



CLARENCE PARK

GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN, 2021 - 2026

BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Produced by:



On behalf of:



CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Background.....	3
3. Review of Progress.....	5
4. Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2021-2026	6
5. Community Engagement and Plan Production Process	8
6. Stakeholder Feedback.....	10

1. INTRODUCTION

A new five year Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) is being produced for Clarence Park in St Albans. This briefing document provides an overview of how the GAP will be produced and sets out how stakeholders can contribute to shaping the plan.

GAPs are essentially map-based management plans that provide focus and direction for the running and improvement of open spaces. They provide a clear, logical process to determine the activities that should take place over a stated period of time to achieve the objectives for the site.

The GAP is being produced by the Countryside Management Service (CMS), part of Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside and Rights of Way Service, on behalf of and in partnership with St Albans City & District Council. The completed document will inform the management actions to be undertaken over the next five years, commencing in April 2021.

Engaging communities is integral to the production of GAPs, to ensure that stakeholders are fully aware of and able to interact with the plan production process. This briefing document initiates and supports this community engagement.

The engagement period will run from **24th August to 5th October 2020**. A further engagement period later in the year will provide an opportunity to assess the draft version of the GAP. Please use the contact details in Section 6 to comment on the aspirations for the site.

This document has been broken down into the following sections:

Section 2 provides an overview of the site and location map.

Section 3 reviews recent management of the site.

Section 4 contains the core objectives for the Clarence Park GAP.

Section 5 summarises the public engagement methodology, setting out how and when stakeholders can contribute to the plan.

2. BACKGROUND

Clarence Park is a Victorian park on the eastern side of St Albans. It is located within a residential area, but is a short walk from nearby shops and businesses, the city centre and the train station.

As is typical of Victorian parks, it has a focus on both organised sport and on ornamental horticulture. It is clearly divided into the 'Recreation Ground' and 'Formal Park' to meet these two purposes.

The Recreation Ground has public toilets, car parking, a sensory garden and the following sports facilities:

- Cricket Pavilion, cricket square and all-weather nets
- Croquet Lawn
- Artificial Turf Pitch (for sports including hockey and tennis)
- Bowls Green and Clubhouse
- Football Pitch (St Albans City Football Club)

The Formal Park has ornamental shrub beds, open grass areas, a play area, fitness equipment, a bandstand, historic water fountain and is the location of Verdi's restaurant.

Clarence Park Greenspace Action Plan Site Description

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Amenity Grass
- Sports Pitch
- Tree Cover
- Wildflowers
- Hedgerow
- Shrub Bed
- Bulbs
- Tree
- Bench
- Picnic Bench
- Play Equipment
- Stone Surface
- Sealed Surface Path
- Hardstanding
- Road
- Building
- Tenanted Land
- Stadium Terrace
- Fence
- Gate
- Litter Bin
- Sign
- Bollard



Scale @ A3
1:1500
Date
July 2020
Rev.
00



© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 OS EUL 100019606. Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS

The previous Greenspace Action Plan for Clarence Park ran from 2015 until 2019. It was extended to cover the period until March 2021 after which the new plan will commence.

During this management plan a number of improvements were made, including:

- Replanting of rose and shrub beds
- Tree planting
- Improvements to the steps and ramp from Hatfield Road
- Replacement of fitness equipment in the Formal Park
- Resurfacing of paths

4. GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN (GAP) 2021-2026

The Clarence Park GAP 2021-26 will be a simple, easy to read plan for use by officers of St Albans City & District Council and members of the public, and will act as a guide to the work of volunteers. The plan will be largely map based, with sequential, annual management maps to show the actions planned for each year. The resulting change will be represented on the map for the following year. The document will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

The plan will be costed and potential funding sources identified. Once the final GAP is agreed, external funding will be sought to enable the plan to be delivered.

The aim and objectives of the GAP will be as follows:

A. Ensure the park is clean and well maintained

- A1 Regularly review grounds maintenance procedures to ensure these meet requirements
- A2 Monitor grounds maintenance contract to ensure continued implementation to a high standard
- A3 Maintain Green Flag Award status
- A4 Ensure structures and park furniture are in a good condition and that their appearance is in keeping with the park
- A5 Work with licensees and regular users to ensure all buildings remain in a safe, serviceable and attractive condition

B. Promote a healthy, safe and secure park

- B1 Ensure visitors feel safe and secure in all areas of the park
- B2 Encourage increased participation in sports and physical activities across all demographics
- B3 Maximise accessible routes and access to as many areas and facilities in the park as possible

C. Maintain a high quality provision of sport

- C1 Work with sports clubs and park users to identify opportunities for growth in participation and provision of sport
- C2 Improve and upgrade existing facilities as required

C3 Provide new facilities where a need or opportunity is identified

D. Protect and promote the heritage of the park

D1 Engage visitors with a range of events and activities

D2 Implement soft landscaping that is appropriate to the historical context

D3 Maintain the built environment and encourage wider usage to ensure their sustainable operation

D4 Develop a welcoming, informative and engaging scheme of interpretation

E. Actively involve the community in decision making, activities and enhancements

E1 Develop a range of events and activities to encourage wider public enjoyment and participation

E2 Continue to update and engage the Consultative Forum

E3 Explore options and resolve licence requirements for the establishment of a social enterprise in the pavilion

F. Conserve habitats, improve biodiversity and promote sustainable activities

F1 Maintain existing wildflower areas and identify further opportunities for planting for pollinators

F2 Appropriately manage existing trees, with new planting to ensure trees of various ages and species that are robust against biosecurity challenges and climate change

F3 Utilise any opportunities to reuse generated by-products arising from site

F4 Use sustainable products wherever possible

G. Explore funding options for longer term enhancements

G1 Explore funding opportunities to enable the expansion of or improvements to existing sports facilities

G2 Develop a longer term vision that will form the basis of funding applications

G3 Identify and work with external organisations to collaborate on projects that enhance the experience of park visitors.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLAN PRODUCTION PROCESS

Effective community engagement is at the centre of successful management plans. The value of a GAP is maximised when it incorporates and balances the aspirations of stakeholders and interest groups.

