces more (151 comments, 28%), with the benefits for mental and physical health noted by numerous respondents.

The majority of comments made were relating to reasons for using green spaces more rather than less often. By far the most frequent reason given was to take exercise, whether than be to replace a session at the gym or to play sport (151 comments).

Enjoying the scenery, nature and the fresh air was the next most frequent reasons given (65 comments) with a substantial number of people also noting how beneficial the use of green spaces is for mental health (33 comments), as well as how green spaces helped people get out of the house and have a break (60 comments).

Increased usage seems to have been driven by the opportunities for social interaction as well, with 55 respondents noting that open spaces are good social distancing locations and 14 people specifically stating that they visited for social opportunities.

Three parents commented that green spaces had provided good home-schooling learning opportunities.

What are the main reasons you are visiting green spaces LESS often than before lockdown?

Self-isolation / shielding was the most frequent reason to have used green spaces less (43 comments, 8%), with the desire to adhere to lockdown rules and problems of ill health mentioned by several respondents.

Where respondents said they had used green spaces less, most of the time it was for logistical or Covid lockdown-related reasons.

The most frequent reason was that the respondent had been self-isolating or shielding (43 comments), meaning that they had been mostly or entirely house-bound and had not visited any locations, including green spaces.

The next most frequent theme mentioned was avoidance of green spaces due to adherence to lockdown rules, with a sentiment that it was better to avoid open spaces altogether in order to hasten the national control of the virus (18 comments).

Several respondents had been unable to visit due to emerging issues of ill health (17 mentions), some but not all of which were Covid-related, and age (14 mentions).

Other reasons for visiting less included choosing to use a private garden instead (14 comments) and not feeling safe in open spaces (13 comments).

Do you think any changes to your use of green spaces will continue after the Covid-19 emergency?

47% of respondents think their use change will continue, and 53% do not think it will continue

Current levels of green space use

Of the respondents who think their use change will continue, the majority (65%) are currently using green spaces more

Green space use before Covid

Of the respondents who think their use change will continue, 83% were using green spaces at least weekly before Covid

How much more or less do you value green spaces now compared to before lockdown?

The majority of respondents (60%) value green spaces more now compared to before lockdown, and virtually no one values green spaces less (1%).

Younger people

Younger people are significantly less likely to value green spaces more compared to people aged 65+ (56% vs 70%)

Housing

People in socially rented housing are significantly more likely to value green spaces more now vs people who own their own home (85% vs 61%)

There was no statistically significant difference in perception of value seen between those who do and don't have access to outdoor space at home

Health

People who describe themselves as long term sick were less likely to value green spaces more, when compared to some other employment statuses (28% long term sick vs 71% employed part-time and 71% retired)

Please use the space below to leave any further comments on the value of green spaces to you during lockdown

Most of the comments made in response to this final question were simply expressing appreciation for green spaces (92 comments, 46%).

This appreciation was for a range of reasons including the mental and physical benefits of being able to get outside into the fresh air (44 comments) and the opportunity to experience nature and wildlife (14 comments).

It's notable that there was a real mix of use experiences, from people who had only recently discovered the green spaces in their local area right through to people who had counted them as a lifeline for many years.

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- More people (48%) have used green spaces more since lockdown, however 28% have used green spaces less. Activities and events that promote the continued use of green spaces post lockdown are required
- The main reasons to visit green spaces were the same before and after lockdown, to enjoy natural scenery and wildlife, relax and enjoy peace and quiet and to exercise
- People with disabilities, poor health and people from BAME backgrounds were significantly less likely to visit a green space, so initiatives to encourage greater access amongst these groups are required
- People in priority neighbourhoods and people with no access to private gardens increased their use of green spaces more than other communities. Initiatives to continue increased access amongst these groups are required

5.7.5 2020 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE GREEN SPACES PRE-ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Between 16th October and 30th November 2020, a survey was carried out to seek views and gather opinions from groups, organisations and the community on the preparation of South Gloucestershire Council's new Greener Spaces Strategy (see section 4.12).

Online and paper survey were sent out to stakeholders and the wider community. Consultation information was sent to Town and Parish Councils, South Gloucestershire councillors and local voluntary and community organisations. Notifications were also sent to a range of other stakeholders and interested parties. All libraries and One-Stop Shops were also notified of the consultation details and asked to cascade the information to any interested parties. A copy of the survey findings is included in **Appendix 12**.

There was a total of 513 responses to the survey and the key findings were as follows:

- There was an increase in the number of respondents who visited green spaces daily before the Covid-19 emergency and now at the time of the survey being carried out (autumn 2020) from 34% to 47%.
- The top three reasons that respondents had increased their visits to green space were that they feel they now have more time for getting outdoors due to either working from home, working less or being furloughed. That they were making an effort to get more exercise to improve their overall health and that they appreciate open spaces and nature more now than they did before.
- The top five reasons listed for visiting green spaces were to enjoy natural scenery and wildlife (92% before, 89% now), to exercise (84% before, 90% now) and to relax and enjoy peace and quiet in nature (91% before, 88% now)
- Overall, the largest number of respondents (over half 52%) indicated that they value green spaces much more now than compared to before March 2020.

- The top three reasons for valuing green space more now than before the Covid-19 outbreak were that green spaces offer a calming and relaxing environment and is beneficial to their mental health. That accessing green spaces is beneficial for physical health and exercise and that they are happy to enjoy local areas more now and enjoy exploring their local area.
- Overall, the largest number of respondents (nearly three quarters 72%) did not feel that they face any barriers to accessing or using green space, 28% felt that they did. Respondents who indicated that they have a physical impairment were much more likely to feel that they face barriers accessing green spaces (69% indicated yes) All respondents who indicated that they have a sensory impairment indicated yes and 62% of respondents who have a long-standing illness or condition also indicated that they feel they face barriers in accessing green space.
- The top three barriers to accessing or using green space were: Pavements and pathways not being maintained well enough to access green space and parks, too many houses being built, land development that takes away green space and too many people now using green spaces due to Covid- 19.
- The most frequently mentioned priority by respondents was to keep open spaces and parks clean of litter, fly tipping and dog mess. The second most frequently mentioned priority was to preserve natural habitats and wildlife areas and the third frequently mentioned priority was to protect and maintain current green space to a higher standard.
- The majority of respondents (67%) indicated that they are not involved in any volunteering groups. 33% of respondents were involved.
- The top three ways in which the council can improve support for green space volunteers and groups were that the council could provide better promotion of groups and what they do through communications such as social media, newsletters and emails. That groups need greater funding or support to apply for grants and that the council could help by stopping selling off and developing green space.
- The majority of respondents (62%) were interested in getting involved with green space groups in the future. 38% indicated that this would not interest them.
- The top three ways which the council could improve the information about green spaces were through good communication via social media, newsletters and emails. That they feel they do not have enough time or have too many other commitments to get involved and that organising local events to publicise these groups would encourage them to get involved.

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- Initiatives that help to maintain the increased use of green spaces for health and wellbeing should be included
- Physical and other barriers to people accessing green spaces should be reduced
- There should be opportunities for people to get involved in volunteering

5.7.6 2020 CONNECTING KINGSWOOD SURVEY

In December 2020 Connecting Kingswood partnership carried out a large-scale community engagement exercise to hear the voices of local people and enable them to express their views on issues affecting their lives in Kingswood. The engagement involved an online and paper-based survey, plus conversations with groups, businesses and individuals, and it was promoted widely throughout the summer of 2020, gathering 460 responses. The Connecting Kingswood partnership is a multi-agency group of local businesses, Councillors, charities and South Gloucestershire Council that are working on behalf of the Kingswood community to contribute to the planning and delivery of services in the local area. A copy of the full survey findings is included in **Appendix 13**.

Selected findings from the survey that are relevant to identifying local community needs and priorities for the Kingswood Park Project are as follows:

Do you feel part of the community in Kingswood?

Over one third said that they do not feel part of the community of Kingswood and, more than half sometimes don't. Of those who stated that they do not feel part of the community, 32% also commented in later survey questions that they would like more social contact and frequently feel isolated. This level of isolation may have been enhanced during the pandemic, when isolation was often advised and/or required. This may particularly affect people answering 'sometimes'. It is clear that projects that help to reduce social isolation and promote community cohesion should be included in the Kingswood Park Project.

What do you like or dislike about living in Kingswood?

Park and open spaces, especially Kingswood Park were part of the key 'likes' expressed. Anti-social behavior, litter and graffiti, crime and community safety and loss of community spirit were among the 'dislikes'.

There was a difference of opinion on the sense of community felt in Kingswood, with some noting it as a place where they feel connected and at home, and others expressing the idea that the sense of cohesion has been lost, some calling for more events such as fairs, carnivals and parades to help to unite people. It is clear that community events and activities organised as part of the Kingswood Park Project can help to reduce social isolation and restore community spirit.

What are the most important issues affecting Kingswood today?

The most significant issue for people in Kingswood was crime and community safety. The natural environment/green spaces and the local economy were seen as almost equally as important. The most frequently raised "other" issue that people saw was the need for regeneration, investment and care in the High Street. The Kingswood Park Project will complement the initiative to regenerate the Town Centre (see section 3.5) and help address some of these issues.

What new local activities for adults would you like to see?

Ideas for new activities in Kingswood, presented as a word-cloud (below), underlines the emphasis respondents placed on social activities with other people, rather than individual activities and the comments show that cultural activities, socialising and outdoor activities are very much in people’s minds, and should be included in the regeneration plans for Kingswood Town Centre and its park.



Do you feel there are enough local groups and activities for young people?

Very few (8%) thought there were enough activities for young people whilst 42% said no and 50% didn’t know. There were a wide range of ideas for activities and these are presented in the word cloud below. This survey findings provide supporting evidence for the need for many of the activities included in our Activities Plan SD1 that are focussed on children and young people.



How would you rate local jobs and training opportunities?

Of those who stated that they were unemployed (24 people), local jobs and training opportunities were rated as “poor” by 13, and “average” by 5. Another five people commented they did not know, and only one person rated jobs and training opportunities as “good”.

Work and qualifications are seen as important, but also learning for interest, health and wellbeing or practical skills is equally important to people. More information on volunteering in the community was also suggested.

What do you think affects people’s physical and mental health most negatively?

Money, substance abuse, then employment and crime are seen as the most negative influences on health. Some people added other comments and suggestions of issues that can be a negative impact in peoples’ lives, including loneliness, isolation, anti-social behaviour, mental health conditions, the stress of being a carer, relationships, poor education, work stresses and job insecurity. Social and economic factors are seen to have the biggest negative impacts on health.

Parks and open space are seen to have as positive an impact on health as health services. Again, social factors are important with community support and interests/hobbies near to 60%. Some other suggestions of positive contributors to peoples’ lives included having a secure and fulfilling job, having connection with other people, being self-motivated and having positive self-esteem.

Social Life in Kingswood

Only half of the people responding said that they had as much social contact as they need. This is quite concerning but could be seriously affected by the current situation with Covid-19.

Crime and Community Safety

Anti-social behaviour has three times and drug misuse generated twice the level of concern as other crime and safety issues. Additional comments were made around specific anti-social behaviours such as littering, vandalism and graffiti, as well as many community safety issues such as burglary and fear of assault and violent crime.

Have you connected with any of these local networks or organisations in the last two years?

Only Friends of Kingswood Park had over one third of people connected to them whereas other named groups/fora had much lower engagement. The survey does though indicate a high level of desire for engagement, civic action and volunteering. This is a very positive indication of the potential to develop groups and activities as well as to involve people in the regeneration of Kingswood.

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- Initiatives to reduce social isolation and improve community spirit should be a priority, including more community events and activities. Following the pandemic, social activities with other people, rather than individual activities should be the focus
- Initiatives that contribute to reducing anti-social behavior, litter and graffiti, and improving community safety are to be welcomed
- Regeneration of the park will compliment initiatives to regenerate the High Street and Town Centre and has the support of the community
- More activities for young people are required
- Skills and learning activities are required

5.7.7 2020 KINGSWOOD PARK COVID-19 SURVEY

A survey was carried out between 20th October and 31st December 2020 to gather more specific data on how people used and valued Kingswood Park during the Covid 19 lockdown and social distancing regulations. There was a total of 155 online responses to the survey and a copy of the survey findings is contained in **Appendix 14**.

What are your five main reasons for visiting Kingswood Park?

The main reason participants listed for visiting Kingswood Park was to enjoy natural scenery and wild life (78%). Slightly less (72%) of respondents indicated that they visit to relax and enjoy peace and quiet in nature. 62% of respondents visit to spend time with family and/or friends. Half of respondents (50%) visit Kingswood Park to exercise. 43% visit the children's play area. 27% exercise the dog and a quarter (25%) use Kingswood Park to walk or cycle to somewhere else. A further 20% indicated that they use the park to take a shortcut. 19% visit the park for a picnic. 13% indicated that they visit the park to attend an event and 9% use the park to play sport.

Since the start of the Covid period have you been using Kingswood Park more or less than before?

Overall, 62% of respondents indicated that they use Kingswood Park more than before the start of the Covid period with 38% indicating that they use the Park a lot more than before. Only 15% of respondents indicated that they use it less than before.

To what extent would you rate Kingswood Park as important to your wellbeing and quality of life?

Overall, 90% of respondents rated Kingswood Park as important to their wellbeing and quality of life, with 60% of those rating it as very important. Only 2% indicated that Kingswood Park is unimportant to their wellbeing and quality of life.

Please use this space to leave any further comments about how you value Kingswood Park

The large majority of comments made about Kingswood park were very positive. 28 comments were made that the park is essential to their mental health and wellbeing. 26 comments were made that they felt the park is well maintained and is a pleasure to visit and 16 comments were made that the park is a great asset to the community.

15 comments were made that the park needs better facilities and updating to include things such as a café, toilets, larger play area and sports facilities. 13 comments were made that they enjoy using the park for exercise. 7 comments were made that they value the park as they are able to safely meet up with friends and family. 5 comments were made that they are able to safely socially distance from other people using the park.

4 comments were made that the children's play area needs updating and 4 comments were made that the park needs to be kept cleaner.

Summary of key survey finding

Useful information from the survey to inform the development of the NLHF bid is:

- The main reasons for visiting pre/during the pandemic did not change, however there was an increase in community use of the park
- The value of the park to the local community was amplified by the pandemic with 90% seeing it as important to their wellbeing and quality of life

5.7.8 2021 GOOGLE MOBILITY REPORTS

A report in Horticulture Weekly (14th Jan 2021, Dan Symonds) described Google's Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports which at that time had shown that the number of people visiting parks in the previous six weeks was down 13% year-on-year. The data was collected from mobile phones and uses a median baseline taken from the corresponding period the previous year. The Community Mobility Reports also detail park use in each region. While park use fell dramatically in many regions South Gloucestershire bucked this trend and park use increased by 47%. The Google Mobility Report dated 16th February shows an improvement in these figures with a 5% increase in park use UK wide compared to the baseline, however South Gloucestershire far exceeded this with a 69% increase (see Appendix 15 for a copy of the report).

5.7.9 2022 DEVELOPMENT PHASE SURVEY

The purpose of this consultation was to seek views and gather opinions from residents, groups and organisations on potential improvements to Kingswood Park, including visitor satisfaction questions (for our evaluation baseline), a survey of the audience's knowledge of the heritage, and people's views on a refreshment facility. A total of 614 responses were received.

A copy of the survey form and results can be found in **Appendix 16**.

