

Report of the Chief Officer of Parks and Countryside

Report to South Outer Area Committee

Date: Monday 4th February 2013

Subject: Annual Report – for the Parks and Countryside Service

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Ardsley & Robin Hood		
Morley North		
Morley South		
Rothwell		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The report provides an area profile of key assets, information on park usage and a customer based perspective of the quality of the assets and services provided.
2. It highlights the current progress towards Leeds Quality Park (LQP) status for community parks in the area. It provides the costs of achieving and retaining LQP status in community parks up to the year 2020.
3. The report details capital improvements in community parks, sport pitches and fixed play in the area for the last 12 months and planned improvements to be delivered in the next 12 months.
4. It gives a detailed breakdown of events and volunteering in the area.
5. It gives an overview of the Streetscene Grounds Maintenance contract considering performance for grass cutting in 2012. It sets out the specification and how this is developing alongside suggesting increased engagement in performance monitoring.

Recommendations

6. The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks to further develop the relationship between the Parks and Countryside service and the South Outer Area Committee, as agreed at Executive Board.
- 1.2 It provides an overview of the service and sets out some of the challenges faced along with key performance management initiatives. In addition it seeks to provide a positive way forward for delivering the extended role of the Area Committee.
- 1.3 In particular it sets out at an area level progress made in attaining Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. It also sets out investment needs to attain LQP standards and to retain them.

2 Background information

Service Description

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has one of the largest fully inclusive local authority Parks and Countryside services, managing almost 4,000 hectares of parks and green space. This includes 7 major parks, 62 community parks and 95 recreation grounds and 391 local green spaces, which include 144 playgrounds and 500 sports facilities ranging from skateboard parks to golf courses, and which play host to 600 events annually. The service also manages a nursery which produces over 4 million bedding plants each year, 97 allotment sites, over 800km of Public Right of Way (PROW), and 156 nature conservation sites, as well as 22 cemeteries and three crematoria.
- 2.2 The 2009 Parks and Countryside residents survey showed that the service attracts almost 68 million visits each year from Leeds' residents alone, and that approximately 96% of these are regular park users. These range from anybody using a park for informal recreation (e.g. walking, observing nature) to people who take part in formal activities (e.g. football clubs, conservation volunteers or to attend events). The user surveys also evidenced that 10m visits are made to our green space by Young People (12-19) compared to 3.6m by Children (5-11).

Description of Priority Advisory Function

- 2.3 The priority advisory function for Area Committees relates to community parks provision that have a wide range of facilities, including general recreation, sports pitches, play and formal and informal horticultural facilities.
- 2.4 Where developments are less significant or only impact on one site then ward members and community groups will be informed and consulted using established procedures. It is important to note that good levels of engagement with ward members exist and this function seeks to enhance this engagement.

3 Main issues

Area Profile of the Service

- 3.1 The following table summarises community green space assets managed by Parks and Countryside in the South Outer Area Committee:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	9
Playing Pitches:	
Cricket	1
Football	39
Rugby League	6
Bowling greens	10
Playgrounds	22
Multi-use games areas	2
Skate parks	4

Community Parks

- 3.2 The service undertook a residents survey using the Citizen's Panel methodology during the summer of 2012. Unfortunately this has provided insufficient information to allow the service to update the 2009 survey data with statistical confidence. Options to undertake additional surveys during 2013 are currently being examined to provide an updated dataset for usage and satisfaction.
- 3.3 Analysis from the 2009 residents survey was carried out relevant to the 9 community parks in the area which are;

Site Name	Annual Number of Visits	Total Annual Visits to South Outer Community Parks is 4.3m approx.
Churwell Park	304,000	
Dartmouth Park	587,000	
Scatcherd Park	633,000	
Springhead Park	1,732,000	
Rothwell Country Park	85,503	
Drighlington Moor Park	619,000	
Scarth Gardens	X	
Woodlesford Park	285,000	
Lewisham Park	72,929	

x = No individual visitor numbers are available for this site. Due to its proximity to Scatcherd park it is anticipated that visitors either consider it part of Scatcherd Park or choose to complete the survey for Scatcherd Park.