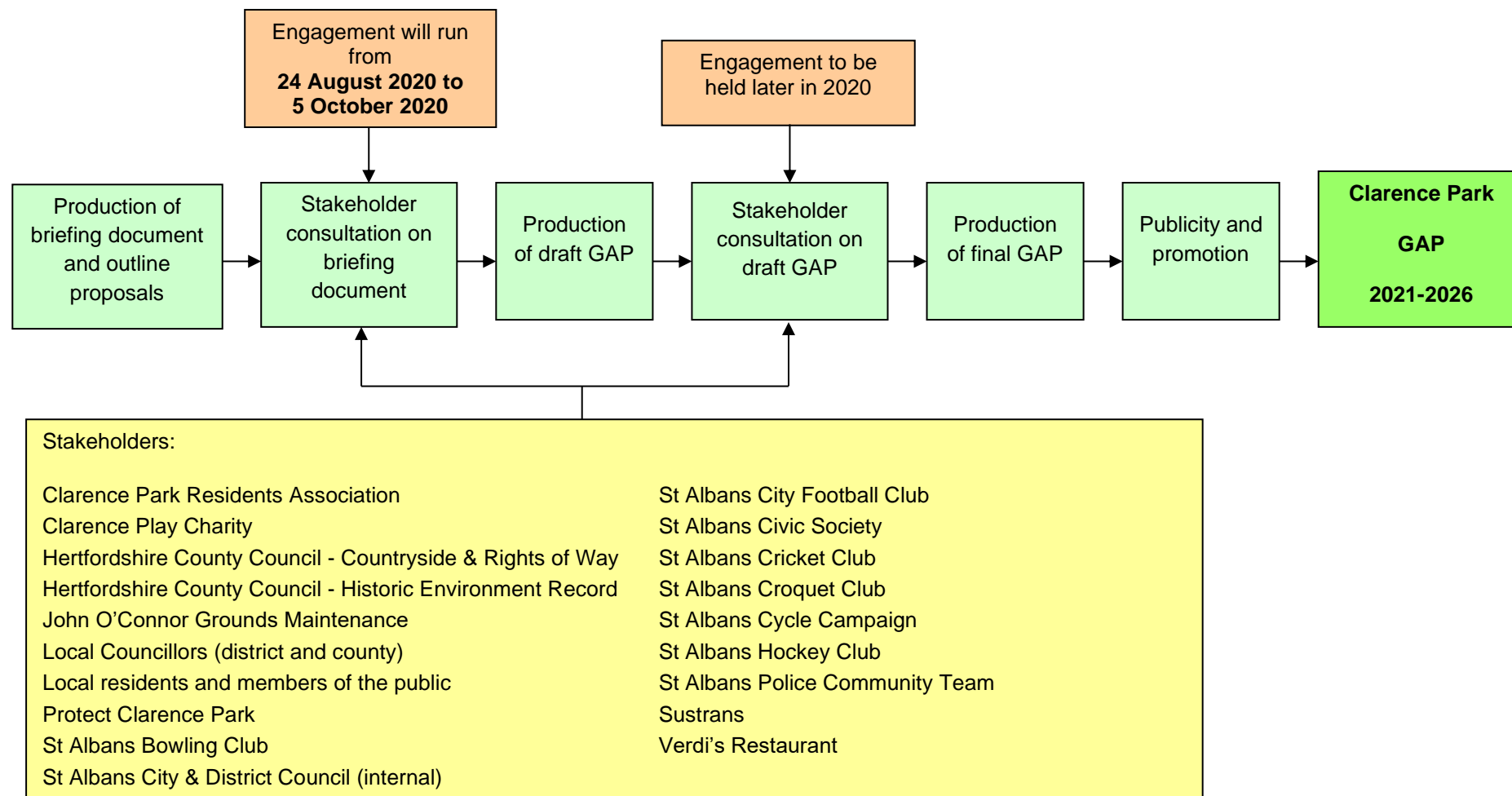
In order to provide all interested stakeholders and groups with the opportunity to feed into the production of the new GAP, we have adopted a structured two-stage approach to community engagement.

- For the first stage (this briefing document), stakeholders and site users will be invited to make comment on the core aspirations in Section 4; it is hoped that any further aspirations and/or issues will be identified through this information gathering process. This first stage of community engagement will run between **Monday 24th August and Monday 5th October 2020**.
- For the second stage, stakeholders and site users will be invited to read through and make comment on the draft GAP, which will include the detailed proposals and actions. This stage will be run later in the year and publicised through on-site notices and online.

Following the second stage exercise, the final document will be produced, published and the actions will commence.

Please be aware that we will not respond individually to comments received through the public engagements; instead, we will produce a summary of comments, noting any amendments made to the plan as a result. This engagement response document will be published online alongside the briefing document, draft plan and final plan. We will retain contact details only for the purpose of keeping respondents informed about the plan development process.

The following diagram shows the Greenspace Action Plan production process:



6. STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. We are keen to receive feedback from you on our proposals for the Clarence Park Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2021-2026.

Please return your comments using the contact details below by **Monday 5th October** at the latest.

FAO Gregory Ault

Countryside & Rights of Way Service
Hertfordshire County Council
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DN

E-mail: Gregory.ault@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01992 556725