A number of questions were included in the survey to provide data for the Kingswood Park Interpretation & Signing Plan (SD15). These included questions to assess what people already knew about the heritage, how people rated their knowledge of the park's history, how interested they were in finding out more about the park and their reaction to different types of interpretative media.



Key summary findings are:

General themes

- Families with children are a key group of visitors, but families with younger children are less satisfied with the park than others
- The play equipment is a key element to improve, including updating the equipment, providing equipment for older children, and increasing the size of the area
- There are relatively few differences in response from those from minority ethnic backgrounds and based on gender; there are more differences in response by age and life stage (i.e. employed vs retired)

Satisfaction with the park

- Respondents were generally satisfied with the park overall and with the current condition of the park, but there is scope for improvement
- People with dependents in the household were less satisfied than those with no dependents
- Respondents at both ends of the age range, the youngest and oldest, were the most satisfied both with the park overall and the current condition specifically
- Disabled respondents were more negative about the current condition than non-disabled respondents (66% vs 51%)
- Respondents from a minority ethnic background were more likely to be positive about the current condition than white British visitors (20% vs 9%)
- The best feature is considered to be signage, and the worst the toilet facilities

Attitudes towards the park and its links with the community

- Over three-quarters of respondents feel that the park has a positive impact on the local community
- There are concerns about safety in the park, and less agreement about whether there is community spirit in the area around the park

Usage of the park

- Families make particularly good use of the park, and those with dependents under 11 in the household were more likely to visit than others
- A lack of things to see or do, and concerns about safety, were the most frequent reasons cited for not visiting the park
- The vast majority of people (84%) travel to the park on foot followed by driving a car (25%), suggesting that parking is a key element to get right. This is especially true for visitors with young dependents who are particularly likely to arrive by car
- Key reasons for visiting include getting some fresh air, visiting the children's play area, and meeting with friends/children/family

History and stories of Kingswood Park

- Knowledge of the history of the park was generally low, with specific facts about the area not well known by respondents
- Future information sharing could focus on the second world war years and ‘curious’ facts such as the legend of the elephant
- The preference was to learn about the park through information given on-site (76%), followed by the park website (51%)

Refreshments

- Introducing a refreshment facility was deemed likely to increase park usage by 68% of respondents
- The idea of a refreshment facility had strong support, with the weekends (81% of respondents) and weekdays (66% of respondents) both popular
- Opening hours should extend from around 9am until 4:30pm; likely usage was lower outside of these hours. Spring and summer would likely see the highest use
- Must-haves are hot and cold drinks (99% likely to purchase), ice cream/lollies (91% likely to purchase), and snacks (77% likely to purchase); of much less importance were full meals (22% likely to purchase)
- Vegan options were requested by several respondents



Friends of Kingswood Park social media post advertising the 2022 Questionnaire survey

Regarding the development of activities and understanding audience needs, the following key points were recorded:

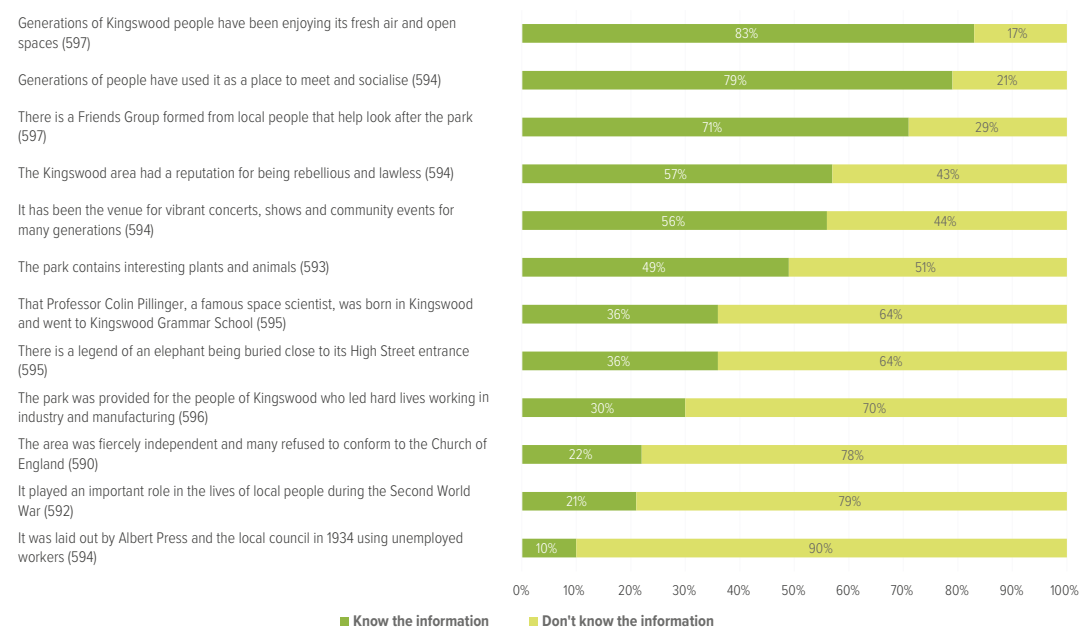
Knowledge of information about the park

Respondents were asked to assess their knowledge of the park’s history. Only 17% of respondents assessed their knowledge as good, whereas 58% assessed their knowledge as poor. Men were significantly more likely than women to report good knowledge (23% vs 14%), and people over the age of 65 were significantly more likely to report good knowledge than younger people (38% good knowledge aged over 75 vs 0% under 25). Retired people reported better knowledge than employed or ‘other’ occupied people (31% vs 13%).

When asked whether they knew specific facts about the park, respondents gave a mixed response. General facts such as ‘generations of Kingswood people have been enjoying its fresh air and open spaces’ got a high level of recognition (83%). Conversely, specific facts such as ‘it was laid out by Albert Press and the local council in 1934 using unemployed workers’ got a very low level of recognition (10% knowing the information, 57 people).

Chart 1:

Knowledge of Heritage Information About the Park



This supports the view there is an opportunity to share stories about the park, and whether better knowledge of the park would make people more likely to use it as a resource.

When asked for any other knowledge about the special features or history of the park, respondents mentioned events like the fireworks displays, local parades and beauty pageants. 15 respondents shared individual facts about the park:

- Mr Hawkins made the gates
- I think sermons used to be conducted on the bandstand
- That damaged trams from bombing during world war 2 were taken there and burnt
- Where the band stand is, under that large area originally trams from Bristol were buried there and the people of Cliftonville refused to help build the tram system
- Years ago, before the bowling green when I was a child football games were played there
- It had doves live in around the toilet block, fishponds, and an aviary
- Budgies were kept in cages by the toilets for many years until vandalism meant it was not safe for the birds used to go especially to see them
- Mining area
- There used to be a park keeper employed
- There is a play about the elephant, I saw it at the old Vic (studio)
- It contains many mature and interesting trees, unusual wood carvings, and a “wetlands” area with abundant native wild plants. It used to have a proper bandstand
- Bristolian actor Leigh Williams filmed a tv commercial in there
- The round flower bed was a fountain
- There used to be a toy story themed spray-painted wall near one of the exits/ and entrances of the park
- Local schools are encouraged to support a wildlife area. Local schools use the park for outdoor lessons and other activities

Interest in information about the park

Respondents were asked how interested they were in learning more about various aspects of park history. The majority of people were very or quite interested in all aspects listed, but there was highest interest in learning about the park during the second world war, and the legend of the elephant buried under the park. There was less strength of interest in general topics such as how people have used the park through the generations and stories about how people used the park to meet and socialise, plus information about the Friends Group and how to get involved in caring for the park.

Interest in different methods of finding out the story of the park

Respondents were asked to select their preferred methods of finding out the story of the park. Over three-quarters of respondents want to learn about the park on-site, through information displays (76%, 445 people) and sign board/interpretation panels (76%, 444 people). Just over half of respondents would like information to be available on the park website (51%, 299 people).

There was less interest in the in-person options like guided park leaflets or audio guides. Other comments on different methods of finding out the story of the park were:

- Social media
- Concerts (party in the park)
- Disabled access for people and facilities for disabled children and adults
- Creative community-based activities like BS15, Free Sunday Yoga, Dog Shows, Seasonal activities
- South Glos eNews
- Sculptures / statues
- Information about plants and trees
- Put the exercise machines in a more private area

Park Refreshment Facility

Respondents were also asked for their views on a potential new refreshment facility.

Days of the week: When asked what days they would use a refreshment facility, 81% of respondents (485 people) said the weekends, 66% said weekdays. Only 7% of respondents said they would not use a refreshment facility at all, indicating strong support for the idea.

Women were more likely to use a refreshment facility on weekdays than men (71% vs 53%), whereas perhaps unsurprisingly employed people were less likely than others to use it on a weekday. At the weekends, the greatest likely use was indicated by those aged from 25 to 54, with a very low likely usage from those aged over 75. Respondents with young dependents living at home were very likely to use the facility at the weekend, with 93% of people with dependents under 11 selecting the weekend as an option (250 people).

Time of day: Morning, lunchtime and afternoon were the most popular times selected for use and interest in use dropped off after 4:30pm. There was little difference in desired time of day usage between the weekdays and weekends, suggesting that usage would probably be relatively evenly spread throughout the week. People with children at home aged under 11 preferred the morning slot between 9 and 11:30am compared to those with older children, or no children at all. There were few other differences seen between types of respondents, suggesting that refreshment facility usage would be relatively consistent through the day.

Time of the year: Spring and summer were the most popular seasons for refreshment facility use (91% and 95% of respondents respectively), perhaps correlating to intention to use the park in good weather, or an expectation of staying longer in the park area. Respondents over 75 were significantly less likely to use the facility in winter than other age groups.

Frequency of use of a refreshment facility: Few respondents said they'd use a facility daily (5%), but many more thought they would make use of it between a few times a week (23%) and 2 to 3 times a month (30%). There were no significant differences in likely frequency based on respondent type.

Likelihood of purchasing different refreshment types: Almost all respondents (99%) said they were likely to purchase hot and cold drinks at a refreshment facility in the park and purchase ice creams and lollies. 77% said they were likely to purchase snacks like chocolate, crisps and sweets. The demand for hot food was lower with 78% unlikely to purchase a full meal.

The impact of refreshments on park usage: Respondents were asked whether the availability of refreshments would increase their use of the park. 68% of respondents said yes and a further 24% saying maybe. Opinions differed by age. Younger respondents were more positive about this idea, with over three-quarters of respondents aged up to 44 saying a definite yes, their use would increase if refreshments were available, compared to only 48% of 65 to 75-year-olds. Retired respondents were less likely to have their use affected by the availability of refreshments.

Comments from the 2022 survey made by respondents included:

“People with limited mobility would use the park more if there was a level route around the park with attractive handrails. A sensory garden could be an interesting attraction. Updated play equipment badly needed”

“It would be good if there was additional play equipment on the park, this would mean we would stay in the park longer rather than a short trip”

“The toilets are disgusting and need serious improvement. There is no baby changing facilities and often only one open and so dirty, feel more hygienic weeing in a bush!!”

“Not of interest at present as facilities not good enough”

“On previous visits the park has been very quiet which is unnerving for lone women. I have also witnessed antisocial behaviour previously”

A copy of the full Kingswood Park 2022 Survey Consultation Output Report can be found in **Appendix 16**.

5.7.10 2022 KINGSWOOD HEALTH CENTRE WALKING SURVEY

The purpose of this consultation was to seek views from Kingswood Health Centre users to test support for a park and surrounding area walking well group, including overall interest, frequency, level of walk (limited to advanced) and opportunity to comment. A total of 186 responses to the survey were completed.

Joining a Walking Well Group: Despite mobility challenges expressed by respondents, 102 (54%) expressed an interest in joining a walking group with other patients of a similar age. Many appreciated the opportunity to meet and socialise with others.

Level of walking ability: 111 completed this question. 25% recorded their walking ability as limited and interest for walks in the park only. 67% described their level of walking ability as moderate and would be interested in walking short distances both in and around the park. 9% recorded their walking ability as advanced and would be interested in walking longer distances in the area around the park.

Frequency of attending a walking group? 111 completed this question. 47% stated they would be interested in walking once a week, with 12 % interested in walking more than once a week demonstrating a high level of support for regular weekly walking sessions. 22% were interested in walking twice a month, with 10% preferring to walk once a month.

The thoughts and comments left by respondents (Table 1 below) reflected a wide range of support for walking opportunities, amplifying the need for a range of opportunities that cater for all abilities and access needs. Most welcoming was the support for walking sessions that being people together in a social setting.

Table 1: Comments from Kingswood Health Centre Walking Group Survey

Good idea to get people moving and making new friends
My wife is very interested in this but does have access to the group via e-mail.
It would depend on which day and what time.
I walk 3 times a week with my sister and try to get my 10,000 steps up every other day so although I think the group is a good idea I am happy at the moment in the way I take my exercise.
Unable to deal with sharp or sustained inclines
Thank you for the suggestion but I get plenty of walking with our dog.
Great idea but I already do a lot of walking thank you.
I would prefer weekends
We as a couple walk every day
I have knee and hip mobility problems
I have sciatica? and cannot walk long distance I walk my dog twice a day and anyone would be uncomfortable for me
Unable to walk without frame
I go for a walk every day with my husband
Thankyou for the invite and i regret that my mobility is bad so will not be able to join. I do however think that it will be very good for anyone interested as it would enable them to meet others and get fresh air and exercise.
It would be amazing to walk with similar people in my age group with limited walking as I have copd but still love to exercise and meet new people/friends.
Yes, would like to give it a try even though outside my comfort zone
Would willing join a group
Can I bring my dog
Wouldn't be able to tackle any amount of uphill gradients due to arthritis in spine and knee surgery 12 months ago
I would be interested as feel I would benefit from the exercise and social interaction.
Walking in company makes for a more enjoyable activity.
I need to sit down after walking about 100 yards and it will be several minutes before I can resume. I am unable to walk and talk. It difficult to see how a group walk would work for me,
Good idea let's hope for a good response
Thank you, this is something I desperately need to do so maybe this will give me the motivation.
The speed at which I walk is limited by my need to use two sticks and my age which is 84.
I am sorry but I do not do hills very well and we are certainly in very hilly area.
This depends on how far the group will walk
With no car I could only take part if I could safely get to the start/end of walk using my only transport a mobility scooter
I applaud the prospect of this type of group
This is a great idea and has come at the right time for me as I retire from work
This is something that I really must do, perhaps this group will give me the motivation.
Dodgy knee so walk with a stick
I am substantially disabled and wheelchair-bound
I would need to start with a short walk, initially. Walking is no problem for me but I am tending to stoop, due to back ache.
I am currently waiting for an appointment with a musculoskeletal clinician as I am experiencing a hip problem that restricts my walking.
Sounds like a great idea. Since lockdown rules have eased, I enjoy walking & find it difficult to find someone to walk with on weekdays, as many have returned to work.
I enjoy walking and the company

5.7.11 2022 OBSERVATIONAL SURVEYS – SUMMER

During the summer school holidays observational surveys were carried out by the Development Team officers over seven days in June and August 2022. Officers observed the movement of people in the park and their activities. A copy of summary report of findings from the Observational Surveys can be provided on request.

