



**WELLINGTON**  
TOWN COUNCIL  
Serving Wellington & Rockwell Green

# **Wellington Park**

## **Management Plan**

**2025 - 2035**

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# 1. Introduction

This plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Wellington Park and has been produced by Wellington Town Council and Somerset Council to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

It is thanks to many people, from gardeners to heads of service, that the park had been maintained to a high standard thus far. Everyone has played a pivotal role in ensuring that investment has been made into restoring the park, it is looked after to the highest standard, and its full potential is realised to benefit the people of Wellington and the wider community.

The original plan covered the period 2003 with updates to 2023. We now have a new 10-year plan and this document covers the period from 2025 – 2035 and contains detailed plans of works for this period.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

***“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out, the plan enables any person involved, to understand how and why decisions are taken, in relation to the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”***

This plan’s target audience is elected members, the local community, and town council officers. Its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document of which key elements will be reviewed and updated annually by the authority with the entire document to be reviewed after 5 and 10 years. Key review processes are set out at the end of the plan.

Further information about this Management Plan can be obtained from:

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# 2. Survey

## 2.0 Introduction

This section looks at the historical significance of the park, reviews the restoration that has taken place, and identifies issues outstanding and lessons learned. It also examines the legal situation concerning ownership and designations that apply to the park, as well as confirming the strategic significance of the Local Plan. It looks at recent surveys that have been undertaken to update the baseline data about the park and finally, considers the involvement of the community through Friends' groups and events.

## 2.1 Legal Issues

The documents that are relevant to the park are:

- Charity Commission registration April 1905 – see Section 2.1.2.
- Taunton Deane Local Plan deposited proposals March 1998 – Green Wedge, Recreational Open Space, Area to Remain Undeveloped (see Figure 2.3)
- English Heritage Grade II listing May 1997.
- Byelaws 1903 – see Section 2.1.3.

### 2.1.1 Ownership

Figure 2.1 shows the legal boundaries relating to the ownership of the park and surrounding land. Also Figure 2.2 shows the original indenture relating to the park.

### 2.1.2 Charity Commission

The indenture relating to the park contains a specific entry relating to the charitable status of the land as follows:

*“Enrolled in the books of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales under Section 42 of the Charitable Trusts Amendment Act, 1855 Section 6(2) of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act 1988 and Section 1 of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Amendment Act 1892 in pursuance of an Order dated the Seventh day of April 1905. Vol 7. p. 51.”*

### 2.1.3 Byelaws

The Byelaws are available upon request. The Authority's Legal Services currently have no plans to review the byelaws in the foreseeable future.

### 2.1.4 Leases and Covenants

The only lease in the park is for the park lodge which is let under a tenancy agreement to the Holder of the Park and Lodge Keeper post. The previous arrangement has been in place since 28 March 1994 and reflects the requirement that the tenant must be employed as the 'Park Attendant' and that the occupancy will continue only as long as the person is in the employment of the legacy district council. This agreement was amended in 2022 and this property is now managed by the HRA in Somerset Council.

The current agreement is as follows: Somerset Council is responsible for the upkeep of the building and the tenant is only responsible for repairs or renewals arising from neglect or lack of care on his or her behalf. There are also several minor repairs and replacements that fall to the occupier, and these are set out in the agreement.

## 2. Survey (continued)

Figure 2.1 Land ownership







## 2. Survey (continued)

### 2.2 Strategic Significance of the Park

#### 2.2.1 County Structure Plan and Local Plan

Wellington is the sixth largest town within the boundary of Somerset Council with an estimated population of just under 17,000 (2021 Census). It is the third largest employment centre across Somerset and has a long-established manufacturing base, which continues to be the dominant element in the local economy.

The population has an older age bias with 23.6% of residents being over pensionable age compared to 19% nationally. The number of households in the town consisting only of pensioners is 30% compared to 25% nationally.

In the County Structure Plan, Wellington is identified as an 'Outstanding Heritage Settlement'. It has grown around a crossroads with development concentrated on the north-south axis. A good communications network serves the town, with Junction 26 of the M5 less than two miles away, and the A38 acting as a relief road to the south. There are regular local and national bus links, however the railway station was closed in the 1960's.

The Local Plan describes Wellington as a town lying at the foot of the Blackdown Hills, at the southwestern limit of the low vale landscape character area. The town is surrounded by high quality farmland that has constrained the urban development of the town.

Wellington has a wide range of services and facilities, which also cater for a large rural hinterland. To some extent the level of service provision is curtailed by the proximity of the County Town of Taunton, just eight miles away.

The Structure Plan also identifies Wellington as a town that should act as a focus for new development and the Local Plan considers the environmental impact of such activity and investigates the need for additional recreational open space related to new developments. Figure 2.3 shows the relationship of the park to wider developmental issues within the town. Whilst new provisions will be made and landscaped parklands enhanced, Wellington Park's role will continue to grow as the town's only formal gardens.

As can be seen in Figure 2.4, the park is clearly identified as a 'park or garden of special historic interest' as well as being noted as an 'Area to Remain Undeveloped (ARU)' and 'Recreational Open Space (ROS)'. It also forms the eastern edge of the green corridor linking the surrounding countryside into the heart of the town.

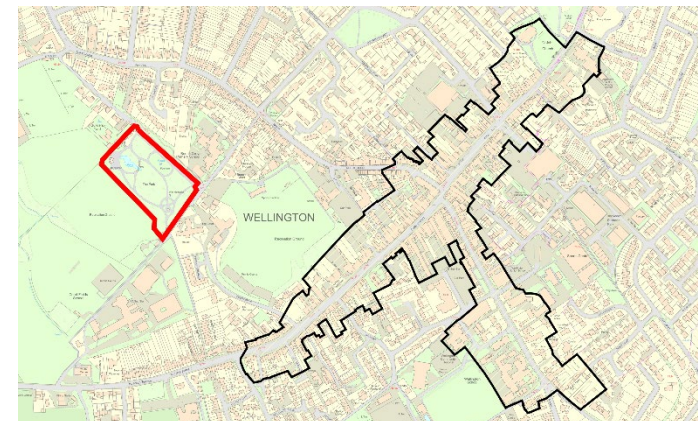
The adjacent playing fields and the recreation ground have also received ROS status with the latter including a 'County Archaeological Site'. It should be noted that much of the land identified as ROS is in fact school playing fields with limited or no public access.

The town's conservation area is located on the High Street, Fore Street, North and South Streets as seen in Figure 2.3 and does not stretch as far as the park (outlined in red).

There are a number of proposed cycle routes, one of which runs along Courtland Road to the south of the park and then along Beech Grove to the east of the park.

Courtland Road also forms the northern boundary of the area identified as being of 'high archaeological potential'.

Figure 2.3 Wellington Conservation Area in relation to Wellington Park



## 2. Survey (continued)

### 2.2.2 The Relationship to the Authority's Wider Initiatives

Wellington Park is arguably one of the most important assets that Wellington Town Council is taking over in the Devolution Deal with Somerset Council due to its historical and heritage importance. Wellington Town Council has a Vision that the park will help the authority work towards. Below are a few of the headings of the vision and how Wellington Park has a link with these initiatives:



#### **A destination of choice for people to live and work and for businesses to be located**

Wellington Park is the main tourist attraction in within the town and will be at the forefront of materials promoting Wellington and encouraging tourism. It is also an asset that is heavily used by the residents of the town and is very enticing to those who are considering moving to Wellington, especially young families.



#### **A town with vibrant cultural, sporting, and social communities**

Wellington Park has acted as a hub of culture and social events since its inception in 1903 and Wellington Town Council intends to continue this tradition by facilitating community events in the park.



#### **Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity**

Wellington Park exemplifies every aspect of the above from its deep connection to the history of Wellington and its Green Flag Heritage status, to its well-maintained horticulture, to its more recent commitment to the fight against climate change with a focus on increasing biodiversity where possible. Wellington Park is a core part of the history and heritage of the town and is an immense source of pride for the people that call Wellington home.

## 2. Survey (continued)

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#### **Committed to becoming a net carbon neutral town**

Wellington Town Council is employing a number of projects around town to achieve this goal including extensive tree planting in green and urban spaces and committing to educate and help the community in the fight against climate change. The Town Council's Open Spaces Team have a range of battery powered equipment that it uses to maintain green spaces and is always looking for new ways to contribute to net carbon neutrality in its work.



#### **An inclusive, safe and secure town where everybody is supportive of each other and offers particular care for the more vulnerable members of our community**

The Town Council works with a number of community groups that support people of all backgrounds and abilities. Wellington Park as a location is integral to several of these groups as it serves as a meeting place, a place to volunteer and improve skills, or simply a familiar place to relax. Vulnerable members of the community, such as the adults that are part of Green Days, are able to feel like part of the community through their work in maintenance and building bug hotels etc.

## 2. Survey (continued)

### 2.2.3 The Relationship of Wellington Park to Other Green Spaces

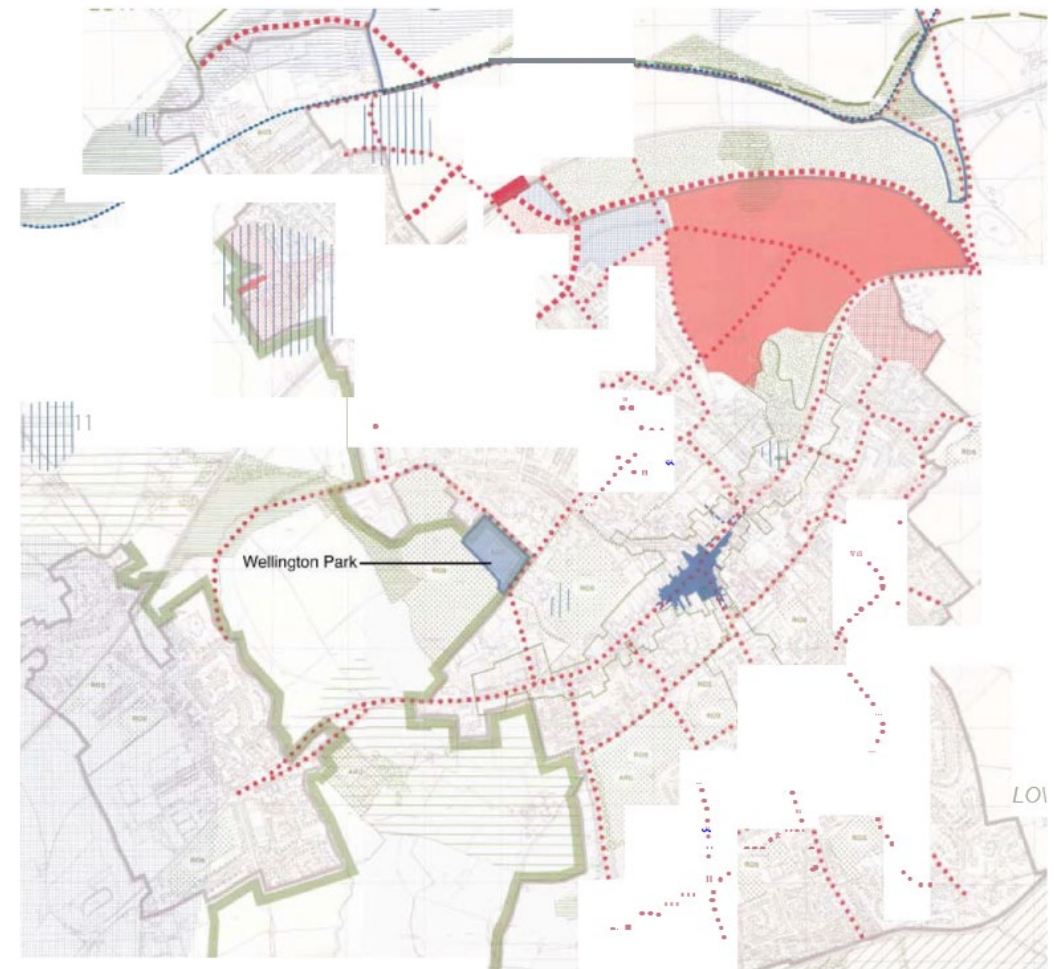
Figure 2.4 shows the Ordnance Survey base of Wellington. Wellington Park lies on the fringe of the town and is only a ten minutes' walk from the town centre. The park borders well-screened residential and school facilities on one side, and playing fields on the other.

Just beyond the playing fields, between Wellington and Rockwell Green, lies the 66 acre area of open land known as The Green Corridor. This land was bought by Somerset West and Taunton Council (now Somerset Council) in 2023 and leased to the Town Council for 150 years. This land is now protected from developers and remains as a piece of local history and a sanctuary for wildlife. The park's proximity to this asset is a boon as the Community Farm that takes on some of the park's material for composting is here and the Fox family that funded the building of the park used the waterways to power their textile mills in Tonedale.

As for other green spaces in Wellington, many are used as parks and recreation fields, as well as a few pockets that are managed entirely for the benefit of wildlife. Examples of these nature reserves include Swains Lane and the Dormouse Wood near the new Jurston Farm housing development.

