



Green Space Strategy for Sefton

April 2009

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Green Space Strategy for Sefton

Foreword



Everyone is happy to use high quality green spaces. They are pleasant places to visit, get away from the busyness of our everyday lives and to meet other people. They provide a wide variety of opportunities for us all to be active – from walks to enjoy our surroundings or access local services to taking part in sports, and even to grow our own food.

All of this makes green spaces vital to our mental and physical health and to our local community and environment. They also have a range of other benefits, such as improving the image of the area and encouraging people to visit and businesses to invest in Sefton.

I am delighted to support this strategy which motivates everyone to make the most of and be proud of green spaces in Sefton.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Atherton".

Janet Atherton

Director of Public Health for NHS Sefton and Sefton Council



We need more and better local green spaces. Somewhere, no matter how small or large, where we can take a break from the stresses and strains of life today. It's good to get back to nature for a while, take a stroll or simply sit and relax and forget the worries of the busy workaday world.

Even the smallest patches of green spaces can be havens for wildlife, from butterflies and birds to busy beetles. And, it's plots of land – from tiny bits crowded in between buildings to large parks and the open countryside – that all play an important part in helping to reduce the effects of climate change, especially if there's room for trees.

We can all do our bit to protect and make the most of our green spaces and hopefully create more of them by transforming neglected, derelict local areas of land. This publication tells us how this can be done: designing, using and generally looking after green spaces.

Together, let's help create more and more of these sanctuaries of nature – special places for us and our fellow residents in Sefton to enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Tattersall".

Councillor David Tattersall

Cabinet Member – Environmental, Sefton MBC

A photograph of a green park space. In the foreground, there is a grassy area with small white flowers. A paved path winds through the park, with several people walking on it. The background is filled with lush green trees and a multi-story building with a glass facade. The building has "COLLEGE" visible on its side.

Green space is the network of **publicly accessible** green spaces **in Sefton.**

It includes parks, play facilities, country parks, natural and semi-natural green spaces; outdoor sports facilities; amenity spaces; allotments; cemeteries and churchyards; waterways; trees; community woodlands and coastal habitats.



Green space is an important part of green infrastructure in Sefton and the North West. Green infrastructure also includes private green spaces, from gardens to farmland. (See www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk). Both green space and green infrastructure are essential if we are to provide sustainable communities within a high quality natural and built environment. They offer a number of benefits and opportunities:

- active recreation and quiet enjoyment, leading to better physical and mental health
- routes for walking and cycling
- community events, and meeting places
- attractive environments and a positive image for the area
- higher property prices and investment levels
- helping to reduce the impact of climate change
- **places for wildlife to flourish**
- reducing air, noise and water pollution.

Although this strategy focuses on green space which is accessible to the public, much of what it promotes is also relevant to private green spaces.



Our **vision** is
to create a **mosaic** of **quality**
green spaces which will be
cherished by this and future
generations



Aims and Objectives

Aims

for green space

Improving
quality, variety
and accessibility
of green space

Increasing the
wildlife value of
green spaces

Reducing
the impacts
of *climate*
change

More
community
use of green
spaces and
better community
health

Working with
partners
especially for
funding

Aim 1

Improving the quality, variety, and accessibility of all types of green space

"The North Park, I think that is a brilliant park and it's always used." Litherland and Ford focus group participant

"We just want them to be looked after." St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell focus group participant

Objectives

- 1.1 To improve the quality of green space in Sefton
- 1.2 To improve access to green space in Sefton and the role of green spaces as footpaths and cycle routes
- 1.3 To widen the variety of green space in Sefton and people's experience of this green space
- 1.4 To increase the amount of green space in areas of greatest deficiency, when opportunities arise**





Aim 2

Increasing community use of all green spaces and improving community health

"In a park it is ... nice. ...to see anybody and everybody." Crosby Area focus group participant.

"There is no point spending millions of pounds. You have got to get the security there first." St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell Area focus group participant.

"Investing in parks and green spaces should be seen as an investment in public health". National Heart Forum, 2007.

Objectives

- 2.1 To encourage more people to use a greater range of green spaces more often
- 2.2 To increase use of green spaces by children groups who don't use them much
- 2.3 To increase the use of green space by children, teenagers and young adults
- 2.4 To make people more aware of importance of green space to their health, well-being, and personal development
- 2.5 To encourage more community involvement in designing and caring for green space, and in training schemes



Aim 3

Making the most of the ways in which green space can help reduce the impacts of climate change

"There is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, if we take strong action now"
The Stern Review into Climate Change (2006)

"Green spaces, particularly those with trees and bushes, have been shown to reduce air temperatures in the local area around them quite significantly "
The Mersey Forest's Green Infrastructure Officer

Objectives

- 3.1 To make people more aware of the important contribution that green space makes in reducing the impacts of climate change
- 3.2 To increase the contribution of green space in Sefton to reducing the impacts of climate change
- 3.3 To increase tree cover in Sefton





Aim 4

Increasing the wildlife value of green spaces

“While looking after the biodiversity value of a site should not be seen as the cheap option, there are usually some ‘quick wins’ for biodiversity that are easy to do; such as changing mowing regimes to be more wildlife friendly”. North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager

“We have got plenty of nature areas around here. In the Pine Woods there are the famous red squirrels and loads of lovely walks that you can do. The Rimrose Valley country park has lots of wildlife and there are frogs and newts in the wetland.” Crosby focus group participant

Objectives

- 4.1 To make people more aware of the extent, importance and health benefits of wildlife and biodiversity to Sefton**
- 4.2 To make it easier for the community to get to wildlife sites and other green spaces with high wildlife value
- 4.3 To make the most of opportunities to create new wildlife sites and corridors and to increase the wildlife value of existing green spaces and corridors, especially those with low wildlife value
- 4.4 To encourage ‘best practice’ management of wildlife sites and resources, taking into account wildlife, site and network integrity, public access and other considerations



Aim 5

Working in partnership, especially to make the most of funding opportunities

Objectives

- 5.1 To strengthen and extend the partnership for green space in Sefton Council – especially with other organisations, voluntary groups and the wider community
- 5.2 To actively seek partners and promote a joint approach to proposals and funding, especially for priority projects
- 5.3 To make the most of available resources, e.g. sponsorship and encouraging volunteers



