



# Radipole Park and Gardens ACTIVITY PLAN 2020

National Lottery Heritage Fund Parks for People: PP-17-03557



## Contents

### SECTION ONE Where Are We Now?

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1.1	Executive Summary	5
1.1.2	Background to the Project	6
1.2.3	Changes Since Round 1	6
1.1.4	Developing the Activity Plan	9
1.1.5	Who was involved?	10
1.1.6	Comparative Projects	11
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Site Details and Context</b>	<b>12</b>
1.2.1	Location	12
1.2.2	The Creation of Radipole Park	12
1.2.3	Chronology of Radipole Park	13
1.2.4	Historic Heritage	13
1.2.5	Natural Heritage	14
1.2.6	Special Features	15
1.2.7	Communal Interest	15
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Who We Are</b>	<b>16</b>
1.3.1	Organisational Structure	16
1.3.2	Weymouth Town Council Ethos	16
1.3.3	Parks and Open Spaces Team	17
1.3.4	Parks and Open Spaces Staff Structure	18
1.3.5	Management of Radipole Park	19
1.3.6	The Friends of Radipole Park	19
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Local Demographics</b>	<b>21</b>
1.4.1	Population	21
1.4.2	Age	21
1.4.3	Ethnicity	21
1.4.4	Households	21
1.4.5	Health and Disability	22
1.4.6	Deprivation	23
1.4.7	Tourism	23
1.4.8	Schools and Colleges	24



1.4.9	Population Segmentation	25
1.4.10	Community Needs	26
1.4.11	Wider Catchment Area	26
1.4.12	Catchment Area Population Segmentation	28
1.4.13	National Trends for Natural Engagement and Volunteering	29
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Our Current Visitors</b>	<b>32</b>
1.5.1	Consultation	32
1.5.2	Counter Data	33
1.5.3	Observational Surveys	34
1.5.4	Questionnaires	34
1.5.5	Current Audiences versus Local Demographics	36
1.5.6	Target Audiences	37
1.5.7	What People Value about Radipole Park	40
1.5.8	Barriers and Limitations	41
<b>1.6</b>	<b>Our Current Activities</b>	<b>44</b>
1.6.1	Activities in Radipole Park	44
1.6.2	What Activities People Would Like	46
1.6.3	Currents Sports Facilities	48
1.6.4	Education Engagement	49
1.6.5	Current Volunteering & Training	49
1.6.6	What Volunteer Opportunities are people interested in?	50
1.6.7	Current Interpretation	51
1.6.8	Current Publicity and Promotion	52

## **SECTION TWO Where Do We Want To Be?**

<b>2.1</b>	<b>Recreating Radipole Park</b>	<b>53</b>
2.1.1	The Vision	53
2.1.2	The Project	53
2.1.3	Project Aims	55
2.1.4	Project Outcomes	55
2.1.5	Measure of Success	57
2.1.6	Alternatives to the Project	59
2.3.5	SWOT Analysis	60
<b>2.2</b>	<b>New Ways To Engage Audiences</b>	<b>61</b>

2.2.1	Developing Existing Audiences	61
2.2.2	Target Audiences	61
2.2.3	Building Partnerships	63
2.2.4	Interpretation	66
2.2.5	New Activities	68
2.2.6	Activity Programme	72
2.2.7	New Volunteering Opportunities	76
2.2.8	Training	81
2.2.9	Learning	82
2.2.10	Sensory Garden	84
2.2.11	Marketing and Promotion	84
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Project Management</b>	<b>87</b>
2.3.1	Management of Activity Programme	87
2.3.2	Project Management Structure	88
2.3.3	Project Timetable	89
2.3.4	Risks	92
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Measuring Success</b>	<b>98</b>
2.4.1	Meeting NLHF Outcomes	98
2.4.2	Evaluation of Activities	101
2.4.3	Project Legacy	102
2.4.4	Project Sustainability	103
2.4.5	Sharing Lessons Learnt	104

## SECTION THREE

<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>103</b>
--------------------	------------

### APPENDICES ATTACHED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT

#### Glossary

Round 1	refers to the first-round application submitted to NLHF in December 2018
Round 2	refers to the second-round application which this document supports
Development Phase	the period between Round 1 and Round 2
Delivery Phase	the period between permission to start (following successful Round 2 application) and completion of all capital works (currently scheduled for completion April 2022)
Operational Phase	from the completion of capital works (currently scheduled for completion April 2022) onwards

## SECTION ONE

### Where Are We Now?

#### 1.1 Introduction

##### 1.1.1 Executive Summary

Radipole Park and Gardens is a popular park in the centre of Weymouth, which has provided recreation to the local community for nearly a hundred years. The current facilities stretch for almost a mile and comprises formal gardens, sports courts, a play area, a multi-use games area (MUGA), a small skate park, a playing field and a community orchard. The park and gardens are managed by the Parks Department of Weymouth Town Council and are supported by the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens.

The popularity of the park lies in the unique and charming landscape, designed intentionally to combine sport, community and nature. The structure of the park reflects this in its three distinct, interconnected areas: beautiful gardens with quiet space to relax, multiple courts for different sporting activities and a playing field which includes provisions for play, a community orchard and a wildflower area. The landscape has the potential to appeal to a broad and varied audience.

Though the park attracts thousands of visitors every year, consultation suggests the amount of time people spend in the park and the quality of their visit is comparatively low. This is largely due to the lack of inclusive and exciting play equipment, declining infrastructure, inconsistent accessibility, inadequate signage and the absence of café and toilet facilities. The project will address these issues and focus on improving visitor experience, creating a sense of excitement and attracting new visitors to the park.

Very few are aware of the historical significance of the landscape, the people associated with it or the park and garden's ecological and cultural significance. The project will create a sense of community ownership by reconnecting people with the diverse natural and historical heritage through stimulating information boards, engaging activities and by providing opportunities for volunteering, training and educational development.

The location of Radipole Park and Gardens, adjacent to the Radipole Lake RSPB Centre, provides an important natural area, rich in wildlife, in the heart of Weymouth. It is crucial to protect, improve and expand these ecosystems that minimise the effects of global warming and play a critical role in maintaining human health and well-being. This project will extend current pockets of biodiversity in the park and gardens such as the wildflower area and community orchard, as well as creating additional areas for wildlife to flourish.

Radipole Park and Gardens has the potential to improve and positively impact local people's lifestyles and emotional wellbeing. By creating an accessible and appealing space, people will be encouraged to participate in outdoor activity which will help reduce mental health issues such as stress, anxiety and depression. The park will also provide a safe, welcoming place for people to meet, learn new skills and combat feelings of loneliness and social isolation.

The overarching vision is to restore Radipole Park and Gardens, injecting new life into the facilities to engage existing visitors in a fresh, improved way whilst also attracting new audiences including hard to reach groups. Activities will have a special focus on nature and wildlife, encouraging people to connect with their local park and develop a sense of belonging.

Without major investment from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NLHF) to ignite this exciting and ambitious project, the current Local Authority are unable to deliver significant restoration works, crucial to its success.

For ease, Radipole Park and Gardens will be referred to as Radipole Park for the remainder of the document.

### **1.1.2 Background to the Project**

An initial pre-application to the NLHF was made by the Friends of Radipole Park Group in 2015 with the aim to improve the infrastructure following extensive damage caused by flooding in 2012, which left many areas of the park unusable. Radipole Park is highly valued by the Friends Group and local residents, evident by the consistent support and commitment shown right from the start.

In 2017, following a period of extensive research and consultation carried out jointly by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and the Friends Group, a Round 1 Application was submitted. The project focused on:

- A new drainage scheme with bog/amphibian garden and pond
- Improved access and increased accessibility, making the site modern and fit for purpose
- Improved play facilities and reintroduction of a water feature
- Improved infrastructure, i.e. fencing of ball game areas
- Introduction of a heritage centre/café recording a timeline of the history of Radipole Park and Gardens
- Introduction of a unisex toilet to enable families to stay at the open space longer
- Introduction of interpretation throughout the site
- Creation of a Sensory Garden
- Providing additional planting throughout the site.
- Capturing the hidden heritage
- Improved biodiversity

This Activity Plan will explain how these concepts have been researched, developed and refined in response to further public consultation and targeted research with specific groups throughout the Development Phase.