Wellington Town Council is taking on all publicly-owned green spaces in the town from Somerset Council in April 2025 and hopes that managing these assets from close by will afford a better quality of service for the residents of the town. Spaces that will not be taken over by the Town Council include Somerset Council's HRA land and play areas in new housing estates that are maintained by management companies.

Figure 2.4 TDBC Local Plan - Wellington Area Inset Plan



## 2. Survey (continued)

Figure 2.5 OS Base Plan Wellington Park



Figure 2.6 Aerial Photo of Wellington Park



## 2. Survey (continued)

Figure 2.6 shows an aerial photograph of the park which is roughly rectangular in shape.

A retaining wall forms the northeast boundary with Beech Grove Road, and the southeast boundary along Courtland Road is formed by railings and a band of trees. A ha-ha built of stone drops some 2.4 metres to the playing fields on the southeast side. Beyond the playing fields is undulating farmland with hedges and small streams and groups of mature trees around several large houses. From the park there are long views south to the Blackdown Hills and west to the Higher Vale of Taunton Deane.

When Wellington Park, Wellington Recreation Ground and Wellington Playing Fields are considered together, they provide an excellent range of facilities for the people of the town. Wellington Playing Fields provides tennis, football with a covered stand (Wellington Football Club), rugby, cricket (Wellington Cricket Club) a pavilion and public toilets. Wellington Recreation Ground provides both play for the under 5s and play for 5–12-year-olds, a shelter, full-size football pitches, changing rooms and a general recreational space.

### 2.3 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

#### 2.3.1 Ecological Survey

Richard Lawrence and Hannah Maben from Seasons Ecology undertook a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) comprising a desk study and habitat survey of Wellington Park and Recreational Ground in January 2025.

Within this desktop survey, it has been noted that seven European Protected Species Licenses (EPSLs) have been issued within 1km of the site relating to great crested newt, hazel dormouse and four species of bat (common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, lesser horseshoe and brown longeared). The nearest EPSL record relates to bat species and is around 530m east of the site.

Due to the managed nature of the grassland and flora and the strong human presence in the area, Wellington Park does not provide an ideal habitat for mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Our Ecological survey has provided some excellent points as to how the area can be improved through methods such as native wildflower islands, introduction of bird and bat boxes, bug houses, and allowing byproducts of tree management to be stacked in timber piles in discreet areas.

The full draft report can be read in Appendix 1.

#### 2.3.2 Hard and Soft Landscape Survey

Following the restoration, a full survey was carried out in order to update the grounds maintenance schedule of works for the park. Figure 2.7 shows the location of all shrub beds, bedding areas, hedges etc.

All hard landscape features (benches, drains, bins, signs etc) have also been updated and maintenance revised accordingly, these are shown at Figure 2.8.

#### 2.3.3 Tree Survey

The original tree survey put together for the restoration management plan has been updated in 2024 to give a more accurate picture of the state of the tree stock. The updated tree survey is also shown on Figure 2.7 and the mapping on 2.9. A survey of the trees will take place twice a year by a qualified arborist and this will be mapped on Arbotrack.

## 2. Survey (continued)

### 2.3.4 Climate Change Strategy

Wellington Town Council employs a part-time Climate Change Project Officer to oversee the development and implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy. Included within the strategy is an action plan for 2025/26 that includes 16 items under seven headings to improve the Council's communications regarding Climate Change and its overall actions towards net zero emissions.

Many steps have been taken in regards to Wellington Park and the Council's open spaces management in line with these goals.

#### Vehicles

Wellington Town Council has two vehicles, one electric van and one second hand tipper truck. The Council opted for an electric van for its first vehicle as a commitment to sustainability and because at the time of purchase a smaller vehicle was all that was needed. The second hand van was purchased in mid-2024 to be a "workhorse" vehicle that would be more suitable for larger jobs. This was chosen both for cost efficiency and to highlight the importance of utilising second hand items in terms of sustainability.

#### Battery-Powered Kit

Wellington Town Council will be exclusively using battery powered kit in Wellington Park when it takes over its management in April 2025. This has been done to futureproof the new equipment that is being bought and to cut out emissions given off by petrol powered motors.

#### Tree Strategy

A programme of tree planting is in progress throughout Wellington and has been a great success so far, initiatives such as the Fruit Tree Scheme for residents, schools, and care homes has seen almost 400 fruit trees planted within the town's boundaries. The Council has also planted six "tiny forests" in select locations on community planting days. The largest and most impressive

project however is the Green Corridor Woodland Creation Scheme that is being undertaken in partnership with The Woodland Trust. This scheme will see 3000 native species trees and shrubs planted in the area known as the Green Corridor. This project is 75% funded by The Woodland Trust with the Town Council covering the remaining 25%. Planting is undertaken by volunteers from the community and through several "corporate days" including employees from EDF Energy at Hinkley Point C and The Environment Agency.

Unfortunately, Wellington Park is limited in its role in tree planting as its heritage status precludes us from making any changes too major.

#### Sustainable Bedding

As described in the PEA (Appendix 1), Wellington Park will benefit from the use of perennials in place of some annuals. Perennials are less intensive with their watering requirements and, as they come back yearly, use less resources than annual varieties.

#### Rewilding

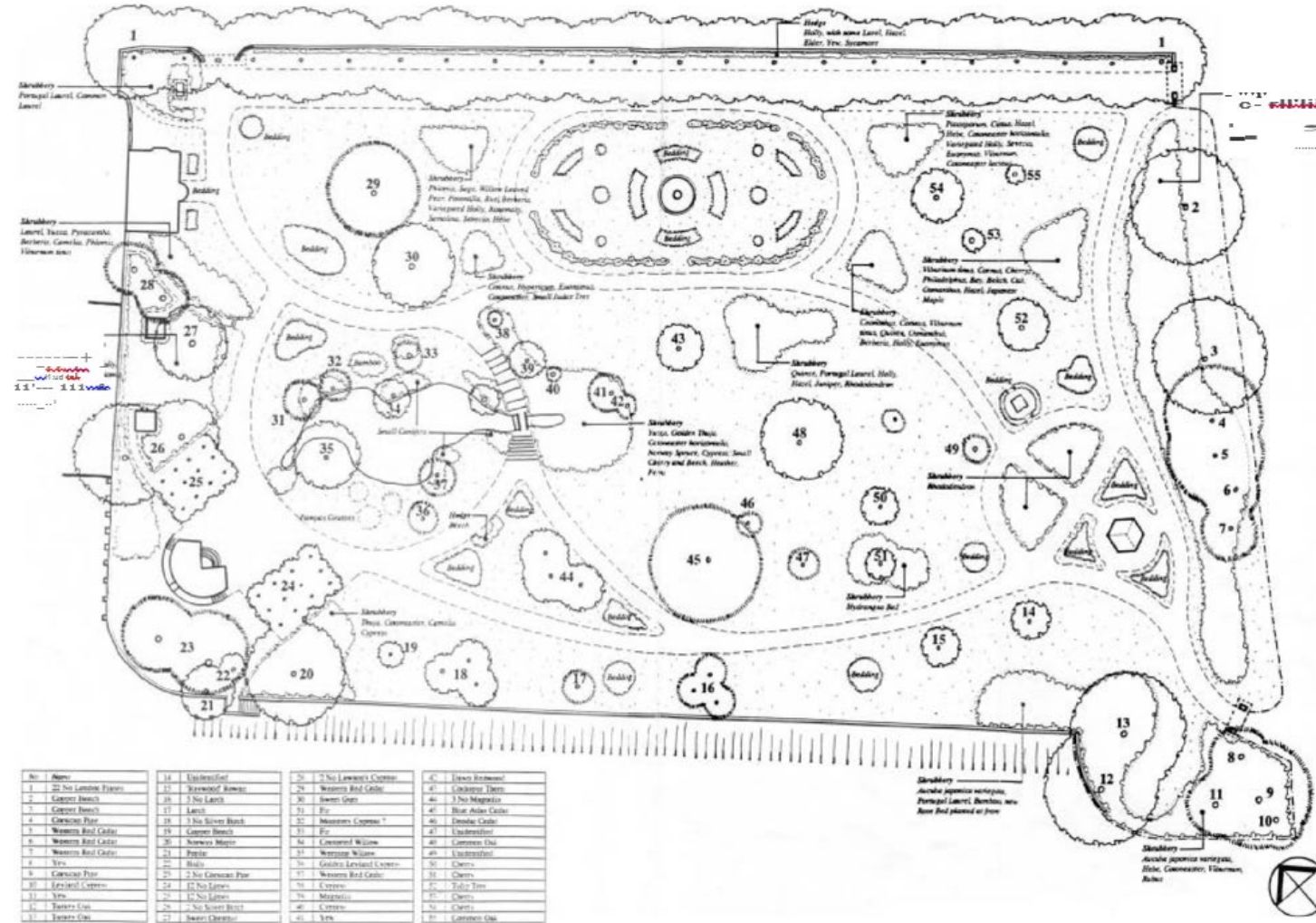
Areas of the park and recreation ground have already been earmarked for small areas of rewilding, particularly in the margins and in small wildflower islands.

#### Communication

As alluded to before, one of the main aims of Wellington Town Council's Climate Change Strategy is to encourage and facilitate conversations about the environment. The Council intends to utilise Wellington Park to illustrate these issues and to encourage members of the public to be engaged with the changes that are happening in the park and the wider town. The park can be used as a "jumping off point" to inspire discussions regarding ecology and the environment and the role that Wellington has in combatting climate change.

# 2. Survey (continued)

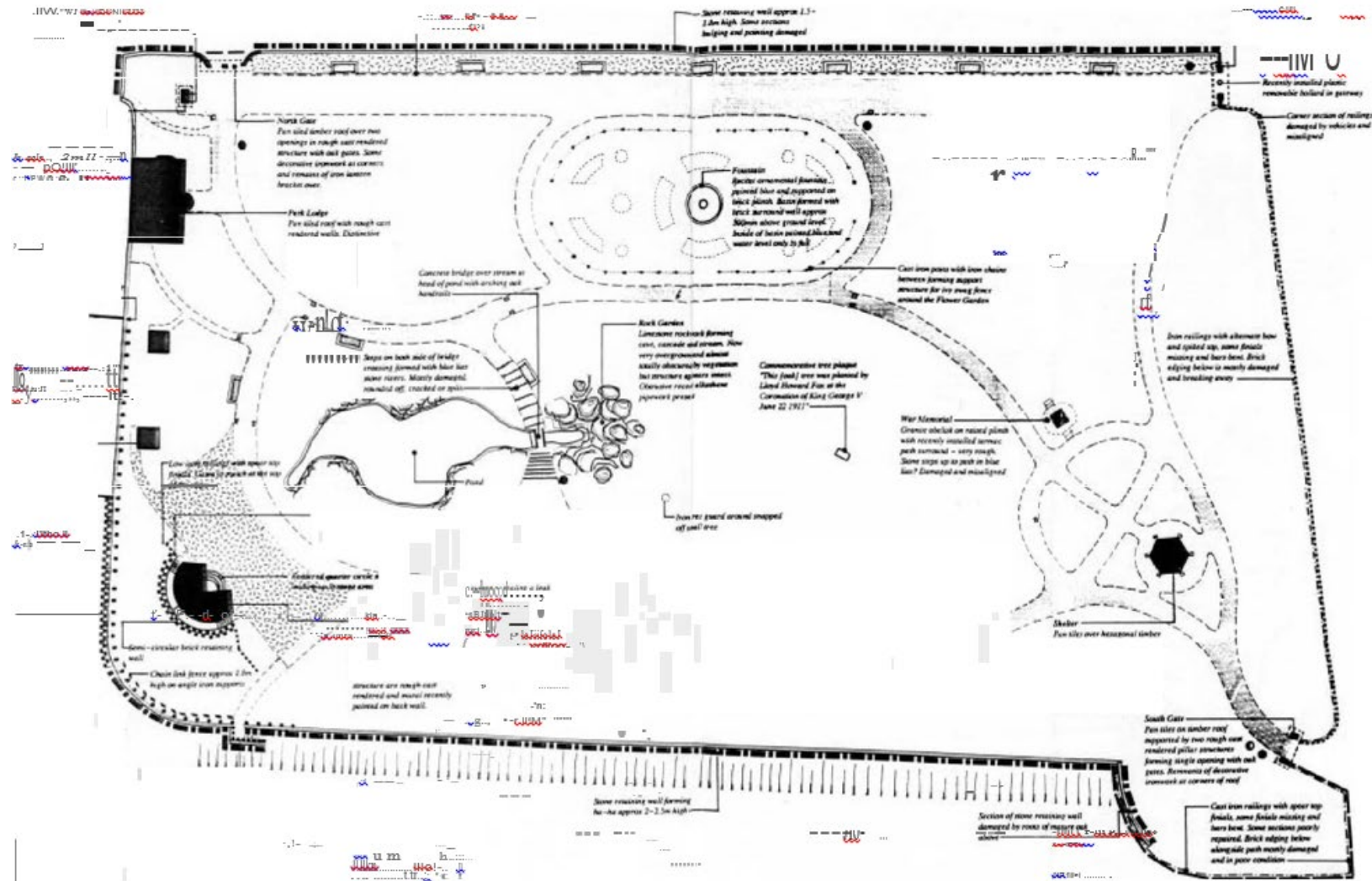
Figure 2.7 Soft Landscape Survey





# 2. Survey (continued)

Figure 2.8 Hard Landscape Survey



## 2. Survey (continued)

Figure 2.9 Tree Map of Wellington Park



## 2. Survey (continued)

### Tree Maintenance Policy

Somerset Council is responsible for managing a significant number of trees within the Wellington Area and beyond. The overall tree population in the Somerset Council area is over 16,000 in car parks, parks, open spaces and housing amenity land.