The Sefton public green space target

We looked at the amount, quality and accessibility of different types of green space in Sefton, and asked people what they thought of green space in Sefton:

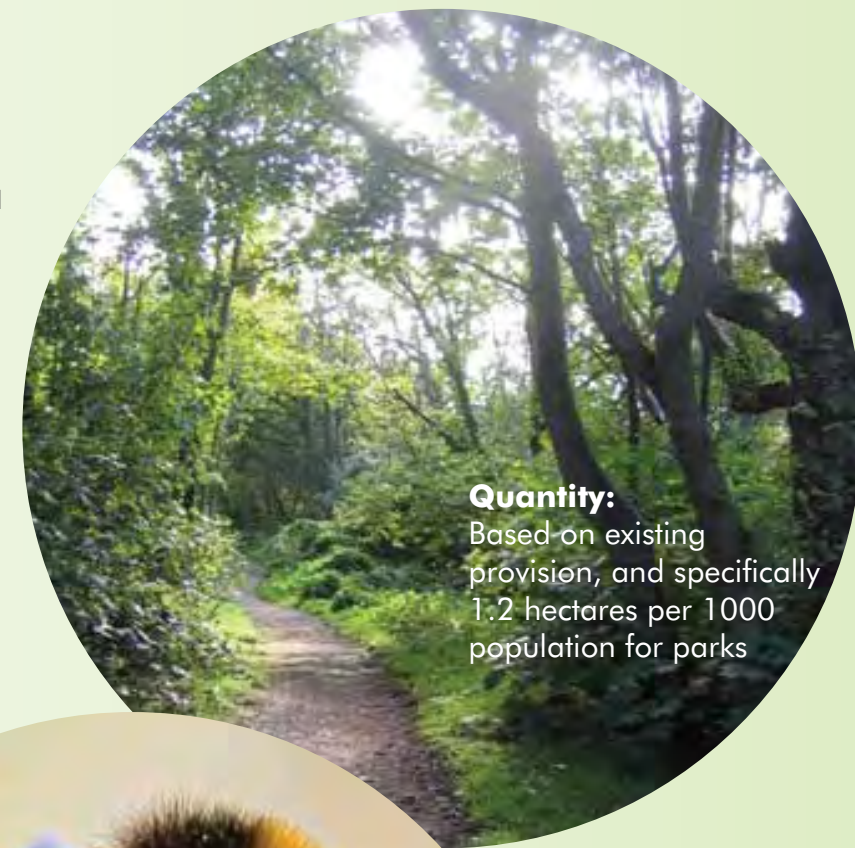
Quantity do we have enough green space?

Quality is it well maintained?

Accessibility is it easy to get to?

There is more information about this in the *Green Space and Recreation Study* on the web-page www.sefton.gov.uk/greenspacestrategy.

We used this information to come up with 3 sorts of targets for public green space provision for Sefton. These targets will help us to decide what the priorities are:



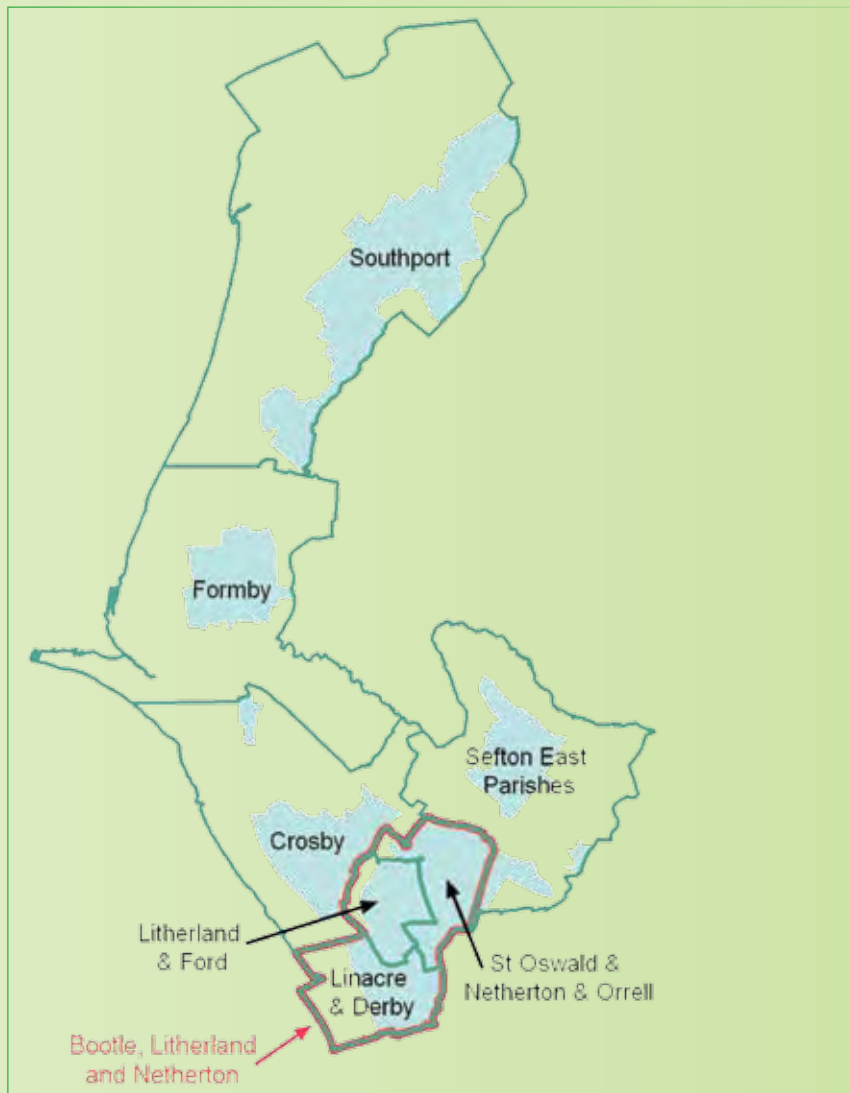
Quantity:
Based on existing provision, and specifically 1.2 hectares per 1000 population for parks



Accessibility:
Everyone to live within 15 to 20 minutes walk of a larger park or nature area



Quality:
Based on Green Flag criteria – national quality standards



At the moment the quantity, quality, and accessibility of green space varies quite a lot in different parts of Sefton. The figure below uses ‘traffic lights’ colours to indicate the general situation – including shortfalls - in each of Sefton’s 7 Area Committee areas. However, everyone must recognise that this is a generalised level and masks wide variations between individual green spaces and parts of each Area Committee area. More detailed information in the Green Space and Recreation strategy and other strategies such as the Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy is also relevant.

