



**GREAT
SANKEY**
PARISH
COUNCIL

Landscape Management Plan

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1. Introduction

Mission Statement

“Great Sankey Parish Council is committed to making our green spaces more beautiful, sustainable and inspiring places to be for the wellbeing of our residents and visitors.”

This document contains details of the maintenance and management over a 5 year period of the landscape features and soft landscape treatments for Great Sankey Parish Councils Green Agenda.

The overall aim is to adopt a coherent, strategic and integrated approach to the management of the soft landscape components associated with GSPC sites and to ensure that the natural resources of wild flora and fauna are conserved and, wherever possible, enhanced.

This document will be used as a basis to inform any long term maintenance and management strategies for all land owned and managed by Great Sankey Parish Council, in conjunction with the council’s biodiversity policy.

2. Green Agenda

Great Sankey Parish Council is committed to making its green spaces more beautiful, accessible, sustainable and inspiring places to be.

The council’s green agenda started in 2017 with the development of Lingley Green. The landscaping project was undertaken in response to concerns about vehicle speeds and had dual aims of traffic calming through the introduction of planting to provide screening and improving the overall visual amenity of the traffic island. The scheme has been a huge success and has inadvertently changed how the area is used by local residents.

Vicarage Community Park gardens were opened 2020 on the tail end of the Covid pandemic. The joint project between Warrington Borough Council and the Parish Council has turned a previously waterlogged space into a beautiful park area for residents of all ages to enjoy.

The council recognises that open, green spaces are more important than ever to residents and has pledged to do more, giving residents welcoming spaces that are healthy, safe & secure, well-maintained and clean, and enhance biodiversity.

Community involvement is a key factor in the development of GSPC green space and the council is keen to give residents a bigger say in how green spaces are developed and used for the benefit of all who use them.

3. Aims

To retain and improve the council’s green spaces to

- Improve the health & mental wellbeing of residents by providing safe and accessible sites for exercise, recreation and socialising.
- Encourage play and social activities for children by creating exciting, healthy outdoor spaces.
- Promote and encourage community involvement.
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity across the parish.
- To manage GSPC sites and maintain to a high standard.
- Maximise the use of GSPC sites.
- Address issues such as speeding traffic through innovative landscaping.

4. Objectives

The following objectives benefit everyone living and working in the parish including councillors, residents and local businesses whilst improving the environment.

Objectives	Reason	Status/Actions
Green Flag Award	<p>The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.</p> <p>Purpose & aims</p> <p>To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.</p> <p>To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.</p> <p>To establish standards of good management.</p> <p>To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.</p> <p>To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.</p>	Long-term objective which will drive the implementation of all actions for the council
Solar Panels	<p>Reduce council electricity bills.</p> <p>Reduce the councils carbon footprint.</p>	Installed at Whittle Hall, Bewsey Barn and Tim Parry Community Centres. Hood Lane & Hood Manor Community Centres unsuitable for installation
Battery Operated Equipment	<p>Less noise pollution.</p> <p>Reduce carbon footprint.</p> <p>Less HAV’s (Hand Arm Vibration).</p> <p>Less maintenance.</p> <p>Reduce long term costs.</p>	All grounds equipment is battery operated and charged via solar panels

Electric Vans	Less noise pollution. Reduce carbon footprint. Less maintenance. Reduce long term costs.	Electric vans leased from 2023 and charged via solar panels
Facilitate Community-led projects and Involvement	Encourage greater interest and involvement in outdoor spaces. Promote improvement of local areas. Education on the environment and wildlife Promotes friendships and reduces social isolation	Community Projects Committee to oversee proposed community activities/projects.
Go Peat Free	Going peat-free is great for the environment and the climate. Preserving our rare and precious peat bogs is vital, both for the unique biodiversity they support, as well as for the wider environment. Links in with Green Flag Award.	
Recycling	Reduce carbon footprint. Sustainability of limited natural resources.	
Grow our own plants	Cost control as well as quantity & quality assurance Wider variety/flexibility Known availability Control over growing practices Control over planting times Earlier flowering and harvest versus direct sowing outdoors Reduced exposure to insects and disease Ability to grow for seed saving Seed better suited to region and location	Long-term project
Cut & drop (“grasscycling”) (policy to cut and drop implemented)	Healthy for the grassed areas Supports a strong and nutrient-rich soil. Eliminates need for bagging waste disposal, reducing costs	Implemented
Wild Flower Meadows (Some provision – not permanent: WBC contracted to sow areas of wildflowers each year throughout the parish on verges and traffic islands)	Supports pollinators such as bees & butterflies. Increases biodiversity & wildlife habitats	Some areas of wildflowers sown each year throughout the parish on verges and traffic islands. Additional options under consideration.
Bulb planting	Supports pollinators such as bees & butterflies. Increases biodiversity & wildlife habitats Provide long-term, sustainable flowering	Small areas planted. Additional options under consideration for larger scale planting.
Generate income for the Parish Council.	Work with external partners to help offset the cost of maintaining Great Sankey green space.	Possible future project
No Mow May	Supports pollinators such as bees & butterflies. Increases biodiversity & wildlife habitats Reduces costs	Possible future project
Outdoor Gym	Make exercise fun and available to all. Eco friendly. Promotes friendships and reduces social isolation. Improves health. Attract new users to outdoor environments. Free to use.	Possible future project

5. 5-Year Plan

This will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, and at least annually. The plan will be designed to meet the goals and intentions set out in within this document.