All of these trees are inspected on a 3-yearly basis and RAG (red, amber, green) rated. Works are prioritised according to their RAG rating; Somerset Council will not fell / remove healthy trees.

Wellington Town Council will, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, take on the responsibility of all trees within the park and will check them annually on a RAG rating scheme. Any felling works will be subject to approval from Somerset Council's Tree Conservation Officer.

### Tree Works

Wellington Town Council will carry out tree maintenance works for the following reasons only:

- To reduce the risk of injury to persons.
- To reduce the risk of damage to property.
- To comply with legal obligations.

Tree works will not be undertaken in the following circumstances:

- To improve television or internet signals.
- To improve the energy capture of solar panels.
- To allow more light into properties.
- Due to nuisance caused by honeydew from aphids.
- Due to nuisance caused by falling leaves, flowers or fruit.
- Due to nuisance caused by pollen. Due to nuisance caused by bird droppings.
- Due to minor structural damage to non-supporting structures such as garden walls.
- Fears that they may damage a building or surface with no evidence
- Where tree roots have entered sewers (tree roots rarely break drains, but roots will enter a broken or damaged drain).
- To allow the construction of a new access or driveway to a property.
- If the tree is considered by a member of the public to be too big or too tall. Because they overhang an adjacent property, where no damage is likely (each case is assessed individually).

## 2. Survey (continued)

There are also times that the council will not undertake tree work, such as whilst the tree or hedge is in flower, and during bird nesting season.

We also reserve the right to treat each tree request on a case-by-case basis. It may be that there are other circumstances in which influence our decision to maintain or fell a tree that are conflicting with this policy.

### Common Law Right

If trees are causing a nuisance a person or their property, they have a Common Law right to prune them. If they wish to undertake pruning works to a tree under Common Law, Wellington Town Council and Somerset Council ask they take note of the following advice:

- You can only remove parts of a tree from the point where they cross the boundary of your property. You have no legal right to cut or remove any part of a tree that does not overhang your property.
- You are strongly advised to consult an Arboricultural Association Registered tree surgeon ([www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)) for guidance on how best to prune back encroaching trees, unless the works are small enough to do with hand secateurs or similar.
- Before you consider doing any works to a tree(s) you should find out if it is protected by a 'Tree Preservation Order' (TPO) or whether the tree is in a conservation area. If the trees are protected, you will need to gain permission for the works from Somerset Council. To find out if a tree has a TPO and how to apply for permission to work on a tree, please visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/tree-preservation-orders](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/tree-preservation-orders) or call Somerset Council on 0300 123 2224.
- You are advised to discuss with your neighbor your intention to prune overhanging branches. If you use your Common Law right to prune back a council-owned tree, we ask that you dispose of the branches yourself in a responsible way and do not leave them on council land.

The above advice will be made publicly available and accessible on the Wellington Town Council website which is due to be revamped in line with the authority taking on further responsibilities.

# 3. Community Engagement

## 3.1 Community Involvement

Community involvement in Wellington Park is organised primarily through the Friends of Wellington Park though other organisations such as Wellington Film Festival and Wellington One Team have also made use of the community space. Events held in the park can vary from concerts in the Wellington Park Bandstand to family fun day events.

Wellington Film Festival have utilised the park for their first two festivals, employing the Wellington Silver Band to play “music from the movies” while other activities are ongoing such as 501<sup>st</sup> Legion Stormtroopers in costume or puppeteer dinosaurs.

Wellington One Team has run Wacky Wednesdays in Wellington Park for a number of years, organising an event that brings young families and service providers together in a relaxed and fun environment.

Wellington Town Council has been more and more involved with these events, having a presence at the 2024 Wacky Wednesdays where staff and Councillors gave away surplus flowers from Wellington Park’s summer planting that they helped children plant into pots and encouraged local people to fill in a survey rating the overall quality of the town, including it’s green spaces.



# 3. Community Engagement (Continued)

## 3.2 Friends of Wellington Park Group

The Friends of Wellington Park was established in February 2001 and took over running events in the park after the May Day celebrations later that year. The group currently has around 140 members and actively promotes itself through newsletters, special events, coverage in the Wellington Weekly and County Gazette. Events are also advertised on the local Around Wellington news website and on social media.

Throughout the year the group holds a number of events including the Spring Fayre and concerts on the bandstand every Sunday throughout the summer. These events are hugely popular locally and regularly draw crowds of up to 500 attendees and have in the past seen as many as 1000. The events are completely self-funded by the Friends group through public donations at these events, stall bookings, and money made in selling refreshments. Over the years they have paid for new sound equipment, helped to pay towards the resurfacing of areas in the park and donated to other charity groups within the town.

In addition to the events, the group is also concerned about the general state of the park and whether the council are maintaining it properly. This includes any vandalism and undertake regular meetings with the police and local schools in an effort to reduce instances of graffiti within the park.

The group became involved in the park's restoration scheme when it was approximately 75% completed. Since this time, the group has helped with the maintenance of the park including the dead heading of plants, litter picking, graffiti removal and painting.



Photo by Around Wellington



Photo by Around Wellington



Photo by Around Wellington

# 4. Historical Development

## 4.1 Heritage Importance of the Park

Wellington Park was included in the English Heritage register of 'Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest' on 13 May 1997, as Grade II listed.

The philanthropic donation of the park was made by Fox Bros. and Co. who were at that time Wellington's largest manufacturing company.

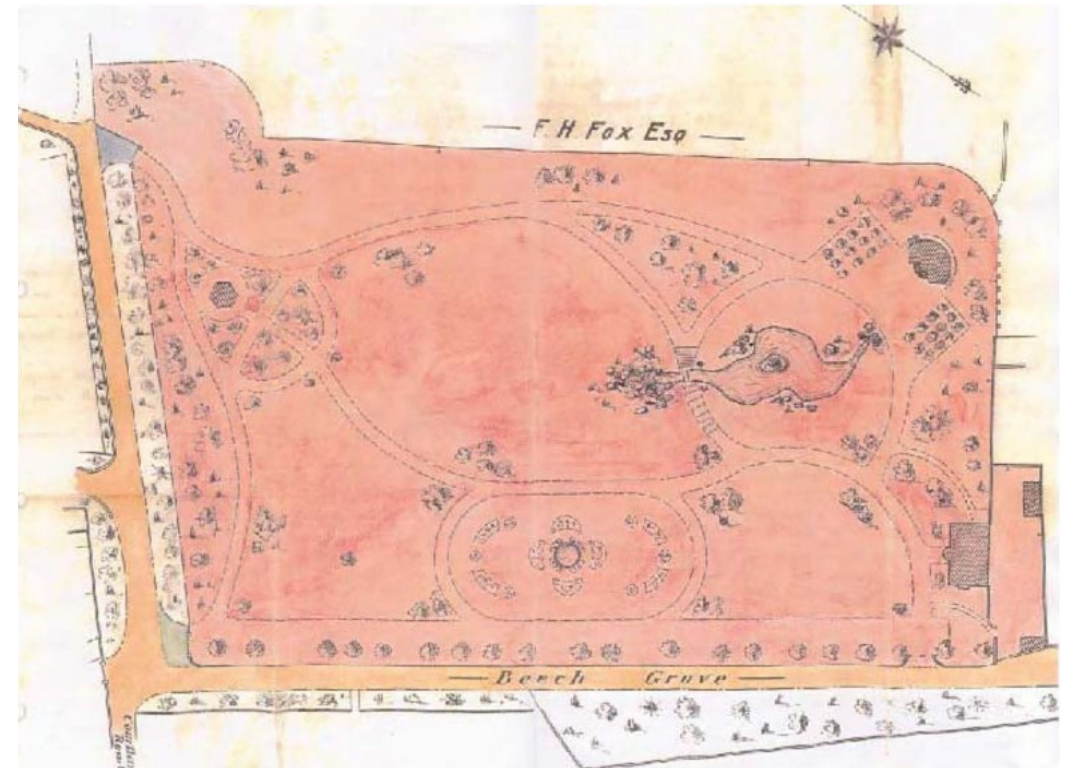
The following is an extract from the original restoration management plan, Sections 1.2 and 2 of which are reproduced in Appendix B.

*"The park was designed by F.W. Meyer of the Exeter based firm of Robert Veitch and Sons. He was an acknowledged expert in the construction of rockwork who wrote a standard work on the subject, and also was a rival to the more renowned James Pulham. Meyer is known to have made designs for public parks in Truro, Devonport, Exeter, Sherborne and Poole. However, none of these parks incorporated such an extensive piece of rockwork as at Wellington, and therefore it should be regarded as an important surviving example of his work."*

*"The design plan for the park was published in Gardeners Chronicle in 1902, and a conveyance plan from the following year shows that the layout was constructed almost exactly in accordance with the original plan. Remarkably this layout has, with very few exceptions, survived in its entirety. It is therefore an extremely important surviving example of park design from the late Victorian period."*

*"The park has a highly distinctive collection of buildings and built features, which were formed using similar materials and styles as part of the original layout. Although not listed themselves, the uniformity of the design vocabulary of these structures indicates a considerable attention to detail and serves to emphasise the cohesive nature of the original design."*

Figure 4.1 Original Park Layout Plan



# 4. Historical Development

## 4.2 Historic Development

### 4.2.1 Early History

The layout of the ground prior to it being laid out as a park is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1887. It comprised an open field lying between a large property called 'The Court' and what appears to have been a walled kitchen garden. 'Beech Grove', which formed the northeastern boundary of the field, provided a straight drive between these two features. With the exception of the Beech trees lining this drive, the field had no other distinguishing features.

Beech Grove is thought to be the original driveway to Wellington House, the mansion built for Lord Chief Justice Sir John Popham in the 16th century. The house was damaged by cannon fire during the Civil War and deemed not worth repair. It was subsequently destroyed.

### 4.2.2 Origins of the Park

On 6th February 1902, the Urban District Council received a letter asking what events had been planned to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of Edward VII. At a meeting of the council, a fortnight later, it was resolved to set up a Coronation Sub-committee.

At the beginning of March an anonymous letter published in the Wellington Weekly News, put forward the idea of creating a recreation ground for the town. Soon after, at a meeting of the Coronation Sub-committee, Mr W Sydney Price suggested that the creation of a recreation ground would be a suitable commemoration of the coronation. However, the proposal was dismissed by the committee on the grounds of cost.

But at the following meeting of the Coronation Sub-committee, on 20th March 1902, a letter from Wellingtons' largest manufacturing company, Fox Bros. and Co. Ltd was read out, and they agreed to create and gift the park to the town of Wellington.

*"We understand that a committee has been appointed to consider the question of obtaining a site for a Public Park, and we write to say that we shall be pleased as a firm, to present one to the Town. The idea has been in our minds for some time, but we felt that, in addition to the other matters, the question of the annual cost of maintenance, etc., required careful consideration. However, the appointment of your committee and the circumstances under which that appointment was made, justify us, we think, in the conclusion that the Town is prepared to undertake this annual charge. In our opinion, what is most wanted is a place in a convenient and pleasant situation, planted and laid out in lawns and flower beds and well supplied with seats. Our wish then, is, (if the council accepts it) to present 4 acres of ground adjoining and including the row of Beech Trees near the entrance to 'Court' which we will enclose, plant and lay out, and in which we will erect any necessary buildings including a Caretakers cottage. We must, however, make it a condition that it should be under constant supervision of a resident caretaker and shall not be used as a playground either by adults or children."*

Further conditions included that there were to be no new entrances made, no new buildings could be erected without the consent of Fox Bros. and if the town no longer wished it to continue as a park, then it would revert to the donors.

The offer of the land was gratefully accepted by the council two days later. Fox Bros. subsequently commissioned the firm of Robert Veitch and Sons of Exeter to design and build the new park. The construction work started in July of the same year and was completed in time for the official opening ceremony on 2nd May 1903, when the key to the park was handed over to the Chairman of the Council by Joseph H Fox. The land was officially conveyed to the council on 25 June 1903.



## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

### 4.2.3 Design of the Park

Robert Veitch and Sons employed their own landscape gardener, F.W. Meyer, to design the layout of the park and a copy of his plan was published in 'The Gardeners' Chronicle' on 30 August 1902 (Figure 4.1). Together with the accompanying text, this annotated drawing provides a detailed description of the original design intentions.