Area Committee area	Quantity	Accessibility	Quality	Variety
Crosby	●	■	■	▲
Formby	▲	■	●	▲
Linacre & Derby	■	▲	▲	■
Litherland & Ford	■	▲	▲	▲
Sefton East Parishes	■	■	▲	■
Southport	●	■	▲	▲
St Oswald, Netherton & Orrell	●	■	■	▲

Symbols:
 ● = above the target ▲ = around the target ■ = below the target

Key green space opportunities - Bootle, Litherland and Netherton

Rimrose Valley and canal are important green spaces, linking to rural and urban areas. Opportunities to increase their access, recreation and wildlife potential

Community Woodland - May be scope to extend area

Aintree Curve - Make the most of opportunities from development of adjacent site to improve proposed local nature reserve within green space area

Continued investment in Aintree racecourse

Key leisure projects in the Mersey Waterfront Regional Park programme: 'Another Place', Water Centre and Observatory

Green space opportunities at Poets Park, Litherland

Development of Coffee House Bridge sites near Bootle Town Centre, may provide green space opportunities

Proposed new canal-side park - green space opportunity

Development of 'Peoples' site may provide green space opportunities

Legend

- Area Committees
- Parks and pitches
- Accessible nature space
- Strategic paths
- Canal
- Children's play areas
- Green Flag sites
- Proposed Green Flag sites
- Allotments

Issues and Opportunities

- Proposed Strategic paths
- Highest priority parks improvement sites
- Potential green space opportunities
- Potential green space opportunities linked to development

Key green space opportunities - Crosby

Sefton coast is important green space especially for wildlife and recreation

Thornton - Pockets of deprivation and lack of local accessible green space

Lunt Meadows - Planning permission for flood storage basin and wetland not yet implemented - part of flood protection works

Blundellsands Key Park is an important private recreation and nature space










Key leisure projects in the Mersey Waterfront Regional park programme: 'Another Place', Water Centre and Observatory

Community Woodland - May be scope to extend area





Rimrose Valley and canal are important green spaces, linking to urban and rural areas. Potential for opportunities to increase their access, recreation and wildlife potential

Proposed strategic route link - canal to Water Centre

Legend

-  Crosby Area Committee
-  Parks and pitches
-  Accessible nature space
-  Strategic paths
-  Canal
-  Children's play areas
-  Green Flag sites
-  Proposed Green Flag sites
-  Allotments

Issues and Opportunities

-  Proposed Strategic paths
-  Highest priority parks improvement sites
-  Potential green space opportunities
-  Potential green space opportunities linked to development

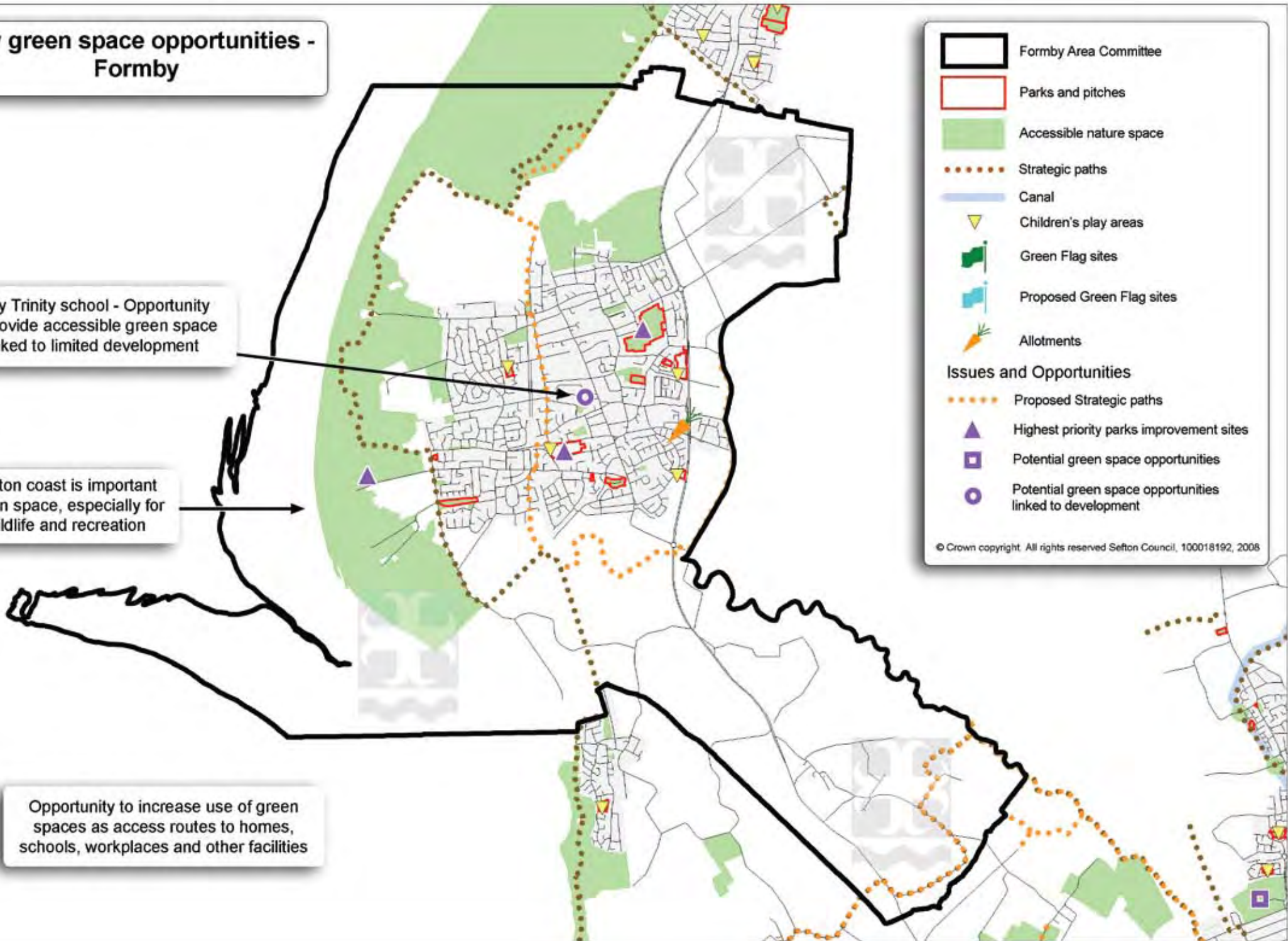
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Key green space opportunities - Formby

