

# Response to Judges Feedback Report 2009

Name of site: Hinkler Green Park  
Name of managing authority: Southampton City Council

## **Desk Assessment:**

### **Presentation**

***Strength; Easy to read, well presented plan with clear objectives***

***Recommendation; Council objectives are clearly identified, however partners are not so clear***

Action; Separate section given to Friends group detailing their objectives

### **Health, safety and security**

***Strength; Good procedures in place for both public and staff safety***

***Recommendation; None***

Action; Various improvements planned including new cycle-walkway, circular path and planting / knee rails to further restrict vehicle access

### **Maintenance of equipment, buildings and landscape**

***Strength; Good maintenance programmes for both MUGA, skate area and play area***

***Recommendation; May be useful to include some key quality standards***

Action; A section of service standards has been added to the management plan (see section 1.6).

### **Litter, cleanliness, vandalism**

***Strength; Good procedures in place for litter, vandalism and graffiti***

***Recommendation; None***

Action; Rapid response to graffiti and vandalism since May 2009 has radically reduced problems

### **Environmental sustainability**

***Strength; Good aspirations in place***

***Recommendation; Need to consider full range of sustainable options i.e. utilities, recycling, products used, and peat***

Action; Mulching on site now implemented therefore reducing the need for pesticides. Products carefully vetted for high sustainability standards. Recycling facilities being negotiated with Council Waste Services. Peat not used directly on site. All green waste has and continues to be recycled and litter bin waste is sent to a local energy from waste facility.

### **Conservation of nature and heritage**

***Strength; Aspirations good***

***Recommendation; Need to develop bio-diversity plan and include key objectives within management & action plan***

Action; Biodiversity plan developed with city ecologist and included in management and

action plan (see appendix 4).

**Community involvement**

***Strength; Key friends of group now active***

***Recommendation; Need to identify their goals and aspirations clearly within plan***

Action; Separate section in management plan has been developed with the Friends group, but as this is a partnership document the goals and aspirations belong to all the stakeholders, especially the Friends group.

**Marketing strategy**

***Strength; Good key marketing opportunities identified and various web sites***

***Recommendation; None***

**Overall Management**

***Strength; Good vision for the park.***

***Recommendation; Need to identify the key goals of the community, from the councils***

Action; Key goals of the community / friends group clearly identified in separate section

**Field Assessment:**

**A welcoming place**

***Strength; Good open site, access for all, with safe access especially from Hinkler Road, with crossings to site. Vision across site good and around perimeters.***

***Recommendation; No external site signage seen to park. Need to address all entrances and links to community blocks not just main***

Action; External signs planned for new year, and 3 welcoming and informative entrance features to cover all the main entrance points funded, designed and due to be erected spring 2010

**Healthy, safe and secure**

***Strength; Site felt safe being open, no dog fouling seen, structures in place in good condition***

***Recommendation; Footpath in poor condition in places, so obvious trip points around concrete covers etc***

Action; Footpath funded, designed and due to be built January 2010

**Clean and well maintained**

***Strength; Little litter, graffiti or vandalism seen, with structures in good condition.***

***Recommendation; Need to look at range and standards of ground maintenance and horticulture. The site is predominantly short mown grass. This could be linked with sustainability and wildlife conservation***

Action; A variety of mown grass regimes, wildflower areas, a wet area and new shrub / tree plantings will greatly improve this by May 2010

**Sustainability**

***Strength; Arboricultural maintenance good***

***Recommendation; There was no evidence of mulch being returned to site or cultural methods***

***adopted to reduce pesticide usage, as per action plan***

Action; Chipping on site now implemented, mulch observable around all shrub beds and bases of trees

**Conservation and Heritage**

***Strength; Aspirations of management plan are good, and can see how objectives could work on the ground***

***Recommendation; Some quick wins could be achieved by looking at meadow cultures, wildlife attractions, bird boxes etc***

Action; £10k Awards for All funding secured to purchase bird, mammal and insect boxes, wildflower seeds and shrubs / trees

**Community involvement**

***Strength; The community engagement and involvement is the primary strength of this site***

***Recommendation; Continue to develop the good work in this area***

Action; Friends group continues to be very active and successful. Tranquil Zone consultation completed March 2009 and included in stage two of the Community Spaces bid. Volunteer nature conservation team and park wardens to be developed during 2010

**Marketing**

***Strength; Good notice board and inclusion in local news sheet***

***Recommendation; The development of on site appropriate and educational information is needed. This includes additional site signage, notice boards and interpretation information***

Action; Funding has been secured for additional site signage, notice boards and interpretation information to be on site by May 2010

**Management**

***Strength; The commitment and enthusiasm of staff and friends of group is to be commended***

***Recommendation; Need to maintain drive in order to achieving long term aspirations. But do not neglect the short term wins that could make all the difference to achieving Green Flag status earlier***

Action; A great deal of effort has been put into developments to achieve Green Flag status during the past year and we are beginning to see the fruit of these labours. Especially encouraging is the growing respect from all quarters of the community resulting in less complaints, vandalism and graffiti. Everyone involved is very excited about the pace and potential of this project.

**Thank you to last years judges for the recommendations. We ensure that the points made are fully discussed as part of our learning and development of the parks and implemented where possible or reasons given for not doing so if appropriate.**