*"A main feature consists of a row of fine old Beech-trees . . . A broad gravel walk 21 feet wide is completely arched over by the overhanging branches of these Beeches and forms a shady promenade with many recesses for seats.*

*"This avenue being straight becomes a fitting base-line from which to project a geometrical flower garden having a fountain in the centre, but beyond this parterre the paths and groups of trees and shrubs are of an irregular character, so as to harmonise in a gradual manner and amalgamate with the surrounding landscape. By means of a sunk fence or ha-ha! [along the western boundary] a visible boundary fence is avoided, and the adjoining fields with their trees appear as a portion of the park, which though scarcely 5 acres in extent will nevertheless appear much larger.*

*"The ground slopes naturally about 20 feet from east to west. The overflow of water from the fountain will be utilised to form a small irregular pond in the lower part of the grounds. The ground around the bandstand will be raised to form a level plateau, and rows of Lime- trees, affording shade to the seats will be planted."*

*"Not far from the south-east entrance is a 'shelter', (Fig. 4.2) surrounded by beds of Ericas, and adjoining are two beds of Rhododendrons. A caretaker's lodge is planned for the north-west corner, and in connection with this a space is provided for cultivating plants for the beds and borders."*

Figure 4.2 A postcard depicting the shelter near the South East entrance



Historic England Archive: pc08939

The annotation of the plan provides additional details which are not referred to in the text. These include iron railings along the southern boundary, and proposals for a number of additional flower beds around the park and in front of the bandstand. There was also an iron post and chain fence around the flower garden, which contemporary postcards of the park indicate was planted with ivies.

## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

A central feature of the design was a rock garden associated with the stream feeding the pond. The construction of this feature was described at length in an article published in 'The Garden' on 18 April 1903, which stated that:

*"Since the ground is, on the whole, rather flat, a small valley was produced by means of excavation for the double purpose of greater undulation and gaining soil needed for filling up in other portions of the park. Into the lowest part of this valley a fair-sized pond was introduced, and the rock garden was constructed chiefly against the steep banks forming the head of the pond and spread out also to some of the projecting portions of the shoreline a little further away . . . The first appearance of the water is in the form of a spring, which is partly hidden by rocks, and, falling over a dark cave, forms a waterfall which feeds the pond."*

The article is accompanied by two photographs (Figures 4.3 and 4.4) of the newly constructed rock-work taken before and after planting. It incorporated about 80 tons of limestone, which may have been imported from the nearby Westleigh Quarry at Burlescombe, and its construction and planting-up apparently took no more than a fortnight to complete. The article also gives considerable detail of the nature of the planting between the stones which included various forms of Rhododendron, Juniper, Yew and Spruce as well as Osmanthus, Cystus and Berberis. There were also areas carpeted with prostrate Veronicas and Primulas amongst other things.

The three access points into the park, in the north, south and eastern corners are marked by formal gated entrances constructed from rendered brickwork, with a clay pan-tiled roof canopy overhead. The caretakers lodge in the northern corner of the park, incorporates similar materials and architectural detailing, as does a small canopied drinking fountain built close to the lodge at the northern end of the Beech Walk. The buildings in the Park were all constructed by the local building firm of Follett Bros, although the identity of the architect is not known.

*Figure 4.3 Photo included in 1903 article. Caption reads "Rock garden in new public park at Wellington (Somerset) unplanted, showing imitation of natural strata and general arrangement of stones."*



*Figure 4.4 Photo included in 1903 article. Caption reads "The same rock garden photographed a few days later, showing planting completed but not developed."*



## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

F.W. Meyer was a German landscape gardener who joined Veitch's firm from the Royal Horticultural College of Proskau in Silesia in the 1870's. He was acknowledged as an expert in the formation of rock gardens, writing several articles on the subject and publishing *Rock and Water Gardens* in 1910, a book considered to be a standard work on the subject. The design for Wellington Park was characteristic of his work. In *Victorian Gardens* (1986), Brent Elliot writes "The gardens designed by Robert T. Veitch and his landscaper, F.W. Meyer, between the 1880's and the Edwardian Period displayed a revival of interest in the dramatic contrast of art and nature; discussions of Halton, Ascott and Minley Manor continually stressed the juxtaposition of geometric gardens and naturalistic scenery, topiary and rock gardens, smooth lawns and rivulets."

When the land was handed over to the Council in June 1903, the conveyance documents were accompanied by a detailed survey plan which shows the layout of the park immediately after completion. This plan confirms that the park was built almost exactly in accordance with the design plan, except that; the shape of the bandstand was modified; the shelter was constructed in a hexagonal rather than circular form; steps were added to the path crossing the pond; and the alignment of East Gate was slightly altered.

The design has taken account of features in the surrounding landscape, and this has been reflected in the layout, particularly the treatment of the boundaries. The main entrance has been sited on the corner of Courtland Road and Beech Grove taking advantage of the main access routes available to the park. The main entrance gates are set back from the road creating a forecourt which was presumably intended to provide a circulation space for carriages to drop off visitors to the park. Although the arrangement of the main entrance was slightly altered, the original concept of a small forecourt was adhered to.

Two other entrances were also provided. The first of these, located at the southern corner of the park, has been orientated directly on axis to the footpath leading southwards to the centre of Wellington. The third entrance is located at the north corner of the park and provides a second access point from Beech Grove.

Each of these entrances was distinguished by its own unique covered entrance gate incorporating render walls and a tiled canopy. These built features form distinctive elements in the townscape.

### 4.2.4 Development of the Park

In addition to giving the land to the Council, Fox Bros. also gave a donation of £100 per annum for the first 5 years of the parks' existence. This money was put towards the cost of maintenance in the park, not only for the planting and lawns but there are also references in the council minute books to the re-vernishing of all of the seats in the park and the re-painting of the Bandstand and the Shelter in 1906. The final instalment was due to be made in 1908, but the company made a further donation of £50 in the following year devoted to providing music in the park.

A number of postcards have survived, illustrating the character of the park soon after it was laid out. The existence of the large beech trees, which can be seen in Figure 4.7, along with other mature trees around the outside of the site, gave an air of maturity to the park despite its relative newness. However, it is apparent from the minute books, that the beech trees were already over-mature in the parks' early years, and were beginning to decline. There are several entries in the minutes relating to felling of beech trees, and in 1908 it was suggested that some of the recently felled trees should be replaced by London Planes. Not long after that the remaining beeches were felled and the whole line was replanted with Planes.

# 4. Historical Development (Continued)

Figures 4.5 – 4.8 A selection of postcards held by Wellington Museum showing the park in it's early life. All cards were postmarked between 1904 and 1906.

Figure 4.5



Figure 4.6



Figure 4.7



Figure 4.8



## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

In 1921 the Fox family gave a further 5½ acres of land lying immediately to the west of the Park to the Council. At the hand-over ceremony, Mr F Hugh Fox, the chairman of the Firms Directors, said that this ground was a thank you offering for peace and he explained that the ground would belong to the children of Wellington for their recreation for as long as they wanted it. On 17th June in the same year, Mr Fox unveiled a new war memorial in the Park, constructed from two rough hewn blocks of Cornish Granite from Penryn, and bearing the names of the town's war dead.

The toilets were added to the park some time before the Second World War.

### 4.2.6 Surviving Features of the Historic Layout

Despite some alteration to the elements of the design, the layout of the park shown on the conveyance plan of 25 June 1903 has survived almost intact to the present day.

#### 4.2.6.1 Boundaries

On the southwestern, northwestern and northeastern sides of the park, the original boundaries have survived intact and the brickwork buttresses which support the ha-ha to the north of the Bandstand have been repaired.

On the southeastern boundary, however, the conveyance plan showed a straight line linking the gated entrances in the southern and eastern corners of the park. It is presumed that this line indicated a boundary railing, which has since been removed. Furthermore, although a railing along the road edge on this boundary survives, this is of a more recent design than the original structure (which survives around the southern corner of the site), suggesting that this is a replacement of the original.

#### 4.2.6.2 Gated Entrances and Buildings

The Caretaker's Lodge and the gated entrances have survived intact. An iron lantern fitting which loops over the top of the northern entrance gateway remains and now supports a lantern faithfully restored to the original design.

The drinking fountain structure next to the Lodge has also survived and the porcelain basin itself has been repaired however the water supply has been removed. Furthermore, the timber frame which forms the roof structure of this feature has been restored. Two low steps that were added to the front of the structure, presumably to allow children to drink from the fountain, have also been reinstated.

Early postcard views of the Bandstand show that there were a pair of windows in the back wall of the building, with geometric patterned glazing panels. These have been lost, and the windows filled in. The postcards also show a distinctive timber turret feature in the centre of the roof. This feature, which was most probably a dovecote, has also been lost.

The shelter originally incorporated bench seating fixed to partition walls which divided the hexagonal building into three parts. The partitions themselves exist as solid timber walls from floor to ceiling. However, it would seem from the early views that the original walls were solid timber at the base, forming the backrests to the benches, but incorporated glazed panels above, in the same geometric design as the bandstand windows.

Fortunately, photographs were recovered showing the shelter not long after its original completion. These have been used to replicate the original seating and particularly the three glazed diving panels. Extensive repairs were undertaken to the roof structure and minor repairs to the ornate stone and brickwork floor. The finished structure is an architectural delight and enhances the whole ambience of the park.

## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

### 4.2.6.3 Path Network

The layout of the paths survives unaltered. Surfacing was replaced when the park was restored and although it mimicked the look of gravel, it did not last as well as hoped. It was again resurfaced in 2018 which is explored further in 4.2.8.2.

Many of the original cast iron drainage gullies have also survived. All the brick edging has now been faithfully reproduced together with the detail around the gullies.

### 4.2.6.4 Flower Garden

The early views of the Flower Garden show that the central fountain was formed in three layers with a wide central spout set within a broad shallow dish set on a tall cylindrical pedestal. The water over spilt around the edges of the dish into a circular basin below, the sides of which were set flush with the ground. Although this feature remains, it has been extensively modified. The original tall stepped fountain has been replaced with a lower, smaller and more ornamental feature in the form of a metal urn on a decorative pedestal. The basin now has a raised edge of Blue Lias stone. The fountain bowl was replaced with a replica found locally (near Tiverton) in 2019.

The iron post and chain swag fence around the outer edge of the Flower Garden has survived. The posts have been renovated, coated in linseed oil and reset and new chains have been hung between these. Ivies have been planted but have not established well and are being replaced.

The layout of the planting beds within the Flower Garden has largely survived in its original pattern, although the beds around the outside of the fountain basin have been removed, as have the circular beds at the extreme northern and southern ends of the garden. Two new circular beds have been added.

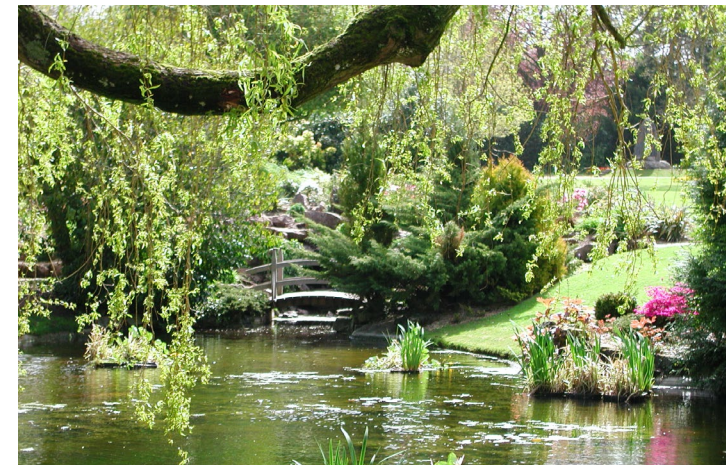
### 4.2.6.5 Pond and Rock Garden

The outline of the pond has survived, but the small island in the centre has been lost, there is no intention to replace the island. Early photographs taken shortly after the park was planted-up show the pond filled to capacity with grass coming down to the water's edge, interspersed with outcrops of rockwork which was interplanted with trees and shrubs. There were also a number of marginal aquatic plants growing along the edges and some lilies in the open water.

The edge detail of the pond is quite unusual and has therefore been replicated. Since completion of the restoration work, other works have been undertaken to alleviate the loss of water.

The rock garden in its entirety, together with the waterfall, has been faithfully restored and is a fine feature in the park. The bridge has been constructed to the original design, from English Oak, and has now weathered sympathetically to a silver sheen, this was replaced in 2023.

*Figure 4.9 The Pond*



## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

### 4.2.6.6 Trees

The original park had a mature character from the outset, derived from the existence of the large Beech trees which arched over the broad straight walk along the eastern boundary. Although the Beeches have long since been felled, they were replaced by London Planes which are now mature themselves and create a similar character to the original trees.

Grids of trees (each 3x4 rows) are shown flanking the space immediately to the south and east of the bandstand on the 1903 Conveyance plan. We have found no reference to the species of these trees, but the current grid of pollarded Lime trees follows similar dimensions to that shown. Although the girth of the trunks of these trees appears small (suggesting they might be less than 94 years old), this might be as a result of continual pollarding over the years and these could, therefore, be the original specimens.

The internal layout of the park acknowledges the fact that there are views out to the surrounding countryside to the southwest. A sunken fence along this boundary enables uninterrupted views to be obtained, whilst at the same time providing a secure boundary against the adjoining recreation ground.

### 4.2.6.7 Geometry

The layout of the park has a clear geometrical form. The centre of the geometry is the formal axis formed by the broad gravelled walk running the full length of the northeastern side of the park. The generator for this feature was no doubt the line of mature Beech trees which existed along this boundary at the time the scheme was being considered. The main entrance leads directly onto this walk. It is possible that the position of the gate was altered when the scheme was implemented so to make it axial to this walk.

