

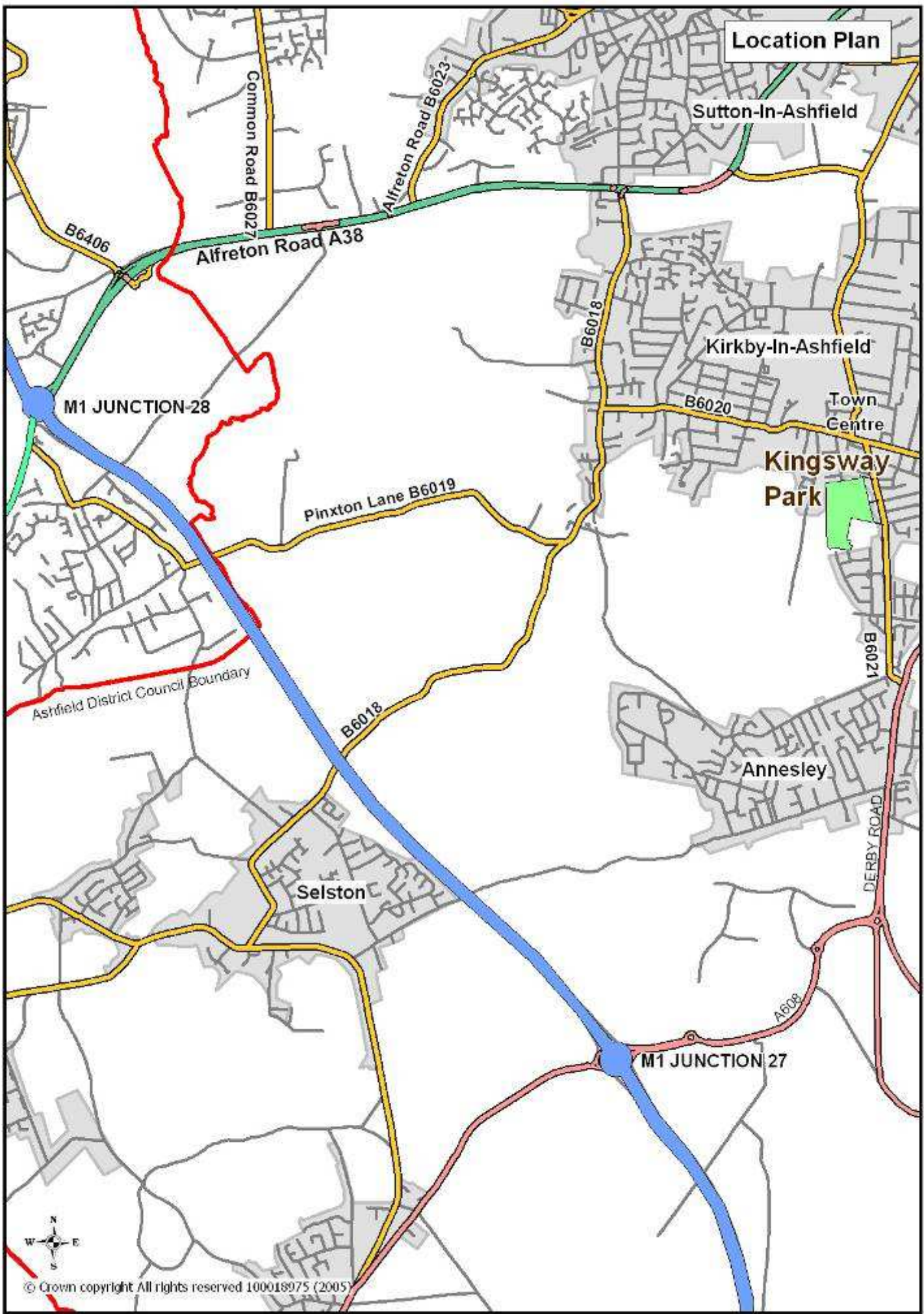
# **KINGSWAY PARK**

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**January 2017 – December 2021**  
*(Refreshed April 2018)*