- 3.4 The residents survey provides significant insight into the users of community parks, demographics of users, how they get there and what they do. A detailed insight of each community park is given in appendix 1. The key analysis points are;
- Approximately 78% of visitors are adults with 22% children.
 - There are a wide range of reasons for visiting but nearly all visitors at some point go for relaxation, exercise or play.

- Nearly 70% of visitors travel to the park on foot of which 55% take less than 10 minutes to travel there.
- Of the 28% who visit by car 75% take less than 10 minutes to get there.
- 28% of visitors go to community parks either every day or on most days, whilst 67% go at least once a week.

3.5 Parks and Countryside provide annual pitch hire for sports teams in the area. The table below shows the number of teams with current bookings playing on pitches in the area; (*note this excludes clubs who have a long term lease in place*)

Age Group	No of Teams
Open Age	22
Juniors	37

Volunteering in the Parks and Countryside Service

3.6 The Service continues to focus on increasing the number of volunteers and groups working in the area. There has been a significant increase in the value of activities which take place particularly in the area of corporate volunteering. Our emphasis for the next 12 months will be to :

- Seek to increase corporate volunteering working in partnership with Leeds Ahead.
- Continue to improve involvement with the many “in bloom” groups in Leeds.
- It is an ambition to have a volunteer group for every community park where there is a site based gardener.

3.7 It is estimated that volunteers across all groups contribute nearly 3,000 days of voluntary work in the South Outer area over a 12 month period. The tables below give details of works undertaken in South Outer since November 2011 and the active groups in the area Committee;

Table 1 - Work undertaken by volunteers working with the Rangers;

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Dartmouth Park	Friends of Dartmouth Park	Bulb planting	10.0
Rothwell Country Park	Friends of Rothwell Country Park	Clear ditches and 5th Pond	7.7
		cut back hedge prep for laying	7.1
		footpath cutback and litter pick	13.6
		Footpath Cutback.	6.3
		General Maintenance - Sculpture area	4.3
		Genral maintenance of the sculpture park	15.0
		Hedge planting, tree planting, willow weaving, hedge trimming	8.6
		Maintain drain on the end of bulogh rd.	5.8
		Maintain hedge, litter pick, erect fence around ponds	8.6
		maintain red shale path, balsam bash	11.4

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
		Scrub bash, strim grass, erect bird boxes	10.0
		Strim paths, repair fencing around ponds, footpath drainage, repair sign	9.3
		Clear ditches and 5th Pond	7.7
		cut back hedge prep for laying	7.1
Total			132.5

Table 2 - Corporate volunteer actions;

Site	Organisation	Task	No. of Vol Days
Dartmouth Park	HBOS	Painting, litter picking, lifting flower beds	29.1
Rothwell Country Park	Santander	Entrance tidy, scrape paths, remove vegetation growing on road	9.3
		Pond clearance and tree thinning	3.4
The Pastures	O2	Clearing litter and rubbish, painting access features	11.8
Total			53.6

Table 3 - Educational work within the South Outer area:

Site	School	Activity	No Of Children
Dartmouth Park	Fountain Primary	Mini beasts and Habitats	120
Dartmouth Park	Fountain Primary	Mini beasts and habitats	120
Rothwell Country Park	Woodlesford Primary	Balsam Bash	31

Table 4 - Summary of the groups who are active in the South Outer area :

Group Name	Number of Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Days
Churwell Action Group	5	30
Friends of Dartmouth Park	5	10
Friends of Rothwell Country Park	10	120
Leeds Parks Volunteers	4	78
Leeds Voluntary Footpath Rangers	6	130
Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	12	216
Total	37	584

Table 5 - Existing in bloom groups within the South Outer area;

In Bloom Group	Number of Volunteers	Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom)	Estimated Volunteer Days
Carlton	7		120
East Ardsley	10		100
Gildersome	5		80
John O'Gaunts	4		80

In Bloom Group	Number of Volunteers	Award Won (Yorkshire in Bloom)	Estimated Volunteer Days
Lowry Road	25		600
Meadows (Robin Hood)	10		200
Morley	12	Town – Silver Gilt	240
Oulton	8		160
Rothwell	25	Town - Silver	480
Thorpe	6		100
West Ardsley	8		160
Woodlesford	14	Urban Community - Gold	280
Total	134		2600