<p>Year 1 (2023-24)</p>	<p>Purchase grounds equipment; Resolve storage requirements and security for equipment; Undertake gradual handover from current contractors; Assess current sites and identify immediate actions needed; Determine site requirements and resource needed on a seasonal basis to maintain to the current standard; Establish and implement procedure for Councillors to raise grounds issues and enquiries through Parish Clerk, and determine resource available for this; Identify and implement small projects for low cost ('quick wins') for Yr 1, such as re-siting unused bird/bat boxes, bulb planting.</p>
<p>Years 2-5 (2024-28)</p>	<p>Consider potential projects within the scope of this document – Larger projects for GSPC sites, e.g. Childs Wood Field, Tim Parry Recreation Ground; Investigate options for community involvement; Review available resource and options to increase.</p> <p>Under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of horticulture apprentice • Large-scale bulb planting and wildflower scheme • Small-scale projects with community involvement (through Community Projects Committee)

6. Projects

All initiatives relating to grounds management for GSPC will embrace the specified objectives within this document.

Type

1. Enhancement of GSPC sites. May include increasing or improving the soft or hard landscaping in current green spaces.
2. Community projects
 - Working with existing groups & organisations within community centres e.g. preschools, to help with their green initiatives.

- New community initiatives on GSPC sites, e.g. community garden, bulb planting, bat/bird boxes, Men's Sheds
 - Helping residents' groups or organisations to improve their local area by facilitating the set-up of 'Friends of' groups, providing advice and information on green projects and considering small donation requests.
3. Partnership working with external bodies, e.g. Landtrust, WBC, Housing Associations, Mersey Forest, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust, Local Schools, Scout Association, North West Wildlife Trust, RSPB.

Considerations

Projects will impact GSPC in a variety of ways but should not detract from the council's main priority to maintain the council's green spaces to a high standard.

New projects will be assessed in terms of their cost and resource implications for staffing, equipment, funding (both set-up and ongoing costs) as well as their benefits to the community.

Ideas may be brought to the council's attention by residents, community groups, councillors or staff and will be considered by the appropriate committee. The Clerk and Head Gardener will be an integral part of any discussion of new projects to help the council determine the sustainability and practicality of any proposal.

7. Budgeting

Regular operating costs for grass cutting, pruning and general site maintenance are constantly monitored and considered in detail during the budget review process each year. Regular operating costs form the base level for ongoing grounds maintenance budgets to allow for upkeep and replacement of both soft and hard landscaping on the council's current sites.

An allowance for new projects and/or enhanced service provision will also be provided within each annual budget. Enhanced service, or new projects may include more frequent grass cuts, increasing the amount of soft landscaping on current sites or extending the number of sites managed.

When considering new projects, the additional cost to the council in terms of both time and resource (both short and long-term costs) will be assessed and fully considered along with the benefit of the project to both the council and the wider community. Projects will only be taken on if they can be achieved without negatively impacting the basic level of maintenance for GSPC sites and may involve engaging the community, partnership working or increasing GSPC staffing levels.

8. GSPC Sites

Community Centres

1. **Whittle Hall Community Centre**, Lonsdale Close, WA5 3UA
2. **Tim Parry Community Centre**, Cromdale Way, WA5 3NY
(next to Park Road Primary School – not the Peace Centre on Cromwell Avenue)
3. **Hood Lane Community Centre**, Hood Lane North, WA5 1ET
(corner of Crosfileds Recreation Ground, access via Hood Lane North)
4. **Hood Manor Community Centre**, Raikes Close, Dorchester Road, WA5 1UH
5. **Bewsey Barn Community Centre**, Bewsey Farm Close, Old Hall Road, WA5 9PB



Open Spaces

6. **Tim Parry Recreation Ground**, next to Tim Parry Community Centre
Grassed recreation area with childrens play area and MUGA
7. **Lingley Green**, junction of Park Rd & Lingley Rd, nearest postcode WA5 3PG
Landscape traffic island
8. **Childs Wood Field**, Canons Rd adjacent to St James Church, WA5 1EU
Grassed area surrounded by trees
9. **Parish Playing Field**, Lingley Green Avenue, adjacent to Sankey Hub, WA5 3AA
Football pitches and public open space
10. **Vicarage Community Park**, Liverpool Rd/Parsonage Way, nearest postcode WA5 1RS
Landscape park area with childrens timber trail.



Total Area: 13.5 Acres