Location Plan



Ashfield District Council Boundary



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# Kingsway Park



## Appendix 2 Kingsway Park



Not to Scale

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## **OVERVIEW**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This management plan has been developed by Ashfield District Council in partnership with the Friends group, Acre View Café and the local community and is intended to cover the period from January 2017 – December 2021. A steering group involving all relevant sections from the Council has been set up to manage the process and carry out ongoing monitoring and review. It is intended that the plan will help to improve general maintenance of the site, plan for the future and as part of this process retain the Green Flag Award, which the park has held from 2008 to present. Details of the Council's policies and procedures for green space management are contained within the Management Plan Overview and Supporting Information documents.

Kingsway Park, covering nearly 9 hectares, lies close to the centre of Kirkby-in-Ashfield and is the main park within the town, providing important sports and recreational facilities for local residents. The park has been subject to extensive re-development over the course of the previous 5 year management plan. The developments have included improvements to the existing play area (including the hard surfacing around the café), a new youth area, new skate park and parkour area, improvements to the existing tennis courts and MUGA, relaying of the synthetic sports pitch including new boundary fencing, improvements to the grass football pitches and upgrades to the park's footpath network.

The housing development that is located to the west and south west of the park, (on either side of Lindleys Lane - See Context plan) which began in March 2006 and is currently nearing completion, has provided a total of £480,000 of Section 106 monies for projects across Kirkby in Ashfield. Approximately £459,496 of Section 106 funding, together with £203,644 of external grant funding has been used to undertake improvement works to the park over the last five years. These improvements have resulted in increased visitor numbers from new residents who have moved into the adjacent housing development and from the wider Kirkby area and across the district for days out or to attend events held on the park.

Kingsway Park is one of numerous green spaces which have been progressively upgraded during the last few years, which have been funded mainly by Section 106 monies and external grant funding, and is one of three main town parks within the District serving the three main urban areas, the Lawn in Sutton-in-Ashfield and Titchfield Park in Hucknall are the others.

## 1.2 Park Facilities

The park contains the following facilities:

Pavilion including a café, toilets and changing rooms

Bandstand

Rose Garden

Bowls Club House

Tennis Courts x 2

Netball Courts x 2

5-aside Football Courts x 2

Bowling Greens x 2

Multi Use Games Area

Play Area

Youth Area

Skate Park

Parkour Area

Synthetic Pitch

Football Pitches x 4

Cricket Square

Car Park (including overflow capacity)

Grounds Maintenance Compound Area (including storage cabins and composting areas)

The park is well used by the local community, for sports and play. Kirkby College Academy, which is located adjacent to the main entrance on Hodgkinson Road use the park facilities for school sports and contribute to the maintenance of the facilities that they use.

Sports facilities include football pitches, a floodlit all weather pitch (used for football and hockey), a cricket square, two tennis/netball/5-aside football courts and two bowling greens (used by 2 bowls clubs) with a club house.

It's a knock out – An inflatable obstacle team building course (adults only) is held over two week nights in July providing workplace competition as part of Active Ashfield Games Programme.

More informal facilities are provided such as a skate park, parkour area, multi-use games area (basketball/football), children's play area, youth area and balance trail together with picnic tables and seating areas. The play and youth equipment is inspected by RoSPA qualified council officers and annually by an independent RoSPA qualified playground inspector.

The bandstand forms the focal point within the rose garden together with a memorial seat situated underneath the pergola structure. Other features include entrance archways and additional seating around the edge recessed into the stone walls and herbaceous borders.

The park is very accessible for local residents. Pedestrian access is available from Kingsway via the three heritage archways to the east, the main heritage entrance archway from Hodgkinson Road to the north, numerous points along the reclaimed railway line which runs along the west side of the park (providing a popular route for walkers to Portland Park and Titchfield Park) and residential areas to the south and west.

The Acre View Café is open from 10am - 4pm every day except Tuesday when it is open from 10am – 8pm to cater for football training. The café is currently leased to a local, independent business woman serving drinks, hot and cold food and a variety of homemade cakes.