The main conclusions from the surveys were as follows:

- The park is popular with families with young children, particularly at home time after school and on weekends
- The park is used by teenagers to gather around the teen shelter and basketball hoop area, mainly later in the afternoon / early evening and on weekends
- Access problems (surface, steps and gradients) restrict access for all, particularly parents using push chairs / buggies, and those using wheelchairs or mobility scooters
- More males than females were observed using the park and this level of use does not reflect the gender profile for the park catchment – this may be an anomaly and needs to be verified by further observation surveys during the delivery stage
- The park is used by new communities to the area, specifically Eastern Europeans.
- The number of over 55-year-old visitors to the park is under-represented compared to the park catchment and some activities and events should focus on attracting greater numbers of over 55s to the park. Access improvements to the park should be made to make the park more accessible to this group
- Specific activities focussed on groups by ethnicity are not required as this group is not under-represented in terms of its use of the park
- More people visit with others during the week rather than at weekends, so activities aimed at attracting families and groups should take place at weekends, particularly outside school holidays
- Dog walkers make up a proportion of visitors
- Playing, walking and sitting were the most popular activities

The main action deriving from the observational surveys is to ensure that there are activities and events that will attract more over 55s to the park and implement accessibility recommendations contained in the Kingswood Park Disability Access Audit 2021 to make the park more accessible to people with mobility problems. Consideration should also be given to how best to market events and activities to this group.

5.7.12 VISITOR NUMBERS - AUTOMATED COUNTERS

2019/ 20 Visits

In August 2019 Linetop Automated Counters were installed at the six entrances to the park and two entrances to the toilets. These counters are operated and monitored by volunteers from FOKP. During the period October to December 2020 three entrances to the park underwent maintenance work, during which the counters were inoperative. It is therefore not possible to rely on visitor data for this period. However, the total number of visits for an uninterrupted 12-month period (1st Sept 2019 to August 31st 2020) was 259,789.

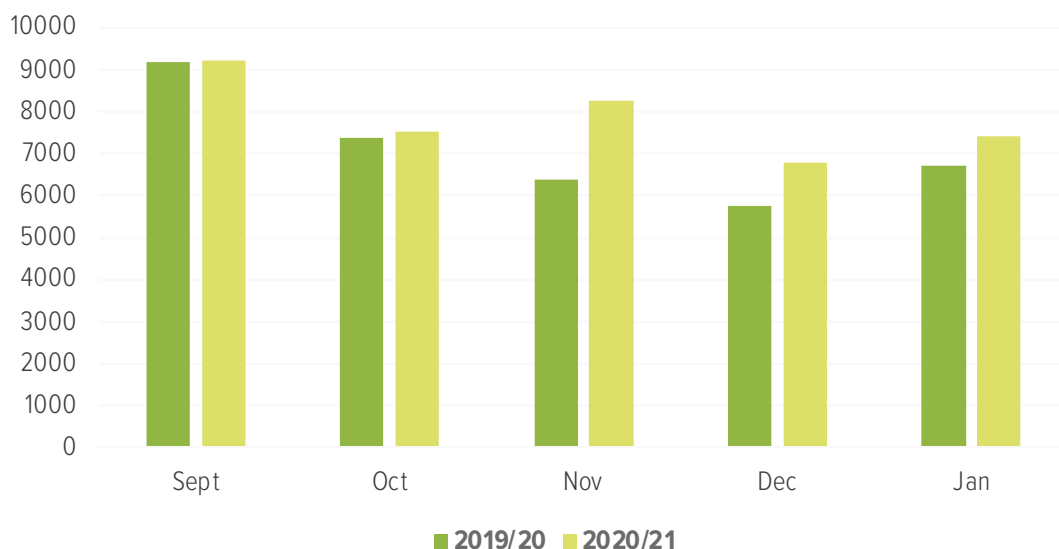
2020/21 Visits - Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic

The number of visits was impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic and the changing regulations, however due to the closure of the three entrances it was not possible to compare pre and post pandemic figures for the whole park. Although we collected data during the pre-pandemic period September 2019 to February 2020, we could not reliably compare these to the same period in in 2020/21 (for the whole park) because three counters were inoperative for three months.

As result we undertook an analysis of the busiest park entrance located on the High Street, to assess the impact of the pandemic. Analysis of the data from its automated counter provided a partial indication of whether use of the park increased or decreased during the pandemic. Chart 2 below shows that there were more visits during Autumn / Winter 2020/21 than 2019/20.

Chart 2:

High Street entrance number of visits pre / post pandemic



The total number of visits during Sept - Jan 2019/20 was 35,386 whilst for the corresponding period in 2020/21 the number of visits was 39,217. This represented an increase in use of 10.8%. It should be noted that the number of visits during the 2020/21 period was suppressed by the closure of the adjacent primary school during lockdowns, when children / parents were not walking to school through the park.

2021 Visits

A total of 303,335 visits were recorded for this 12 month period, this was an increase of 16.76% over the 2019/20 figure. This increase may be as a result of the number of people visiting during the pandemic increasing, however we do not have hard evidence to prove this.

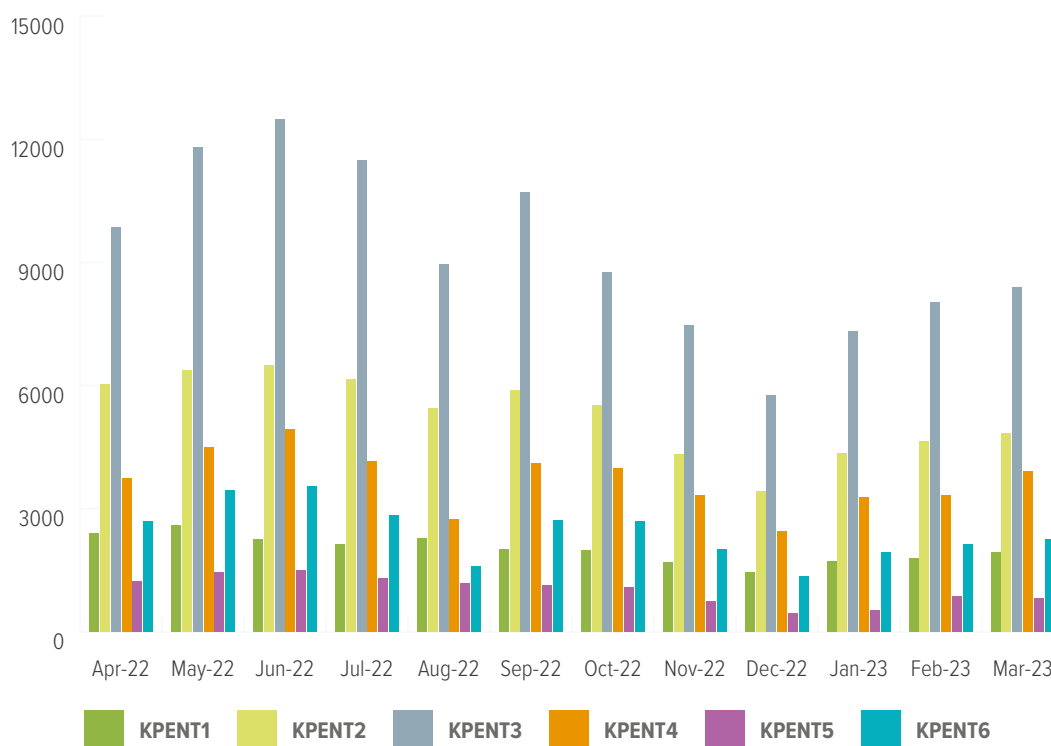
2022/23 Visits

The latest full year data that we have for total number of visits is for April 2022 – March 2023, with 284,691 visits. This is decrease of nearly 5% from the 2021 number of visits, however still an increase of nearly 11% over the 2019/20 figure. The decrease may be a function of people returning to more usual patterns of behavior post-pandemic. A summary of the counter data for 2022/23 is included in **Appendix 17**.

Chart 3 below shows the pattern of use during 2022, with the main High Street entrance (KPENT3) being the busiest, followed by Edward Road (KPENT2). The Hollow Road Middle (KPENT5) had the least use. The other entrances are Hollow Road North (KPENT4), Hollow Road South (KPENT6), and Orchard Road (KPENT1).

Chart 3:

Kingswood Park Pattern of Visits 2022/23



Please see section 2.2, Kingswood Park Interpretation & Signing Plan (SD15) for further analysis of visitor numbers by entrance.

Data on visits to the public toilets on the High Street frontage is available for the period October 2019 to December 2020. The toilets were closed during the 1st wave of the pandemic (Mid-March to June), however taking out this period we have data for 12 months between October 2019 and December 2020 when the toilets were open. There was a total of 17,822 visits. Of these 12,745 (71.5%) were to the men’s toilet and 5077 (28.5%) to the ladies. It is interesting that the men’s toilets have a much higher number of visits. There may be an equalities issue here with the poor condition of the toilets and safety concerns deterring more female users. We do not have reliable figures for use of the toilets during 2022/23, because the toilets were closed for a period due to vandalism.

5.7.13 SUMMARY OF SURVEY / AUTOMATED COUNTER DATA

Table 2 below summarises the findings of the surveys and information from the automated counters during the Covid-19 Pandemic and all suggest an increase in use of green spaces in South Gloucestershire, including Kingswood Park.

Table 2: South Gloucestershire use of parks and green spaces during the Covid-19 Pandemic, and post-pandemic period	
Data Source	Findings on level of Use During Covid-19 Pandemic
South Gloucestershire Green Spaces Pre-Engagement Survey	Increase in the number of daily visits before the Covid-19 emergency and autumn 2020 from 34% to 47%.
Viewpoint Survey June 2020 Greenspaces in Lockdown Survey	48% of respondents have used green spaces more since lockdown, and 28% having used green spaces less
2020 Kingswood Park Covid 19 Survey	62% of respondents use Kingswood Park more than before the start of the Covid period. Only 15% of respondents indicated that they use it less than before.
Automated Counters (High Street entrance only)	10.8% increase in number of visits through the High Street entrance Sept 2020 to Feb 2021, compared to same period pre-pandemic. There was an increase of 16.76% in the number of visits to the park for the whole of 2021, compared to pre-pandemic. The number of visits then fell back by 5% during 2022/23.

Important information from the surveys / counter information to inform the development of our NLHF bid is:

- Green spaces have played a central role in people’s lives during the pandemic in South Gloucestershire
- Kingswood Park is vital to the wellbeing and life quality of the local community in an area that has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire. This is reflected in 2020 Kingswood Park Survey where 62% of respondents say they use the park more than before the start of the Covid period. 90% rated Kingswood Park as important to their wellbeing and quality of life
- The toilets have a much lower level of use by females compared to males which may reflect their poor condition and safety concerns
- People are generally satisfied with the park but wish to see improvements
- Disabled people are more likely to be negative about the park’s condition than non-disabled people
- There are concerns about safety in the park, and less agreement about whether there is community spirit in the area around the park
- Knowledge of the park’s history is generally low, however people are interested to learn more
- The proposal for a refreshment facility has wide community support

5.8 LESSONS LEARNT: PAGE PARK NLHF PROJECT

In 2015 South Gloucestershire Council secured delivery phase HLF Parks for People funding for a project to restore Page Park. Details can be found here:

🌐 **Page Park | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council** (southglos.gov.uk)

A summary of the lessons learned, and challenges faced in delivering the Page Park project from the perspective of the Friends of Page Park and the project delivery team is set out below. This has been used to inform our NLHF bid for Kingswood Park.

5.8.1 FRIENDS OF PAGE PARK – LESSONS LEARNED

Comments provided by Friends of Page Park in January 2020.

- A lot of detailed work was done to put together the successful bid to the lottery in the first place. Without that nothing would have been possible. The work was based on feedback from the community regarding what would be valued. That gave the project some very sound foundations. The submission was detailed and well thought through so that when it came to implementation the project had a very clear and sound plan to work with. The plan was broad and varied including physical restoration, historical interests, children's' activities, the cafe, physical activities, improved disabled facilities, and community events.
- Having a strong Friends group which is involved at all stages is valuable. This enables proposals to be questioned and challenged in a constructive way. All sides have been listened to and views respected.
- The Friends group is able to serve as a bridge between the project and the local community. Issues could be quickly addressed with the assurance that the community interest would be safeguarded by the input from the Friends group.
- Communication is very important and has generally been done well. Communication with the community and the Council has been timely. The communication has helped to keep the community both aware of developments and supportive of the whole venture. A variety of communication methods has been employed – Facebook, twitter, emails, notice boards, local press / radio / TV, and face to face at events. All have been effective. The communication has been two way with points raised by members of the community being taken on board and responded to so as to enable a real sense of involvement
- Additional fund raising from the Friends group has enabled more to be delivered and what would have been shortfalls to be made up. The Council has also contributed by putting in extra funding such as for a new electricity supply which has proved invaluable and doing extra work such as the resurfacing of the paths. The initial budget and grants from the HLF and other contributors would have allowed the project to succeed. The additional fund raising along the way has allowed the project to do more in ways that have made a noticeable difference to park users and so made the level of success really outstanding
- There has been good team working between the Friends group, the local Councillors, and the Council (especially the project staff). This has allowed the most to be made from the wide skill set available across the various groups. The feeling of being able to work as a team has made everyone involved more motivated to go the extra mile to make the project as successful as possible.

- The feedback is very positive, reflecting the fact that the project has been a great success, and the park has become even more cherished and well used by the local community than it was previously. There were some set-backs and challenges along the way. Major events had to be cancelled due to bad weather, some improvements suffered from vandalism, some aspects ran into cost overruns, there was an attempt to establish a community trust which took up time but went nowhere, and tough issues like the clock tower bells having to be silenced overnight. The overall sense throughout, though, was of continuing positive progress, and this could be seen as the various aspects came to be worked on and delivered. This steady realisation of the project plan carried everyone through the setbacks.
- It is essential that any project reflects what the community wants and needs and that consultations are sensible and correct. The consultation on the siting of the cafe misled many people at the end of the day there was only a couple of logical places for it to go, near to electric, drainage etc.
- The final Adventure Play Area was not what the majority of our community were consulted on, the desired play equipment couldn't be installed as the contractor had ceased working due to illness, the site of the play area also changed throughout the consultation.
- The sum being applied for is enough to complete the whole project.
- It is very important to have an Activity Officer full time. In fact I think SGC should employ full time Activity Officers within the Community Spaces Dept to draw in the activity providers giving use and instruction in our green spaces because we have found that encouraging more activities in the park brings in the people, helps to reduce antisocial behaviour and vandalism, gives our visitors a sense of belonging, ownership and a willingness to help with maintenance and fundraising.
- What makes a project like this work is having a good Friends Group in place, a group that can help fulfil the agreement you have with the HLF / BIG Lottery of bringing more people to the park, a group that can step up to cover any funding shortfall and a group that are hands on to help with the work.
- The HLF project has been incredible, a privilege to be part of and something we would not have missed for the world!