Highlighted groups are newly formed in bloom groups in 2012

Events

- 3.8 The bookings and licensing team has introduced improvements to the application process for events that occur on parks. They are providing greater assistance in helping community groups organise events with particular emphasis on ensuring legal and safety requirements are met but do not deter groups and organisations from organising activities. The table below shows a list of events held in the outer south area in 2012:

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Adwalton Moor	May	Drighlington Football Gala	1
Carlton Rec. Shayfields	June	Carlton Annual Village Gala	1
Dartmouth Park	April	Easter Egg Hunt	1
	June	Fancy Dress Competition	1
		Summer Bands	2
	July	Summer Bands	2
	August	Summer Bands	2
Tennis Coaching		1	
East Ardsley Recreation Ground	July	East Ardsley Gala	1
		Funfair	1
Glen Road Playing Fields	July	Football Gala	1
Hembrigg Recreation	October	Two Four Broadcast	1
Rothwell Country Park	April	Rothwell ride out	1
	July	Rothwell ride out	1
	October	Wild Boar Challenge	1
Scatcherd Park	July	Morley TC Jubilee Celebration	1
Springhead Park	March	(16th - 19th) Circus Starr	1
	April	(1st - 10th) Funfair	1
	June	Rothwell Harriers	1
		Summer Bands	1
	July	Mini Breeze Event	1
		Rothwell Carnival	1
		Tennis Coaching	1
	August	Tennis Coaching	1
	November	Springhead Park Bonfire	1
December	Santa Helicopter	1	
The Pastures	May	May Day Celebrations	1

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Woodlesford Park	September	Woodlesford Park Funday	1
Total			31

Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status

3.9 The Parks and Green Space Strategy was approved at Executive Board in February 2009 and sets out the vision and priorities to 2020. One of the key proposals contained in the strategy is the aspiration for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020. The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria as follows;

- **A welcoming place** - how to create a sense that people are positively welcomed in the park
- **Healthy, safe & secure** - how best to ensure that the park is a safe & healthy environment for all users
- **Clean & well maintained** - what people can expect in terms of cleanliness, facilities & maintenance
- **Sustainability** - how a park can be managed in environmentally sensitive ways
- **Conservation & heritage** - the value of conservation & care of historical heritage
- **Community involvement** - ways of encouraging community participation and acknowledging the community's role in a park's success
- **Marketing** - methods of promoting a park successfully
- **Management** - how to reflect all of the above in a coherent & accessible management plan or strategy and ensure it is implemented.

3.10 The Parks and Countryside service reports annual performance against two local indicators based upon the Green Flag Award scheme;

- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside sites assessed that meet the Green Flag standard.*
- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside community parks which meet the Green Flag standard. Performance against these indicators is illustrated in section 3.32.*

3.11 The indicator includes an assessment of each community park which has particular relevance to Area Committee engagement. The scheme is known as the Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. The following table provides a summary of these assessments for the South Outer Area Committee.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Churwell Park	2010								No
Dartmouth Park	2010								No
Drighlington Moor Park	2011								Yes
Lewisham Park	2010								Yes
Rothwell Country Park	2011								No
Scarth Gardens	2010								No
Scatcherd Park	2011								Yes
Springhead Park	2011								Yes
Woodlesford Park	2010								No

Key:

Meets Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	
Below Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	

3.12 From this table, there are 4 parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park Standard in the area, with 5 not reaching the standard. This is identical to the previous Area Committee report.

3.13 The residents survey in 2009 enables an assessment of visitor numbers and satisfaction rating (scored out of 10) for a number of criteria for each park, set out in the following table:

Site	Design and Appearance	Cleanliness & Maintenance	Ease to Get Around	Range of Facilities	Horticultural Maintenance	Nature Conservation	Facilities for Families	Sports Facilities	Overall Impression
Churwell Park	6.8	6.7	8.1	5.7	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.9
Dartmouth Park	7.9	7.9	8.7	5.9	8.2	7.7	6.6	6.1	7.7
Drighlington Moor Park	7.8	7.8	8.5	5.5	7.8	7.5	7.4	6.1	7.4
Scatcherd Park	7.6	7.7	8.3	5.7	8.7	7.8	6.1	6.1	7.5
Springhead Park	8.2	8.2	8.6	6.7	8.7	7.9	7.2	6.3	8.1
Woodlesford Park	5.6	5.3	8.0	4.4	6.4	6.6	5.8	5.0	5.6