The following sports clubs use the park for training/ matches:

**Bowls Clubs**

Investment Bowls Club  
Sutton and Kirkby Bowls Club

**Cricket Clubs**

Mansfield Hosiery CC

**Football Clubs**

Beaufort United U14's  
Ashland Rovers FC  
Cora Colts FC  
Ashfield Community FC  
Ashfield Diamonds  
Mansfield Town Ladies – Thurs eve  
Save After Saves – Training during school holidays

**Hockey Clubs**

Mansfield Hockey juniors and seniors – Wed eve and weekends  
Meridian Hockey Club – weekends

**Other**

Kirkby College – Summer and winter sports and athletics

**1.3 Investment during previous 5 year Action Plan**

<b>Capital Works</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Date</b>
Entrance to Grounds Maintenance Compound	13,720	s106	2011/12
Skate Park and Parkour Area	89,961 49,999 40,000	s106 Lottery WREN	2011/12
Café Gardens improvements to the paving and grass areas	29,690 12,000	s106 NCC LIS	2012/13
Footpaths	30,500	s106	2012/13
Overflow Car Park	16,600	s106	2012/13
Tennis Courts	61,220	s106	2012/13
Bandstand including electrical connection	51,645 3,390	NCC LIS s106	2012/13
Rose Garden improvements including stone wall repairs, seating and Memorial Bench	4,415	s106	2012/13
Play and Youth Area	60,000 50,000	s106 WREN	2014/15
Synthetic Pitch – New carpet and fencing	150,000		2014/15
Sub-total	459,496	s106	2011-16
Sub-total	203,644	Grant Funding	2011-16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£663,140</b>		<b>2011-16</b>



## 1.4 Heritage

The park was laid out in 1930 on land sold to Kirkby in Ashfield District Council by a Miss Catherine Hodgkinson of Kirkby House. The land was to be used and maintained as a public playing field for the community. Prior to this the site was used as grazing land for horses and was known locally as '16 Acre Field.' The Acre - the street at the southern end of the park takes its name from this and the park is often referred to locally as 'the Acre'. Local knowledge confirms that the layout of the park changed very little between 1938 and 1976. Poplars were an important landscape feature, lining the drive from the main entrance on the east side of the park, the western perimeter with the LMS railway line (many survive to this day), and to the north as far as the Hodgkinson Road entrance. A mixed row of oak and ash and other native trees bordered the remainder of the northern perimeter. Ornamental trees formed avenues within the park. A feature of the park (no longer present) was the eight timber shelters which provided seating for visitors, one of the shelters was turned into a pavilion for cricketers.

As part of the original layout there were eight tennis courts, two large bowling greens, putting greens, areas for netball and hockey, two football fields, a kick about area and a large aviary. There was a large play area and a paddling pool/sand pit, children's toilets and changing rooms. A central building provided refreshments, showers, toilets and a ticket office for equipment hire. Sunday band concerts were held. The garden area was laid out as a rose garden with a small pond. World War II saw a reduction in staff and the gradual decline of the park, by the 1970's the play area was run down and staff cuts during government reorganisation in 1974 led to further problems. In 1971 there were 8 men based on the park, but this number reduced significantly during the 1970s and 80s.

In 1977 the northern end of the park was given over to the school, the play area which had been sited here was relocated on four of the tennis courts. A new all-weather pitch for the school was also developed within the park. The pond within the rose garden was replaced by a rose pergola, which itself was removed several years later. The timber shelters were removed in the late 1990s/early 2000s after falling into disrepair and suffering from vandalism.

The main important heritage features that remain, which are recorded on the Local Heritage Asset List, are the main shared vehicular and pedestrian access gates and archway on Hodgkinson Road, the smaller shared vehicular and pedestrian access gates and archway and the two sets of pedestrian access gates and archways on Kingsway.



Entrance from Kingsway



Main entrance gates off Hodgkinson Road

## 1.5 Community Involvement

The Friends of Kingsway Park were constituted in 2004 and have played a varied and active role in supporting the development of the park. They have supported funding applications submitted to external grant funding organisations by acting as a third party funder. This has assisted the council to access over £200,000 of external grant funding during the previous five year action plan.