5.8.2 PAGE PARK PROJECT TEAM – LESSONS LEARNED

What worked well

- Team – good balance of team skills enabled delivery of project despite challenges faced
- Team working – job sharing worked well / brought multiple skills to the project. Everyone was willing to support each other whatever their role
- The marketing apprentice worked very well and was helpful in raising the profile of the project / the park
- Working well in partnership with the community / Friends group provides new opportunities to secure additional match funding
- Friends group becoming a registered charity has opened up new funding opportunities to plug the funding shortfall
- Good working relationship with HLF (now NLHF) including the flexibility to amend projects / outputs when required
- Extensive consultation and partner engagement during the development phase helped secure wide engagement / support in the project from the start. Relationships continue to develop especially with local schools
- Café / The Nest – has had tremendous impact as a community hub to increase and widen engagement in the park
- Prioritising consultation with Friends and wider community and listening to their suggestions and concerns for all areas of delivery optimised support, engagement and ownership by local community leading to sustained legacy and outputs which have been warmly received by local community
- Strong partnership with other services, projects and council team led to strong, integrated and sustained outcomes eg with Active in Life (physical activity), Police, dog wardens, local schools, walking for health etc
- Strong partnership with HLF where in response to new needs, suggestions and opportunities identified within the community it was possible to adapt the activity programme to optimise reach of the same audience for the same budget leading to more sustained and effective outcomes. eg junior parkrun which will continue instead of short term activity sessions
- Page Park used as a case study for Public Health England regarding children and young people's physical activity
- Participant numbers in activities were greater than estimated at development phase

What could we do better

- Timescale allowance – capital works took much longer than expected particularly where issues arose with contractors so need to make enough allowance when projects are complex (e.g. café build)
- Some activities need more time (e.g. Oral History)
- Shortages in activities budget could be resolved by allowing a contingency
- Costs – insufficient budget resulted in challenges to deliver capital works
- Took decision not to ask for an uplift at development phase resulted in pressures on the community
- Managing expectations on what money was available at times for events as there was a perception of an endless budget available?
- Paperwork for events over the life of the project increased due to number of people attending and the type of stalls at events
- Engaging with the 16 -25 age group: Needed to have more activities aimed at this group

Lessons learned

- Capital costs were underestimated at both development and delivery round bids
- Architect / builder of café both presented big challenges that were time consuming and difficult. Option for redevelopment of pavilion at development phase took up a huge amount of officer time
- Insufficient contingency in the project budget to cover increased cost of materials. Resulted in inability to do everything planned
- Under-estimated community support – much higher than anticipated / expected
- Activities: Underestimated the demand, especially the Oral History Project which was popular and could have doubled the length / size of project due to stories found. Underestimated how popular Bark in the Park would be and the challenges of organising major events
- Activities: Could have doubled number of engagement activities and the length of some of the activities (oral history) however be clear need sufficient staff resources
- Should have done one leaflet with everything on rather than separate leaflets
- Activities officer capacity underestimated. Really required a full-time officer for three years with additional capacity to deliver health and wellbeing activities
- Managing expectation in the community / Friends group places additional demands on our services (officer time specifically). This should be considered in any future bids for funding
- Park coordinator post would have benefitted from clearer terms of reference at the development phase. Now resolved

- Possibly under-estimated participation numbers from the local community / numbers using the park have risen beyond expectation. Legacy planning is an important aspect to build into future bids to reflect successes and the pressures this brings
- Activities planning should include a clear exit plan and support to build the capacity of the Friends group. Also to have a clear understanding of who is responsible for what at the end of the activities
- Communications. There is a need to develop a communications plan and build in communications time into any project plan. Coms team provided lots of support and their time should be included as an in-kind value
- Volunteer data for HLF returns: A problem with this was towards the end of the activities work as Friends were not sending data. Danger that not all hours were captured and impacts upon monitoring work
- Monitoring and evaluation – a big challenge to capture data without annoying participants, especially when HLF required more personal data. Need to improve methods for doing this
- Budget management - HLF reporting requirements are quite detailed / time consuming

5.9 LESSONS LEARNT FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Kingswood area is one of the most deprived in South Gloucestershire; it has poor health outcomes and suffered from high infection rates during the pandemic. During the various lockdowns and movements between different covid tiers the value of parks and green spaces across the country became very evident. This was particularly the case in deprived urban areas where opportunities to access green space is limited. Kingswood has the lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire so the value of the park to the local community was greatly amplified by the pandemic. It was important to capture any changes in the use of the park during the pandemic, and build relevant lessons into our plans for the park. As a result, we undertook the surveys described in sections 5.7.4 to 5.7.7 and the main findings and lessons learnt can be summarised as followed:

- The park was used more by the community during the pandemic
- The reasons for visiting did not change as a result of the pandemic
- The value of the park to the local community was amplified by the pandemic with 90% seeing it as important to their wellbeing and quality of life
- The pandemic increased social isolation (over one third said that they do not feel part of the community of Kingswood and, more than half sometimes don't). As a result, initiatives to reduce social isolation and improve community spirit should be a priority, including more community events and activities. The sections of the community that are experiencing feelings of social isolation are a target beneficiary and activities designed during the development phase have sought to reduce this. There has been a focus on activities that promote social mixing with others, rather than individual activities. This should benefit sections of community that feel disconnected.
- The pandemic highlighted the value of Kingswood Park for community wellbeing, so activities that focus on mental and physical wellbeing have been a priority

6. SUMMARY OF LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

There are a number of local community needs that our project to restore and enhance Kingswood Park should address, many forming barriers that prevent people from visiting the park or visiting more often; these are summarised below and they are taken from an analysis of the needs highlighted in section 3, the strategic plans and policies discussed in section 4 and the consultation work described in section 5.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

- To provide activities and events that promote an increase in physical activity and improve general health and mental wellbeing in an area where there are poor health outcomes
- To provide activities and events that help address high levels of obesity in the local population, particularly amongst children
- To make the park and its heritage accessible to more / the widest range of people, particularly new communities who have settled in the area (Eastern Europeans and Hong Kong Chinese)
- To provide activities and events which bring people together to reduce social isolation, promote social cohesion and improve community spirit. This is a long term need that has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic and it is essential to engage people of all ages, including the elderly and people from minority communities
- To contribute to the regeneration of the Kingswood area and ‘Love Our High Streets’ Initiative which will boost the local economy in one of the most deprived areas of South Gloucestershire
- To improve the quality and facilities of the most important local green space in an area that has lowest percentage of informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire
- To provide opportunities for volunteering, training and skills development to improve confidence, mental wellbeing and employability of participants in an area that has a higher unemployment rate than the South Gloucestershire average and where there is a significantly high number of people on welfare benefits such as Universal Credit and Income Support
- To help build a stronger voluntary sector / volunteering opportunities
- To reduce anti-social behaviour through engagement in activities and intelligent park infrastructure design
- To enable children and young people to have fun growing up and a good start in life whilst increasing the number of children and young people participating and engaging effectively in their community through green space engagement opportunities
- To invest in the fabric and structures of the park to reduce long-term maintenance costs
- To enhance biodiversity so that the park supports a wider range of habitats and wildlife
- To contribute to targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote climate change resilience and adaptation

- To make the park / heritage accessible to more, and a wider range of people
- To increase the confidence of people that it is a safe place for people of all ages to visit in an area that is within the most deprived 4% nationally in the 'crime domain'
- To provide activities that are free at the point of use where possible

These needs have informed the proposals to restore and enhance the park and the activities and events that will engage the local community with the heritage.

7. AUDIENCE PROFILE FOR KINGSWOOD PARK

The information from the needs analysis, consultations, user surveys, discussions with FOKP, and meetings with local community / voluntary groups has been used to develop an audience profile. This is explored in detail in section 1.5 of our Activities Plan (SD1), with a list of audience sectors summarised below.

HOW CAN WE CATEGORISE THE AUDIENCE FOR THE PARK / HERITAGE?

The audience for Kingswood Park is diverse; it includes all age ranges and mainly consists of local people from Kingswood, Woodstock, New Cheltenham, Hanham, St. George and adjacent communities. The audience is as follows:

- Local residents from Kingswood, Woodstock, New Cheltenham, Hanham, St. George and adjacent communities
- People living in Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Area
- Local schools – pre-school, primary and secondary
- Young people – pre-school, children,
- Young people - older children and teenagers
- Parents / carers with toddlers and young children
- Grandparents with toddlers and young children
- Young parents / carers
- People over 55, including residents of sheltered housing
- People from minority ethnic communities
- New communities who have moved to the area, particularly Polish and Eastern Europeans and Hong Kong Chinese
- People with additional needs – physical, sensory and learning disabilities
- People of all ages with physical and mental wellbeing needs

The audience for activities and events can be further segmented into the following beneficiary groups:

- Overweight children and adults
- Parents / children from low income families
- Local youth groups
- Pre-school, play groups and schools with limited access to green space
- Kingswood Children's Centre service users

- The Park Centre service users
- Unemployed people and Job Centre Plus service users
- Carers of all ages, including those bringing adult dependents / service users
- Refugees and asylum seekers hosted within the community (Ukrainians and Syrians)
- Sports club participants (bowls)
- Local history societies / heritage groups
- People of all ages wishing to learn new skills, including adult learning
- Adults with learning needs – Choices for You
- Boys Brigade, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers
- Children and young people with additional needs, including pupils / students at Warmley Park School and College
- People with dementia
- Drug and alcohol abuse service users
- Local music groups
- Faith groups inclusive of all backgrounds / communities
- Kingsmeadow@Made for Ever service users
- Walking Well participants
- Residents for whom English is a second language
- Young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Care Leavers / Works for Youth Service users / We work for Everyone Users

8. NEW REFRESHMENT & TOILET FACILITIES

8.1 REFRESHMENT FACILITY

Consultations and survey work have revealed strong and enthusiastic support for new refreshment and toilet facilities. This is evidenced by the following:

- FOKP have highlighted the need for this facility for many years
- Widespread support for the proposal through meetings with community and voluntary groups and professional officers
- In the 2019 Questionnaire Survey 88% of respondents stated that a refreshment facility or café would benefit the community, only 6% disagreed
- In the 2022 Development Phase survey the idea of a refreshment facility had strong support, with the weekends (81% of respondents) and weekdays (66% of respondents) both popular

A business plan has been prepared for kiosk / concession proposal during the development phase. This demonstrates that the proposal is financially sustainable. A copy can be found in **Appendix 18**. At development phase meetings, and events with the public, the proposal was supported for a number of reasons which can be summarised as follows:

- It would attract more, and a wider range of people
- It would encourage people to stay longer
- It should be located next to the amphitheatre / performance area / rejuvenated play area, so parents could use the facility and still watch whilst their children played
- It should be located next to the new toilet / ‘Changing Places’ facility in the centre of the park so families could use the facility whilst enjoying park amenities
- It would be a place to relax and enjoy a green environment in a built-up area
- It would be a facility to support activities and events in the wider park
- It would provide an income stream to the park to help with future maintenance

Proposals for a permanent refreshments kiosk and covered area were explored in response to overwhelming public support. In addition, development work also scoped the option for a mobile facility with permanent services (electric and water) and a dedicated pitch in the park.

Consultation work with park users confirmed that the best location for a refreshment facility is within the central hub area linking to the improved amphitheatre, new toilets and expanded play area.



Business planning work demonstrated that options for a permanent kiosk or mobile concession were both financially viable. Proposals for a permanent kiosk option were developed by an architect, structural engineer and quantity surveyor, however, regrettably, the capital costs were unaffordable and we were unable to take this proposal forward.

As a result, the original proposal for a mobile concession has been taken forward.

The business plan recommendations will be used to develop a sustainable tender model for the refreshment concession and there will be a clear commitment for any rental income to be ring-fenced to the management and maintenance of the park.

8.2 TOILETS INCLUDING 'CHANGING PLACES' FACILITY

Our development phase application included proposals for the upgrade of the existing public toilets located on the High Street boundary of the park and included a full update including improved access to the toilets from within the park and provision of a 'Changing Places' facility. The 2019 and 2022 surveys confirmed public dissatisfaction with the existing toilets, that they are not fit for purpose, inaccessible from inside the park and in need of refurbishment. In the 2022 Development Phase survey just 1% of users recorded satisfaction with the existing toilet facility. The Kingswood Park Access Plan 2021 also identified the need for better toilets including a 'Changing Places' facility to enable a wider range of users to visit the park. Consultation confirmed the overwhelming desire to relocate the toilets to a more accessible location in close proximity to the central hub of play area, refreshment facility and performance space / amphitheatre. Most felt the existing toilet block was not fit for purpose and should be closed and if possible re-purposed.

Development work confirmed proposals for a new toilet block were not more expensive than renovation of the existing building and therefore this option was agreed. Potential locations were explored within the overall setting of the park landscape, together with options for the location of the refreshment concession. Due to the size of the toilet facility, it was agreed that a location in the centre of the park linking to the improved amphitheatre and performance area, refreshment concession and expanded play area would be the best location. This will create a vibrant central hub for the park. The new build toilet will accommodate the following:

- A 'Changing Places' facility
- 1 accessible unisex toilet
- 2 unisex toilets
- Storage capacity for the refreshment concession

Relocating the toilets to the central hub of the park also fits with options to provide a covered area and more permanent refreshments facility should funding allow in the future. The Council and FOKP will seek funding to achieve this vision through future S106 agreements and external funding.

9. WHAT THE PROJECT WILL DO?

The project will work with the local community to restore and enhance the heritage, delivering a well-managed sustainable park. It will deliver a programme of capital improvements and community activities and events to meet local needs. It will support the community to participate in the care and management of the park and ensure that a wider range of people will be involved in the heritage.

9.1 CAPITAL WORKS

Consultation was undertaken during the development phase to work up our proposals for capital improvements. This was led by the Project Development Officer and involved the following:

- A review of capital proposals contained in our development phase bid against updated audience needs as identified through new consultation and survey work
- Consideration of Covid-19 pandemic challenges
- Establishment of a Landscape Topic Working Group to inform capital improvement proposals. The group consisted of FOKP, professional officers and user group beneficiaries including representatives from the Disability Action Group, local councilors and Connecting Kingswood.
- A comprehensive consultation, testing proposals with the local community, community & voluntary groups, and professionals in various fields (see section 5.5)
- A review of the proposals by the Steering Group and Project Review Group
- The development of a fully costed capital programme, including professional support from an architect, quantity surveyor, structural engineer, and mechanical and electrical specialists
- A review of the capital programme and its contribution toward achieving NLHF outcomes, particularly ‘a wider range of people will be involved with the heritage



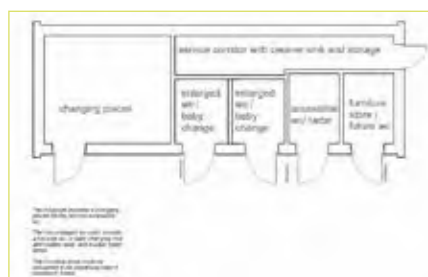
Capital improvements public consultation event: Kingswood Shopping Centre – August 2022

Proposals for capital improvements were led by a development team, formed by representatives from Azona Design (architectural services), Format Structural Engineers, MDA Quantity Surveyors, and officers from the Council's Landscape Design Team. The team progressed designs for the following capital improvements:

Toilets relocation / refurbishment including 'Changing Places' facility:

Designs were developed based on the needs of visitors and the feedback from consultation and survey work. Consideration was given to the refurbishment of the existing High Street toilets (accessed from outside the park) and the option of building a new facility at a central location.

There was little difference in cost between the refurbished and new build options. The deciding factor was the strong community support for a new facility in a central location. Parents supported the logic of locating it close to the central hub of refreshments concession, amphitheatre/ performance space and play area. There was also strong support from accessibility groups for the 'changing places' facility to be located within it. See section 8.2 above for additional detail.



A RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Report for the new-build toilet block is provided at **Appendix 19**.