Note – Lewisham Park, Scarth Gardens and Rothwell Country Park had insufficient responses to be able to accurately produce satisfaction data

Key:

Generally meets LQP expectations	7.0 - 10	
Generally below LQP expectations	0.0 – 6.9	

This table broadly correlates with the professional audit undertaken for the Leeds Quality Parks assessment set out in paragraph 3.11. In particular scores and visitor numbers are higher for the parks that meet the LQP standard. There are however issues identified with the range of facilities offered in many of the parks and sports facilities.

Playing Pitches

3.14 The residents survey in 2009 allowed respondents to rate sport facilities in parks. The results are shown in the table below;

Rating of Sports facilities	2009 (South Outer)	2006 (South Outer)
Fair to very good	70.7%	77%
Poor or very poor	29.3%	23%

The results show a decrease in those who felt sports facilities were of at least fair standard. This data is related to the table set out in paragraph 3.13.

Fixed Play

3.15 The residents survey in 2009 allowed respondents to rate facilities for children and their parents. The results are shown in the table below;

Rating facilities for children	2009 (South Outer)	2006 (South Outer)
Fair to very good	81.6%	82.8%
Poor or very poor	18.4%	17.2%

Results show little change in those who rated facilities as fair or better.

3.16 Improvements to community parks during 2012 are as follows:

- Scatcherd Park – on site constructing new skate park (£179k).
- Woodlesford Park – signage and heritage features (£6k).
- Rothwell Country Park – new trim trail and general improvements (£17k).
- Springhead Park – refurbishment of tennis courts phase 2 (69k).

3.17 The following play areas have been refurbished during 2012;

- Baines Terrace POS – new play equipment (£10.6k).
- Wood Lane Rec – new teen shelter (£11k).
- Woodlesford Rec – New MUGA (£40k)

3.18 The following table provides a perspective on the minimum level of investment required to achieve the LQP standard for the five remaining parks. It also includes the level of reinvestment required across all the community parks in order to sustain the LQP pass up to 2020;

Site Name	Cost to Achieve (excluding fixed play)	Reinvestment (excluding fixed play)
Churwell Park	£4,000	
Dartmouth Park	£286,589	
Rothwell Country Park	£18,500	
Scarth Gardens	£61,815	
Woodlesford Park	£6,000	
Total to achieve LQP	£376,904	
Average annual reinvestment		£28,586
Total reinvestment to 2020		£228,693
Overall Total Investment to 2020		£605,597

3.19 Reinvestment levels are estimated according to the expected lifespan of equipment and infrastructure as set out below;

Description	Timescale for Recurring Investment
Signage and interpretation	5 years
Fixed play (including MUGA's/skate parks)	10 years
Bins and benches	15 years
Paths and infrastructure	25 years
Landscaping	25 years

3.20 Planned improvements for the next 12 months are;

- Carlton Rec (Shayfields) – proposed extension to play area.
- Dartmouth Park – consultation pending on development of master plan.

3.21 In terms of fixed play, work has been undertaken to set out refurbishment requirements over a 10 year rolling programme in support of the outcomes of the Fixed Play Strategy. The average cost of a new playground is currently about £120k; Multi-use games areas and skateparks are slightly cheaper on average at about £90k each. The table below shows the capital investment required on an ongoing basis to fund the area committees existing fixed play sites;

Fixed Play Type	No.	Total Replacement Cost £'s	Required Average Annual Spend £'s
Play Areas	22	2,640,00	264,000
Multi Use games Areas	2	180,000	18,000
Skate Parks	4	360,000	36,000
Totals		2,970,000	297,000

Area Committee funding for additional on site gardeners

3.22 South Outer Area Committee provide additional funding for gardeners to increase site based presence at parks in the area. For 2012-13 this funding totalled £34,951 for 3 gardeners over a 6 month period. The gardeners were present at the following sites; Lowry Road, Lewisham Park, Hembrigg Park, Magpie Lane, Drighlington Park and Woodlesford Recreation Ground.