Both the local schools, Kingsway Primary School and Kirkby College Academy, have taken part in consultation sessions held to establish what new facilities children and young people wanted to have on the park. Their involvement proved invaluable in securing external grant funding for the new skate park/parkour area and new play and youth areas demonstrating community support for the applications.

Pupils from Kingsway Primary School have previously participated in bulb planting sessions on the park. In September 2016 they assisted the Kirkby Branch of the Rotary Club plant purple crocus bulbs to form the Rotary Logo as part of the club's 'End Polio Now' campaign.



Pupils from Kingsway Primary School planting crocus bulbs – part of the End Polio Now campaign

In Sept '17 'Green Buddies' from Morven Park, Abbey Hill and Orchard Primary Schools took part in a park awareness event combined with the Green Flag Raising Celebration. The event included tidying flower beds, litter picking and park appreciation activities.

## 1.6 Landscape and Ecology

To date there have been no habitat/species surveys undertaken at the site and therefore a survey is included within the Action Plan. Although the site does have some wildlife interest at present, one of the aims of the plan is to increase this interest and value.

The major known habitat types present at the site are: mixed and broadleaved planted trees, hedgerows, standing water (run off retention). There are a number of planting compartments which were planted as part of the improvement works to the park. In addition there is a block of trees between the former railway line and the west side of the park. Around the edges of the original park area there are broad shrub beds containing a variety of ornamental species and specimen trees.

A water retention area and small pond have been created at the south west corner of the park to prevent the flooding of adjacent housing; the pond is dry in summer. Drainage of the football pitches runs into this area where a soakaway was constructed as part of the works to improve the drainage of the football pitches. However the effectiveness of the soakaway has been limited, hence the creation of the pond and retention area. A drainage ditch runs adjacent to the pond.



Wetland area in south west corner of the park



Frogs in the wetland



Frog spawn laid in the wetland

## 1.7 Green Flag Criteria

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. In order to achieve the award green spaces need to meet eight key criteria. The table below shows how the park meets the criteria.



1. A welcoming place	
Good and safe access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicular via main entrance (if required via Kingsway)</li> <li>• 3nr pedestrian access points from Kingsway, 1nr from The Acre, via the main entrance and via numerous points along the former railway line including Ronchin Gardens</li> <li>• Disabled parking in car park</li> <li>• Disabled access to cafe</li> <li>• Welcoming, friendly environment with enthusiastic staff</li> <li>• Drinks, snacks, hot and cold food served daily</li> <li>• Café Garden area contains 4nr picnic benches</li> <li>• Paths around the park upgraded during the previous 5 year action plan</li> <li>• Well linked to surrounding footpath network via former railway line and ROW Kirkby FP 57</li> </ul>
Good signage to and in the park/green space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown tourism signs installed at junction of Station Street and Hodgkinson Road</li> <li>• Entrance signs/directional signage within park</li> </ul>
Equal access for all members of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled parking in the car park</li> <li>• Disabled access to café</li> <li>• Picnic benches provide access for wheelchairs</li> <li>• Inclusive play equipment included</li> <li>• All paths are fully accessible</li> </ul>

<b>2. Healthy, Safe and secure</b>	
Equipment and facilities must be safe to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive inspection regime is detailed in the Management Overview</li> </ul>
It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting is provided outside the café and around the formal areas of the park</li> <li>• Council staff undertake regular maintenance</li> <li>• Café lease holder is on site daily</li> <li>• Park is patrolled by the Council's Community Protection Officers as necessary</li> <li>• CCTV situated at main entrance</li> <li>• Park Keeper on site every day (Mon – Fri)</li> </ul>
Dog fouling must be adequately addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy information is within the Management Overview</li> </ul>
Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has up to date policies which are regularly reviewed, further information is within the Management Overview</li> </ul>
Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets are provided within the café</li> <li>• There is a phone for emergency use</li> </ul>
<b>3. Well maintained and Clean</b>	
Litter and other waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green waste is composted onsite within the grounds maintenance compound</li> <li>• Further policy information is within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>
The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>
A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>