### **1.1.3 Changes Since Round 1**

#### **Approach**

Masterplanning – At Round 1 the development of the park was very piecemeal, each facility was treated separately and costed individually. There was no overarching vision. During the Development Phase a different approach has been applied with the appointment of a Landscape Architect to consider the park as a whole. Consultation has also been more focussed to inform the development

of the plans and identify the feel of the park that the public would like to see, as well as the facilities provided.

As a result, we have a masterplan which focusses on providing a coherent experience for visitors. It addresses barriers to engagement and through its design encourages users to explore the whole park and makes all areas accessible.

## **Activities**

The main principles of the Activity Plan remain the same as outlined in the Round 1 Application although the details have been revised to respond to consultation, research and potential for partnership working with a stronger focus on nature and mental and physical wellbeing.

Activities have been split into programmes in order to offer better structure. These are:

### **Programme 1 – Interpretation**

An Interpretation Plan has been written to inform the development of interpretation and identify the key themes for content. The plan aims to look at interpretation across the park as well as digital interpretation to support pre/post visit understanding. Interpretation is designed to appeal to a broad range of visitors and offer different types of activity and layers of content to cater for different audiences. Interaction will be key to much interpretation and it will all support a drive to get people out to explore and better understand the park.

Interpretation delivery has been rethought in order to provide consistency and coherence therefore design and production for all main elements will be combined into the appointment of an experienced interpretation designer – the brief for this role is included in Appendix 8 to the Activity Plan.

The Friends website has been identified as a potentially valuable tool for the promotion of the park, events and dissemination of interpretation. A small budget has been allocated to give professional input into the design of the website to make it easier to navigate, and to provide training for social media volunteers within the Friends.

Additional smaller scale activities have been identified to meet different visitor needs. Some of these will involve professional input (such as sensory story) to develop the initial activity and train volunteers for future delivery, others will use in-house expertise (scavenger hunt).

### **Programme 2 – Activities**

Activities have been better thought through and structured during the Development Phase. Opportunities for partnership working have been identified and an annual events programme proposed, in addition to the core annual activities developed by the Friends. The Development Phase has seen a strong interest in collaborative working and event delivery across the themes relating to the park. This ranges from wildlife and nature to health and wellbeing. There are also events planned to focus on distinct but significant audience groups such as dog walkers.

The Sensory Garden is a programme in its own right but it also offers new and diverse activity opportunities. As a project delivered in partnership with Kingston Maurward the activity programme will draw on the expertise of the college to offer hands on workshop opportunities in traditional heritage skills such as dry-stone walling and willow weaving.

Consultation has shown that although there is an interest from local schools, to deliver a fit for purpose schools offer will require considerable investment, not just during the project but on an ongoing basis.

For an education programme to be well used it must be regularly promoted, reviewed to ensure it meets the current national curriculum requirements and supported with staff input. It is unrealistic to expect that this could be delivered long term within the parks and open spaces service.

Therefore, a different approach to working with schools has been developed. The project will develop a range of interpretation content and activities which could be used to support learning in school or provide the structure for school visits. It is therefore proposed that these 'public' activities are packaged as a menu of options and resources that schools can use. 'Add ons' such as talks, or guided walks will also be available to schools on request to support visits. Self-guided learning and access to primary resources are both elements within the current curriculum and the project can quite easily support this.

There has been particular interest from local specialist schools to engage with the Sensory Garden aspect of the project and explore volunteering opportunities for those with specialist needs. The project will work in partnership with these schools to support their engagement with the park.

### **Programme 3 - Research and Oral History**

At Round 1, the hidden heritage archive activity was a little vague as was the detail of the oral history project. These two areas have therefore been combined into Programme 3.

During the Development Phase a significant amount of research has been undertaken to inform the Conservation Plan. This has created a body of information, photographs and archive material which will form the basis of this programme of work. The project will focus on collating all this information into a resource that will be made accessible on the Friends website and shared with Weymouth Museum, Weymouth Civic Society and Dorset History Centre.

Oral history will be researched and recorded with support from local organisations (such as Weymouth Museum, Weymouth Civic Society, Dorset History Centre) who already have some experience in this area. Volunteers will be trained to specifically research and gather key stories.

Material generated in this programme will be used to inform interpretation, schools' resources and general public research. Historic photographs will be collated into photo books which will be available as reference material in the café for visitors to the park.

### **Programme 4 - Sensory Garden**

As described above the new location of the Sensory Garden will make it more prominent and develop links to the café and recreation areas. It offers many opportunities for activities and events around health and wellbeing as well as nature and wildlife and these are detailed in the Activity Plan.

The delivery of the Sensory Garden will offer students at Kingston Maurward the experience of being involved in a 'real life' project. It will utilise the staff expertise to deliver workshops for the public with the dual purpose of enabling people to learn new heritage skills and physically contributing to the construction of the garden.

Once completed the garden will offer volunteering opportunities for local groups and individuals to get involved with gardening to help with the ongoing maintenance of the garden. The new location will offer links with the café and it is hoped that produce from the garden will be incorporated into the menu.



## **Programme 5 – Volunteer Development**

Volunteer development has been more thoroughly thought out during the Development Phase and a Volunteer Plan and Training Plan developed (Appendix 4 and Appendix 5). These documents have been written in close consultation with the Friends of Radipole Park and informed by discussions with relevant organisations and consultation findings. Volunteers will play an important role in increasing community engagement in the park, developing understanding, making it more relevant to visitors and ensuring ongoing sustainability. The volunteer development programme aims to better recognise and value the contribution that volunteers make to the Park and offer them support and development opportunities.

This programme will also look at supporting the Friends, identifying new ways to promote the group, encouraging more membership and exploring sustainability and succession planning.

## **Programme 6 – Operational Activity**

This programme covers the general marking and promotion of the project and the park. It also looks at ensuring best practice in terms of policies and procedures for working with volunteers and the public both for the Friends and Weymouth Town Council.

For more details on changes to capital works, please see Supporting Documents 'Changes Since Round 1'.

### **1.1.4 Developing the Activity Plan**

The Activity Plan has been written by Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, Rosie Osborne with further input from the Radipole Park and Gardens Project Group: Crystal Johnson (Project Manager), Mike Goulden (Chair of Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens), Sue Hogben (Secretary of Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens), Tara Williams (Parks and Open Spaces Manager) and Yvonne Lester (Project Support Officer).

To help us better understand the heritage of the park and how this may be restored and improved we appointed Chartered Landscape Architect, Historian and Horticulturalist, Deborah Evans to work with us in the production of the Conservation Plan.

This was used as a basis for understanding the significance of Radipole Park and a framework for planning activities and methods to engage people.

In order to create the Activity Plan, we needed to find out what people value about Radipole Park and how they currently engage with the heritage whether it be historic, natural, physical or cultural. This document will describe the extensive research and thorough consultation that took place over an 18-month period, that helped shape the project. It explains how important decisions regarding the physical fabric of the park were made, as well as how the programme of activities was established. The full Consultation Report can be found in Appendix 1.

The proposals made during the Round 1 Application have been re-evaluated, adapted and developed to ensure that the project meets the needs of current and potential audiences. Any changes since the Round 1 Application have been identified and explained in Section 1.1.3.

With the support of volunteers, observational studies were carried out to better understand our existing park users, to establish visitor numbers and to discover the frequency of use of current facilities.

Similar NNLHF projects and parks have been researched and visited in order to learn best practice and to discover the successful aspects of the project and what challenges may have been faced.

The Activity Plan will explain how NNLHF requirements will be met in accordance with project aims and measurable outcomes.

An Interpretation Plan setting out our principles for key themes in order to engage and enhance visitors' experience will also be included in this Activity Plan. Please see Appendix 6 Interpretation Plan for more details. The Activity Plan will also set out all the work to be undertaken during the Delivery Phase and beyond.