Amphitheatre (central performance area and former bandstand plinth):

A range of options for the amphitheatre area were developed in consultation with the Landscape Topic Working Group and local community. Many park users consider this area to be a 'dead space,' so a key driver was to revitalise it and improve its accessibility. An option to provide a new covered area was explored, however costs were not affordable. Our design to improve the accessibility of the bandstand plinth will, however, allow for retrofitting of a cover at a later date if funding becomes available. Proposals to improve the accessibility and visual appearance of the performance area were prioritised. A RIBA Stage 2 Concept Design Report for the performance area and options for a covered area is provided at **Appendix 20**.



Play area:

The redevelopment of the play area to improve play value for children and their families has long been an aspiration of FOKP and the Council. Consultation with the Landscape Topic Working Group and engagement sessions with children and parents helped inform our proposals and select the most popular equipment and widen play value opportunities, the new reimagined play area being some 70% bigger than existing. In conjunction with the formal play area design, proposals were also developed to improve the teen area including basketball provision. Improvements will be made to the outdoor learning area (see Activities Plan, section 3, for a description of our 'Healthy Early Years Outdoor Play / Learning Area' activity. A copy of the proposed options for the improved play area is provided at **Appendix 21**.

Accessibility and landscape improvements:

Working with both the South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group and Landscape Topic Group, proposals to improve accessibility have been developed and assessed to ensure no detrimental impact on visual amenity, particularly in the formal gardens area. Designs for ramps and realignment of existing paths have been considered as part of this process. Due to costs, it was not possible to achieve all our ambitions. Proposals include 340m² formal garden paths restored and resurfaced, installing a new 155m long missing link path to southern boundary, 40m of accessible ramps installed and new accessible performance area seating and planting.

Refreshment concession:

Consultation revealed strong support for a permanent refreshment kiosk or concession in the park. Business planning (See Business Plan Report, Appendix 18) clearly demonstrates either a concession or permanent kiosk would be sustainable. See section 8.1 above for additional detail. The option for a kiosk was investigated during the design development stage but would entail considerable capital expenditure. A mobile concession is therefore proposed.

A complete summary of the capital improvements is presented below:

Restoration and enhancement of built heritage

- Repair stone/brick retaining walls
- Restoration of park entrance gates, pillars and railings
- Enhance 180m of cemetery boundary including new planting, and access to the Holy Trinity Churchyard
- Main High Street entrance enhancements
- Restoration of circular planting bed in formal garden area

Replacement of lost heritage features

- Restoration of central amphitheatre and performance feature

Improved facilities

- Provision of new public toilets in a central location within the park including a 'Changing Places' facility
- Services for new mobile refreshment facility
- Play area – comprehensive re-design and enhancement, increasing the area by 70% to offer a range of play value for all ages including children and young people with disabilities
- Improvement to teenage sports area including basket ball play provision
- Improved natural outdoor learning area
- New drinking fountain

Creating and improving landscape, biodiversity and habitats

- Reconfigure amphitheatre central space (1000m²) with new accessible ramp, performance area seating and new planting beds to make it an accessible focal point / performance area
- Comprehensive landscape enhancements respecting the park's 1930s 'municipal' character, creation of over 4000m² (0.4ha) of new species rich flowering grasslands for biodiversity including pollinator planting, enhanced wildlife pond and outdoor learning area, and improved wildlife and habitat connectivity to adjacent green spaces and corridors
- Biodiversity – linking benefits to surrounding gardens / area
- Tree planting - 24 new parkland trees planted as standards

Improving access for a wider range of people

- Installing a new 155m missing link footpath to create full park circuit
- Resurfacing 840m² formal garden paths / over 500m² of other parkwide path and surfacing improvements
- 3 new accessible ramps installed totalling over 40m in length to improve access and implementing recommendations of Kingswood Park Access Plan 2021
- 'Changing Places' toilet facility as part of a new toilet building

Other improvements

- New recycling bins installed
- New entrance and internal signage designed and installed
- New benches and seating
- New community growing area in the adjacent Orchard Road allotments including a poly-tunnel and raised beds
- New espalier fruit tree planting

The environmental impacts of the park will be reduced and positive steps taken to adapt to the challenges of climate change.

For a summary of proposals see Plan 3: Kingswood Park Proposals Plan below.

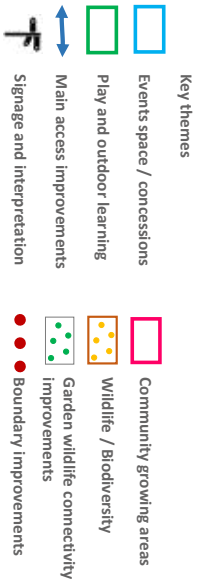
Full details can be found in the Park Landscape Master Plan and Design Specifications application supporting document (SD14).

As part of our proposals for capital works, we have been careful to produce an appropriate balance of spending on heritage, accessibility enhancements (wider range of people to engage with the heritage) and elements that may be considered 'amenity'. Table 3 provides an illustration of this spending balance. Half of the capital budget is to be spent on heritage features whilst spending on a wider range of people is significant at 27.5%. Please note that spending on the 'amenity' elements will improve the quality of the park's facilities, also attracting a wider range of people, so there is a significant cross over here.

NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND APPLICATION



Our Park Proposals Plan



1. Recovering from Covid-19 / A space to thrive

Helping recover from Covid-19 Pandemic by engaging with heritage to combat social isolation, improve community spirit and boost the local economy with the enhancement of the historic amphitheatre and creation of a re-imagined performance space, provision of a refreshment concession, seating areas and drinking fountain. These community facilities will provide space for a comprehensive programme of activities to engage a wider range of people in the heritage.



2. Play and outdoor exercise

Improving physical and mental health, addressing social isolation and improving wellbeing by connecting children and a wider range of local people with nature and the outdoors through the creation of a significantly enhanced play provision, which will also include areas for natural play and an updated outdoor learning venue.



3. Heritage and park infrastructure

Restoring and enhancing the historic park infrastructure, including entrance gates, formal garden, walls and seating. Installing new signage and noticeboards. Improving the path network for access and physical health by creating a circuit with the installation of a missing link path. New toilet building with additional facilities to provide a changing place.



4. Natural heritage and environment

Working with the community to create a nature rich park with an increased capacity to be resilient to changes in climate. Creation of native planting areas and wildlife habitats to support biodiversity, with the installation of bird, bug and bat boxes. Provision of a community growing area and fruit tree planting, together with new interpretation and self guided walks.



Plan 3

Kingswood Park Proposals Plan

Capital works – balance of funding	£ Costs	% of capital spend
Heritage: walls, gates, railings, park retaining walls, gate piers, formal garden planting bed, cemetery boundary, entrance enhancements, amphitheatre, landscape and biodiversity, trees and natural play	£907,275.73	44%
Wider range of people: access improvements including paths, steps, missing link path, new toilets including 'Changing Places' facility, interpretation and signing	£693,032.17	34%
Amenity: Refreshment facility services, play area, Teen improvements, drinking fountain, outdoor learning area, community growing area, benches and seating, new bins	£297,492.60	15%
Professional Fees relating to the above	£142,846.04	7%
Totals	£2,050,625.6	100%

9.2 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

An Activities Plan has been developed for Kingswood Park (see supporting document SD1). This plan has been developed by considering the following:

- The need to contribute to NLHF outcomes
- Needs identified in Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Profile, park catchment profile, health profile, 'Love Our High Streets Initiative', and health and physical activity needs as summarised in section 3 above
- Needs identified in strategic plans and Council policies, summarised in section 4 above
- The need to meet long-term maintenance challenges and adapt to climate change
- Lessons learnt from the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Needs and ideas for events and activities – as identified through consultation with a wide range of community groups, voluntary groups and professionals in various fields
- Information about the park audience and ideas for activities and events taken from the results of the various questionnaire surveys
- An understanding of the audience, as developed in our audience profile (see Activities Plan, section 1,5)

Covid-19 Pandemic and delivery of activities and events programme

At the time we wrote our development phase bid (Spring 2021) the government had set out a road map for the country to emerge from the pandemic and it was envisaged that that community events and activities would be possible again as the pandemic was brought under control and the population were vaccinated. All covid restrictions have now been removed, however it is still possible that plans for events and activities could be disrupted by new covid variants and associated surges in infection.

We are aware that the activities and events in our Activities Plan may need to be modified if new covid regulations are introduced in the future. The pandemic has introduced a number of risks that could affect the delivery of the Activities Plan. It is important that these are fully considered and Covid-19 risk assessments have been prepared for the delivery stage. These are located in section 14.1.

To allow for Covid-19 uncertainties and unforeseen impacts a 5% budget contingency for activities has been allowed together with an inflation allowance of 8% for year 1 and 7% for years 2 and 3.

Please note that the Connecting Kingswood survey (section 5.7.6) highlighted that a significant proportion of the population did not feel connected to the community and this had been worsened by the Covid-19 Pandemic. During the development phase we have discussed the reasons for this with our consultees and designed our activities to help people to make better connections with their green space and local community.

Activities Plan

The activities in our Activities Action Plan (see Activities Plan SD1 - Activities Action Plan spreadsheets) are grouped into the following broad categories

- Inclusion: A wider range of people will be involved in the heritage
- People will have greater wellbeing - a space to thrive
- A better place to live, work and visit - opportunities for social integration and community engagement
- Building back for positive change - people will have developed skills
- Becoming more resilient
- Connections with nature - heritage will be in better condition
- Environmental sustainability: increase positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts

The Activities Action Plan spreadsheet includes a list of the audience / beneficiaries for each activity, estimated budget and columns to indicate which of the six 'priority' and three 'other' NLHF outcomes that it will help to achieve. A companion Activities Action Plan Costs spreadsheet provides a breakdown of all costs, figures for estimated number of volunteer hours, training opportunities and total number of participants.

For each activity a cost has been calculated based on quotes received, experience of previous project delivery, and consultation with other Council officers. The total value of activities is £374,072 (including an annual inflation and 5% contingency allowance) and £10k apprenticeship contingency which allows for an over 23 year old applicant to apply.

The Activities Action Plan includes a column listing the audience / beneficiaries for each of the 25 activities. The audience / beneficiaries for each activity were identified through the consultation work undertaken with voluntary groups, beneficiary groups and professionals.

The activities have been designed to be responsive to local needs and all 25 activities meet the mandatory NLHF outcome that a wider range of people will be involved in heritage.

The Activities Action Plan has been designed to expand the number of volunteers that will engage with the park we estimate there will be 4986 volunteer hours over the life of the project.

Training and skills development are a vital component of our activities programme and 24 of the activities listed will achieve the 'people will have developed skills' NLHF outcome.

A 24-month apprenticeship will be established to provide a person with the opportunity to develop skills and learning to enhance their long term-employability and career prospects (Level 2). The apprenticeship will involve day release attendance on an accredited horticultural college course. The role will include training in play area inspections and complete a play inspection training course. The Council will use links with local community organisations to target the apprentice opportunity to underrepresented groups (e.g. care leavers, NEETs, people from minority ethnic communities, Kingswood and Kingsmeadow residents). The Council will directly target these groups, engaging with local community settings and Jobcentre Plus Kingswood plus also our Works4Youth programme, providing information on the apprenticeship offer including how people can apply.

Participants in our activities programme will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and we estimate that 344 participants will receive training and skills development.

We estimate that 20,285 people will participate in the activities and events programme which will reduce barriers and involve a wider range of people.

Volunteers and the community will learn about the impacts of climate change and how the infrastructure, facilities and natural features of the park can be adapted to cope with future challenges. A climate change adaptation plan will be developed.

South Gloucestershire CVS will provide specialist support to grow and strengthen FOKP including support and skills training to build strong governance and a sustainable future for the group.

A suite of physical and mental wellbeing activities has been developed and will be added to during delivery stage by the Kingswood Park Health & Wellbeing Activities Officer in partnership with other providers. This 'offer' of activities will be promoted to local health centres, GP surgeries, One You South Gloucestershire integrated healthy lifestyle service practitioners and support groups, so that engagement in these activities can be prescribed by health practitioners to people in need of improving mental and physical wellbeing. The need for such an 'offer' is supported by community and health professionals and this need has been amplified by the pandemic. The 'offer' will focus on the benefits of engagement with greenspace and sustaining integration of outdoor activity within ongoing lifestyles for physical and mental wellbeing. Please see the Activities Plan for further detail.

A number of outputs will be delivered that are related to our activities programme as follows:

- 2 interpretation panels and 2 entrance signs
- Accessibility leaflet
- Phototrail
- Improved outdoor learning area and downloadable resource
- Heritage trail linked to QR / NaviLens codes, and heritage walks
- Tree trail linked to QR / NaviLens codes, and tree walks
- Web site
- Schools learning resource
- Interpretative media (audio / photography / performance / video) to tell the story of the park
- Creative artworks printed onto fabric chairs
- Audio / video clips to record oral history, and pdf of transcripts
- Heritage research and new park archive
- Growing area supplying bedding and other plants
- Community celebration events including Festival of Light
- Performance arts / music events
- Programme of youth activities
- New tree management plan and replacement tree programme
- Enhanced biodiversity and landscape via volunteer programmes
- Climate change adaption plan
- Delivery of a range of health and wellbeing activities

10. PROJECT OUTCOMES

The Kingswood Park Project will contribute to achieving all nine NLHF outcomes, including the six priority outcomes. There is strong emphasis on achieving the mandatory outcome for a wider range of people to be involved with the heritage and all of our 25 activities contribute to this. However, many of the activities achieve more than one outcome and these are highlighted in our Activities Plan (SD1). A detailed consideration of the outcomes that will be achieved is set out below, grouped under NLHF outcome headings.

10.1 A WIDER RANGE OF PEOPLE WILL BE INVOLVED WITH THE HERITAGE

As a result of the project more, and a wider range of people will be involved with the heritage. The events and activities described in our Activities Plan have been designed to engage people from a wide diversity of backgrounds, however there is a particular focus on the Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Area which is one of the most deprived communities in South Gloucestershire characterised by low household incomes and poor health outcomes. The events and activities programme will engage people from this community in ways that meet their health and wellbeing needs and provide training and skills development opportunities. It will also improve the quality of the facilities so that more people from this group engage with the heritage.

People from all age ranges will be engaged with the heritage and there are activities that are targeted at children and young people, schools and youth groups. There are also intergenerational activities to bring people of all age ranges together and activities to that will appeal to older generations. There will also be work with settings to involve people with dementia with the heritage.

Widening access to people with additional needs (physical, sensory and learning disabilities) is a particular focus of the project through accessibility improvements, a 'Changing Places' toilet facility, and activities to engage groups and settings that support people with multiple disabilities with the heritage. It is also important that a wider range of people are involved in governing the project and two target beneficiaries (i.e. people with disabilities, young people, minority ethnic community, Priority Neighbourhood community) will sit on the Steering Group in the livery stage. These representatives may also require additional support (training, travel, personal assistance etc). A combined budget of £1,500 has been allowed to support disability groups and Steering Group target beneficiaries so that they can play an active role in project planning and governance processes in the delivery phase.

An important focus of the project will be to engage more people from new communities who have moved to the area in events and activities and volunteering opportunities. This includes Polish & Eastern European, Hong Kong Chinese, and refugees and asylum seekers hosted within the community. Both the Activities Officer and Health and Wellbeing Activities Officer will work with a number of initiatives and organisations to engage these audiences including South Gloucestershire Council's Health Improvement and One You teams, Council Community Engagement teams, health service providers, We are BS15, Church groups including the Freedom Church, Connecting Kingswood, and Southern Brooks community partnership. The Activities Plan (section 2.5.1) sets out the priority activities to engage these groups.