Holy Trinity school - Opportunity to provide accessible green space linked to limited development

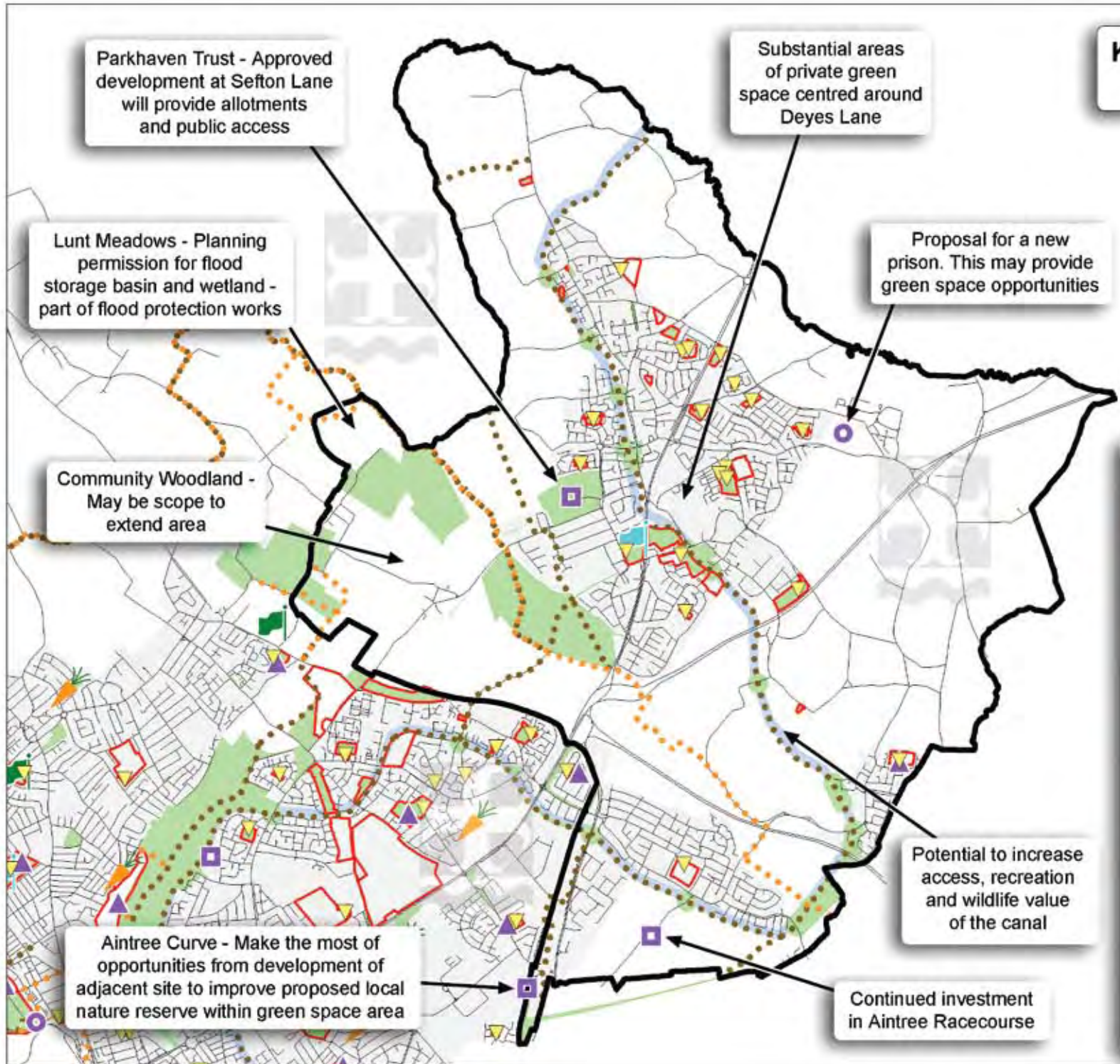
Sefton coast is important green space, especially for wildlife and recreation

Opportunity to increase use of green spaces as access routes to homes, schools, workplaces and other facilities



- Formby Area Committee
 - Parks and pitches
 - Accessible nature space
 - Strategic paths
 - Canal
 - Children's play areas
 - Green Flag sites
 - Proposed Green Flag sites
 - Allotments
- Issues and Opportunities**
- Proposed Strategic paths
 - Highest priority parks improvement sites
 - Potential green space opportunities
 - Potential green space opportunities linked to development
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Key green space opportunities - Sefton East Parishes



Legend

- Sefton East Parishes Area Committee
- Parks and pitches
- Accessible nature space
- Strategic paths
- Canal
- Children's play areas
- Green Flag sites
- Proposed Green Flag sites
- Allotments

Issues and Opportunities

- Proposed Strategic paths
- Highest priority parks improvement sites
- Potential green space opportunities
- Potential green space opportunities linked to development

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Key green space opportunities - Southport

Development of the 'classic resort' in accordance with Southport Investment Strategy may provide green space opportunities

Further development potential in Seafront and Marine Park, which may provide green space opportunities

Sefton coast is important green space, especially for wildlife and recreation

Development sites at Town Lane may provide green space opportunities

Green space opportunities at 'Newlands', Town Lane

Legend:

- Southport Area Committee
- Parks and pitches
- Accessible nature space
- Strategic paths
- Canal
- Children's play areas
- Green Flag sites
- Proposed Green Flag sites
- Allotments

Issues and Opportunities

- Proposed Strategic paths
- Highest priority parks improvement sites
- Potential green space opportunities
- Potential green space opportunities linked to development

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Case Study – Derby Park, Bootle

Improving parks and green spaces is rarely straightforward.