Within this, a detailed Action Plan will be included. This will list the activities set out in Section 3 and show the tasks to be undertaken, the benefits and resources required for delivery along with targets and measures of success, how this will be evaluated and a suggested time frame.

The document will act as a step-by-step guide to explain how the project plans to encourage more people to visit Radipole Park by improving their experience and creating a high quality and enjoyable destination.

### **1.1.5 Who was involved?**

In addition to the members of the Radipole Park Project Group, the following people and organisations were fundamental in the process of creating the Activity Plan:

- Local schools
- Community Groups
- Residential Homes
- Volunteers
- RSPB
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Stepping into Nature
- Kingston Maurward
- Lawn Tennis Association
- Weymouth Civic Society
- Weymouth Access Group
- Chelmsford Street Centre, Park District
- Police Community Support Officer
- Active Dorset
- Public Health
- Dorset Libraries
- Dorset Blind Association
- Weymouth Museum
- Basketball England

- Table Tennis England
- Volunteer Centre
- Dorset Mind

The following professionals were also appointed to form the design team:

- Aileen Shackell, Landscape Architect, Aileen Shackell Landscape Design
- Deborah Evans, Historic Landscape Consultant, DE Landscape and Heritage Ltd
- Rachel Osborne, Architect, Crickmay Stark Architects
- Ray Stephens, Quantity Surveyor, Peter Gunning Partners
- James Watling, Drainage Consultant, Godsell Arnold Partnership
- Mike Dencher, Structural Engineer, Dencher Engineering

#### **1.1.6 Comparative Projects**

We contacted and visited similar park projects in order to learn about their experiences and to gather information regarding best practice in learning, interpretation and audience engagement. These included:

- Durlston Country Park
- Poole Park
- Page Park
- Boscombe Chine Gardens

In summary, we learnt that:

- Creative and inclusive ways to present interpretation will attract more people than a simple display board.
- Activities that connect people with outdoors and nature are popular.
- Display boards with before and after pictures so people can envisage the improvements the project aims to bring about are beneficial
- Keeping the public up to date as the project progresses is key.
- Themed activities for older people are popular, e.g. vintage tea parties.
- Family Fun Days are always well attended.

Please see Appendix 1 Consultation Report for more details.

## 1.2 Site Details and Context

### 1.2.1 Location

Radipole Park is situated within easy walking distance to the north of Weymouth town centre and to the west of Melcombe Regis. The narrow, linear site is aligned north/south and bound by a main road, Radipole Park Drive and the main London/Weymouth railway line to the west and east respectively. It is 11 kilometres (7 miles) south of Dorchester and 8 kilometres (5 miles) north of the Isle of Portland.

### 1.2.2 The Creation of Radipole Park

Radipole Park was created in part to alleviate local unemployment through land reclamation. It was in 1926 that the new scheme was identified: the infilling of marshy ground between the new road and the railway embankment to create playing fields, sports grounds and recreation grounds. Following further discussion, the Radipole Lake Development Committee (RLDC) was set up to *'prepare a comprehensive scheme for dealing with the whole area of Radipole Lake'* and to identify a method of income generation from the remaining underutilised lakeside areas.



Radipole Park is the only realised part of this much more ambitious project: Radipole Lakes, wherein leading landscape designers, Milner Son & White promoted a series of island destinations complete with tea gardens, boating lakes and sports facilities. Radipole Park and Gardens is a distillation of that scheme and it remains remarkably intact with its original boundaries, sports facilities, structural tree planting and some of the originally designed internal and external views.

For a more detailed overview of the historic background of Radipole Park, please see the Conservation Plan.



### 1.2.3 Chronology of Radipole Park

1920s – 30s	Creation of Radipole Park Drive and infilling of marsh to its east
1922	The first gardens are laid out on the reclaimed land as Melcombe Regis Gardens
1930	Milner Son & White, landscape architects, are employed by Weymouth Council to design a new landscape scheme
1932	First phase of gardens is complete
1934	Tennis courts are created
1936	Milner Son & White provide plans for the second stage of the landscape scheme
1937	Weymouth Council seeks £44,500 funding for the second phase of the scheme
1939	Milner Son & White are decommissioned by Weymouth Council
1940	World War II. Radipole Park is requisitioned by British Southern Command
1943	British Southern Command leave Radipole
1944	US troops arrive at Radipole to prepare for the D-Day Landings (June 1944)
1947	New work starts in park using rubble from town bombing
1948	Proposals to resurrect Radipole Lake Development opposed by environmentalists
1955	Weymouth town centre flooding
1956	Proposal to convert Radipole Park into a car park refused by Weymouth Council
1968	Proposals to create a zoo at Radipole Park are defeated
1999	Memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales unveiled in gardens
2006	Formation of The Friends of Radipole Park
2012	Friends of Radipole Park create a community orchard and the gardens are damaged by flooding (July)
2017	Round 1 NLHF application for Radipole Park and Gardens is passed

### 1.2.4 Historic Heritage

Radipole Park holds considerable historic interest with the first evidence of human occupation dating back to the Roman period c.43AD when the Legion, Legio II, invaded under the command of Emperor Vespasian. Their successful incursion led to a succession of troops sailing their way up the tidal Backwater, which today forms part of Radipole Lake. The troops landed near Clavinium, possibly a settlement or port, reportedly to have been somewhere near the village of present day Radipole. Finds dating from the mid-nineteenth century, include amphora, stag horns and a bronze sword.

More recently, Radipole Park represented a late addition to the town's public green spaces, c. 1930 on, culled out of an area with long associations with the town's industrial and sea-trading history. The site is unusual as it turns its back to the sea, making stronger connections to the pastoral landscape to the west and north.

During World War II, the park became part of British Southern Command and the US Military's preparations for D-Day, one of several important sites along the south coast. Evidence of the disruption of this occupation survives in the landscape.

As mentioned above, the site is only a partial realisation of a much grander scheme. Yet, it is of historic interest that any of landscaper's Edward White's project was able to be completed following, as it did, years of uncertainty surrounding the larger Radipole Lake plan and it remains a testament to its designer, the imagination of the people of Weymouth and the vision of the Town Council.

In present times the multi-use site remains largely intact with its raised boundaries, linear design and component gardens and sporting facilities with their respective structural planting and landscape design details. It continues to achieve its original purpose, both as a public green space and an important link between the town centre and communities to the north.

More information of the historic heritage can be found in the Conservation Plan.

### 1.2.5 Natural Heritage

Radipole Park occupies an important location opposite Radipole Lake and the RSPB Nature Reserve, forming part of an existing ecological network which has significant potential to be strengthened and enhanced.

A baseline ecological survey identified a limited area of herb-rich, semi-improved grassland around the flower beds at the northern end of the site, which supports four Dorset Notable species (Bird's-foot-trefoil, Common Knapweed, Ox-eye Daisy and Fleabane) <sup>1</sup> A further Dorset Notable, Strawberry Clover occurs in open turf near the goal posts.

The orchard with its mix of fruit trees and wildflower meadow, provide valuable wildlife habitat which has scope to be developed and expanded, creating a multitude of benefits for both visitors and wildlife.

The site is home to a few noteworthy, exotic trees, such as Foxglove tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) and a semi-mature Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), as well as pine species *Pinus sp.*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*, all which have significant wildlife value. The mature tree planting within the site is recognised by Natural England as woodland priority habitat network.

A Bat Report, carried out by Dorset Wildlife Trust, has identified at least seven species of bat inhabiting the site, including all three *Pipistrellus* species, including Nathusius pipistrelle *Pipistrellus Nathusii* being recorded. This is a rare bat species in the UK and often likes to associate with large areas of water during its autumn migration period. Many sightings have been recorded at the adjacent RSPB Radipole Lake site. [Cross reference Bat Report for full list of Bat species]

---

<sup>1</sup> Dorset notable species are associated with good quality wildlife habitat that has largely escaped agricultural improvement and are used to determine the value of a site with five or more regular occurrences needed for consideration as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, important at a county level.



*Figure 1 Pipistrellus Nathusii*



*Figure 2 Wildflower meadow and orchard*

A full list of bat species inhabiting Radipole Park can be found in Appendix 14 of the Management and Maintenance Plan.