It can be seen from our audience profile (section 7) that the audience is diverse, however some sections of the community do not engage with the heritage due to the barriers highlighted. Our Activities Plan and capital works have been designed to reduce these barriers.

Our Activities Action Plan highlights how many participation and volunteering opportunities there are for each activity and gives an indication of the target audiences.

We will have been successful in engaging a wider range of people with the heritage by achieving the following outcomes:

- Automated counters will record that there has been a 12% increase in the number of visits above the 2022 baseline, with a target of 318,853 visits for 2026
- Numbers of people attending events and activities will have been monitored and it will be reported that over 20,255 participants have engaged with the heritage
- As a result of the project more residents and parents / children from low income families in Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood will have engaged with the heritage and this will have been evidenced by postcode analysis and other data
- As a result of the project 3 unemployed Job Centre Plus service users will have engaged with the heritage
- As a result of the project more local schools, pre-school groups and Children's Centre service users will have engaged with the heritage
- As a result of the project more children and young people will have engaged with the heritage
- As a result of the project more younger people in organised groups (youth groups, Creative Youth Network, Boys Brigade, Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) will have engaged with the heritage
- Feedback forms from participants in activities and events will reveal that a wider range of people (including Polish and Eastern European) have taken part than the ethnic baseline profile set in the 2022 User Survey
- User surveys will report that less people do not visit the park because of accessibility problems
- User surveys will report that less people do not visit the park because they feel it is unsafe
- Records of the groups and audience sectors that have benefited from activities will be kept and it will be reported that more adults, children and young people with additional needs have engaged with the heritage, including adults with learning needs, breakthrough service users, settings supporting people with disabilities etc.
- As a result of the project more people over the age of 55 and residents of sheltered housing schemes will have engaged with the heritage, including people with dementia
- As a result of the project more families and parents and toddlers will have engaged with the heritage
- As a result of the project more special interest groups (music groups, local history societies, faith groups etc) will have engaged with the heritage

10.2 THE FUNDED ORGANISATION WILL BE MORE RESILIENT

South Gloucestershire Council is a resilient organisation with high standards of governance, management and financial accountability. It has expertise and skills in many areas and a track record of successfully delivering projects of this scale and type. The ultimate success of the project will, however, depend on close working with the Friends of Kingswood Park (FOKP) and it is vital that they have the organisational resilience, capacity and skills to sustain the increased level of work and a sustainable structure to continue growing after the project has ended.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic the Friends Group was badly affected by social distancing and lockdowns and work programmes, events and community activities had to be cancelled. Some activity continued via zoom meetings; however, it is clear that the strength and momentum of the group needs to be recharged as it recovers from the pandemic. We have therefore included a 'Friends of Kingswood Park - becoming more resilient' activity in our Activities Plan, with a budget of £9,000 for the delivery phase.

Using this budget, South Gloucestershire CVS will be commissioned to provide a comprehensive programme of specialist support to grow and strengthen the Friends Group and increase its diversity. CVS will provide information, support and training to build strong effective governance and ensure the group is legally compliant and will help the group to secure a sustainable financial future through fundraising, funding applications and a funding strategy so that it feels confident in its finances, budget and financial reporting. It will be able to recruit more volunteers from diverse backgrounds and manage and maintain a high-quality experience for them. Outcomes will be a group that can meet its goals, be more effective, be sustainable in the long term with appropriate policies and procedures in place and develop effective and successful partnerships and collaborations.

We have also included support for the Friends Group to make more effective use of digital media and there will be training and support for members of the group, and a budget of £3,000 to develop and maintain a new Kingswood Park website and develop skills and capacity in other types of digital technologies. The resilience of the group will also be improved with event management training for FOKP volunteers to ensure the events are safe, well managed and delivered successfully, and to provide volunteers with sustainable skills to continue organising events into the future.

Outcomes will be:

- As a result of the project the Friends Group will report that it can meet its goals, is more effective, and sustainable in the long term with appropriate policies and procedures in place and able to develop effective and successful partnerships and collaborations.
- As a result of the project FOKP will report that it has an improved web site and that trained volunteers are maintaining it
- Friends group volunteers will report that they have attended event management training and that this has enabled them to deliver events that are safe, well managed and successful, with sustainable skills to continue organising events into the future.

10.3 PEOPLE WILL HAVE GREATER WELLBEING

Kingswood Priority Neighbourhood Area (section 3.1.2 above) has poor health indices and outcomes. Due to these poor health outcomes, there is a pressing need to provide health and wellbeing activities as part of the community's attempts to recover from Covid-19 whilst improving community spirit and reducing increased levels of social isolation brought about by the pandemic.

Our needs analysis and consultation work involved discussions with professional officers working in health and wellbeing, including Kingswood Health Centre, Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Trust, inclusion teams, public health, and One You active lifestyles. Using green space engagement to improve wellbeing is an important component of our project and we have designed activities that focus on addressing the following needs:

- Increasing physical activity and improving general health and mental wellbeing in an area where there are poor health outcomes
- High levels of obesity in the local population, particularly amongst children
- Bringing people together, particularly new communities who have moved to the area (Eastern Europeans and Hong Kong Chinese) and those for whom English is a second language, and that increase connections between people, reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing in the outdoors

Our 'Community Wellbeing Activities' provide a 'package' of activities which will be promoted throughout the local community, Kingswood Health Centre and other local health centres, GP surgeries and One You South Gloucestershire practitioners, so that engagement in the activities can be targeted by health practitioners to people in need of improving mental and physical wellbeing including new communities (Eastern Europeans and Hong Kong Chinese), people from minority ethnic communities, Syrian and Ukrainian refugees), people for whom English is a second language, LGBTQ+ and people living with a disability, ensuring activities are user determined, accessible and culturally appropriate.

'Community Wellbeing Activities' will include:

- Walking Groups : Gentle exercise in and around the park and longer walks starting and finishing at the Park
- Couch to 5k running
- Couch to a Mile running
- Buggy Fit and other Post-natal outdoor exercise
- Park Yoga
- Children and families – Outdoor games and supported play during school holidays both family sessions and child only sessions
- Family Learning Sessions including practical maths and mindful families
- 'Growing Together' gardening and Park conservation for wellbeing
- Mindfulness sessions including art, photography, nature, creative writing to be delivered by Community Learning
- Mentoring courses to enable / train volunteers to assist in the delivery of wellbeing activities, supporting attendees

The 'Community Wellbeing Activities' will benefit from access improvements including the missing link path constructed along the southern boundary of the park enabling a circular circuit which will be used by walkers and runners in a safe, attractive, traffic free environment.

A part-time dedicated Health and Wellbeing Activities Officer will deliver the wellbeing activities and beneficiaries will be signposted to activities through Kingswood Health Centre, other local health centres, GP surgeries and One You South Gloucestershire practitioners. A budget of £53,022 is allocated over three years to deliver the health and wellbeing activities, and this includes £6,000 budget flexibility for the officer to continue developing new health and wellbeing interventions for beneficiaries in conjunction with local health providers.

Outcomes for people taking part in the ‘Community Wellbeing Activities’ offer are:

- Participants will report that their health and / or wellbeing has improved (this will be refined against the specific activities and target beneficiaries participating in partnership with health providers)
- Participants will report their knowledge of the heritage has improved
- Participants on the mentoring course will report they have learned new skills (e.g. trained as mentors to support participants)

Another aspect of wellbeing is feeling connected to your community and those around you. Social isolation and not feeling connected to others has been identified as a problem in Kingswood and this has been made worse by the pandemic. Our Activities Action Plan contains a diverse array of inclusive community events and activities to engage all sectors of our audience and make them feel more connected to others and the heritage.

10.4 PEOPLE WILL HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS

Our consultation and needs analysis work identified the importance of developing a variety of skills and training opportunities for target beneficiaries, staff and volunteers. These are detailed in our Activities Plan (SD1) which includes a column to indicate that 24 of the 25 activities listed will enable people to develop skills and there will be 365 training opportunities, some of which will lead to formal accreditation. Our outcomes for people developing skills are as follows:

People will have developed skills to ensure the park is better looked after and managed by achieving the following outcomes

- The post holder of a 24-month apprenticeship will report they are from an underrepresented group (eg. care leavers, NEETs, minority ethnic, Kingswood and Kingsmeadow residents) and that they have developed learning and skills to look after, manage and understand the heritage to enhance their long-term employability and they have gained a suitable accredited qualification. A £10,000 contingency is allowed for additional salary costs if a 23+yr old is appointed.
- Working in partnership with South Gloucestershire Community Learning, three eight-week placements will report that they worked in the park and received on-the-job training to enhance their skills in horticulture and park maintenance and improve employability, with the opportunity for further training and accredited qualifications
- Working with New Horizons School and Warmley Park School and College there will be support for 108 park-based sessions for students to develop skills in areas such as horticulture, heritage, outdoor learning and physical activities.
- Volunteers will report that they have received training and developed skills in monitoring automated counters, carrying out user surveys and analysing results

- Friends Group volunteers will report that they have developed skills to grow and increase the resilience of their organisation in areas such as fund-raising, strategy, finance and budgeting, legal compliance, supporting volunteers, digital technology, event management etc
- Participants and target beneficiaries will report that they have received training and developed tree identification, tree management and research skills to play an active role in the tree management and replacement programme
- Participants and volunteers will report that they developed skills in how to plan and adapt a green space to climate change challenges
- Volunteers and target beneficiaries in the ‘Making Space for Nature’ activity will report that have received training on how to maximise biodiversity and developed skills in techniques to enhance the area for wildlife, monitor wildlife and contribute to the practical design of natural habitats and formal planted areas
- Participants and volunteers in the ‘Greenskills / Practical Park Management Activity’ will report that they have received training and developed skills in the care and maintenance of ‘green estate’ through practical landscape and habitat management work
- People will have developed skills to ensure the park is better explained and understood by achieving the following outcomes:
- Participants and target beneficiaries will report that they have received training and improved skills in the development of interpretative media (heritage research, developing stories, presenting information, web content management, audio, photography, video)
- Teachers will report that they have received training in the use of the ‘Schools / Community Heritage Learning Resource’ and children will report that they have developed skills as part of the project to develop the resource
- Participants and volunteers will report that they have developed heritage research skills and oral history interview and recording techniques through engagement in the ‘Park My Memories’ and ‘Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past’ activities.
- Participants and target beneficiaries will report that they have developed arts-based skills through engagement in the ‘Creative Artwork Project’.
- Participants and volunteers will report they have received training and developed skills to create heritage and tree trails through the ‘Self-Guided Themed Trails’ activities, and developing QR Code / NavILens code content for the ‘Stories of Kingswood Park’ activity.
- Target beneficiaries participating in the ‘Growing Together / Branching Out’ activity will report they have developed ‘grow your own’ gardening skills supported by horticultural training sessions

People will have developed skills to ensure that levels of physical activity and wellbeing are improved and the park is enjoyed by more, and a wider range of people by achieving the following outcomes:

- FOKP volunteers will report that they have received training and developed skills in event management to run successful events and activities that will enable them to continue organising events into the future.
- Pre-school and primary school teachers, support staff and parents will report they have received training and developed skills to run independent programmes of outdoor learning and play activities in the ‘Healthy Early Years Outdoor Play / Learning Area’

- Volunteers will report that they have developed skills and received training to help support a range of ‘Community Wellbeing Activities’, including mentoring training to assist in the wellbeing activities and supporting attendees
- South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group will report that they have received support to develop skills to help create a ‘Phototrail’ and accessibility leaflet for the park

10.5 THE LOCAL AREA WILL BE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK OR VISIT

Our project will improve the condition and quality of the heritage. Feeling connected to those around you and the community is an issue that has been identified in Kingswood and made worse by the Covid-19 Pandemic. We have therefore designed a number of events and activities to increase connections between people and improve community spirit. Our project will also increase the range of facilities and engage the community in activities and events to learn more about the heritage, improve wellbeing and develop skills. As a result, we expect that the local community will report that their area is a better place to live, work or visit.

We will have been successful in this by achieving the following outcomes:

- People will report that the restoration of the park’s heritage has had a positive impact on the local community
- People will report that improvements to the park have enhanced their quality of life
- People will report that the activities and events in the park has improved the community spirit where they live
- People will report that they have a greater sense of pride in their local community as a result of the project
- People will report that the park feels safer, more welcoming and more accessible as a result of the project

10.6 THE LOCAL ECONOMY WILL BE BOOSTED

The ‘Love Our High Streets’ and ‘Future High Streets’ initiatives (see section 3.5) see the park as a prominent and vital part of the wider Kingswood High Street public realm and that the restoration of the park will add value to the High Street regeneration programme, attracting further footfall and boosting the local economy. Our outcomes will therefore be:

- The ‘Love Our High Streets’ / ‘Future High Streets’ initiatives will report that the restoration of the park has contributed to the regeneration of Kingswood High Street and boosted the local economy
- Local businesses will report that they have benefitted from the investment in the park by gaining contracts to help restore and improve it
- A local business will report that they have benefited from running the new refreshment facility in the park

10.7 HERITAGE WILL BE IN BETTER CONDITION

Our outcome is that people will report in user surveys that they are satisfied with the overall condition of the park and this has increased their enjoyment of it. We will determine whether we have been successful in this by evaluating the outcomes below.

- Improvements to the condition of the park will conform with the recommendations of the Kingswood Park Conservation Management Plan (SD16).
- The recommendations of an Ecological Survey carried out in 2021 will have been implemented during the delivery phase to enhance biodiversity, wildlife and habitats
- A climate change adaption plan will have been developed and measures taken to increase positive environmental impacts and reduce negative impacts with a target set for the park to become carbon neutral
- A new Management and Maintenance Plan will have been developed and park and operational staff will report that it is actively used to maintain the condition of the park to Green Flag standards
- In year three of the project an application will be submitted to Green Flag and the park will achieve a high-level pass for a minimum of seven years
- A new tree management plan will have been developed with the community and volunteers will report that they have replaced trees over a phased period of time including care and maintenance
- The bandstand will be re-imagined as a performance space and people will report in visitor surveys that this has improved their enjoyment of the park
- The amphitheatre will have been enhanced to make it more accessible to a wider range of people so that it can be used more, and people will report in visitor surveys that this has improved their enjoyment of the park
- The new public toilets will have been relocated to the central hub of the park to high environmental standards and people will report their satisfaction with it in user surveys
- A 'Changing Places' facility will be provided as part of the new relocated toilet block and groups and settings supporting people with multiple disabilities will report they are using it regularly and their satisfaction with it.
- Perimeter and internal wall and railings will be repaired, gates and pillars will be restored and the cemetery boundary will have been enhanced with new fencing, planting and new access gate between the park / cemetery. As a result, people will report in user surveys that they are happy with the condition of the park
- Services for a new mobile refreshment facility will have been provided and people will report in visitor surveys that this has improved their enjoyment of the park
- The park entrance along the High Street will have been enhanced to make it more prominent and welcoming and people will report their satisfaction with the park frontage
- The children's play area will be redesigned and constructed and children and parents (including users with disabilities) will report their satisfaction with it in user surveys
- The accessibility of the park will have been significantly enhanced by provision of resurfaced paths, newly constructed paths and ramps, new seating and resting points, and components of the 'access chain' will be in place. South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group and other disabled users will report that the park is more accessible to a wider range of people in surveys
- The new 'missing link' footpath along the southern boundary of the park will have been installed and people will report that this has improved their enjoyment of the park and supported more walking and physical activity

- A programme of landscape and biodiversity enhancements that respects the 1930s ‘municipal character’ will have been enacted and people will report their satisfaction with formal, and more natural sectors of the park
- A greater diversity of wildflowers, trees, birds, bats, insects and small mammals will be present in the park and trained volunteers carrying out surveys as part of the ‘Making Space for Nature’ activity will report that biodiversity has improved.
- New wildflower areas will have been created and the wetland / wild play area will be used by groups, who report they are satisfied with it and use it more often
- New signage will have been installed in the park and people will report that this helps them to find their way around and find out about events and activities
- Volunteers taking part in the ‘Greenskills / Practical Park Management’ activities will report that their work has improved the condition of the park
- A new polytunnel will have been installed on the adjacent Orchard Road allotments support the ‘Growing Together / Branching Out’ activity and participants will report their satisfaction with it
- New waste bins will have been installed and staff and volunteers will report they are creating their own compost for use in the park and that green waste is being recycled
- A new drinking fountain will have been installed in the park and people will report their satisfaction with it
- The new apprentice and student placements will report that their work has contributed to improving the condition of the park
- People will report that they are satisfied with the overall condition of the park in visitor surveys

10.8 HERITAGE WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND BETTER EXPLAINED

A Kingswood Park Conservation Management Plan (SD16) has been developed to explain what is special or significant about the park, and what policies should be adopted to preserve it. This has enabled us to better identify and explain the heritage.