A steering group put together a proposal for funding of £2m for improvements to Derby Park, mainly from the Heritage Lottery Fund. However this bid was not successful.

An alternative proposal was assembled comprising £300,000 Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF) funding, £100,000 Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) funding, and £250,000 from the Council. A further £100,000 came from the Sefton Children's Fund, the Linacre and Derby Area Committee and money which was available as a result of development in the area.

Detailed consultation was held with the community about what type of play area should be provided. The consultation proved to be very effective and the preferred play area, which was completed in spring 2007, attracted wide support.

To date, other works completed include the replacement of the three sets of steps and a ramp and the refurbishment of the old bridge and entrance pillars. On-going works include the refurbishment of other historic features including a drinking fountain, ship's mast and memorial statue. There is still much to do, but significant progress has been made.

Derby Park has been entered for the Green Flag award in 2009.



Case study – Litherland Sports Park



Litherland Sports Park (LSP) began as a project to improve school sports facilities and a home for an athletics track. The old Moss Lane playing fields, which had become a hub of anti-social behaviour, has been transformed into a multi-million pound sports and health complex, with a massive positive impact on the local community, drawing on 10 funding streams & partners.

LSP is one of the first and most innovative schemes in the country, housing cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation NHS services, which were relocated from Aintree Hospital. It is home to more than 25 sports clubs and a sports venue for over 30 schools, as well as a real driving force for economic and social regeneration in the area.

It is also an operational base for a multi-disciplinary team of development staff, with responsibilities for the many sport, physical activity and educational development programmes, which are engaging the entire community. At its opening, Richard Caborn, MP, said: “The Litherland Sports Park is an excellent example of how good partnership working can help provide a range of local services that will improve the quality of lives of local people.”

The community of south Sefton has benefited by the regeneration of derelict playing fields, the provision of jobs and training, improvements in basic health and educational achievements, a reduction in anti-social behaviour and fear of crime and the creation of a range of new clubs and activity programmes.

Litherland Sports Park was one of the three national finalists under the ‘Best sport project’ category of the National Lottery Awards 2007.

Case study - Sefton's Green Gym

There is more to some types of green space than meets the eye.

The Green Gym is based at the Queensway allotment site in Waterloo. It offers people of all ages and abilities the chance to learn new skills through growing organic produce, meet new people and improve their health, and benefit the environment at the same time.

Going to gyms and sports centres doesn't appeal to everyone. The Green Gym is a great alternative offering a regular programme of outdoor sessions. Increasing physical activity and being outside in green space also has proven benefits for mental health, helping to reduce stress and overcome depression.

The group has attracted a wide range of participants from local school children to people new to the area from different cultures and countries.

Originally, the Green Gym was set-up through a partnership between the charity BTCV, Sefton PCT and Sefton Council. The scheme provided training and guidance with the aim of establishing a group of volunteers to take over the running of the group. Just over two years later and the Green Gym has gone independent.

Linda Evans, Health Promotion Specialist for Sefton PCT, noted: "The success of the Green Gym has been entirely due to the volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time and energy into making the project sustainable".

Committee member, Carol Clarke, commented "I started coming to the Green Gym a couple of years ago and quickly got hooked! It helped me cope with the pressures we all face in our daily lives. I've felt a lot healthier from doing more physical activity".

The local community have benefited too by having thriving use of green space sites instead of run down derelict areas within their community.

Sefton's Green Gym has won a prestigious award, naming it the best project of its kind in the North of England.



Case study: Sefton Biodiversity and Access Project



Much of the Sefton Coast is of national and international nature value. Sefton's Coast and Countryside Service - led by the estate and workshop teams - has established a truly inclusive programme based on the Sefton Coast. This is called the Biodiversity and Access Project (BAP).

The project has created numerous training, work experience and job opportunities for some of the most vulnerable, socially excluded and difficult to engage members of our community. The project works in true partnership with Social Services, Children's Services, Sefton Drug Action Team, Sefton Youth Offending Team, the Sefton Intermediate Labour Market Team, Positive Futures and others.

Adults with learning disabilities and autism, young people at risk of or excluded from mainstream education (looked after children, young people from local Pupil Referral Units and the Behavioural Improvement Programme, youth offenders and individual referrals from other agencies), unemployed adults looking to find permanent employment and volunteers take part in the very real work activities (no simulated activities undertaken) on offer by the BAP.

Projects include small and large environmental, landscaping and conservation projects in coast and countryside areas including access (e.g. boardwalks) for all trails, a squirrel trail and timber countryside products (from bird-feeders to signs, picnic benches and boardwalks) using trees felled as part of woodland works. Sefton is the only Local Authority in the north west to achieve UKWAS Standard Woodland Certification for the sustainable management of woodlands.

Participants receive formal training in all aspects of the work being undertaken and gain the very real benefit of working with other groups of people, gaining excellent work ethics and a great sense of enjoyment and achievement.

The Mersey Forest part - funded new equipment for the workshop and estate teams.

Case study: St Luke's church grounds, Crosby

St Luke's church grounds are a 2 hectare green space in the centre of Crosby. In December 2006 the church decided to apply for Big Lottery funding to improve its grounds as part of the BBC's Breathing Places initiative. A question on the application form stopped it in its tracks: 'How do you know the local community want this project?'

A discussion started with local schools, traders, the history group and the North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager. This helped to shape the bid for a community garden and more accessible paths within the graveyard. The enthusiasm generated enabled planting to go ahead along the graveyard boundary before the church heard its bid for £10,000 was successful.

What was most surprising was the number of organisations who wanted to be involved, either helping with the planting, or funding further parts of the project. School groups have planted ornamental hedging and a wildflower meadow; the Pram Club has planted a border with summer bedding and the Guides have planted bulbs. Sefton Council has provided summer bedding and bulbs to support its entry in 'Crosby in Bloom'.