### 1.2.6 Special Features

Radipole Park still has many of the special features of its original design, including a tennis court pavilion, the remaining structure of a paddling pool, an internal path circulation, a singular circular raised planting area, raised boundary banks and other specific design details, including rock work path edging.

Historic objects, such as building remains, pieces of petrified wood, glass and ceramics are evidence long human occupation. Lost primeval forests dredged up with the 'turtle stones' from the lagoon, are incorporated into the fabric of the park.



*Original paddling pool converted into a play area*

More recently, additions to the formal gardens include a large, rough cut stone commemorating Diana, Princess of Wales and a raised mosaic tablet celebrating the work of the Friends of Radipole Park.

### 1.2.7 Communal Interest

Radipole Park has high communal interest and is a valued daily experience for many local residents and office workers. Its tripartite character offers space for contemplation, formal and informal sport. It is also a place of celebration – a favourite for wedding photographs - and a place of commemoration memorialising local people, national figures such as Diana, Princess of Wales and international events, such as the Holocaust.

The local community saw off proposals to reduce the gardens to a car park in 1957 and a zoo in 1967.

The site is also important for its role in attempting to alleviate the unemployment of local men during the Depression by providing them with a purposeful occupation.

Today the site is championed by the Friends of Radipole Park who continue to foster support from within the local community and Town Council to secure investment in the park and to promote its history and benefits more widely. The Friends have been responsible for new initiatives, such as the community orchard and meadow at the north end of the site which offer opportunities for informal learning as well as recreation.

The site is associated with some important figures, most notably the landscape designer Edward White. Whilst White no doubt focused his attention on his more ambitious scheme for Radipole Lake, this relatively small site retains the integrity of his overall design intention as a naturalistic place of leisure. Through White, the site is also associated with Edward and Henry Ernest Milner and the development of the public parks' movement in the nineteenth century. The distinctive house-style of Milner Son & White survives in the park today, albeit eroded, evidencing a clear inheritance of Edward Milner's mid-nineteenth century 'natural landscaping' style.

## 1.3 Who We Are

### 1.3.1 Organisational Structure

Weymouth Town Council operates within a two-tier local government structure of Parish and Unitary Authority (Dorset Council). The new Unitary arrangements only came into being in April 2019 and so are still very much settling down. Prior to this the Town Council didn't exist, with local affairs being undertaken by the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, with Dorset County Council above that.

Weymouth Town Council is made up of 29 councillors and a staff team of nearly 50. The Council staff team has a Senior Management Team (SMT) comprising the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Business and Finance Manager, and Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

The council constituency covers 91 hectares of greenspace and is responsible for the following wards: Littlemoor, Radipole, Upwey and Broadwey, Westham East, Wey Valley, Weymouth East, Melcombe Regis, Preston, Westham North, Weymouth West and Wyke Regis.

The following assets and services were transferred to Weymouth Town Council:

- Allotments
- Beaches
- Cemeteries
- Parks and Gardens
- Play Areas
- Public toilets
- Town Centre

### 1.3.2 Weymouth Town Council Ethos

Weymouth Town Council is committed to the improvement and conservation of Weymouth's parks, gardens and open spaces. As Weymouth Town Council is a new organisation, the five-year council strategy has not yet been finalised and confirmation of this will not be until Spring 2020. However, it can be assured that the provision of high-quality greenspaces which allow people to improve their health and well-being through recreation and sport, will be paramount.

*"We recognise the huge benefits that well managed parks and open spaces have for the community, tourism and people's health and wellbeing. Radipole Park is one of our largest greenspaces and is a popular and valued resource. We are extremely supportive of the project and believe it will provide essential recreational space for our local communities."*



*“The ethos of Weymouth Town Council is to have communities where local people take ownership of their parks and greenspaces and can influence the decisions that affect them. We are pleased that extensive consultation has taken place to involve local people and to gain valuable feedback on the proposed plans for Radipole Park and Gardens.”*

– Jane Biscombe, Town Clerk for Weymouth Town Council

### **1.3.3 Parks and Open Spaces Team**

The Parks and Open Spaces Team consist of 17 full time employees, 3 part time employees and 2 seasonal workers. The role of the service is to provide high quality greenspaces that appeal to all sectors of the community and visitors to the town. Environmental sustainability, providing opportunities for education, health and exercise and ensuring equal access for all are also key. The main responsibilities include:

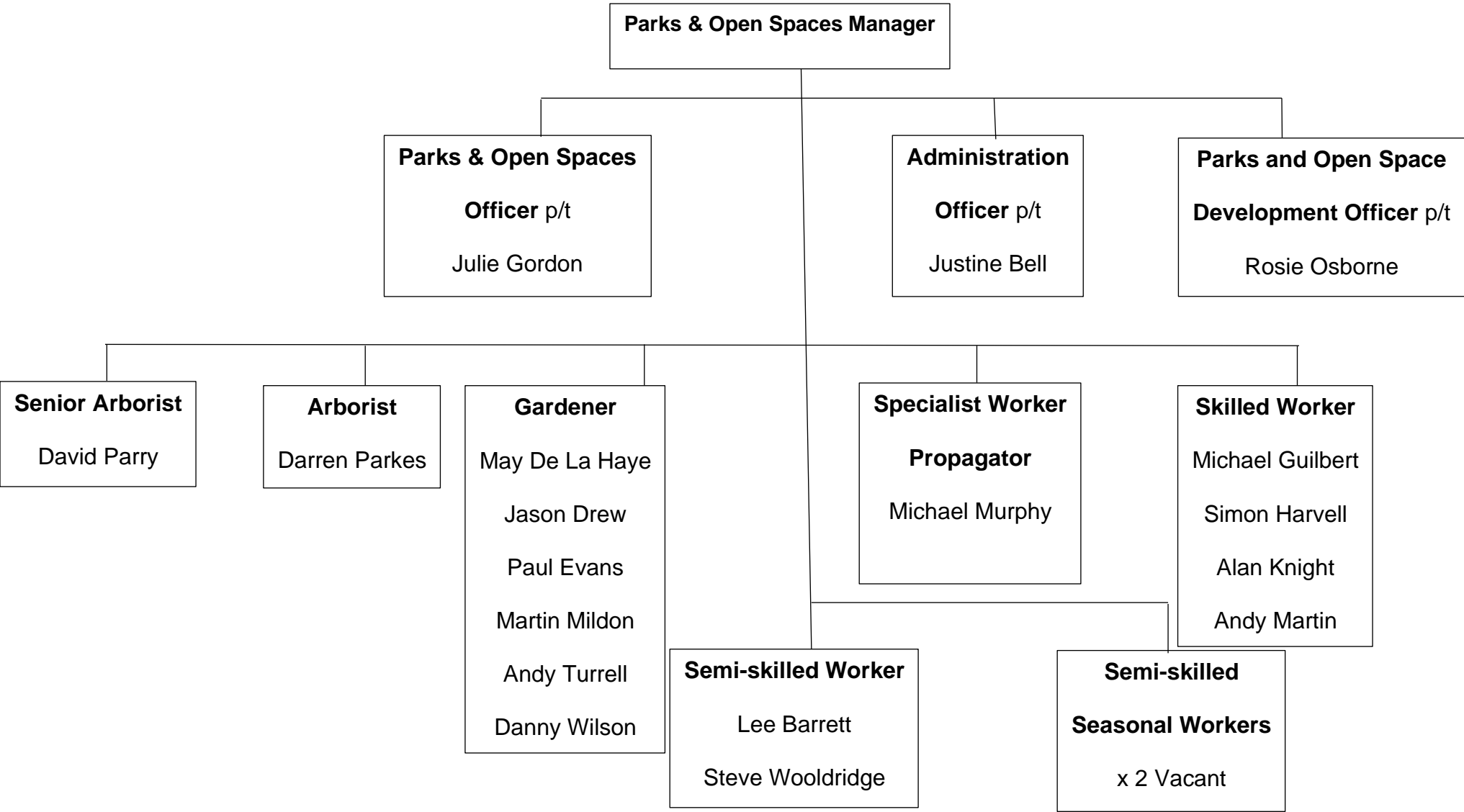
- Management and maintenance of all parks and gardens
- Management of play areas
- Management of allotments
- Cemetery grounds maintenance and grave digging
- Landscape design and construction
- Garden waste recycled composting operations
- Plants grown in own nursery
- Grass cutting of open spaces and cemeteries
- Tree management and planting schemes

This team carries out all normal management and maintenance activities in accordance with an approved Annual Work Plan aligned to priorities contained in the Weymouth and Portland Corporate Plan, 2016 – 2019.