Our Activities Plan (SD1) includes a range of activities to better identify, record and explain the heritage. These were developed to address the needs identified during our extensive consultations with the local community and voluntary groups. Overall the activities engage a broad spectrum of the audience for the park however the activities are designed to engage different target beneficiary groups in ways that are appropriate to their needs, interests and learning styles. Outcomes are explained below:

Better identified:

- Volunteers and participants taking part in the ‘Park My Memories’ oral history activity will report that they have recorded memories of the park and shared these with the community
- Volunteers and participants taking part in the ‘Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past’ activity will report they have researched the history of the park and its cultural and social significance, helped develop a park archive, and shared their findings with the community

- Volunteers and participants taking part in the ‘Making Space for Nature’ activity will report they have taken part in bio blitz sessions to record the birds, bats, insects, small mammals, wildflowers and other species that are found there and shared their findings with the wider community
- Volunteers and participants taking part in the ‘Heart Wood: Loving trees in Kingswood Park’ activity will report they have undertaken a tree survey and included the results in a tree management plan
- Participants helping to develop a climate change adaption plan for the park will report that they better understand the heritage and the impact of climate change on it.

Better explained:

- Two interpretation panels will have been researched and designed working with volunteers and target beneficiaries and installed in the park and people reading the panels will report that they better understand the heritage
- Two entrance signs will have been installed in the park and people reading them will report they know how to find, access and better understand the heritage
- Other forms of interpretative media such as the printed fabric chairs, and electronic media developed as part of the ‘Creative Artwork Project’ and ‘Stories of Kingswood Park’ activities will have been delivered. Volunteers, participants and people engaging with the interpretation will report they better understand the heritage
- A FOKP website will have been designed and maintained by volunteers and this will contain information to explain the heritage; website users will report they better understand the heritage
- A ‘Schools / Community Heritage Learning Resource’ will have been developed and schools and other groups using it will report that they better understand the heritage
- Self-guided tree and heritage trails will have been developed and people and groups using them will report that they better understand the heritage
- A ‘Healthy Years Outdoor Play Learning Area’ will have been developed and pre-schools, schools and groups using it will report they better understand the natural heritage
- Volunteers helping to develop, and people reading / listening / watching the outputs of the ‘Park My Memories’ and ‘Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past’ activities will report that they better understand the heritage
- A programme of community celebration and performance arts events will have been organised and delivered and participants will report that they have enjoyed themselves and better understand the heritage

10.9 PEOPLE WILL HAVE LEARNT ABOUT HERITAGE, LEADING TO CHANGE IN IDEAS AND ACTIONS

Our main learning outcome will be that participants, volunteers and visitors will report that they have improved their knowledge and understanding of the heritage leading to change in ideas and action.

Needs analysis and consultation work has been undertaken with a wide range of voluntary and community groups and professionals working in various sectors, including education and learning, heritage, green space management and health and wellbeing. This work identified the diverse audience for the park, detailed in section 7. Community and voluntary groups stressed that the different groups and target beneficiaries will have different interests and learning styles and engage with the heritage in different ways. We have therefore developed a range of learning activities with community and voluntary group input that focus on the needs of particular sectors of the audience. To be effective people benefiting from the learning will need to report what they have learnt about the heritage and the difference it has made to them in terms of a change of ideas and actions.

Our Activities Plan (SD1) sets out proposals for 25 activities and there is a column to highlight the 22 activities that engage people in learning about the heritage. The activities that will engage people with learning about the heritage are as follows:

- Schools / Community Heritage Learning Resource
- Creative Artwork Project to reveal Kingswood Heritage
- Healthy Early Years Outdoor Play / Learning Area
- Self-Guided Themed Trails - Kingswood Heritage Trail / Tree Trail
- Park My Memories
- Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past
- Entrance and Internal Signs
- The Stories of Kingswood Park (Interpretive Media)
- Community Wellbeing Activities
- Growing Together / Branching Out
- Fun in the Park: Community Celebration Events
- Festival of Light: Kingswood Community Lantern Parade
- Kingswood Park Youth Activities Programme
- Fun in the Park: Community Celebration Events
- Kingswood Park Apprentice
- Growing Your Skills
- Greenskills / Practical Park Management Activities
- Student Placement Support in the Park
- Friends of Kingswood Park Web Site
- Heart Wood: Loving trees in Kingswood Park
- Making Space for Nature
- A Changing Climate

Our learning activities focus on different audiences, for example the 'Healthy Early Years Outdoor Play / Learning Area' is focussed on pre-school while the 'Schools / Community Heritage Learning Resource and 'Kingswood Park Youth Activities Programme' is for children and young people. The 'Park My Memories' activity will be run as an intergenerational project and many of our other activities will appeal to different audiences, for example the 'Stories of Kingswood Park' will be interesting for young people and others wishing to develop skills in electronic media, whilst the 'Celebrating Kingswood Heritage - Discovering Our Past' activity will also be intergenerational. An important aspect of our learning activities is the ability for participants from different backgrounds to share their learning with each other and the wider community and the outputs from different learning activities will all contribute to interpreting the heritage in different ways that appeal to different learning styles and audiences. As part of our evaluation work, we will determine whether people have been able to use the knowledge and understanding in their professional or social life, and whether it has led to further study and interest.

11. INCREASING POSITIVE AND REDUCING NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Opportunities to create positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts of the park will be taken. All works undertaken in Kingswood Park will comply with the Council's Climate Change and Climate Emergency Strategies and its environmental policy. Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations is a cross cutting value within the South Gloucestershire Community Strategy and is one of the core values that underpins all our work.

Climate Emergency Strategy

In July 2019, the council declared a climate emergency and committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. Climate change is having a significant impact on the health of our ecosystems. The ecological emergency is embedded within and alongside the broad climate emergency agenda. Work across the area to tackle the climate emergency will involve working with residents, businesses, and partners across the area on reducing carbon emissions, building resilience to the local impacts of a changing climate, and restoring nature. Aims of the strategy are for South Gloucestershire to:

- Be carbon neutral by 2020
- Maximise local renewable energy generation
- Prepare for the local impacts of a changing climate
- Increase nature – better protect it and better connect it
- Plant trees by 2030 to double tree canopy cover

South Gloucestershire will provide a yearly action plan and report back each December with progress and proposals for the next year's plan. Further details:

🌐 www.southglos.gov.uk/climatechange

Environmental Policy

The objectives of the Council's environmental policy are to:

- reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions
- reduce energy use
- increase development and use of renewable energy
- reduce transport emissions
- reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling
- use water efficiently, and sustainably manage the water environment
- use materials efficiently and procure materials and services from sustainable sources
- prevent pollution of land, water and air
- protect and enhance biodiversity
- use land wisely and conserve and enhance local environmental quality

To achieve this, we will:

- identify and address those aspects of our operations which result in the most significant environmental impacts
- agree environmental priorities and targets
- monitor and review the effectiveness of actions
- identify and comply with all environmental legislation and codes of practice relevant to our activities and services
- assess and take into account the environmental implications of all policies, practices and decisions
- take environmental impacts into account during procurement of goods and services
- procure timber and timber products from sustainable sources
- encourage our contractors to demonstrate their shared commitment to the delivery of our environmental objectives
- use our influence to inspire council staff and those who live and work in or visit South Gloucestershire to consider the environmental implications of their activities, and to take action to improve their local and wider environment
- publish and disseminate information about our environmental impacts, how we are managing them and our achievements

The Kingswood Park project will implement the following measures:

Energy:

- The new toilet and 'Changing Places' facility will incorporate intelligent design to reduce the need for space heating, have a very high degree of insulation, LED lighting, and will where possible exceed standards required under current building regulations
- Renewable / Green energy supplies (electricity and gas) will be utilised to meet power demands for the toilets, refreshment facility and park maintenance operations
- Natural insulation materials will be used wherever possible.
- Electric machinery has been supplied to support park operatives and the work of volunteers, funded separately by the Council's wider decarbonisation initiatives

Water:

- Water usage within the park, toilets and refreshment facility will be reduced where possible through water saving measures and devices (i.e. low flush automatic controls, waterless urinals etc)
- A drinking fountain will be provided to reduce single use plastic use by visitors
- The park fulfils a sustainable urban drainage role within the area
- Planting using drought tolerant hardy perennials will reduce the need for watering

- Planting will be mulched where possible to reduce water evaporation

Building materials / construction waste / maintenance materials:

- A system will be put in place to recover any materials that can be re-used in our proposed capital works
- Locally sourced natural products will be used wherever possible (e.g. timber, insulation products, stone, paint and treatments)
- The use of peat will be eliminated on site and there will be a reduction in the amount of pesticides, herbicides and wood preservatives used
- All paints, varnishes and other finishes used in the park will be natural-oil or water based
- Recycling and end of life disposal is a key consideration including materials chosen for resilience and repairability as well as impact of disposal at end of life.

Landscape and biodiversity:

- Impacts upon biodiversity will be assessed through an ecological survey and this will consider best ways to mitigate the effects of the ongoing management of the park to enhance for wildlife
- Landscapes and habitats will be enhanced to increase the connectivity of wildlife habits with adjacent green corridors such as the wildlife rich cemetery, allotments and residential gardens. Biodiversity will be enhanced by improving the wetland area, replanting diseased trees, planting bee friendly pollinating species, creating wildflower grassland areas and installing bird and bat boxes
- All paper, card and timber products used in the project will be sourced according to the council's "What Wood You Choose?" timber pledge to the WWF
- Plants (including hardy perennials and plants suitable for pollinators) propagated in the community growing area will reduce delivery miles, eliminate use of peat, and improve biosecurity when sourcing plants
- The Council has a bio-security policy that adheres to Defra's Invasive non-native (alien) plant species: rules in England and Wales, 2020 which aims to reduce the spread of non-native invasive plant species, injurious weeds and plant diseases across open spaces managed by the Council

Visitor transport and maintenance operations vehicles:

Visitor surveys will create a baseline dataset for the number of visitors travelling by various means. We will aim to reduce the number of journeys in private vehicles by actively promoting sustainable travel options such as local bus routes, walking and cycling. The availability of low floor buses will be promoted in the accessibility leaflet. The Council's equipment and tools have been replaced by electric powered alternatives, and charging points for electric tools will be included in the old toilet block building, which will be used as a maintenance building.

Air Quality:

The High Street frontage of the park is part of the Kingswood Air Quality Management Area. Efforts to reduce the number of visits in private vehicles by park users and promote sustainable travel options will contribute towards wider Council initiatives to improve air quality along the road. A number of park trees are now showing decline as a result of disease, fungal decay and the impacts of soil compaction. Tree cover in the park will be maintained and enhanced through a tree management / replacement programme and this will help improve air quality and remove pollutants.

Waste:

- A waste management plan will be built into the site Management and Maintenance Plan to reduce the amount of waste currently going to landfill from the park bins. Information will be provided to park users about how they can reduce their waste to landfill
- New recycling bins will be installed throughout the park
- The refreshment facility / concession will source locally grown produce wherever possible to reduce the carbon footprint of its operations, it will also use recyclable / compostable packaging and minimise waste to landfill
- A green waste composting area will be installed and compost used to improve soil and shrub beds on site rather than bringing in from outside (funded separately to this bid)
- The proposed refreshment concession lease holder will be required to minimise waste and packaging on products and the way they are sold including the use of compostable waste packaging

12. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A summary of the resources required at development and delivery phases is set out below. Please refer to the full Projects Costs Spreadsheet document (SD6) for a detailed breakdown of capital and activity costs, and income.

Development Phase financial summary	
Total development costs	£149,587
Total development income	£29,550
NLHF development grant requested	£120,037
NLHF development grant %	80%
Delivery Phase financial summary	
Total delivery costs	£3,360,857
Total delivery income	£689,122
NLHF delivery grant requested	£2,671,735
NLHF delivery grant %	79%

13. TIMETABLE

13.1 DELIVERY PHASE TIMETABLE

Activity	Start month	Start Year	End Month	End Year	Who will lead this task
Submit delivery phase application	August	2023	August	2023	South Gloucestershire Council
Decision from NLHF / permission to start	December	2023	December	2023	NLHF
Advertise Project Manager post	January	2024	April	2023	South Gloucestershire Council
Project Manager in post	March	2024	March	2027	Project Manager (PM)
Form delivery phase project team	March	2024	February	2027	PM
Form delivery phase steering group	March	2024	February	2027	PM
Advertise Activities Officer post	January	2023	April	2023	South Gloucestershire Council
Activities Officer in post	March	2023	June	2026	Activities Officer (AO)
Advertise Health & Wellbeing Activities Officer post	January	2023	April	2023	Health & Wellbeing Officer (HWO)
Health & Wellbeing Activities Officer in post	March	2023	June	2026	PM
Deliver activities plan	March	2023	June	2026	AO
Deliver health & wellbeing activities programme	March	2023	June	2026	HWO
Tender and let contract for standalone work packages, Inc. Refurbishment of railings, missing link path.	June	2024	June	2026	PM/Landscape Architects
Produce detailed proposals / tender for hard landscape restoration works and toilets	March	2024	June	2024	PM / Design Team
Main capital construction works	September	2024	March	2026	Landscape Architects / PM

Activity	Start month	Start Year	End Month	End Year	Who will lead this task
Develop new interpretation and signage	June	2024	June	2025	AO
Undertake evaluation work throughout project delivery phase	March	2024	June	2026	PM / AO / HWO / Evaluation Consultant
Apply for Green Flag award	January	2026	June	2026	PM
Secure all match funding contributions	July	2024	December	2026	Friends of Kingswood Park Group / PM
Complete NLHF monitoring and reporting / process grant claims and complete progress reports	March	2024	January	2027	PM
Final project evaluation report	December	2026	January	2027	Project Manager / Evaluation Consultant

14. RISK REGISTER

Project risks have been assessed to identify potential weaknesses within the project and to consider any potential threats to it from outside sources. Risk assessments have been prepared for the delivery phase, and potentials risks once the NLHF project has been delivered. In addition, we are keenly aware of the risks that the Covid-19 Pandemic still presents and have included an overarching risk assessment to cover this.