The Mersey Basin Campaign supported activities held during Mersey Basin week, and The Mersey Forest contributed to the cost of a wildlife activity morning during which trees were planted and bird boxes and hedgehog homes were made.

Biobank (a Merseyside biological recording centre) is working with local teachers to enable school groups to use the grounds as an outdoors classroom – one school has decided to run a conservation club in the grounds every month. Work parties to manage the grounds take place on Saturday mornings, once a month, and are advertised in the Crosby Herald.

Once things started there was no end of advice and support. In summer 2008, 18 months into the project, St Luke's grounds were awarded the Green Pennant award. This is a national quality standard for green spaces looked after by community and voluntary groups, and is equivalent to the Green Flag award for parks.



Case Study – King’s Gardens, Southport




The King’s Gardens are nationally recognised as a Historic Park and Garden, and form an important feature within the Seafront area of Southport Classic Resort, providing an important community resource. However, refurbishment, repair and restoration is now needed to restore the park to its full glory and protect it as a community resource for future generations.

Through the King’s Gardens Steering Group, Sefton Council is working with a number of partners including Active Sefton, Southport Cycle Town, Southport Eco Centre, Visit Southport, Southport In Bloom, The Flower Show, Sefton CVS and the Community Empowerment Network as well as volunteer groups to set out a vision for the future of King’s Gardens. The King’s Gardens Steering Group has carried out extensive consultation and has submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to make this restoration vision real.

A wide range of people will be encouraged to use King’s Gardens, through the Active Sefton initiative which is a partnership between Sefton Council, NHS Sefton and the voluntary and community sector. The aim is to include King’s Gardens within the Every Step Counts programme of guided walks, Cycling for Health, the Free and Active school holiday programme for children, Active Kids, Active Workforce and Positive Futures (a national project supported locally by Leisure Services, the Drug Action Team, Children’s Services and NHS Sefton).

The King’s Gardens proposals also include opportunities for volunteering, training and personal development, working in partnership with Myerscough College to train workers and volunteers in horticulture skills.

It is also proposed to improve play opportunities, improve access in and around the gardens for all visitors and improve security and safety. All this work will result not only in restoring and maintaining historic features to provide an attractive place for people to visit, but will provide a much-needed resource for the local community and ensure a long term future for the gardens!

The background of the page is a photograph of a grassy field. The foreground is filled with bright green grass, while the background is a dark, shadowed area, possibly under a tree or a large structure, with some white, possibly snow or light-colored ground, visible in the upper center.

Action Plan

The Action Plan mainly draws together actions in existing plans and strategies which the green space partners are committed to and responsible for.

A Green Space Strategy Steering Group will meet every six months to review progress with schemes in the Action Plan and look at specific projects. The main role of the Steering Group will be to encourage partners to share good practice and information and to identify opportunities for working together. See also the Green Space Strategy web-page at, www.sefton.gov.uk/greenspacestrategy which includes further, more detailed and background information.

Action Plan

Aim 1 - Improving the quality, variety, and accessibility of all types of green space

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Achieve at least one Green Flag or Green Pennant award in each Area Committee area.	Sefton Council Leisure Town and Parish Councils 'Friends of Parks' groups	Two new awards per year across Sefton	Sefton Council Town and Parish Councils Other – various
Target resources towards improving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks and nature reserve quality, and achieving Green Flag status; • Priority 1* sites in the Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy; • the green space priorities in the Southport Investment Strategy. 	Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Tourism Sefton Council Planning Developers 'Friends of Parks' groups Other partners who manage green space	On-going - see strategies mentioned for dates of specific schemes	Sefton Council Developers Play Partnership Big Lottery Other – various
Improve the network of green space links from home to schools, workplace, shops and services, both on foot and by bike, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sefton Coastal Path, e.g. Hightown - Formby - Ainsdale cycle routes; • North Moss Lane, Formby; • Southport Cycling Town schemes, e.g., Newlands, Fine Jane's Brook, King's and Seafront Gardens network links; • Within Housing Market Renewal Area, e.g. to new canalside park, South Park; • Access and linkages to canal towpath, e.g. between Canal & Rimrose Valley and Crosby Watersports Centre. 	Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure Housing Market Renewal Team Schools (Green Travel Plans) British Waterways Southport Partnership	On-going	Merseyside Local Transport Plan, Cycling England (Southport Cycling Town) Other - various
Improve opportunities for play e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural play; • Adventurous play (e.g. Skateboard parks); • Play for different age groups and abilities; • Implement Play Strategy. 	Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Children's Services Play Sefton Active Kids Other voluntary groups Southport Partnership	On-going	Sefton Council Big Lottery Playbuilder Developers Other - various

Action Plan

Aim 1 - Improving the quality, variety, and accessibility of all types of green space

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Provide new allotments at Parkhaven Trust site, Sefton Lane, Maghull.	Parkhaven Trust Sefton Council Leisure	By end of 2010	Parkhaven Trust
Secure higher quality green spaces in Housing Market Renewal Initiative areas, e.g.: • New canalside park, Hawthorne Rd; • Poets Park, Bootle; • Former People's site, Bootle.	Housing Market Renewal Team Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure Developers	On-going	Housing Market Renewal Sefton Council Developers
Develop proposals to restore King's Gardens, Southport.	Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Tourism Sefton Council Planning Kings Gardens Steering Group Stakeholders linked to Southport Partnership	March 2009 to Nov 2014	Sefton Council Heritage Lottery Developers
Implement the 'Green space, Trees and Development' Supplementary Planning Document.	Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure Developers Other green space managers	On-going	Developers
Prepare and implement the Play Facilities strategy.	Play Sefton Sefton Council Children's Services Sefton Council Leisure	By end of 2011.	Sefton Council Play Partnership Big Lottery Other - various
Prepare and implement an Allotments strategy.	Sefton Council Leisure Allotments Associations	By end of 2011	Sefton Council Other - various



Green Space Strategy for Sefton

Action Plan

Aim 2 - Increasing community use of all green spaces and improving community health