These include:

- Building a stronger local economy,
- Empowering thriving and inclusive communities,
- Improving quality of life and
- Developing successful partnerships.

1.3.4 Parks and Open Spaces Staff Structure



### **1.3.5 Management of Radipole Park**

Radipole Park is managed by a core team consisting of four office staff, sixteen grounds staff and two seasonal workers. The team is further supported by other staff within the wider Town Council to provide the functions of purchasing, asset management and mechanical and electrical projects amongst others.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service commission an annual review of each park using the KMC performance management system. It is designed to provide data in site specific format that provides very detailed information about individual sites that can then be collated to provide a general overview of a service or area of delivery.

The system assesses the quality of service provision, the value of the open space to the community, resource allocation and customer satisfaction. It enables the Parks and Open Spaces Service to measure improvements and introduce the concept of community involvement in the management of open spaces. In 2019 the review was completed with the additional brief of assessing work required for Radipole Park to achieve Green Flag Status.

The 2019 KMC report is attached as Appendix 11 of the Management and Maintenance Plan. A summary of findings and recommendations for improvement are given in Section 3.

### **1.3.6 The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens**

The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens, established in June 2006, is an extremely active and dynamic group. They currently have 250 members who are kept informed and up to date with events, fundraising and prospective projects via their website, Facebook page and a 'Radipole Ripples' newsletter.

The primary aim of the group is to work in partnership with Weymouth Town Council to enhance the benefits of Radipole Park for the local community. The committee has gone through several phases of activity over the years and the current committee still has one of its earliest members.

The core committee has five members, chaired by Mike Goulden and the secretary is historian, Sue Hogben.

Through regular fundraising, the group has contributed towards various items in Radipole Park and towards maintenance needs that the Council struggle to achieve within existing budgets.

These include funding and maintaining five noticeboards, creating a community orchard, repairing a swing and sharing the cost of new whips for the boundary hedgerow.

In the early stages of the Development Phase, the group aimed to raise £10,000 to fund a new sensory garden. Within months, this was achieved and so they decided to increase the target to £20,000 with the aim of making an even more comprehensive and inclusive space. Through fundraising events, membership fees, donations, and applying for grants they are confident that the new target will be met.

The Friend's Group organises events in the gardens, encouraging current users to visit the park more frequently and open the park to potential new visitors. They also promote the park and gardens through a blog on their website and regular posts on their Facebook pages.

The Friends also attend other parks, churches and community events in which pop-up banners explaining the project are displayed. They have given talks on the history of the park and what the project aims to achieve.

Their hard work and achievements were recognised in August 2019, when they received the Chesil Radio 'Pay it Forward' Award for their efforts in improving the park and gardens for everyone in the local community and visitors to the town.

The Friends group have been instrumental in researching the history of the park and its community in part to support a successful Stage I application to the NLHF 'Parks for People' grant programme in 2017. This level of commitment and support has continued throughout the Development Stage of the project, where they have played significant roles in the research and preparation of key documents.



*Friends of Radipole Park collecting the Chesil Radio Award*



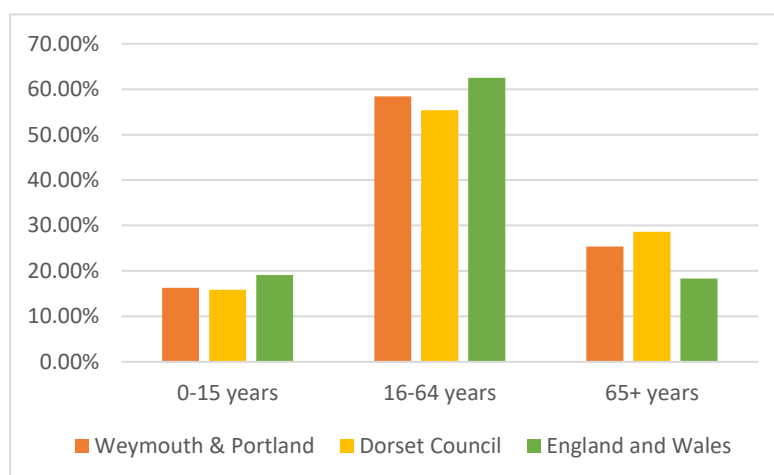
## 1.4 Local Demographics

### 1.4.1 Population

Weymouth is a coastal town in the south west of Dorset and serves a population of approximately 52,000. In 'The State of Dorset 2019' report, Weymouth grouped with Portland (due to its proximity), estimates a population of 65,870. The most densely populated areas are, Radipole, Melcombe Regis and Wyke Regis. <sup>2</sup>

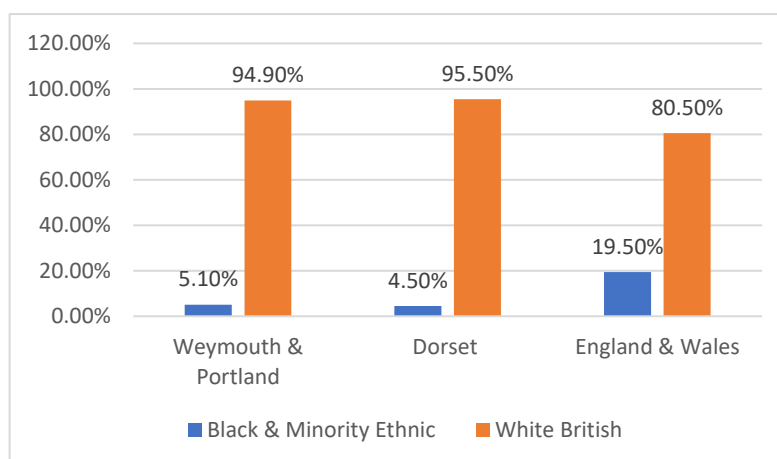
### 1.4.2 Age

In Weymouth and Portland, the number of people aged between 0-15 years and 16-64 years is slightly lower compared to the national average. The number of people aged 65+ years is significantly higher in comparison to the national average, making up just over 25% of the residents living in Weymouth and Portland. <sup>3</sup>



### 1.4.3 Ethnicity

Ethnic minority groups account for a much smaller proportion of the population in Weymouth and Portland than in England and Wales (5.1% compared with 19.5%) but fractionally higher than in Dorset as a whole (4.5%).<sup>4</sup>



### 1.4.4 Households

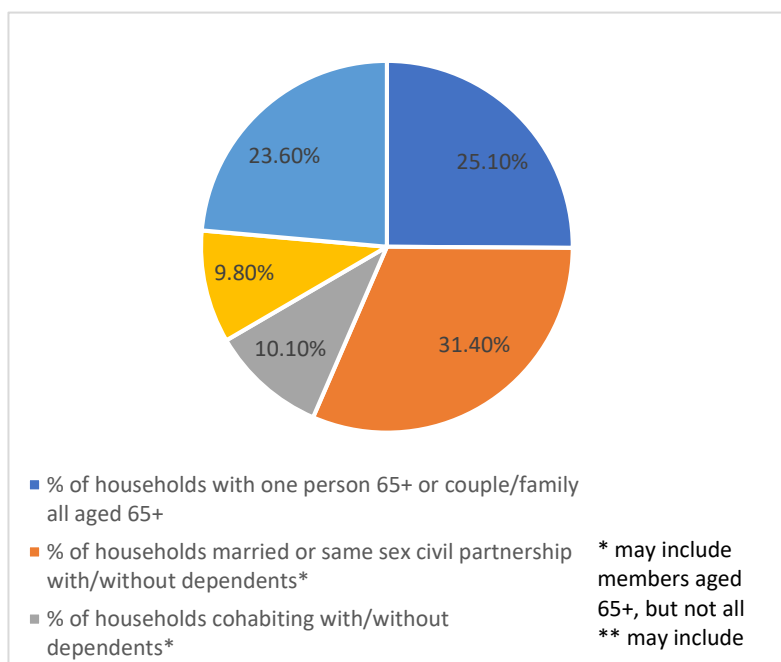
The total number of households in Weymouth and Portland is 28,535. The percentage of households containing at least one person aged 65+ is relatively high, which reflects the figures cited in the age of the population above. The percentage of households with occupants who are married or in a same sex civil partnership and the percentage of households with occupants cohabiting, with or without dependants, mirrors the rest of Dorset and national proportions. The number of households with lone