- 3.23 Since the introduction of site based gardeners, analysis shows that complaints to both Ward Councillors and the Parks and Countryside Service have declined on sites with increased daily presence. In addition, the service has observed an increase in the number of residents using parks and open spaces which is backed up by the residents survey data.
- 3.24 The site based gardeners increase working relationships with users, local residents and community groups. These site based staff further increase users satisfaction and support the aspiration to increase volunteer groups working within parks.

Streetscene Grounds Maintenance

- 3.25 Following a procurement exercise the streetscene grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Continental Landscapes Ltd (CLL) with effect from 1st January 2012. This contract covers sites that are located alongside the highway network or amongst residential streets managed by the council's Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs and BITMO). The specification requires the contractor to undertake litter removal from sites they maintain at each visit supporting the council's wider efforts to maintain clean streets. The table below shows the asset breakdown of contract items for the South Outer area committee:

Asset Type	Annual Visits	Unit	Measure
Amenity Grass	13	M ²	441,663
Premium Grass	26	M ²	43,845
Rough Grass	3	M ²	30,402
Sight Line	3	M	11,367
Rough Linear	3	M	27,774
Primary Network	6	M ²	84,770
Shrub Beds	2	M ²	9,029
Hedges	3	M	3,947
Rose Beds	2	M ²	1,087
Total			653,884

- 3.26 Despite 2012 being one of the wettest summers ever recorded the contractor has completed grass cutting operations as required by the contract specification. During June the specification was revised to increase the mowing frequency on grass plots adjacent to sheltered housing and this has proven to be very successful in addressing issues of grass length and overspill of cuttings in these areas. Regular monitoring of the contractors work is undertaken with a target sample size of 10%. Analysis of city wide performance for the 2012 mowing season shows that the contractor achieved an average failure rate of less than 1%.
- 3.27 The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board Working Group examined the contract during the summer and produced a number of recommendations that are currently being considered or have already been introduced. These include:
- Increasing frequencies to 16 grass cuts and 6 shrub/rose visits.
 - That any proposed removal of shrub/rose beds are consulted on with ward members and parish/town councils prior to removal.

- That options to increase 'joined up working' with locality management are explored.
- To examine options to increase efficiencies by better utilisation of contractor resources during the winter.
- That parish and town councils are encouraged to engage in contract performance management.
- That an improved communications strategy is developed.
- That area committees are provided with performance information relevant to the area.
- That contract management efficiencies are sought alongside increased consistency of approach.
- Establishing funding to address problem sites until ownership can be established.

3.28 From 1st September 2012 management of the contract passed to Parks and Countryside and work has commenced to restructure the contract team to achieve increased coordination and efficiency from grounds maintenance and weed spraying contracts. It is proposed that officers attending the area committee environment sub groups will provide regular updates on performance and any proposed changes to the contract.

3.29 As a result of the ALMO review currently underway, arrangements regarding the provision of ALMO elements of the contract may change.

Coordinated Working with Environmental Services

3.30 The Parks & Countryside Service move to the Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate has given opportunities to improve collaborative working. In particular improvements in horticultural land management, cleansing and more efficient use of resources in regard to;

- Co-ordination of weed spraying activities with the grounds maintenance contract with a consistent approach to monitoring.
- Traffic Management arrangements co-ordinated to minimise costs and disruption of the highway.
- Litter collection in the vicinity of community parks, and as part of normal operations site based gardeners undertake an initial litter pick of the park which is being expanded to include some areas outside the curtilage of the park. Conversely, street cleansing staff now assist with emptying litter bins in parks on a weekend when parks staff are not always present.
- Work is underway to map all maintainable ginnels and establish work requirements to draw up an annual co-ordinated work schedule. Work is already co-ordinated to undertake weed-spraying where the locality team have already cut back vegetation, and removed detritus from the surface of the path.
- Locality Managers have led on consultation and worked with Parks and Countryside on developing proposals around dog control orders in Leeds.
- The Parks and Countryside service has a number of welfare facilities and yard space available in most community parks distributed throughout the

city which has provided an opportunity for the locality based teams to use these facilities for staff welfare provision and as operational bases.