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
<p>Support existing initiatives to increase use of green space across the community, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided walks and other promotions, e.g. 'Walking for Health', 'doorstep' footpath walks, Merseyrail 'Walking by train' booklets, Ranger service events; • 'People in Parks' initiative, e.g. increased role for 'Friends of Parks' groups, new 'Friends of' groups. 	<p>Sefton Council Leisure NHS Sefton Merseytravel 'Friends of' groups Youth groups Other voluntary and community groups</p>	<p>On-going, <i>plus</i> 1 new doorstep footpath walk per year</p>	<p>Sefton Council NHS Sefton Merseyrail Other – various</p>
<p>Develop an effective site management presence for all Council green spaces to encourage greater community use, e.g. Rangers.</p>	<p>Sefton Council Leisure</p>	<p>Phased from July 2009.</p>	<p>Sefton Council</p>
<p>Improve participation in outdoor play, especially among groups and areas with lower usage, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playin' Out initiative; • Wild About Play; • Play bus or play workers. 	<p>Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Children's Services Play Sefton Active Kids Ykids Other voluntary groups</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Council NHS Sefton Big Lottery Playbuilder Developers Other - various</p>
<p>To work with Young Advisors to look at ways to increase the use of green space by teenagers and young adults, especially amongst those groups who tend to participate least.</p>	<p>Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Children's Services Sefton CVS Young Advisors</p>	<p>Working relationship by autumn 2009</p>	<p>Sefton Council Other - various</p>
<p>Advise those implementing schemes of the need to make sure that no groups within the community are disadvantaged.</p>	<p>Sefton Equalities Partnership All partners</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Equalities Partnership Other - various</p>
<p>Support initiatives targeting children and young people which make the most of the health, recreation, skills and personal development opportunities offered by green space, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and 'extended schools' based sports, leisure, wildlife, food production and other activities; • Local sports clubs e.g. juniors' football. 	<p>Sefton Council Children's Services Schools 'Extended schools' initiative and out of hours providers Sports Development Officers Local sports clubs</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Council NHS Sefton Other - various</p>

Action Plan

Aim 2 - Increasing community use of all green spaces and improving community health

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Develop the 'Positive Futures' initiative locally in Sefton, encouraging children and young people at risk of social exclusion to take part in sports and leisure activities.	Sefton Council Leisure Services Sefton Council Children's Services Sefton Drug Action Team NHS Sefton	On-going	Sefton Council NHS Sefton Other - various
Work with the Sefton Borough Partnership Safer and Stronger Communities Thematic Group to improve safety and security of green spaces.	Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Community Safety Sefton Borough Partnership Safer & Stronger Communities Thematic Group	On-going	Sefton Council 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener'
Promote health initiatives which increase use of green space, e.g.: • 'Every Step Counts', 'Walking the Way to Health' and 'Cycling for Health' initiatives; • Healthy Schools Initiative; • Green Gyms (allotments).	NHS Sefton Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Children's Services Sefton Council Adult Services British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	On-going	NHS Sefton Sefton Council Big Lottery Other - various
Promote initiatives which include community involvement, training and personal development, based on green spaces, e.g.: • Sefton Coast Biodiversity & Access Project; • 'Friends of' Groups; • Green Gyms (allotments).	Sefton Council Leisure NHS Sefton Voluntary and community groups	On-going	Sefton Council NHS Sefton Working Neighbourhoods Heritage Lottery Other - various



Action Plan

Aim 3 - Making the most of the ways in which green space can help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
<p>Provide advice showing how public and private green spaces (e.g. gardens, schools, small businesses) can be managed to help to reduce the impact of climate change;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •encouraging retention of green and soft surfaces rather than paving or hard surfaces; •encouraging tree planting to reduce air temperatures or provide shade or shelter. 	<p>Sefton Council Planning The Mersey Forest Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service</p>	<p>Agree timescale by July 2009 for preparation by March 2011.</p>	<p>Sefton Council Other - various</p>
<p>Make sure that new development in Sefton contributes to reducing the impact of climate change through planting and green space within sites and for the wider area, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree and other planting; • Green space as means to manage flood risk; • Through innovative schemes e.g. 'green roofs'. 	<p>Sefton Council Planning Developers</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Council Developers</p>
<p>Ensure all new planting schemes in Sefton take account of climate change (e.g. in their design, choice of species, proposed management regime).</p>	<p>Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Planning Developers</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Council Developers</p>
<p>Make the most of links between the Green Space Strategy and the Sefton Borough Partnership (SBP) Climate Change Action Plan.</p>	<p>SBP Economic Development & Sustainability Thematic Group</p>	<p>Local Area Agreement NI 188 targets, e.g. Level 3 by 2010/11</p>	<p>SBP Economic Development and Sustainability Thematic Group</p>
<p>Make the most of links between the Green Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure in the North West and the work of 4NW, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NW Coastal Trail 	<p>Sefton Council Planning Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service The Mersey Forest</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sefton Council The Mersey Forest 4NW</p>

Action Plan

Aim 3 - Making the most of the ways in which green space can help reduce the impacts of climate change.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
<p>Support green space schemes which yield local produce – reducing carbon emissions and the need for travel e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and community based food production; • Allotments and Green Gym initiatives; • Use of local timber for products, e.g. seats and signs on the Sefton Coast, wood chips as mulch. 	<p>Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Primary Care Trust Schools The Mersey Forest</p>	On-going	<p>Sefton Council NHS Sefton Schools Other - various</p>
<p>Develop initiatives which increase the numbers of trees in urban areas, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green Streets' and other Mersey Forest initiatives; • New tree plating in relation to development; • Street Tree Strategy for Sefton. 	<p>Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure The Mersey Forest Other green space managers</p>	On-going	<p>Sefton Council The Mersey Forest Other - various</p>
<p>Develop and maintain initiatives which increase tree cover in urban fringe and rural areas, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mersey Forest and Forestry Commission initiatives, e.g. Newlands; south of Maghull; • Mersey Waterfront Regional Park; • Sefton Coast Woodlands Forest Plan; • others; e.g. Woodland Trust, Lancashire Wildlife Trust. 	<p>Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure The Mersey Forest Forestry Commission Mersey Waterfront Regional Park Sefton Coast Partnership</p>	On-going	<p>The Mersey Forest Forestry Commission Other - various</p>