<sup>2</sup> <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/PreUnitaryAuthority/weymouth-and-portland>

<sup>3</sup> <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/PreUnitaryAuthority/weymouth-and-portland>

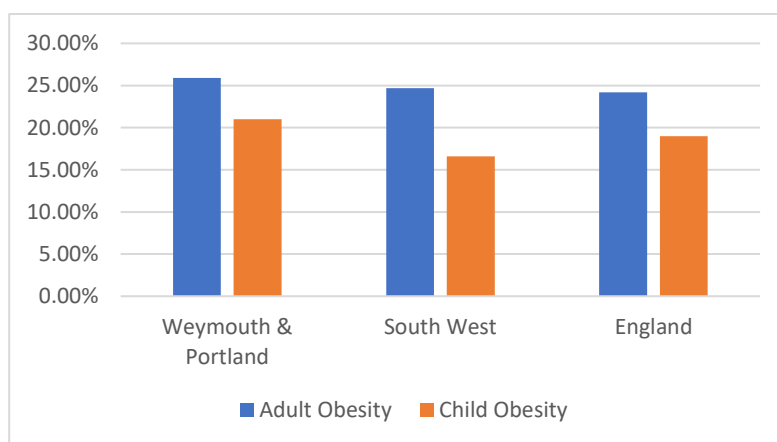
<sup>4</sup> Census 2011

parents is slightly lower than in England and Wales, but significantly higher in comparison with the rest of Dorset.<sup>5</sup>



### 1.4.5 Health and Disability

A significant health issue in Weymouth and Portland is obesity, particularly in the most deprived areas. This issue of obesity amongst both children and adults has been identified as a priority by the Locality Group of the Clinical Commissioning Group. Please see table below for rates of obesity in Weymouth and Portland, compared to the South West and to England.<sup>6</sup>



62% of adults in Dorset are classified as overweight or obese, which is similar to the national average, and of great concern due to the life-threatening conditions it can lead to.<sup>7</sup>

The number of people reporting a disability that limits their day-to-day activities a lot is higher in Weymouth and Portland (9.7%) compared to Dorset (8.6%) and England and Wales (8.5%).<sup>8</sup>

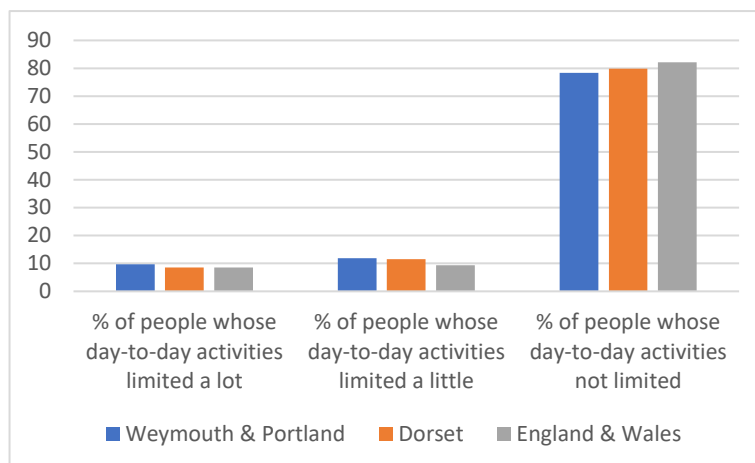
<sup>5</sup> Source: 2011 Census. Office for National Statistics

<sup>6</sup> Source: Department of Health: Year: 2006-2008 (Adults) 2010/11 (Children)

<sup>7</sup> PHE Public Health Outcome (PHOF) Indicators, 2017/18 data

<sup>8</sup> Census 2011

The health profile for Weymouth and Portland shows that for many indicators the population is similar to the national picture but, given the very significant areas of deprivation in the area, there are specific locations where the health outcomes for the community are worse than the norm. For example, life expectancy for men in the most deprived areas is 9.2 years less than in the least deprived areas, and 6.2 years less for women.



The table below is based on data commissioned by Sport England from the British Heart Foundation. This provides an indication as to the cost to the community and public services of physical inactivity as a result of its impact on cancer, heart disease, diabetes and strokes. There are, therefore, very real financial benefits resulting from a more physically active population across all ages.

AREA	Health cost of physical inactivity	
	Total cost	Cost per 100.000 population
Weymouth and Portland	£1,312,730	£2,141.176
South West	£92,470,080	£1,756,799
England	£944,289,723	£1,817,285

#### 1.4.6 Deprivation

Radipole Park is situated on the border of two wards: Radipole and Melcombe Regis.

The number of residential properties in Radipole is 4,394, of which 10% are located in an area in the top 20% nationally for Multiple Deprivation.

The number of residential properties in Melcombe Regis is 3,096, of which 83% are located in an area in the top 20% nationally for Multiple Deprivation.

There are 10 areas (out of a total of 219) in Dorset within the top 20% most deprived nationally for multiple deprivation, nine of these are within Weymouth and Portland.

Residence-based weekly earnings are significantly lower at £503 per week compared with £571 in Great Britain.

#### 1.4.7 Tourism

Tourism plays a significant role in the local demographics. With an estimated 2 million overnight visits per year, Weymouth is undeniably a popular choice for holiday makers. According to 'The Economic Impact of Dorset's Visitor Economy 2017' document, tourism generates £214,403,000 for the regional economy, and therefore creating attractive and well-maintained greenspaces is important to maintain the appeal.

The report, Development of Tourism Product & Offer (Western Dorset Growth Corridor) recommend that tourism in Weymouth should focus on delivering the needs of the following priority visitor markets:

- **Aspiring Fun Families** – with a propensity to spend when on holidays – to make Weymouth the best fun seaside resort it can be, delivering a great experience for all family members; targeting families with young children through to early teens. They are looking for destinations that: ‘When kids are happy, we are happy’.
- **Get away breakers** – 60+ year-round visitors, couples and groups of friends that are comfortably off, healthy and active. They are looking for: ‘Short scenic walks and accessible culture and heritage – museums, gardens, historic houses.’<sup>9</sup>

#### 1.4.8 Schools and Colleges

There are approximately eight nursery/preschools, fourteen primary schools, two special educational needs schools, three secondary schools and a college in Weymouth.

The table below displays all the educational establishments within a two-mile radius of Radipole Park.

Nursery/Preschools	Distance from Radipole Park and Gardens
Beechcroft St Pauls C. of E.(Eden Unit)	1.6 miles
Radipole Preschool	0.3 miles
Jellybabies Day Nursery	1.1 miles
Smarties Preschool	1.8 miles
Primary Schools	
Conifers Primary School	1.9 miles
Radipole Primary School	1 mile
St John's C. of E. VA School	1.1 miles
Beechcroft St Paul's C. of E.	1.2 miles
Holy Trinity C. of E. Infant School	1.5 miles
Southill Primary School	1.3 miles

<sup>9</sup> Western Dorset Growth Corridor, Development of Tourism Product & Offer, FINAL REPORT WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL JUNE, 2016



St Nicholas & St Laurence C. of E. 1.5 miles

Special Educational Needs Schools	Distance from Radipole Park and Gardens
Westfield Arts College	2 miles
Wyvern Specialist School	1.8 miles
Secondary Schools	
Wey Valley Secondary School	1.6 miles
Colleges	
Weymouth College	1.2 miles

#### 1.4.9 Population Segmentation

Population segmentation is useful to understand our audience, identify groups within this and help us to target and develop activities that meet their needs.