At its northwestern end the walk terminates on a covered drinking fountain with an adjacent entrance gate leading onto Beech Grove.

Half way along the tree lined walk is the lozenge shaped, formal flower garden. This features functions as the pivot point for the layout of the remainder of the park. There is the clear intention to contrast the formal geometry of the walk and flower garden with that of the remainder of the park where the layout is essentially asymmetrical with sinuous paths, a naturalistic pond and rock garden, and informal planting in the gardenesque style.

It would appear that the main buildings within the park have been sited to give them a direct geometrical relationship to the formal flower garden. The Caretaker's Lodge has been sited on the northwest boundary on axis to the centre of the flower garden. The Bandstand (and associated formal grid of trees) and Covered Shelter both have a radial relationship to the flower garden.

The siting of the Caretaker's Lodge may have been dictated by the desire to be able to see each of the three entrance gates for security reasons. Certainly, the presence of large curved window on the first floor of the Lodge would appear to give weight to this theory.

Apart from the broad walk and formal garden, the paths follow smooth flowing lines derived from a series of simple radial curves of varying dimensions.

The pond and rock garden provide an irregular contrast with the geometric elements of the park layout consistent with other landscapes designed by Veitch and his landscaper Meyer.

## 4. Historical Development (Continued)

### 4.2.6.8 Planting

The arrangement of planting appears to echo the geometry of the layout. The line of mature trees along the northeastern boundary reinforce the formality of the broad walk. The symmetrically arranged flower beds within the flower garden reflect its formality and the grids of trees on each side of the Bandstand are also axial to the flower garden.

Planting has been carefully arranged in the layout to provide a series of ever-changing views as one walks around the park, acting to frame views or provide enclosure. The dense planting along the southeastern boundary (which was presumably intended to provide screening for the adjoining property) contrasts with the permeable planting along the southwestern boundary allowing views to the adjoining countryside.

Geometric flower beds have been strategically located at path junctions for maximum impact and individual specimen trees were randomly sited on the lawns to provide a series of focal points.

### 4.2.6.9 Design Vocabulary

Great care has been taken with the detailed design of the built features resulting in a cohesive and consistent design vocabulary. The main features elements of the design vocabulary are as follows:

- Distinctive brick edge detail to all paths and also associated with the boundary railing.
- Boundary railings with distinctive finials on both railings and posts.
- Distinctive architectural detailing and consistent use of materials for all of the buildings and other built features.

Elsewhere, the distribution of the free-standing trees in the original design is not precisely shown, so it is difficult to tell from the early plans whether these have survived. However, many of the existing trees (both specimens and those planted in shrubberies) are mature and are almost certainly originals. Furthermore, the locations of many of the larger specimens coincide with small trees which appear in the early views, particularly the conifers.

### 4.2.6.10 Shrubberies and Bedding

A great deal of the original planting has survived, and where it has been lost it has largely been replaced along similar themes, particularly in respect of the displays of flower bedding. As the planting has grown-up and become larger, so the overall character has substantially changed from that shown in the early views. In most cases, it is assumed that this is as was intended in the original design..

*Figure 4.10 Postcard postmarked 1931. Small trees can be seen in the background in the locations that now mature trees sit.*





# 4. Historical Development (Continued)

## 4.3 The Restoration Scheme

### 4.3.1 Introduction

Like many major capital restoration projects Wellington Park was not without its own share of problems. The full plan was initially put out to a competitive tender process. This process led to the cheapest submission (£480,086.43) being considerably over the allocated budget (£395,326.65), thus a schedule of omissions was agreed with both the contractor and the Heritage Lottery Fund to bring the project within budget.

A second major problem was that the main contractor had only completed a percentage of the overall scheme when it went bankrupt. Deane DLO, the in-house grounds maintenance team, then took on many of the outstanding items.

The fountain was installed but the design does not match the original as shown in pictures contained in the restoration management plan. Research was undertaken to confirm a more accurate perspective but proved inconclusive. We will continue to research for an original specification or clear picture of the fountain for future reference.

### 4.3.2 Footpaths

The footpaths were restored using a bound aggregate finish which subsequently deteriorated in areas of high use as the soft aggregate crushed underfoot. This led to a loss of the gravel surface in many areas leaving noticeable but small ridges of material adjacent to edgings.

The overall condition was deemed to be acceptable for several years, gave a pleasing appearance in its colour and presented a low risk.

The footpaths within Wellington Park were finally all resurfaced by a local contractor R W Gale in 2018. The paths should not require any other works for 20 plus years. Wellington Town Council will be funding any future repairs.

### 4.3.3 Lessons Learned from the Restoration Scheme

The main tender was put out to competition at a time of boom in building (2000) and as a result the tender prices came in at a level that exceeded the funding available.

The project included restoration of several historic buildings or structures the cost of which was difficult to estimate and an unknown until work started and, as such, each of these came in over budget. The construction of the new toilet block was however exactly on price.

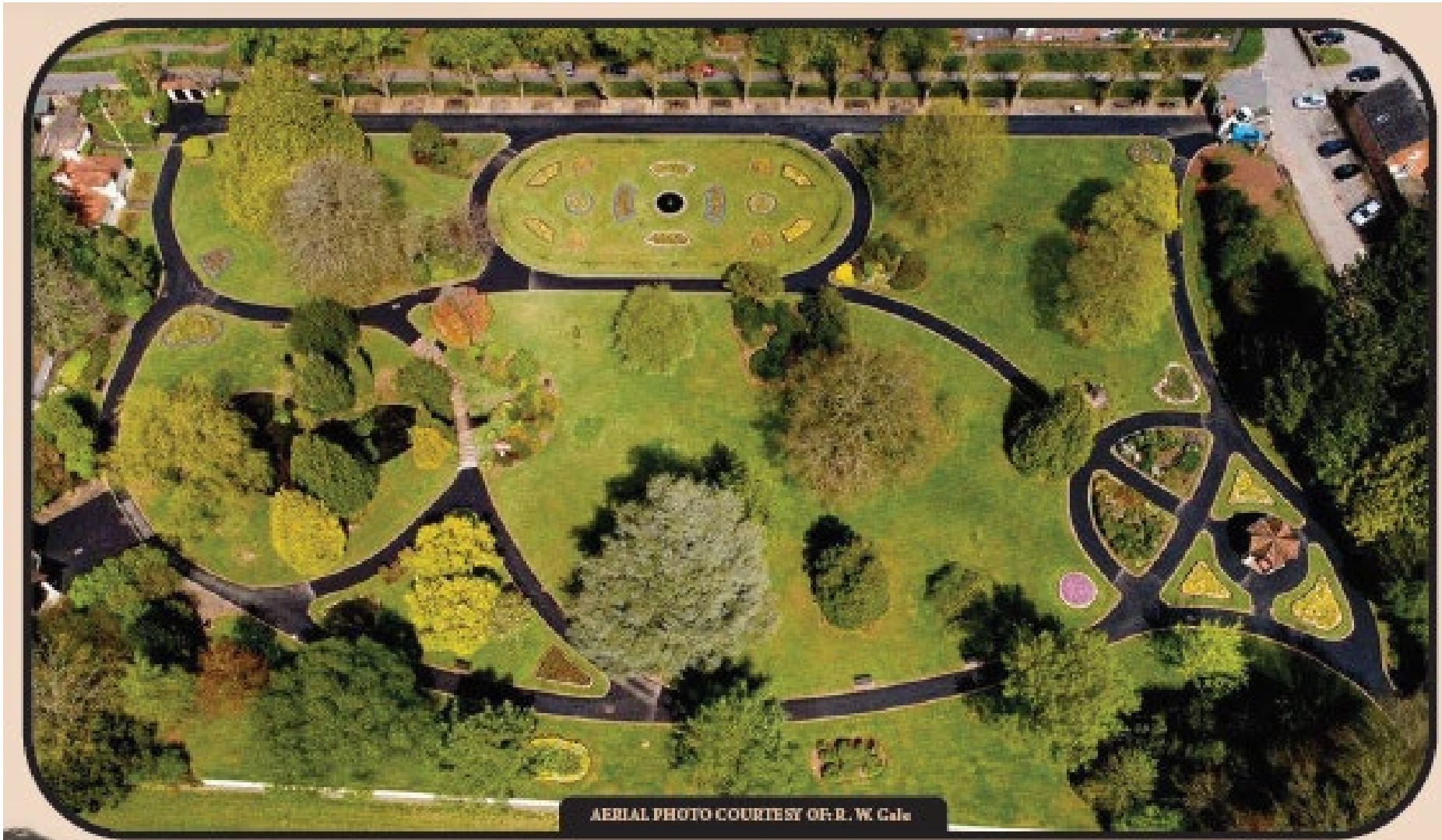
Placing the entire project in one tender meant that it was the responsibility of the main contractor to employ and oversee all the necessary sub-contractors. In the subsequent restoration of Vivary Park a different approach was taken by employing 10 specialist contractors and all project management being carried out by the local Authority. It is felt that this saved thousands of pounds on the overall cost. Wellington Town Council will maintain strong communications with Somerset Council in relation to any lessons learned from their time in managing the asset and have the benefit of now having a former Somerset Council Parks Manager in their employ.

Vandalism was very much a perceived issue and, whilst measures were taken to reduce the impact such as covering the glazed panels in the shelter, it still persists as an issue though with less severe damage. Graffiti and litter are the main ongoing concerns in terms of vandalism and Wellington Town Council intends to maintain and strengthen ties to local schools and the police to keep antisocial behaviour in check.

The levels of vandalism on the shelter continue to be of concern and Wellington Town Council are considering options to restore the shelter to its former glory and put in anti-vandalism measures to deter this behaviour.

# 5. Character Zones

Figure 5.1 Aerial View of Wellington Park



AERIAL PHOTO COURTESY OF R. W. Gale

# 5. Character Zones (Continued)

Wellington Park, whilst a relatively small site, has several key character zones that are important to its overall layout and the experience of the user. These are shown in figure 5.1.

## 5.1 The Western Boundary

Characterised by the concentration of buildings and structures and their associated trees and shrubs. This zone forms the western fringe of the park and contains the view beyond the park, allowing only winter glimpses of housing beyond.

The shrubberies contain a mix of mainly evergreen species (laurel, holly, viburnum, mahonia) and serve to screen low level views to the yard and housing beyond the park boundary.

The notable trees are the 24 pollarded limes framing the bandstand and the pines and yews that form its backdrop.

The buildings are key to this zone and include the bandstand, toilet block and park lodge. A conscious decision was taken during the restoration to design the toilet block to be in keeping with the style of the buildings and built features of the park.

An item that was initially deleted from the restoration scheme was the refurbishment of the steps leading from this area into the recreation ground, this was later completed in 2010 as it was becoming a health and safety concern.

## 5.2 The Southern Lawn

This area is characterised by its open aspect to the southwest achieved through a lawned area with limited bedding and trees. These help to interrupt the view and the ha-ha wall forms a barrier to the recreation ground. It is this zone that allows the concept of the borrowed landscape to be realised through its open aspect and the use of the ha-ha to separate the park from what was agricultural land, now the recreation ground.

The trees in this area include a number of specimen trees that have been introduced after the original layout.

## 5.3 The Eastern Boundary

This is characterised by its mature trees and shrub beds forming a screen to the housing beyond and enclosing this aspect of the park.

As well as two splendid mature copper beech, the area also contains an interesting collection of conifers including thuja and pine varieties.

The shrub bed is very mature, and it is thought that this would have been historically managed as a much lower screen, but now contains specimens currently exceeding 7m in height. It contains a range of species with a predominance of evergreen varieties – the range includes yew, holly, laurel, lilac, rhododendron, Portuguese laurel and cotoneaster.

To the inside of the shrub bed is an area of herbaceous planting. To the outside is a grassed area incorporated into the park after its original layout. The grassed area has been planted with spring flowering bulbs over recent years.

This zone contains two of the three entrances to the park.

## 5. Character Zones (Continued)

### 5.4 The Central Lawn

The central lawn is characterised by its open nature allowing key views and vistas through the park whilst providing its own focal points in the form of mature trees and limited shrubberies. It forms the space between features such as the shelter, the fountain and the rockery, and links the park through to the southern lawn.

It contains two sizeable mature trees one deciduous (Oak – *Q. robur*) and one evergreen (Blue Atlas Cedar – *C. atlantica* Glauca) which are located well away from other features so as not to overshadow them and allow space for their full splendour to be appreciated. The younger trees are also a mix of evergreen and deciduous adding to the all-year-round interest of the parks' planting.

The area provides a key site for informal relaxation with sufficient surveillance to add a feeling of safety.

### 5.5 The Northern Lawn

The smallest of any of the lawned areas it contributes to the welcoming feel of the northern entrance and allows limited views into the park drawing the visitor to the pool area or along the plane avenue.

As with many other character areas, it has an even balance of evergreen and deciduous tree planting with one conifer (*Thuja plicata*) and one liquidambar. The latter providing autumnal interest. Two areas of bedding exist and two small shrubberies, the latter containing interesting species such as willow leaved pear, variegated holly, cotinus and a small judas tree.