Action Plan

Aim 4 - Increasing the wildlife value of green spaces.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Provide advice showing how public and private green spaces (e.g. gardens, schools, small businesses) can be managed to enhance their wildlife value.	Sefton Council Planning North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS)	Preparation by April 2011.	Sefton Council Other - various
Increase corporate awareness within the Council and for partners of the legal duty to consider biodiversity, e.g. leaflet showing how different parts of Council can affect this.	North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure All other Sefton Council departments	On-going	Sefton Council
Prepare guidance for developers about creating and managing habitats, to make sure that new development contributes to improving wildlife quality, and the extent of wildlife sites and corridors, in Sefton.	Sefton Council Planning North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager MEAS Developers	Draft guidance prepared by mid 2009. Implementation – on-going	Sefton Council Developers
Promote the North Merseyside Biodiversity Action Plan for Urban Green Infrastructure	Green Space Strategy Steering Group	On-going	Partners
Make the most of links between the Green Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure in the North West	Sefton Council Planning MEAS The Mersey Forest	On-going	Sefton Council The Mersey Forest
Create publicly accessible nature space within school grounds as part of the 'Extended Schools' initiative.	Sefton Council Children's Services North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Schools	On-going	Sefton Council Other – various
Discuss the potential and timescales for planting trees and wildflower meadows on key highway verges.	Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure Highways Agency North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Parish and Town Councils	Implement priority schemes in 2009/2010	Sefton Council Other partners Developers

Action Plan
Aim 4 - Increasing the wildlife value of green spaces.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Give greater prominence to wildlife within partners' existing green space and site maintenance contracts, and make sure that this is clearly specified in the next 'round' of contracts.	North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Sefton Council Leisure Sefton Council Highways Other Sefton Council departments OneVision Housing Parish and Town Councils	Existing contracts- actions agreed by July 2009	Sefton Council Other partners
Strengthen partnerships with individuals, groups and organisations who are keen to promote wildlife in Sefton.	Green Space Strategy Steering Group National Trust Lancashire Wildlife Trust	On-going	Partners
Make the most of opportunities to create new wildlife sites and corridors and to increase the wildlife value of existing green spaces and corridors, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal sites or community Woodlands • Enhancements to existing green spaces; • Along transport corridors & at 'gateway' sites; • Along new footpath or cycle routes. 	Sefton Council Planning Sefton Council Leisure The Mersey Forest Forestry Commission Housing Market Renewal Team Sefton Coast Partnership Other green space managers	On-going	Partners
Encourage the achievement of Green Flag or Green Pennant awards for wildlife sites, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal sites or Community Woodlands • Sites managed by voluntary groups. 	Sefton Council Leisure North Merseyside Biodiversity Manager Voluntary or community groups	One new award every 2 years	Sefton Council Other – various
Encourage 'best practice' management of wildlife sites and resources, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising the importance of safeguarding the integrity of nationally and internationally important wildlife sites; • Preparing and implementing management plans. 	Green Space Strategy Steering Group Other partners	On-going	Partners



Action Plan

Aim 5 - Working in partnership, especially to make the most of funding opportunities.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
Establish a Steering Group to coordinate the implementation of the Green Space Strategy and Action Plan.	Green Space Strategy Steering Group Other potential partners	On-going	Sefton Council Other partners
Investigate scope for drawing more partners in to established initiatives, e.g.: • Sefton in Bloom.	Sefton Council Leisure Parish and Town Councils Voluntary and community groups Major urban landowners Sponsors One Vision Housing	September 2009	Sefton Council and partner Other - various
Identify the scope for joint initiatives with parish councils and other managers of green space	Green Space Strategy Steering Group Parish and Town Councils Other green space managers	Contacts and initial suggestions by July 2009	Sefton Council Parish and Town Councils One Vision Housing Other – various
Consolidate and extend existing partnerships, e.g. through meetings, newsletters, regular information exchange.	Green Space Strategy Steering Group Sefton Council Parish and Town Councils Play Sefton Sefton CVS Sefton Borough Partnership Other voluntary and community groups	On-going	Partners New partners Other - various
Identify priority projects in each year and focus on identifying and drawing in all potential partners and funding.	Green Space Strategy Steering Group Parish and Town Councils Play Sefton YKids Other voluntary and community groups	On-going	Sefton Council Partners Developers Other - various

Action Plan

Aim 5 - Working in partnership, especially to make the most of funding opportunities.

Action	Key Partners	Timescale	Funding
<p>Make the most of opportunities to link funding from different sources to achieve individual projects, e.g. :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parks and nature reserve quality, and achieving Green Flag status; • Priority 1* sites in the Parks and Green Spaces Asset Management Strategy; • the green space priorities in the Southport Investment Strategy. 	<p>Sefton Council Green Space Strategy Steering Group Other partners</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Various</p>
<p>To make the most of available resources, e.g. sponsorship and encouraging volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of volunteers, and partnership with voluntary and community organisations; • Review of fees and charges for use of green spaces, e.g. parks, pitches, allotments, water spaces; • Sponsorship for planting or spaces, e.g. highway verges and roundabouts; • Sponsorship of events; • 'Concessions' (e.g. cafes, boating); • Private sector funding or partnerships. 		<p>On-going</p>	<p>Sponsors and users Various</p>



This Green Space Strategy has been prepared by the following partners:

- Sefton Council - Planning, Technical Services (now part of Planning), Leisure and Children's Services Depts, Community Safety team
- Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
- NHS Sefton (formerly Sefton Primary Care Trust)
Sefton Area Partnership of Local Councils (the '10 Parishes')
- One Vision Housing
- Sefton Council for Voluntary Services, including 'Transform' (network of environmental organisations in Sefton)
- The Mersey Forest

These partners were helped by a representative from CABE Space, a government agency set up to champion green spaces and their potential contribution to our communities.

The Green Space Strategy was approved by Sefton Council on 23 October 2008, and was published in April 2009.

See also the Green Space Strategy web-page at www.sefton.gov.uk/greenspacestrategy which includes further, more detailed and background information.





Green Space Strategy for Sefton