An analysis of the ACORN profiling of the area offers a breakdown of the dominant ACORN groups:

- Weymouth as a whole has a large proportion of Affluent Grey households (14.7%), Prudent Pensioners (13.3%) and Blue Collar Roots (13.4%).
- With the exception of Affluent Grey households, the proportions of households in these categories are higher than the Dorset and national figures.
- Struggling Families and Aspiring Single households account for almost one in ten households respectively.
- ACORN groups that account for higher proportions of households than both the County and national figures include Aspiring Singles, Starting Out and High Rise Hardship households. ACORN groups that account for higher proportions of households than that of just Dorset include Educated Urbanites, Prosperous Professionals, Burdened Singles and Struggling Families.

ACORN groups are subdivisions of ACORN categories. Where a segment is overrepresented when compared to the Dorset figure it is shown in red, when shown in green the segment is under-represented.

**ACORN Categories**

Category	% of households		
	Weymouth	Dorset	National
Wealthy Achievers	21.2	40.1	23.4
Urban Prosperity	12.4	7.1	13.3
Comfortably Off	30.5	33.2	27.9
Moderate Means	16.5	9.2	13.5
Hard Pressed	19.3	10.2	21.6
Unclassified	0.1	0.2	0.2

Though in Weymouth 'Urban Prosperity' accounts for a higher percentage households in comparison to the rest of Dorset, it is evident that in there is a larger percentage of households that are considered 'Hard Pressed' or 'Moderate Means' which proves the necessity for free or reasonably priced activities in the local community.

**1.4.10 Community Needs**

Radipole Park is an underused resource that could significantly benefit the local community in terms of providing free and valuable activities, combatting social isolation and improving physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The following local community needs have been identified:

- Radipole Park is situated on the border of Melcombe Regis which has a high percentage of residents located in the top 20% nationally for Multiple Deprivation.
- Melcombe Regis has been identified as 'hot spot' for risk of loneliness.
- Weymouth has three areas that are worse than the English average for child obesity.
- Weymouth has a greater proportion of social care users not having enough social contact, or not involved in valuable activities.<sup>10</sup>
- The percentage of people reporting that they have bad health is higher than the national percentage.
- In June 2014, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council adopted the Sports Facilities Strategy 2014 – 2019. The Strategy highlighted the physical and psychological health benefits of sport and physical activity, contributing to reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, delivering economic benefits and playing an important role in improving social cohesion.

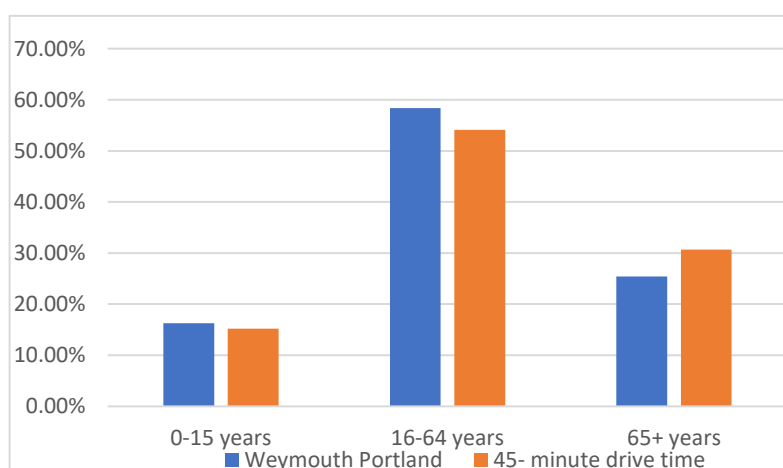
**1.4.11 Wider Catchment Area**

It is useful to consider an audience beyond the boundaries of Weymouth, in particular those that live within a 45-minute drive and are likely to travel for a day trip from home. The map below shows 'West Dorset' which covers a 30-mile radius from Radipole Park.

<sup>10</sup> Dorset County Council Adult Social Care Survey 2016



The population of this area is 102, 750 and the percentage of age groups is categorised in the chart below.<sup>11</sup>



The percentage of people aged between 0-15 years and 16-64 years is slightly lower in areas located within a 45 minute drive time, whereas the percentage of people aged 65+ years is higher indicating an increased level of older, retired residents in West Dorset and lower levels of working and family stage residents.

The diversity within a 45-minute drive time is similar to that of Weymouth and Portland, with a 4.3% black and minority ethnic population compared to 5.1%

<sup>11</sup> <https://apps.geowessex.com/stats/AreaProfiles/PreUnitaryAuthority/west-dorset>

The gross weekly residence earnings for West Dorset are £529.00 compared with £502.50 in Weymouth and Portland, indicating that surrounding areas are wealthier.

#### 1.4.12 Catchment Area Population Segmentation

We have used population segmentation research to identify groups that behave in similar ways and have similar needs within the catchment area of Radipole Park. This is to ensure that activities and interpretation can be tailored to meet visitor needs in order to engage more people.

The Arts Council's Arts Audiences Insight uses data from their annual Taking Part survey tracking cultural participation in England as a basis for audience segmentation. Unlike other segmentation methods the Arts Council segments are based on both demographic characterisations and arts and cultural behaviours and attitudes. Although the data does not include behaviours or attitudes relating to engagement with natural heritage, it helps to give a broad overview of cultural engagement.

The largest population segments within the catchment area of Radipole Park include:

Population Segment	Catchment Area Percentage V England	What we know about this group	How the project caters for this group
<b>Dormitory Dependables</b>	21% v 15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most live in suburban or small towns and show a preference for heritage activities alongside popular and more traditional mainstream arts.</li> <li>• Many are thriving, well off mature couples or busy older families.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide heritage themed activities</li> <li>• Provide live music and art exhibitions.</li> <li>• Offer opportunities to learn about wildlife, e.g. bird watching</li> </ul>
<b>Trips and treats</b>	23% v 17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They tend to be comfortably off and living in the heart of suburbia</li> <li>• Children range in ages, and include young people still living at home.</li> <li>• They have a strong preference for mainstream arts and popular culture mixed in with days out to museums and heritage sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide family focused activities that cater for a range of different ages</li> <li>• Provide weekend and school holiday activities</li> <li>• Ensure marketing of events and activities is done effectively to reach and circulate round this group.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This group are led by their children's interests and strongly influenced by friends and family.</li> </ul>	
<b>Home and Heritage</b>	18% v 10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A more mature group that is generally conservative in their tastes.</li> <li>While this is not a highly engaged group – partly because they are largely to be found in rural areas and small towns – they do engage with local cultural activity.</li> <li>Likely to look for activities to match their needs and interests, such as accessible day-time activities or content exploring historical events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide history themed events, such as 1940's Fun Day and Vintage Tea Parties.</li> <li>Ensure activities are timetabled during the day as well as afternoon and evening.</li> </ul>

#### 1.4.13 National Trends for Natural Engagement and Volunteering

Extensive research has been undertaken by The Wildlife Trusts nationally and at regional level, categorising the following audiences:

- **Wildlife Enthusiasts:** Spending time in nature is important to them. They are concerned about the threats to and the loss of wildlife. They have a sense of personal responsibility to take action and believe that their action can make a difference. They want more information and ideas about the things they can do (they currently think they are doing as much as they can). 78% are aware of the Wildlife Trusts. 81% recently gave to charity
- **Nature Needers:** those with a specific health/wellbeing need. 1 in 3 people live with at least one chronic condition such as hypertension, diabetes or depression. 800,000 people live with dementia. 1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem in any one year. 1 in 4 UK adults are obese.
- **Children and young people:** Only 10% of children spend time playing outdoors in natural places compare with 40% of adults when they were young. Four out of five children have no direct contact with nature often because of a lack of access in urban areas but also because of parental fears related to a lack of supervision. 37% of children have not played outside by themselves in the past six months

This project will provide targeted activities to engage these different audiences, reconnecting people with nature and wildlife in order to promote happy, healthy lifestyles. There will be a special emphasis on those who are less able or likely to participate, including individuals with mental health issues, disabilities and additional needs.