3.31 Specific coordinated working relevant to the South Outer Area Committee has occurred at;

- **Scatcherd Park** - Parks and Countryside to empty the bins on the roadside from Morley Leisure Centre down to the bottom of the hill during the week. Environment to empty the bins and litter pick the perimeter of the park at the weekend.
- **Dartmouth Park & Springhead Park** – Facility sharing with street cleansing teams. This allows the cleansing staff to operate more efficiently in terms of productive time and transport savings.

Parks & Countryside Key Performance Indicators

3.32 The following table highlights key performance indicators relevant to the service;

PI Code	Description	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2013/14 Target
LKI-GFI / CP-PC50 / EM38	The percentage of parks and countryside sites assessed internally that meet the Green Flag criteria	23% (Target 23%)	26.2% (Target 26.2%)	29.4%	32.6%
LKI-PCP 22	Overall user satisfaction with Parks and Countryside (from the user survey)	N/A	N/A	7/10	N/A
New	The percentage of parks and countryside community parks which meet LQP status	33.9%	38.7% Target (40%)	47.5%	55%

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Close liaison with community and ward members is already in existence, utilising a variety of mechanisms, for example through residents' surveys, multi-agency meetings and community forums. In addition volunteers, Friends of groups and local residents are regularly consulted on local projects with input on design and physical implementation of a wide range of site improvements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This report does not have an impact on equality and diversity. Further information is available on analysis of the residents survey 2009 specifically regarding equality issues on request.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The contents of this report set out how the Executive Board requirements can be met by taking a more proactive approach to involve and engage Area Committees in matters relating to community parks.
- 4.3.2 The information within the report contributes significantly to the sustainable economy and culture city priority plan.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 The central government's Comprehensive Spending Review has had significant impact on local government budgets and it is anticipated that the budget allocation for Parks and Countryside will continue to be very challenging.
- 4.4.2 The service undertakes to sustain and develop the services provided to the public and has traditionally used a number of sources of financial support to achieve developments. These include grants from bodies such as Green Leeds Ltd, Sustrans, Natural England, National Lottery funding and developer contributions via section 106 (S106) funds.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report has no legal implications and is not subject to call in. There is no information which is confidential or exempt.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report, its conclusions and recommendations.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Community green space contributes in many ways to the delivery of the Corporate Priority Plan. They provide places for relaxation, escape, exercise and recreation. They bring communities together and make a positive contribution to the local economy, education, improve public health and well-being, and generally make a better place to live, work and visit.
- 5.2 Improvements to community parks, fixed play and playing pitches remain a priority, and there already has been investment made to deliver improvements along with further schemes identified. Issues are being addressed through the Parks and Green Space Strategy along with implementation of the Fixed Play Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 5.3 Community engagement remains a key activity for the service with regular correspondence, attendance at meetings and briefings, along with more localised consultation where required. As described at 3.2 options to undertake additional surveys during 2013 are currently being examined to provide an updated dataset for usage and satisfaction.

5.4 A programme of activities is planned for which updates and reports can be provided to the Area Committee to help inform, consult and influence community green space management.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

7.0 Background documents¹

7.1 There are no background documents associated with this report.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

Appendix 1: Detailed Residents Survey Information

1.1 Total Number of Annual Visits

	Community Parks	Other P&C Sites	Total
South Outer	4,319,062	2,411,494	6,730,556

1.2 Reasons for Visiting – respondents select their five main reasons (The 24 choices have been grouped in this table)

Reason	Churwell Park %	Dartmouth Park %	Drighlington Moor Park %	Lewisham Park %	Scatcherd Park %	Springhead Park %	Woodlesford Park %	South Outer Total %
Exercise	63	81	76	75	71	92	55	84
Play	75	49	95	0	49	82	45	70
Dog walking	25	26	14	50	18	17	36	20
Enjoy the surroundings	25	51	43	75	80	63	9	59
Family outings	38	36	43	0	40	61	9	49
Relaxation	56	100	100	100	89	86	73	93
See Wildlife	19	33	5	0	29	37	0	30
Sport related	25	10	29	0	18	21	45	30
Other	6	0	10	0	13	5	36	7
Events	6	21	19	0	9	37	0	26