<b>4. Environmental Management</b>	
An environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council has a policy in place within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>
Minimise and justify pesticide use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pesticide use is kept to a minimum within the park</li> </ul>
Eliminate horticultural peat use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horticultural peat is not used on the park</li> </ul>
Recycle waste plant material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green waste is composted on site within the grounds maintenance compound</li> </ul>
Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The park is maintained to the Council's standards, details are provided within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>
Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council actively seeks to reduce the environmental impact of green space management in Ashfield</li> <li>All energy consumption is recorded and compared against targets. This programme is undertaken by the Asset Management team within the Council</li> </ul>
<b>5. Biodiversity, Landscape &amp; Heritage</b>	
Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of: Natural features, wildlife and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bird boxes have been provided in the park</li> <li>Records of birds, bats, invertebrates and flora require updating.</li> </ul>
Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No records of the original park planting design have been found</li> <li>Tree management plan in place</li> </ul>
Buildings and structural features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stone Archways and stone walls form the main heritage features within the park</li> <li>Unfortunately none of the other original features within the park survive</li> </ul>

<b>6. Community Involvement</b>	
The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends group supports the park</li> <li>• Local groups and schools use the park</li> <li>• Volunteer opportunities are being explored</li> <li>• The café supports community use of the park</li> </ul>
Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation has been carried out as part of the revision of the new 5 year action plan</li> <li>• A user survey undertaken annually</li> </ul>
Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends group and Café are involved in the annual review of the action plan</li> <li>• Public consultation carried out annually to inform annual review and update of the action plan.</li> <li>• All comments and ideas are considered and where appropriate incorporated into the plan</li> </ul>
Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is popular with sports enthusiasts (football, hockey, cricket &amp; bowls), families, children and young people, (dog) walkers and nature lovers</li> <li>• The park as a whole provides opportunities for educational visits from local schools</li> </ul>
<b>7. Marketing and Communication</b>	
A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a parks and green spaces marketing strategy in place which can be found within the Management Plan Overview</li> </ul>
There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information is available on the Council's website</li> </ul>
The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information is available on the Council's website</li> </ul>

<b>8. Management</b>	
A management plan or strategy should be in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The action plan is reviewed annually and the management plan is revised every 5 years</li> </ul>
The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The action plan is reviewed annually and the management plan is revised every 5 years</li> </ul>
A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is managed as part of the Council's green space assets and does not have separate budgets</li> </ul>



## 2.1 Kingsway Park Action Plan

<b>KEY:</b>	LCE: Locality & Community Empowerment	S106: Developer Contributions
WE: Waste & Environment	AM: Asset Management	☑ Complete
CP: Community Protection	VOL: Volunteers	● To be completed
		○ Incomplete/ in progress
		TBI To be identified

### AIM 1: CREATE A WELCOMING PARK

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
		17	18	19	20	21		
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>								
	Re-line car park to mark out parking areas including disabled parking spaces together with keep clear areas		●				Section 106	LCE
Signage	Carry out and implement signage and interpretation audit (including mosaics) across the park		●				Section 106	LCE
	Explore options for installing park notice boards providing a park map and information regarding facilities & events		●				Section 106	LCE
Access for all	Replace A-frame motorcycle barriers with chicane style access improvement at The Acre & Ronchin Gardens entrances		●				Section 106	LCE
Control/reduce levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour	Continue to liaise with police, community protection officers re issues	☑	●	●	●	●	n/a	WE / CP
	Install CCTV camera at main entrance into the park	☑					Revenue	WE / CP
Painting	Re-paint school railings on a five year cycle			●			Section 106	LCE
	Paint access gates to overflow car park and from Ronchin Gardens and 5 year cycle	☑					Section 106	LCE
	Re-paint bowls pavilion and shelter on a 5 year cycle			●			Revenue	WE
Floral displays	Improve floral displays at all entrances into the park and formal garden areas on a 5 year cycle		●				Revenue	WE