### 5.6 The Eastern Lawn

Slightly larger than the northern lawn, this area contains more shrubby planting a larger number of smaller trees with the war memorial on its southern tip. The trees have been planted after the original design and feature a number of varieties chosen to add all year round and horticultural interest.

### 5.7 The Shelter

A compact zone focussing on the renovated shelter surrounded by low shrubby planting and bedding displays. Low planting is essential to maintain the views of the shelter from the main paths and lawned areas. The relationship to the surrounding lawns needs to be maintained so that the shelter does not become screened by inappropriate shrub or tree planting.

### 5.8 The Fountain and Ivy Ring

Characterised by the water feature framed by its 'ivy ring' and bedding features. The previous fountain was not historically accurate, and the Heritage Lottery Fund made it a condition of this management plan that the fountain was replaced by a more historically appropriate version. This was achieved in 2019 and the park now contains a fountain that replicates the original.

## 5. Character Zones (Continued)

### 5.9 The Rockery, Cascade and Pool

This zone is one of the key features of the park and links it back to its original designer. F. W. Meyer was “an acknowledged expert in the construction of rockwork”, writing a standard document on this subject. Whilst he worked on designs for parks in Truro, Exeter, Devonport, Sherborne and Poole, none of these parks have such an extensive piece of rockwork as Wellington Park.

### 5.10 The Broad Walk

Characterised by the trees themselves and the restored pathway beneath. The plane avenue with the main path beneath forms striking feature of the park. Whilst not an original feature, the avenue provides a screen to the built form to the north and encloses this aspect of the park. The low hedging beneath provides a view into and out of the site.

Off the path are seating areas and interpretation boards allowing visitors to relax or learn about the history of the park. The avenue forms a striking feature when approached from the northeastern entrance, leading the eye into the park and towards the small water fountain at the lower end of the site.

*Figure 5.2 The Broad Walk in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century*



### 5.11 The Borrowed Landscape

A further zone that needs consideration lies outside the park and can be defined as the borrowed landscape. It comprises of the recreation ground, school playing fields and open countryside. Currently the recreation ground is open, fringed by deciduous hedgerow trees on its boundaries allowing views to the open countryside beyond. Planning legislation contained in the local plan shows the park is clearly identified as a ‘park or garden of special historic interest’ as well as being contained within an ‘Area to Remain Undeveloped (ARU)’ and ‘Recreational Open Space (ROS)’. Almost the entire ‘borrowed landscape’ is identified as a green corridor, which also includes a county wildlife site. Whilst this planning legislation affords a certain degree of protection, inappropriate management e.g. tree planting or new recreational / agricultural / educational buildings could easily compromise the views from the park. This will need to be carefully considered by the planning authority.

### 5.12 Shrub Beds

With all of the above recommendations, additional considerations through the production of the management and development programme have led to the conclusion that the authority should consider a shrubbery rejuvenation programme within a planned period. The first stage of this should be to update and revise the planting survey carried out as part of the restoration management plan, and from this the council can assess how best to approach the regeneration work needed. Any plans must take into account the key views and vistas, as well as the character zones described above. Where appropriate, specialist historic landscape advice should be sought on appropriate choice of species and location.

# 6. Visions and Aims

## 6.0 Introduction

This section sets out a new vision for the park and a series of new objectives that are developed into actions later in the plan.

## 6.1 Vision

The parks service aim is:

***“To provide and maintain clean fully accessible, safe and attractive parks and open spaces”***

The application form accompanying the restoration management plan, produced in 1998 for the Heritage Lottery Fund, stated the aim of the restoration as being:

***“To undertake the works necessary to restore the park to its original condition. To make it fully useable by the residents of Wellington for the purposes originally intended by its donors and to reveal its historic layout, features and detailing for the enjoyment of all visitors.”***

The restoration works have been completed and the new vision for Wellington Park is:

***“To provide a park of the highest quality for the enjoyment of the people of Wellington and the wider community.”***

## 6.2 Aims

Beneath the new vision lies a series of aims linked to the Green Flag Award criteria – The National Standard for Quality in Green Space Management. These are set out in Figure 6.1 below. Each of these aims is further developed in Section 7 into targets, measures and timescales.

Figure 6.1 The relationship between Green Flag Award criteria and Management Plan aims

Criteria	Aims
A welcoming place	<i>To ensure that Wellington Park is welcoming and accessible to all potential users</i>
Healthy, safe and secure	<i>To ensure the safety of all staff and users of the park</i>
Clean and well maintained	<i>To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance</i>
Environmental Management	<i>To adopt environmental management principles and therefore reduce the impact of management operations on the environment</i>
Biodiversity and landscape	<i>To promote biodiversity through appropriate management (see below for heritage aims)</i>
Heritage	<i>Maintain the historical integrity of the park – its character zones, views, vistas and building style</i>  <i>Maintain the quality of management, standards sympathetic to the original design, material and planting</i>  <i>Maintain the strategic significance of the park in the local plan and community plan</i>
Community involvement	<i>To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events and activities and the Friends of Wellington Park</i>
Marketing	<i>To actively promote the park to all potential users</i>
Management	<i>To provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service</i>

# 7. Qualitative Analysis

## 7.1 A Welcoming Place

The park is, overall, a welcoming place. Its three attractive entrance features lead the visitor in with views opening out into the wider park. Entrance signage was updated as part of the restoration works as have the interpretation boards. New welcome signs will be added in spring 2025 to align with Wellington Town Council taking over the park's management.

## 7.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

### 7.2.1 Policy and Process

The park will be inspected regularly by the Wellington Town Council Open Spaces Team with any issues being dealt with immediately. Any long-term work that is required will be programmed in once funding has been secured or budgeted for. Wellington Town Council has commissioned a risk assessment for the park and will work with their consultants to ensure the park remains a safe venue for all.

### 7.2.2 Events and Use

Each individual event must have its own risk assessment and licenses must be sought from Somerset Council if there will be music, food, or alcohol. This is to ensure that the impact on residents and park users is kept to a minimum. Licenses include restrictions and a full event plan must be submitted to Wellington Town Council.

## 7.2.3 Anti- social Behaviour / Social Issues

Compared to many urban parks Wellington Park does not suffer greatly from the negative attentions of people through vandalism and graffiti, anti-social behaviour or significant community safety problems.

Issues have arisen related to use of the gardens after it has been closed – this has resulted in some limited damage. Measures that have already been taken to address this are securing all fences and entrances, planting up gaps in existing hedges, physical presence and patrolling by council staff, and regular meetings between the council and the local police.

It is now also part of the grounds staff's role to talk to people in the park as the frontline face of the council. Similarly, Wellington Town Council intend to undertake regular liaison with the local schools regarding any issues to do with young people or children in the park, as well as providing talks on educational visits as per requests.

The local police have a regular presence at park events such as the Spring Fayre and Wacky Wednesday which helps with community outreach and deters antisocial behaviour.

*Figure 7.1 Local Police in Wellington Park*



# 7. Qualitative Analysis (Continued)

## 7.3 Clean and Well Maintained

The park is maintained to Wellington Town Council's specifications, with there being flexibility for staff to structure their own work to ensure that the gardens are kept to the highest possible standards and if anything unforeseen arises, they have the freedom to restructure their work to accommodate.

The bin emptying and litter picking is undertaken by a contractor who empties the bins in the park daily, including bank holidays. The ground staff also carry out litter picking as required to ensure the park remains clean and presentable. The bandstand is deep cleaned at the start of each summer season and then washed out once a month or as required through the summer.

The toilet block is owned and maintained by Wellington Town Council who use a contractor to clean, open and close the toilets daily throughout the year.

All the buildings within the park undergo a yearly structure survey that is undertaken by external specialist.

## 7.4 Environmental Management

Throughout 2023 Wellington Town Council trialled a range of electronic machinery and vehicles from a range of different manufacturers to ensure that when the commitment was made to buy electric machinery, a reasonable amount of due diligence was carried out prior to purchase. In 2023 Wellington Town Council purchased electric machinery. They also purchased an electric vehicle. Due to the severity of the Climate Change Emergency that has been declared by Wellington Town Council, the Open Spaces Team are currently constructing a specific response to lowering the environmental impact that the service has.

Waste management has in recent years undergone a transformation of its own. In the past all green waste had been taken to the Priorswood recycling centre (approximately 10 miles from Wellington). Once here, it would be recycled by turning it into compost that is then sold on. Although this method is still used, in recent years, the number of visits to this site has been reduced across the Open Spaces Team. There is now an emphasis on recycling as much green waste as possible on site. This may be in the way of on-site compost piles or log piles that are in discreet locations. Any tree work the council undertakes has the brush chipped up which is then used for mulch on shrub beds. Also, waste is taken to a Community Farm that is located in the "Green Corridor", less than half a mile from the park. The waste is then composted down and used to fertilise crops.

Wellington Town Council is maintaining a "no pesticides" policy for Wellington Park, instead using physical methods of weed removal such as hoeing, hand pulling or strimming. Wellington Town Council works with a local national grower of bedding plants who provides all the parks annual bedding do not use any peat in their plant production, meaning that Wellington Park is peat-free.



# 7. Qualitative Analysis (Continued)

## 7.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

### 7.5.1 Biodiversity

Despite its relatively small size, Wellington park has the potential for promoting a large amount of biodiversity. The pond area already has a wealth of biodiversity with insects, small mammals and amphibians alike. The council have investigated better ways of promoting the biodiversity here, such as allowing parts of the pond edge to grow more densely to support land nesting areas, leaving parts of the pond weedy to promote spawning areas and only clearing out of season. Wellington Town Council is part of a county-wide programme for rewilding led by Somerset Wildlife Trust. This means that we are linking environmental corridors throughout the county and leaving margins of grass and wildflowers such as the boundary with Wellington Recreation Ground.

No pesticides are used in Wellington Park, with physical weed removal being the only management approved method of weed removal. This alone aids the biodiversity but in more discreet areas of shrub borders, the physical weed removal is kept to a minimum and monitored only for the removal of more invasive weed species to further promote biodiversity. When any tree works are undertaken, a small amount of brash is logged into short lengths and small log piles are created in borders.

Although curtailed in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, Wellington Town Council and the F.O.W.P had identified the need to encourage and involve local schools and youth clubs in making bug hotels, log piles and other bio diversifying activities.

Another initiative being introduced is the planting of new trees. Wellington Park will benefit from this further in 2025, with new trees being planted that will attract pollinators with their blossom and provide a good food source for birds with their berries.

As well as the above, simple tasks such as waiting for shrubs to finish flowering or to allow them to go to fruit before pruning are all extremely important bio diversifying that cannot be over-looked.

### 7.5.2 Landscape

The ha ha situated in the park is an extremely valuable landscape feature. It draws in the borrowed landscape, and it is rare for an urban park to have such a feature.

### 7.5.3 Heritage

The restoration management plan fully assessed the historical assets and significance of the park and set out a plan for its restoration. Apart from minor items, this plan has now been completed and the park restored to its former glory and will be maintained to this standard.

## 7.6 Community Involvement

As explored in section 3, community involvement is rich in Wellington Park and the Town Council hopes to grow this in future with more initiatives. The Town Council will be re-launching Wellington in Bloom to encourage volunteering and invite more groups to get involved such as schools, colleges, and groups for adults with learning disabilities or at-risk individuals. These groups will be invited to take part in many activities within the park including weeding, planting, painting, and simply learning.

# 7. Qualitative Analysis (Continued)

## 7.7 Marketing

Wellington Town Council has begun the process of producing an up-to-date marketing plan for the park which will set out how it intends to improve the way the park is promoted. This plan will need to identify the current user groups by setting up a user consultation. This will be best done by an online survey that can be accessed via the Wellington Town Council website and promoted through the Wellington Town Council and the F.O.W.P social media platforms. Council Officers will also explore other avenues to promote consultation such as ads in local printed media, radio, and meeting the public at events.

Wellington Town Council will be opening a ground floor reception area at their premises at 28-30 Fore Street and will be utilising this location to promote Wellington as a whole, as well as the park. Officers hope to create leaflets and trails that will be free for residents and visitors and will also be exploring creating more detailed booklets that can be sold and bring in a small income for the authority.

The Friends of Wellington Park have an active Facebook account that has nearly 1600 followers. The page is regularly monitored and posted on. It is important that both Wellington Town Council and the F.O.W.P continue to liaise so any future events can be dually promoted to increase the potential audience. Wellington Town Council's Facebook page has over 3.4k followers and regularly has posts that are seen by over 10k people.

Wellington Park has its own page on the Somerset Council website and Wellington Town Council Officers have confirmed with Somerset Council that this page will remain up and that contact details for Wellington Town Council are provided on the page. It is important that information found online that relates to the park is updated as the ownership changes to ensure it is promoted well and accurately.

