



Green Flag Award 2020

Name of Site: Horsham Park

Managing Organisation: Horsham District Council

Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	Detailed, with lots of information supplied covering all areas. Follows Green Flag headings.	Formatting text as 'Justified' would improve the look of the document. No photo's! Should be used to help illustrate the text and enhance the plan. More detail on the sites history, but to be put in as an Appendix.
Health, Safety & Security	Comprehensive details provided of the facilities available and how the park is monitored.	No clear links with other Council policies/strategies. No mention of any partnership working.
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Inspection regimes explained. Seperate sections detailing Horticultural and Arboricultural maintenance.	More depth could be provided, particularly about buildings and their specific uses. Plan of the site indicating different maintenance regimes? Provide the current tree survey as an Appendix.
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Introduction of new bins is detailed. All sections are covered.	No examples of reporting forms or detail of the processes undertaken to report things.
Environmental Management	Waste disposal explained.	No links to other Council policies/strategies.

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Good outline, clear and concise.	Much more detail and depth could be provided with regards to any specific aims and achievements and the habitat enhancement projects. Links to other policies/strategies.
Community Involvement	Fairly recent consultation exercise shows good interest and forward thinking management. Good detail provided about events and groups involved in the park.	Results of consultation should be removed from main body of plan and put in as an Appendix. More detail about the organisations directly involved with the park. Web links?
Marketing & Communication	Thoroughly detailed with examples of the different ways that the site is marketed.	No direct evidence, such as examples of leaflets included as appendices. Even a photo within the document showing examples of things that have been created. Links to websites, etc.
Overall management	Is outlined and how it is to be reviewed.	Future plans, budgets and timescales could be far more detailed and laid out better.

Additional comments

There is some repetition throughout the document, and it could be made more concise and functional by making reference to things only once.

Overall does not come across as a working document and is more a document with a lot of information to fulfil the Green Flag criteria.

Main body of the base document could be slimmed down to much less than 21 pages, but enhanced by the provision of appendices that relate to specific things, including the up to date information/materials. These can then be updated annually.

Include direct web-links within the document that link to other documents and external web-sites.

Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Overall feeling of the park and the entrances are open and well-maintained. Multiple car parks help to give access to the site.	Draw up plans to improve the entrance near the leisure centre, as discussed on site.
Healthy, Safe and Secure	CCTV network helps to improve safety. Fitness equipment encourages additional use of the park.	Ensure that any financial constraints do not impact upon patrols or provision of CCTV.
Well Maintained and Clean	No evidence of any litter or dog fouling. No damage or graffiti visible on any street furniture.	Timber edging around some of the play equipment requires repair or replacement. Some loose wire/fencing is present in the maze area and this should be addressed as it is an area that children frequently use.
Environmental Management	New bins illustrate the management is thinking about what they can do with regards to the environment.	Follow through plans to change any planting to make it more resilient to changes in climate.
Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage	Identification of target species is a positive step. Discussion of changes to grass cutting regimes could further improve biodiversity.	As discussed on site, enhance the current pond/lake to improve habitat and any issues with surface run-off. Put in place more definite environmental enhancements in relation to the target species.
Community Involvement	Large and active Friends Of group is a great benefit. Particularly for an urban park that doesn't sit in a residential area. Neighbourhood Council also seems actively involved.	Continue supporting and communicating with different external groups. Make full use of their funding sources.
Marketing and Communication	Notice boards are present. Lots of events are usually held over the course of the year in the park that helps with advertising the park as a place to go.	Notice boards and individual interpretation signs and the text on them could be larger and/or positioned more conspicuously, particularly where they are set back a little in the borders.
Management	Overall seems very well-maintained and managed.	Ensure that when current Grounds Maintenance contract is re-tendered the standards of maintenance are not allowed to drop.

Additional Comments

One of the best maintained urban parks we have judged. It provides a wide range of facilities over a large area and given the increased financial pressures it is a credit to the Council and those involved.