## AIM 2: ENSURE THAT THE PARK HAS GOOD FACILITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND SECURE

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
		17	18	19	20	21		
<b>Facilities, Safe &amp; Secure</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		
Lighting	Consider options for replacing existing lighting for LEDs			•			Revenue	AM / WE
	Explore options for installing lighting to tennis/netball courts and skate park			•			Section 106	LCE
Vehicular entrance / crossings	Improve the entrance into the park from Hodgkinson Road to reduce conflict between vehicles and pedestrians		•				Section 106	LCE
	Explore options for installing vehicle speed limit signs at main entrance		•				Revenue	WET
	Undertake necessary improvements to vehicular crossing from front of the park to the back fields across ROW 57 to reduce conflict between maintenance vehicles and pedestrians		•				Revenue	WET
Pedestrian Entrances	Improve pedestrian entrances into the park from Kingsway (northernmost entrance), Ronchin Gardens, The Acre and former Railway Line footpath including clearance of scrub where necessary		•				Section 106	LCE / WE
Drainage	Expand and improve wetland areas creating valuable wildlife habitat		•				Section 106	LCE / WE
	Explore options for creating outfall into local housing development to prevent localised flooding		•				Section 106	LCE / WE
Youth Area	Explore options for improving the parkour area		•				Section 106	LCE
Cricket Nets	Remove as they are no longer used	☑					Revenue	WE
Sports Pitches	Continue to improve the quality of the sward and drainage of the football pitches	☑	•	•	•	•	Revenue	WE
	Undertake works to allow flexible / rotational use of the back fields for events / football / other sports	☑	•				Revenue	WE

### AIM 3: ENCOURAGE AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITY USE AND INVOLVEMENT

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
<b>Community Involvement</b>		17	18	19	20	21		
Volunteers	Attract new volunteers to the park, identify volunteer activities and carry out practical tasks	☑	•	•	•	•	n/a	LCE / WE

### AIM 4: ENSURE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE FEATURES

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
<b>Conservation &amp; Heritage</b>		17	18	19	20	21		
Heritage Archways and stone walls	Inspect the archways a minimum of 1x per year and carry out any necessary repairs	☑	•	•	•	•	Revenue	WE
	Re-paint the gates on a 5 year cycle			•			Revenue	WE
Trees and hedgerows	Undertake tree surveys/inspections on a 2 year cycle		•		•		Revenue	WE
	Implement recommendations from tree survey	☑	•	•	•	•	Revenue	WE
	Produce a maintenance plan for trees, hedgerow and woodland areas on a 5 year cycle			•			Revenue	WE
Nest boxes	Explore options for installing bird / owl / bat boxes			•			Section 106	LCE

### **3 MONITORING/ REVIEW**

#### **3.1 Monitoring and Review**

The management plan will be reviewed every five years with a review of the action plan carried out annually to monitor progress. This process will be carried out in September to feed into the Council's business plan cycle. The results of the process will give the opportunity to assess the overall success of the management plan and whether additional funding and resources are required. A site inspection will be carried out during August/ September to check whether any additional works are required, which will then be added to the work programme/ Action plan, as appropriate.

#### **3.2 Contacts**

**Kingsway Park**  
Hodgkinson Road  
Kirkby-in-Ashfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG17 7DJ

Email: [environment@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:environment@ashfield.gov.uk)  
0800 183 8484 / 01623 457 857

[www.ashfield.gov.uk](http://www.ashfield.gov.uk)

**Café - The Acre View Cafe**  
Telephone: 07909 442 073 (contact Rachel)

via facebook - **The Acre View Cafe Kingsway Park**

**Friends of Kingsway Park**  
For information about the Friends of Kingsway Park, please contact the council on 01623 457 091.

**To find out more about Environmental Volunteering opportunities, please contact the Kirkby Area Community Action Officer:**

John Tattersfield: 01623 457 091 / [j.tattersfield@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:j.tattersfield@ashfield.gov.uk)