## 7.8 Management

Due to the devolution of assets from Somerset Council in 2024 Wellington Town Council agreed to take all the grounds maintenance of all the site in Wellington including the park. As of April 2024, Wellington Town started to increase their level of involvement and support for Wellington Park, they paid for all the bedding plants and watering and dealt with a several repairs. The full complete handover is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

### 7.8.1 Legal Issues - Byelaws and Use

The original byelaws state that children should not be in the park unaccompanied however, the council does not actively enforce this. Similarly, the same document states that cycling should not take place in the park, and this has been incorporated into the signage on site. Cycling is only dealt with if it takes place on grassed areas or is causing damage to the park.

"Keep off the Grass" signs are in place on the grassed area along the ha-ha to preserve the grass and to discourage people from approaching the ha-ha wall. This is not enforced but is largely adhered to by the public.

# 8. Management

## 8.1 Current Staffing Arrangements

Below is a breakdown of the teams of staff who contribute to the overall management of Wellington park:

### 8.1.1 The Management Team

The Open Spaces Manager is responsible for budgeting and authorising additional works. The Open Spaces Manager ensures that the work is organised to meet these budgets and has an input on additional funding for works. The Chargehand will assist in communicating any defects and additional works which may be due to external factors. The management structure can be seen in figure 8.3.

### 8.1.2 The Operational Team

From 1<sup>st</sup> April the day to day running of the park as described in the maintenance plan will be undertaken by Wellington Town Council. There is considerable flexibility around improvements and additional work in the interests of providing a quality service within Wellington Park. The Open Spaces Team undertake the grounds and tree maintenance and have a close working relationship with community groups, who assist support in larger seasonal activities such as digging in the annual beds in the autumn and the organisation of events. Any one-off projects such as daffodil bulb planting are organised to involve volunteer groups and schools. All groups liaise regularly to ensure that all works done are approved and understood. The cleansing of the public conveniences, the emptying of bins, dog bins and routine litter picking is carried out by an external contractor, daily throughout the year.

All staff involved in the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the park are employed by Wellington Town Council on a full-time, part-time or seasonal basis. None are solely employed at Wellington park, although at least one member of the Open Spaces Team will be onsite or in the vicinity on any given workday.

*Figure 8.1 Wellington Town Council's Open Spaces Manager, Community Warden (soon to be redesignated as an Open Spaces Operative, and Climate Change Project Officer at a tree planting event in December 2024*



# 8. Management

## 8.1.3 Property Services

Somerset Council Property Services undertake the maintenance of built park lodge and draft licences.

## 8.2 Current Management activities

### 8.2.1 Grounds Maintenance operations

The grounds maintenance schedule can be seen in figure 8.4.

Extra work, such as vandalism repair or emergency arboriculture works is carried out as separate jobs and is requested as and when they are needed.

### 8.2.2 Dog Warden Service

The Environmental Health Service Dog Warden stopped in April 2023. In lieu of this, members of the Open Spaces team will monitor dogs' use of the park.

### 8.2.3 Buildings and Hard Landscape Maintenance

Until April 2025 Somerset Council Property Services will undertake the maintenance of buildings and paths, this responsibility will then pass to Wellington Town Council upon them taking ownership of the park.

### 8.2.4 Cleansing and Litter

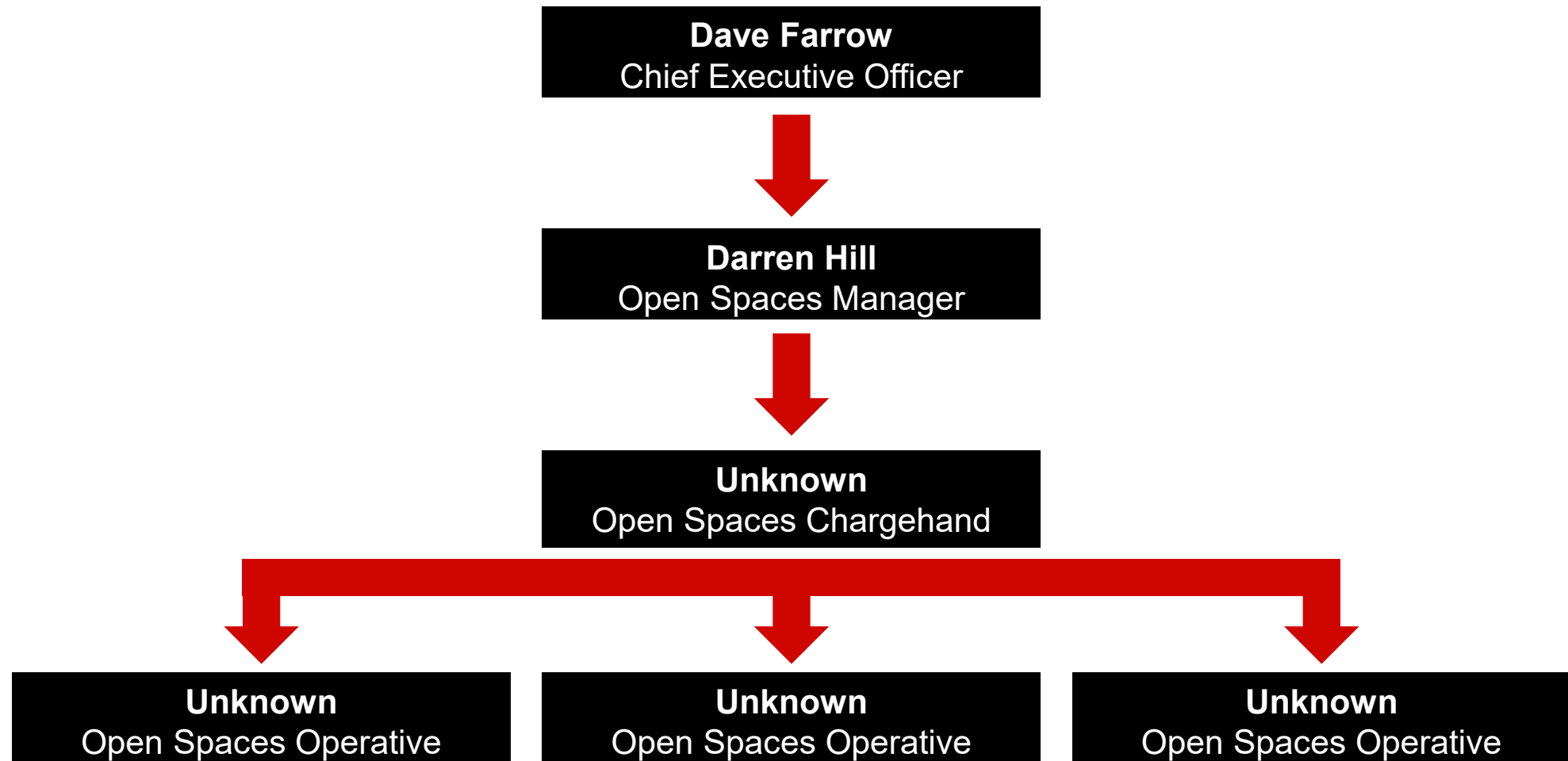
Litter is collected 7 days per week by an external contractor, seasonal variations may occur. This includes emptying all bins, picking litter on the ground and taking it all to the recycling centre for sorting.

*Figure 8.2 Wellington Town Council has been working with Somerset Council in Wellington Park since the Devolution Deal was signed*



## 8. Management (Continued)

Figure 8.3 Wellington Town Council Open Spaces Management Structure



# 8. Management (Continued)

## 8.3 Maintenance schedule

Figure 8.4 Maintenance Frequency Schedule for Wellington Park

Frequency = Times per month

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Open Gates (Mon – Fri excluding public holidays)	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35	25-35
Grass cutting & strimming			4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2		
<b>Trees</b>												
Mature Tree Inspection	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Immature Tree												
Stake and Tie				1					1			
Prune							1					
Leaf collection									1	4	4	4
Clear weed from Pond										1		
Clear Litter from Pond	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

## 8. Management (Continued)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Shrub Bed Maintenance (Bare ground)</b>												
Hoe/Hand Weed		1		1	1	1	1		1		1	
Summer Prune (selected areas)						1						
Winter Prune (All park)	1											
<b>Annual Bed maintenance</b>												
Planting					1					1		
Pulling out/prepping					1					1		
Weeding and edging	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	2	1	1
Emptying recycle Bin	4	4	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	4	4	4
Footpath Inspection			1						1			
Building Inspection									1			
Wash Out bandstand			1	1	1	1	1	1	1			

# 9. Management Prescriptions

## 9.0 Introduction

This section focuses on the operational aspects of managing and maintaining the park, ensuring that all necessary works are documented and up to date. It also brings together all the income and expenditure relating to the park in one place for the first time so that a new budget heading can be created specifically for Wellington Park.

Following the completion of restoration works, the entire park was re-surveyed and all buildings, structures, hard and soft landscape features plotted on an updated base plan (see Figures 2.7 and 2.8). Arrangements and procedures for the maintenance of all components of the park have been reviewed and re-costed with clear lines of responsibility established between service areas.

## 9.1 Existing Maintenance Arrangements - Buildings

The park currently contains four buildings the bandstand, the lodge, the toilet block and the shelter – the locations are shown in Figure 2.8 earlier and images are shown in Figure 9.1.2. The procedures for inspections, maintenance and repair is set out below:

**Bandstand** – any cleaning of graffiti is the responsibility of Wellington Town Council, and a daily visual inspection is undertaken with removal effected immediately. The Town Council is also responsible for ensuring that the roof and gutters are kept free of leaves and debris at all times.

**Toilet block** – as per bandstand plus external contractor undertake daily cleaning as well as the emptying of the septic tank.

**Shelter** – as per bandstand.

**Park Lodge** – as per bandstand for graffiti however the tenancy agreement clearly spells out the responsibilities of the tenant and the Authority with respect to up-keep of the building.

Figure 9.1.1 Parks fabric inspection proforma

	Date	Inspection by	Condition	Action taken
Gates and doors				
Fencing and paths				
Litter bins				
Seats and shelter				
Drains and gullies				
Vandalism				
Roofs				
Health and safety				
Windows				
Miscellaneous				
Gutters and down pipes				
Render and pointing				
Toilets, internal services				
Display signs				
Stains and painting				
Lighting				
Disabled facilities				
Litter bins				
Ramps and handrails				



# 9. Management Prescriptions (Continued)

Figure 9.1 Buildings in Wellington Park



## 9.2 Existing Management Arrangements - Infrastructure

The park contains several built and memorial structures as follows – the locations of these are shown at Figure 2.8 earlier and images in Figure 10.2.1 below

- Entrance arches – 3 No.
- War memorial
- Fountain
- Bridge
- Drinking fountain

There are also key hard landscape elements:

- Stone steps
- Railings
- Gates
- Steps to bridge
- Footpaths
- Benches – 16 No.
- Bins – 4 No.
- Dog bins – 3 No.
- Entrance signs – 2 No.
- Interpretation boards – 2 No.
- “Keep off the grass” signs – 3 No.
- Electricity supply box – 1 No.
- Commemorative tree plaques – 4 No.

# 9. Management Prescriptions (Continued)

Again, the same procedures apply for the buildings above in addition there are the risk assessments carried out by the parks service plus the emptying of the dog waste bins by an external contractor (for which there is a separate specification).

Other routine maintenance carried out by the parks service includes clearance of gulleys and drains, removal of leaves from water features, minor repairs / making safe and sweeping of all surfaces.

Also relating to buildings and built structures there is an asset plan, Wellington Town Council employs an external company to ensure the structures are compliant and plan for any additional repairs or improvements.

## 9.3 Existing Management Arrangements - Soft Landscape

Figure 2.7 earlier shows the location of all soft landscape elements of the park; also views of some of the park's horticultural features are shown in Figure 9.3 and again in 9.3.1. These images show the fact that Wellington Park has not only retained many areas of horticulture but also maintains them to a high standard, indeed Somerset Council and Wellington Town Council pride themselves on having retained gardeners with horticultural skills when many authorities have reduced their parks to the lowest common denominator of cost and an uninspiring landscape is often the result.

Maintenance of all aspects of soft landscape are covered in the specifications for the grounds maintenance contract which has been updated since the completion of the restoration plan. This includes:

- Hedges
- Flower beds / annual bedding
- Grass areas
- Shrub beds
- Rose beds
- Trees
- Herbaceous border
- Rock garden
- Pond and water feature areas

Figure 9.2 Soft landscaping



# 9. Management Prescriptions (Continued)

Figure 9.3 Structures in Wellington Park

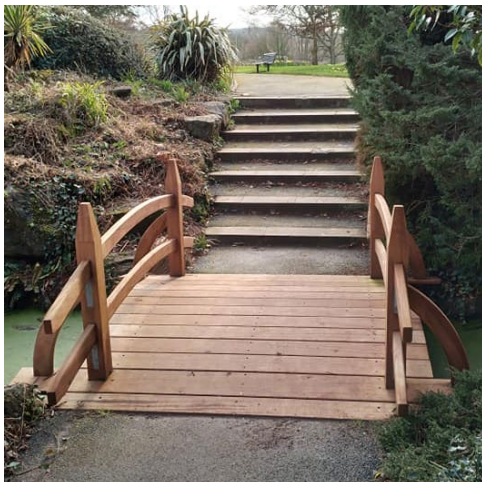
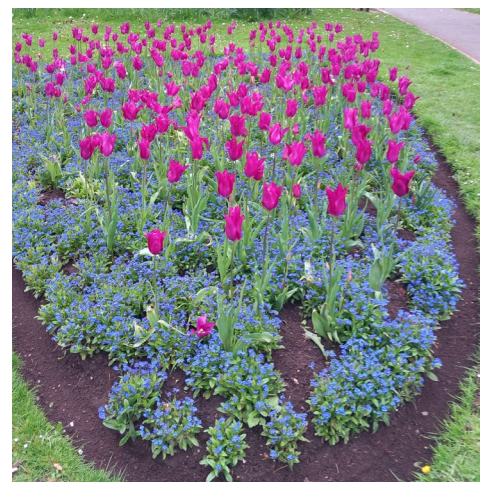


Figure 9.4 Soft Landscaping in Wellington Park



## 9. Management Prescriptions (Continued)

### 9.4 Finances

Figure 9.4.1 below shows the total estimated costs of managing and maintaining Wellington Park for 2025 – 2030 and brings together the costs of all the various service areas involved. This gives a total cost of the life of the Management Plan.