14.1 COVID-19 RISK REGISTER

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Delivery Team impacted by / show symptoms of COVID-19	Low	Medium	Follow Council staff risk guidance for recognised COVID-19 symptoms / follow Govt. guidance at https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus	Project Delivery team
Project Team staff leave as result of Covid-19 illness	Low	High	Advertise posts quickly. Other staff cover workloads. Second staff	Delivery Project Manager (PM)
Delivery Team site safety and proximity to members of public resulting in risk of contracting Covid-19	Low	Medium	Covid-19 health check / agreed safe site working practices / Covid-19 control measures / team risk assessment to be agreed and reviewed throughout delivery phase to ensure all potential risks are mitigated as far as possible.	PM
Delivery Board Team at risk of contracting Covid-19	Low	Medium	Instigate Covid-19 safe working practices / control measures (e.g. home working/on-line meetings) to ensure all potential risks are mitigated as far as possible. Monitor and review as necessary.	PM
Concern by park users over potentially contracting Covid-19 / poor communication between project team, consultants and contractors, FOKP and community	Low	Medium	Steering Group meetings. PM to oversee communication strategy to raise awareness of project / project safety and adherence to strict Covid-19 safe working practices to public. Monitor and review as necessary.	PM
FOKP volunteer support dwindles / reduced participation numbers from concerns over Covid-19	Low	Medium	FOKP resilience support provided throughout delivery phase to support numbers / provide reassurance that volunteering is Covid-safe	FOKP / PM / AO

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Delivery consultants: Site safety and proximity to members of public	Low	High	Covid-19 health check / site working practices / Covid-19 control measures / risk assessment to be agreed at tender award stage to ensure all potential risks are mitigated as far as possible. Monitor all contract work	PM
Delivery consultant fails to complete contractual obligations due to Covid-19 concerns	Low	Medium	Covid-19 health check / site working practices / Covid-19 control measures / risk assessment to be agreed at tender award stage to ensure all potential risks are mitigated as far as possible. Monitor all contract work	PM
Activities participants deemed to be at greater risk of Covid-19	Low	High	Full reassurance that activities planning and delivery fully adheres to all current COVID-19 Govt. guidance at https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus	AO / HWO
Activities participation target numbers low / public do not support the project	Low	Medium	Team to ensure all activities / engagement takes place in Covid-secure setting to provide as high levels of safety and re-assurance for participants as possible. All activities adhere to Council Individual/ Group volunteering risk assessment during COVID-19 Restrictions. Re-scope project participant numbers with NLHF agreement	AO / HWO
Capital Improvements: Contractors site safety and proximity to members of public and danger of contracting Covid-19	Low	High	Covid-19 health check / site working practices / Covid-19 control measures / risk assessment to be agreed at tender award stage to ensure risks are mitigated as far as possible. Each work operation to generate its own risk profile and should be considered as an individual case; risk assessments should not be copied across. Monitor all contract work	PM
Capital improvement project finances - additional capital costs incurred as result of additional Covid safe site measures	Medium	High	Contingency costs built into budget to allow for extra costs arising from Covid-19 impacts	PM
Additional consultant costs arising as a direct result of Covid-19 impacts.	Low	Medium	5% contingency for activities allowed for all three years and allowance for inflation	PM / AO / HWO
SGC delivery funding withdrawn by the Council as a result of further savings arising from Covid-19 impacts across StreetCare service area	Low	High	Capital / S106 funding confirmed May 2021	PM

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Covid-19 pandemic impact on NLHF funding agreement / potential re-direction of NLHF resources	Low	High	Effective communication with NLHF. Project delivery plan to allow for re-prioritising works against and change by NLHF. All parties to maintain good communications	PM
Covid-19 impact results in delay: delivery phase not completed on time	Low	Medium	Steering Group / project team keep to timetable and review as appropriate. Steering Group to flag concerns / agree revised timetable with NLHF to ensure delivery	PM
Failure to deliver agreed grant conditions resulting from Covid-19 impacts	Low	High	Ensure understand all consequences. Contingencies in place. Maintain communication with NLHF	PM

14.2 DELIVERY PHASE RISK REGISTER

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Steering Group risk schedule / contingency in place	Low	Medium	Regular Project and Steering Group meetings	Project Manager (PM)
Public are not kept informed of project proposals and do not support them	Low	High	Delivery Project Manager / Steering Group with Council’s Corporate Communications team - to advise on communication strategy for the project. FOKP to play full role in raising awareness of project within local community.	PM
Loss of support from FOKP	Low	High	Involvement of FOKP at all stages and inclusion on Steering Group	PM
Lack of staff skills	Low	Medium	Ensure PM and Health and Well Being Officer (HWO) and Activities officers (AO) have appropriate skills and experience	PM
Insufficient consultant & contractor skills	Low	Medium	Ensure consultants / contractors are qualified and have suitable experience	PM
Discovery of unexpected contaminates / structures	Low	Medium	Environmental Health / Heritage Teams consulted, Ground investigations undertaken early in detailed design.	PM
Unforeseen issues	Low	Medium	Continual review and updating of risk/ issue schedule. Report to Steering Group and implement change process and timetable re-schedule to deal with issues. contingency in place	PM
Supply & cost / inflation issues and effect on proposals	High	High	QS will need to monitor these issues closely. Checks at detailed design prior to tender. Value engineering if necessary. Contingency and inflation allowance for capital / landscape improvement works built into delivery stage budget. Inflation allowance built into Activities Plan budget. Seek additional external funding if required. Work to budgets set within delivery stage application.	PM
Poor financial control leading to overspend	Low	High	Project Team to effectively control contractors and budgets with support from Finance Team	PM
The agreed toilet design solution does not achieve building regs sign off without amendments	Low	Medium	Delivery Project Manager to work closely with Council Building Regs service and architect to ensure design is compliant with building regulations	PM
External grant providers not secured	Medium	Medium	Council underwritten external grant funding contributions 2023. Secure confirmation from grant providers.	PM
Poor quality restoration of heritage	Low	High	Close control and monitoring of contractors, ensure correct quality specified in tender and work specifications	PM

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Procurement does not follow adopted environmental standards	Low	Medium	Close monitoring of contractors, consultants and landscape architects, quality specified in tender and specifications to ensure procurement policies are followed.	Project Team
Friends of Kingswood Park (FOKP) contributions not achieved	Low	Medium	Friends of Kingswood Park review their funding strategy and seek additional funding	FOKP
Council budget cuts lead to cancellation of project	Low	High	Commitment to the project by Council leader. Capital / S106 funding confirmed May 2021.	Project Sponsor (PS) & Council Leader
PM, AO, HWO, Project Team unable to complete project	Low	Medium	Share workload across Community Spaces Team. Re-appoint staff	PS
Delivery phase not completed on time	Low	medium	Steering Group sign off key milestones, monitor against timetable	Project Delivery Team
Contractor does not complete contractual obligations	Low	Medium	Contracts require financial health checks. Monitor all contract work	PM
Failure to deliver on agreed terms of grant conditions	Low	High	Ensure all involved fully understand consequences	PM
Risk of on-site accidents	Low	Medium	CDM and all health & safety procedures followed, including risk assessment for volunteers and participants	PM
Insufficient activities participants	Low	Medium	Review communication, publicity and marketing plans	Activities Officer (AO), Health & Wellbeing Officer (HWO)
Outcomes not achieved for activities	Low	Medium	Evaluation / lessons learnt inform delivery of activities	AO, HWO
Insufficient volunteers to help manage park	Low	Medium	Review volunteer recruitment strategy. Strengthen recruitment and retention	AO
Risks to young people	Low	Medium	Staff DBS checked and follow safeguarding procedures	AO,HWO
Little / no interest to take on lease to run café / community room building	Low	High	Expression of Interest invite completed pre-delivery stage. Option to re- invite expressions. Council Corporate Communications to oversee advertisement of process across local businesses.	PM
Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on delivery of Delivery phase	Medium	High	See additional Covid-19 pandemic risk assessment	PM

14.3 RISKS FACING THE PROJECT AFTER IT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND HOW THEY WILL BE MANAGED

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Failure to achieve Green Flag award	Low	Medium	Act on advice from Green Flag assessor and implement improvements as required	Council Place Improvements Team (PIT)
Refreshments concession does not generate income as projected in Business Plan	Low	Medium	Review lease concession and Business Plan. Seek opportunities for increasing income developed	PIT
Volunteer input into maintenance of the park not sustained	Medium	Medium	Procedures for the recruitment of volunteers reviewed with South Gloucestershire CVS to ensure a rewarding experience and improvements are made	PIT
Access for all improvements throughout park not maintained	Low	High	Council to monitor and maintain access for all improvements. Training to be provided where skills development is required.	PIT
FOKP disintegrates	Low	High	Close partnership working and good communication with Friends Group. PIL staff attend Friends Group, CVS support through activities plan to build long term volunteer base for group	PIT
Skill sets of Friends Group volunteers declines	Medium	Medium	Council to support continued training and skills development for Friends Group	PIT
Management and Maintenance Plan not implemented	Low	Medium	Council to implement Management and Maintenance Plan with regular annual review and Green Flag award sustained.	Grounds Maintenance Manager
Long term maintenance of toilets not sustained by Council	Low	High	Council to ensure maintenance and cleansing budget is sustained	Council Cleansing Manager
Project learning resources are not shared with the community	Low	Medium	All learning resources maintained and available online. Web pages maintained and updated by the Friends Group & Council	PIT and FOKP
Health and physical activity programmes cease	Medium	Medium	Council Walking Well and ‘One You’ integrated healthy lifestyle service practitioners and support groups will continue to deliver / ensure support and training for volunteers to run physical and wellbeing activities in the park	Council One You Team / health & wellbeing officers
Incidents of anti-social behaviour increase in the park	Low	High	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership work with Police and Friends Group to address any rises in anti-social behaviour	PIT

Risk	Likelihood High / Medium / Low	Impact High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	Who will lead on this
Park user numbers / people involved in heritage fall despite improvements	Low	Medium	Council/Friends group to raise awareness of park as high-quality green space across community. Maintain counters for accurate information.	PIT / FOKP
Failure to improve recycling / composting	Low	Medium	Agree waste management service provision with Council waste and cleansing service and maintain	PIT/ Cleansing Manager

15. EVALUATION

Specialist consultants will be appointed to support the delivery team with its monitoring and evaluation work. This will enable us to find out how well our project has achieved its outputs and outcomes and how effective, efficient and sustainable it was, and to ensure that the Council and other organisations can learn from the experience gained in undertaking the project.

The consultants will develop a monitoring and evaluation framework at the start of the delivery phase. The framework will monitor NLHF requirements and outcomes and assess impacts on beneficiaries, community, economy and our organisation. This will involve beneficiaries in determining key questions to evaluate, how they will be measured and how the findings will be shared with others.

The framework will set out our project outcomes, indicators, methods / tools, gaps and links to other plans. Our development phase work has set a baseline against which outcomes will be measured identifying information already held and gaps where surveys and other work is required. It will set out appropriate methods to gather data and evidence including focus groups, creative approaches, targeted questionnaire / annual user surveys, footfall and observational surveys, feedback cards, crime statistics and condition surveys, and liaison with target beneficiary groups. It will look beyond numerical indicators and explore the wider impacts particularly for health and wellbeing outcomes and how these can be sustained beyond the life of the project. A key outcome is to demonstrate that more, and a wider range of people visit Kingswood Park and how this makes a difference to their lives.

The evaluation will involve a mid-delivery review and an end of scheme evaluation report and legacy strategy. More details of the evaluation framework and a brief for consultants including a draft evaluation framework can be found in section 2.11 and appendices within our Activities Plan (SD1). A budget of £35,000 has been allocated for monitoring and evaluation work.

16. CONCLUSION

This plan provides a review of local community needs and sets out how a project to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park will help to meet these needs and achieve a range of priorities set out in a number of strategic plans and Council policies. It also assesses the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic which saw greater numbers of people using the park for recreation and exercise during lockdowns and social distancing and this serves as an important reminder of the value of the park to the local community.

It presents the results of a comprehensive and wide-ranging consultation with the local community and voluntary groups, and professional officers in a variety of fields including green space and heritage management, biodiversity and sustainability, education and learning, health and wellbeing, youth services, policing and community safety, and planning and economic regeneration.

It also explains the 'Love Our High Streets' initiative and the vital role of Kingswood Park in the regeneration of Kingswood through its central place in the 'civic quarter' and the subsequent economic boost that investment in the park will bring to the local community and businesses.

The report describes and analyses the results of various surveys that have been undertaken to develop an audience profile for Kingswood Park, and to provide answers to the following questions:

- How the local Kingswood community and key user groups value the park, why they go there, and what improvements they would like to see?
- Why some sections of the community do not use the park, what are the barriers faced, and what would make them more likely to use the park in future?
- How the community used and valued the park during the Covid-19 Pandemic and barriers / priorities arising from this
- The heritage significance of the park within a local context and its role as one of the only significant areas of green space
- What proposals should be taken forward to restore and enhance the park, ensuring that its heritage is better managed, in better condition and able to enhance biodiversity and wildlife and strengthen green corridors between the park and adjacent areas?
- How the park can become more resilient and adapt to future climate change
- The need for a new refreshment facility and new toilets to 'Changing Places' standard.
- Ideas for events, activities and projects that will meet the needs of the local community and target beneficiaries, that will bring the community together and reduce social isolation, promote health and wellbeing and help achieve NLHF outcomes.

The research clearly demonstrates that there is an urgent need to restore and enhance the heritage of Kingswood Park and that there is overwhelming support for this amongst the local community, as well as strong support for a new refreshment facility. The level of support for the project grew during the Covid-19 Pandemic with 90% of people stating that the park is important to their wellbeing and quality of life.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has led to increased use of the park but also feelings of social isolation and not being part of the community. This plan identifies inclusive activities and events that will help to improve community spirit and pride as the area strives to recover from the pandemic.

Our consultation work highlights that the community desperately wants investment in the park. Kingswood is a working-class community that has always struggled financially and fits the profile to have high numbers of National Lottery players. Although the park does not constitute heritage that is significant at a national or regional level it is hugely important to the local area and its social and cultural heritage. Its local value is magnified by the fact that there is little alternative heritage in the area that is publicly accessible, and that people living there have the lowest level of access to informal recreational space in South Gloucestershire.

The results of the research and consultation work has been used to develop an audience profile and an Activities Plan that sets out a suite of activities and events that will help to address local community needs and contribute to achieving NLHF outcomes.

The project will provide an excellent opportunity to increase positive and reduce negative environmental impacts. It will do this by focussing on key areas such as energy, water, materials, landscape, biodiversity, transport and waste. It will also implement a climate change adaption plan with a target set for the park future management to become carbon neutral.

Our total delivery phase costs are £3,360,857 with a request to NLHF for £2,671,735 (79%). Our activities budget (staffing + activities programme) amounts to £596,955, which is 18% of the total project value. Our capital spend is £2,040,646 with 44% allocated to spend on restoring/ enhancing heritage, 34% on providing access to a wider range of people and 15% on amenity enhancements (which will also attract a wider range of people).

The information contained in this plan provides compelling evidence of the need for a project to restore and enhance Kingswood Park and the information has been used complete our delivery phase application. The project will form an important component of community wide efforts to recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