1.3 Age Profile of Visitors

Site	Age 20 – 39	Age 40 – 59	Age 60+
Churwell Park	55%	28%	17%
Dartmouth Park	45%	26%	29%
Drighlington Moor Park	40%	30%	30%
Lewisham Park	60%	20%	20%
Scatcherd Park	33%	38%	29%
Springhead Park	41%	28%	31%
Woodlesford Park	42%	25%	33%
South Outer Total	42%	29%	29%

How visitors get to the parks and how long it takes to get there

1.4 Visitors on Foot – Journey Time

Site	% of visitors on foot	Less than 10 mins	10–20 mins	20-30 mins	30+ mins
Churwell Park	86.7%	85%	8%	8%	0%
Dartmouth Park	65.8%	56%	36%	8%	0%
Drighlington Moor Park	87.5%	62%	33%	0%	5%
Lewisham Park	100%	75%	25%	0%	0%
Scatcherd Park	78.6%	45%	36%	18%	0%
Springhead Park	59.2%	49%	46%	3%	1%
Woodlesford Park	100%	82%	18%	0%	0%
South Outer Total	69%	55%	37%	7%	1%

1.5 Visitors by Car - Journey Time

Site	% of visitors by car	Less than 10 mins	10–20 mins	20-30 mins
Churwell Park	13.3%	50%	50%	0%
Dartmouth Park	34.2%	69%	23%	8%
Drighlington Moor Park	12.5%	100%	0%	0%
Lewisham Park	0%	~	~	~
Scatcherd Park	16.7%	58%	29%	14%
Springhead Park	36.8%	78%	22%	0%
Woodlesford Park	0%	~	~	~
South Outer Total	28%	75%	24%	1%

1.6 How long do visitors stay. (Detailed information on each community park is available on request).

Time	Summer Stay		Winter Stay	
	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday
Less than 30 Minutes	9%	14%	30%	34%
30 minutes to 1 hour	39%	25%	42%	43%
1 to 2 hours	34%	25%	16%	11%
2 to 4 hours	11%	7%	3%	1%

Time	Summer Stay		Winter Stay	
	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday
4 or more hours	2%	1%	1%	0%
Do not visit	4%	4%	9%	12%

1.7 How often do visitors go. (Detailed information on each community park is available on request).

	Summer	Winter
Every Day	10%	6%
Most Days	18%	13%
Once or Twice a week	39%	23%
Once every two weeks	20%	17%
Once a month	13%	27%
Seldom or never	2%	5%

1.8 Information taken from comments made in the survey.

Site	General satisfaction comments	What would make you stay longer or encourage more use	Any other comments
Dartmouth Park	Most comments on maintenance are positive. Some requests for an upgraded playground. Many comments regarding the poor state of the tennis courts. (Half the courts have since been refurbished)	Areas where dogs are controlled. Café/refreshments/ice cream man with designated picnic area. More brass band concerts and general family events. Toilet facilities.	~
Churwell Park	Not many comments on the satisfaction ratings.	Better children's facilities.	Several comments around youth anti-social behaviour.
Drighlington Moor Park	Good comments about the horticultural maintenance. Some negative comments regarding dog fouling.	Café and toilet facilities. Better play equipment for toddlers.	~

Site	General satisfaction comments	What would make you stay longer or encourage more use	Any other comments
Lewisham Park	~	~	General comments on dog fouling within the park.
Scatcherd Park	Lots of praise for on site gardener. Good comments about the overall maintenance of the park. Play area looking dated. Some negative dog fouling, dogs on leads comments.	Picnic benches. Toilets. Café. Events – with lots of notice that they are on.	Generally repeated that the park is good.
Springhead Park	Improvements to path network. Lots asking for full time park keeper. Beck needing cleaning. Generally good positive comments overall.	Better play and skate parks. Improved café facility. Public toilets. More facilities for teenagers.	Comments generally repeated from other sections.
Woodlesford Park	A large number of comments on dog fouling	Improve play equipment. Better control of dogs and dog fouling. More facilities.	~