Wellington Town Council has not yet had a chance to complete a 5-year cost projection for Wellington Park but this work is ongoing and will be updated onto this document as it progresses. Future budgets have been calculated for a CPI of 2.5%

Figure 9.4.1 Financial profile

		Year 1 2025/26	Year 2 2026/27	Year 3 2027/28	Year 4 2028/29	Year 5 2029/30
<b>Maintenance Cost</b>						
Annual Contract	Grounds maintenance	45111	46239	47395	48580	49795
	Bedding Plants	10000	10250	10506	10769	11038
	Toilet cleansing	9000	9225	9456	9692	9934
	Bin emptying	8000	8200	8405	8615	8830
Building maintenance		3000	3075	3152	3231	3312
Vandalism		5000	5125	5253	5384	5519
<b>Total Maintenance Cost</b>		<b>80111</b>	<b>82114</b>	<b>84167</b>	<b>86271</b>	<b>88428</b>
<b>Development Cost</b>						
Events and friends group support		2000	2050	2101	2154	2208
Marketing and promotion cost		250	256	262	269	276
<b>Total Development Cost</b>		<b>2250</b>	<b>2306</b>	<b>2363</b>	<b>2423</b>	<b>2484</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>82361</b>	<b>84420</b>	<b>86530</b>	<b>88694</b>	<b>90912</b>

# 10. Monitoring and Review

## 10.1 Monitoring Arrangements

Wellington Park is maintained using a frequency-based contract, which relies on a comprehensive horticultural specification setting methods, standards and ideal timings. The Chargehand covering the park and the town centre will be managed by The Open Spaces Manager who has authority to use his own discretion regarding the timing of some of the monthly scheduled horticultural work to fit with best practice and weather conditions.

At the end of every week a completed schedule is returned to the Open Spaces Manager showing completed items, computer records are updated and a revised schedule showing the remaining tasks for that month produced. This work recording process ensures that all necessary tasks are completed, and correct payments are made.

To ensure that the standards are maintained and to give the staff “ownership” they are authorized to carry out minor tasks without referring back to their manager e.g. graffiti removal and assisting with events. The operatives make a daily visual inspection of the park reporting defects that cannot be immediately dealt with to their manager.

In addition, the park management regime also has an annual health and safety check and all operations within the park are in accordance with the ground's maintenance specification.

## 10.2 Customer Satisfaction and Community Consultation

In 2024 Wellington Town Council attended the Spring Fayre event in the park and conducted a survey of the local residents regarding the town’s green areas as a whole. As well as this, the Town Council has utilised the “Place Standard Tool” to survey residents on a range of topics, including play areas and green spaces.

When Wellington Town Council takes ownership of the park in April 2025 it will again survey visitors at the May Day event and explore further avenues of consultation throughout the year.

Figure 10.1 Wellington Town Council conducting consultations at the Spring Fayre in May 2024 and Street Fair in June 2024



## 10.3 Action Plan Review

Next is a table that was created in 2023 to identify realistic targets that were set out to achieve throughout 2024 and its progress (Green – Completed, Amber – Ongoing, red – Uncompleted) and any associated comments

This will be followed in the next section by the new targets for the year 2025.

# 10. Monitoring and Review (Continued)

10.3.1 The summarised action plan reproduced below shows the activities which had been planned for the year 2024, their progress and associated comments.

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2024	Target	Progress	Comments
1. A welcoming place	Secure funding for new signage to park from town	2024	Green	Completed 2024
	Paint the bollards near the school.	Winter 2024	Red	Not completed by Somerset Council
	Review existing signage: cycle paths, by-laws, no drinking area, public space protection order	2024	Red	This is delayed due to transfer of asset to Wellington Town Council
	Improve worn out grass areas	Spring 2024	Green	Completed Spring 2024
2. Healthy, safe and secure	On site staff to monitor compliance of Park Byelaws	All year round	Green	
	Review site risk assessments	Spring 2024	Green	
	Open Spaces Manager & Grounds Staff, Police Beat Team Liaison; meeting on regular basis.	Ongoing	Yellow	Ongoing Monthly meetings
	Ensure park is locked at night and support regular police presence at night to minimise anti-social behaviour	Ongoing	Yellow	Ongoing
3. Clean and well maintained	Daily Litter Inspections of the Park; inclusive of weekends	Ongoing	Yellow	
	Daily Toilet Cleaning	Ongoing	Yellow	
	Re surface Lime tree areas either side of bandstand, the steps leading to the bridge and around war memorial	Spring 2024	Green	Work completed by RW Gale, local contractor, this was a H&S risk.

# 10. Monitoring and Review (Continued)

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2023	Target	Progress	Comments
4. Environmental Management	Implemented adapted environmental service procedure	Ongoing		
	Wherever possible use of FSC approved wood furniture	Adopted policy		
	Continue to trial electronic machinery and vehicles	Ongoing		
	Continue to recycle as much green waste via Community Farm	Ongoing		
5. Biodiversity and landscape	Promote biodiversity in Park, obtain permissions for an ecological survey, compile information and add to MP	Winter 2024		Complete Winter 2025
	Continue to add wildflower areas, leave the daffodil 'clumps' uncut to promote bio -diversity	Continuation 2024		'Re-wilding' project ongoing 2025 to include the Rec
	Conservation Action Plan; Retain dead timber in areas of low public access to encourage wildlife	Ongoing		
	Conservation Action Plan; increase number of Bird & Bat Boxes, continue to monitor	Autumn 2024/Quarterly		Some bird boxes added through 2021, some vandalised
	Conservation Action Plan; Monitor the condition of the trees	As required		Tree Warden appointed and will update
	Conservation Action Plan; Prune/reduce diseased trees	As required		
	Conservation Action Plan; Plant new trees to replace felled trees and incorporate new specimen trees to park	As required		
	Produce a replanting programme for certain shrub beds that uses sustainable planting schemes	Autumn 2024		Rescheduled for 2025

## 10. Monitoring and Review (Continued)

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2024	Target	Progress	Comments
6. Heritage	Ensure any future repairs to hard landscaping features are kept as 'in keeping' with the original design as possible	As required		
	Repair the drinking fountain	Winter 2024		This was looked in to, however a new water main would be required, this was not budgeted for in 2024, we are now looking for this to happen in 2025.
7. Community involvement	Community Group encouraged to hold regular events in the park; May Day, Summer Sunday Concerts	As required		
	Support provided to community group with regular contact; Friends group meetings	Quarterly		
	Promote & provide information on annual community events in the Park	Ongoing		
	Put new Annual Events Calendar in the noticeboard.	Monthly		Undertaken by Friends of Wellington Park
	Create Public opinion survey linked to future development projects, compile feedback	Winter 2024		Planned for 2025
	Ensure regular contact with FOWP and ensure a Town Council officer is available to attend meetings	Ongoing		Darren Hill appointed as contact
	Investigate the potential local interest in creating a volunteer group to work alongside staff	Winter 2024		New RA has been created and a document has been created to help recorded all the hours work they undertake. Recruitment to happen in 2025



# 10. Monitoring and Review (Continued)

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2024	Target	Progress	Comments
8. Marketing	Information Boards & Park Leaflets created; reviewed periodically.	Monthly		To be reinstated 2025
	Review & update all parks pages online	Quarterly		Project Assistant contacting website hosts
	Promote & provide information on annual events in the Park	Monthly		
	Create a new marketing strategy for the Park	Winter 2024		Ongoing
	Investigate legislation to look at introducing a seasonal vendor for light refreshments to Park	Winter 2024		Ongoing
	Create a public opinion survey on how and why the Park is/is not used	Winter 2024		Survey yet to be created and issued
9. Management	Green Flag Award re-application for 2024 completed during Winter; review annually	January 2024		This was achieved
	Britain In Bloom, Pride of parks award application for 2024	Spring 2024		BIB awarded a Silver
	Review and reform Parks management plan	Winter 2024		Ongoing
	Continue to assess and track trees via Arbotrack/ tree warden	Ongoing		
	Design and Plant a new, sustainable, shrub bed along the ha ha wall	Autumn 2024		Summer flowering herbaceous boarder planted, rest of work to be completed 2025

# 11. Future Plans

11.1 The summarised action plan reproduced below shows the activities which have been planned for the year 2024.

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2025	Target
1. A welcoming place	Repair and paint all the benches and bins	Spring 2025
	Use community payback scheme to help repaint all perimeter railings	Ongoing 2024/25
	Appoint contractor to repaint entrances, bandstand and shelters	Spring 2025
	New Wellington Town Council logo signs	Spring 2025
	Install new bench (This will be in the Rec, visible from the ha ha wall)	Summer 2025
2. Healthy, safe and secure	On site staff to monitor compliance of Park Byelaws	All year round
	Review site risk assessments	Ongoing
	Parks Officers, Grounds Staff & Police Beat Team Liaison; meeting on regular basis.	Ongoing
	Ensure park is locked at night and support regular police presence at night to minimise anti-social behaviour	Ongoing
	Produce a Practical action plan to tackle anti-social behaviour	Summer 2025

# 11. Future Plans

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2025	Target
3. Clean and well maintained	Daily litter inspections of the Park; inclusive of weekends	Ongoing
	Graffiti removal; depending on priority	As required
	Install more recycling bins in recreation area	2025
	Undertake maintenance and clearance work in Pond	Spring 2025
4. Environmental Management	Implemented adapted environmental service procedure	Ongoing
	Implement new bench installation policy	2025
	Continue to trial electronic machinery and vehicles	Ongoing
	Continue to recycle as much green waste via local urban farmer	Ongoing
	Explore the option of having auto-mowers to cut the park, reducing the amount of grass cutting.	2025/26

# 11. Future Plans

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2025	Target
5. Biodiversity and landscape	Promote bio-diversity in Park, obtain permissions for an ecological survey, compile information and add to MP	Winter 2025
	Continue to add wildflower areas, leave the daffodil 'clumps' uncut to promote bio - diversity	Autumn 2025
	Conservation Action Plan; Retain dead timber in areas of low public access to encourage wildlife	Ongoing
	Conservation Action Plan; increase number of Bird & Bat Boxes, continue to monitor, Bat and Bird Boxes made by Green Days adult team	Autumn 2025/Quarterly
	Conservation Action Plan; Monitor the condition of the trees	As required
	Conservation Action Plan; Prune/reduce diseased trees	As required
	Conservation Action Plan; Plant new trees to replace felled trees and incorporate new specimen trees to park	Autumn 2025
6. Heritage	Ensure any future repairs to hard landscaping features are kept as 'in keeping' with the original design as possible	As required
	Repair the drinking fountain	2025
	Winter maintenance works on water fountain including painting	Spring 2025

# 11. Future Plans

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2025	Target
7. Community involvement	Community Group encouraged to hold regular events in the park; May Day, Summer Sunday Concerts	As required
	Support provided to community group with funding community events	Yearly
	Promote & provide information on annual community events in the Park	Ongoing
	Review information on Community Panel displayed in the noticeboard.	Monthly
	Put new Annual Events Calendar in the noticeboard.	Monthly
	Create Public opinion survey linked to future development projects, compile feedback	May 2025
	Ensure regular contact with FOWP and ensure Open Spaces Manager is available to attend meetings	Ongoing
	Continue to Investigate the potential local interest in creating a volunteer group to work alongside staff	Spring 2025

# 11. Future Plans

Aims	Proposed Actions for 2025	Target
8. Marketing	Information Boards & Park Leaflets created; reviewed periodically.	Quarterly
	Review & update all parks pages online	Quarterly
	Promote & provide information on annual events in the Park	Monthly
	Create a new marketing strategy for the Park	Winter 2025
	Investigate legislation to look at introducing a seasonal vendor for light refreshments to Park	Ongoing
	Create a public opinion survey on how and why the Park is/is not used continuation from the one In May 2024	May 2025
9. Management	Green Flag Award re-application for 2025 completed during Winter; review annually	January 2025
	Britain In Bloom, Pride of parks award application for 2025	Spring 2025
	Annual Infrastructure Inspection by Wellington Town Council Team	Yearly
	Review and reform Parks management plan	Ongoing
	Continue to assess and track trees via Arbotrack/ tree warden	Ongoing