Natural England commission a national survey to quantify visits to the natural environment, including the natural environment within an urban setting. Results for 2017/18<sup>12</sup> are as follows:

By type of place	% of all visits
Countryside	39%
Woodland / forest	12%
Park in a town or city	33%
Playing field or other recreation area	6%
Children's playground	5%
Country Park	9%
Motivation	% of all visits
Health and exercise	50%
Walking a dog	38%
Relax and unwind	34%
Fresh air or pleasant weather	34%
Enjoy scenery	23%

An analysis of this survey data over a three-year period (2009 -2012) shows the difference in access to the natural environment between social groups within the adult English population.

It finds that the following groups are underrepresented when compared to the average:

- Black and Ethnic Minority Groups: 27 visits per person per year, 62% less than the average rest of the population
- Urban deprived: 40 visits per person per year, 41% less than the average rest of the population
- DE Socio-economic groups: 50 visits per person per year, 29% less than the average rest of the population

This research also shows that:

- People's level of physical activity outdoors is related to affluence, or lack of it
- People living in a deprived community are six times more likely to have had no previous experience of outdoors activity
- Those in DE Socio-economic groups are more likely to live in urban areas and less likely to have access to a car.

In 2016, Natural England commissioned a review of nature-based interventions for mental health care (Report Number 204). It demonstrates the range and impact of such interventions.

---

<sup>12</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/738891/Monitorof\\_En\\_gagementwiththe\\_Natural\\_Environment\\_Headline\\_Report\\_March\\_2016to\\_February\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/738891/Monitorof_En_gagementwiththe_Natural_Environment_Headline_Report_March_2016to_February_2018.pdf)

This included volunteering and other engagement activities within a natural environment setting. One of the key findings is the mental health benefit of nature-based interventions:

- **Reduction in depression, anxiety and stress related symptoms**
- **Improved self-esteem, confidence and mood**
- **Increase in work skills, meaningful activity and personal achievement**
- **Improved happiness, satisfaction and quality of life**
- **Increased social contact, inclusion and sense of well being**

The findings from Natural England's publication, 'Understanding the barriers to participation in outdoor recreation' (Henley Centre, 2005) have contributed to our summary of barriers for this project.

Findings conclude:

- **Young families** are looking for low intensity, accessible and 'short burst' outdoor experiences to fit in with schedules and energy levels of young families.
- Facilities such as toilets and refreshments are in demand to reflect current family needs and concerns
- **Seniors** want good access and good car parking.
- The virtues of an interesting and value for money day out needs to be well communicated as an attractive and safe prospect, possibly with grandchildren in tow.
- **Young people** are a hard to reach audience. They have a powerful indifference to the outdoors often with little or no previous connection to outside activity.

Sports England's report, 'A study of demography, motivation, participation and provision in outdoor sport and recreation in England' (2015) examines the demand and supply of outdoor provision, and the profile of the outdoor consumer. Key motivating factors included:

#### **Influence of family**

43% of participants first participated in their main outdoor activity in a family group

80% of participants felt participation strengthens family relationships

Parents of children who are active outdoors are twice as likely to become active themselves

The children of parents who are active outdoors are twice as likely to become active themselves.

#### **Negative impact of long-term illness or disability**

Those with a long-term illness or disability and those aged 55 are least likely to participate as a family

#### **Connecting with nature**

A 'connection' with nature, such as enjoyment of scenery and wildlife at favourite places, becomes the more important factor in maintaining levels of physical activity

#### **Visits by over 55s are more likely**

These are likely to involve walking without a dog, and motivated by the enjoyment of scenery and wildlife

### Getting away from it all

92% of people participate outdoors to relax and de-stress, described as the perfect antidote to the stresses of modern day living

### Health and fitness

There is a strong correlation between outdoor exercise and preventing obesity, diabetes and depression

## 1.5 Our Current Visitors

### 1.5.1 Consultation

To find out important information about our current visitors, what visitors value, what barriers there might be and improvements they would like to see in the future, extensive research and consultation was carried out. This was achieved in a number of different ways including focus meetings with specific groups, family fun days, school assemblies, face to face surveys, online questionnaires, observational surveys, voting opportunities, displays and presentations.

During the Round 1 development, widespread consultation was carried out involving over 2000 residents who provided valuable feedback on the future vision of Radipole Park. The consultation work undertaken in 2017 included:

- An **engagement questionnaire** delivered to 1000 properties that surround the park and gardens, which resulted in a 48% return response.
- **Local nurseries and pre-schools** were contacted and engagement questionnaires were distributed to parents, resulting in a 60% return response.
- **Young Inspectors** were briefed on the proposals and visited local primary and secondary schools, enabling an informed report from young people to be produced.
- A **drop-in event** was held in Weymouth's Park district.
- **Leaflets and banners** were produced, including script in Polish to engage with local Polish families.
- **Meetings** with the Chelmsford Street Centre, local Volunteer Groups, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Kingston Maurwood College, the RSPB, the Lawn Tennis Association, Weymouth Civic Society, the local PCSO, Munstys and the Police & Community Safety team.
- A number of **Friends Group events** were hosted in the park and gardens.
- **Weymouth Access Group** was consulted and surveyed the site in order to produce a DDA Audit Report will be submitted with the NLHF first stage lottery bid.

For the full Round 1 Consultation Report, please see Appendix 2

Throughout the Development Phase, consultation momentum has continued with the aim of expanding on feedback and ideas gained during initial Round 1 planning. This has been crucial in learning about our current audiences, detecting potential new users, identifying needs and opportunities, promoting awareness of the project and shaping it to fit the requirements of the local community. Below is a summary of the consultation that has taken place during this phase:

- An **online survey** was created and promoted through the Weymouth Town Council and Friend's group website and social media – within a couple of weeks we had received over 150 completed surveys.
- **People counters** have been installed at all thirteen access points in the park in order to gauge usage.
- The **Friends Group** have hosted **fifteen events** in the park, offering a variety of different activities including egg hunts, plant sales, wildlife and wellbeing, brass band concerts and family fun days. These events have attracted a broad spectrum of people who have been able to find out about the project and had the opportunity to have their say on the proposals.
- **Pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, specialist schools and Weymouth College** were contacted and given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire.
- Visits were made to a local pre-school, three primary schools, a specialist school and two secondary schools.
- **Two residential homes** and **three community groups** were consulted with.
- We have held a number of **specialist talks** to enable local people to feedback on our plans
- A number of **focus groups** took place with interested parties such as RSPB, Kingston Maurward, Dorset Wildlife Trust, and Lawn Tennis Association.
- **Sports organisations** such as Ping Pong England and Basketball UK have been contacted for research purposes and to gauge public interest.
- A **Duke of Edinburgh student** created a survey to filter to his peer group in order to find out about favourite sports and opinions on local facilities.
- We attended three **community volunteer network events** in order to make links and inform people of the project.
- A **councillor briefing session** was organised as an opportunity for stakeholders to find out more and ask questions about the project.
- **Observational surveys** took place to find out more about our current audience and park usage.
- **Weymouth Access Group, Dorset Blind Association and Diverse Abilities Group** were contacted for specialist advice on designs and proposed plans.
- **Comparative sites and projects** were consulted in order to gain advice and learn best practice

Project news and updates were also provided through a regular blog which can be viewed here: <https://radipoleparkandgardensfriends.wordpress.com/>

### 1.5.2 Counter Data

In August 2018 Linetop Counter Software was installed at all 13 entrances of the park and gardens. The counters not only record numbers of people entering the park but can also show which entrances are the busiest, on what days and at what times; this has been valuable in deciding where new facilities will be located. The counter data shows the following:

- The most popular entrance to the park is counter RPG 10 which is located in the car park by the play area and is by far the busiest on a Saturday.
- The second busiest entrance to the park is RPG 1 which is at the opposite end of the park, located near Aldi and McDonalds.
- The third busiest entrance is RPG 3 which is the entrance off Alexander Bridge.

- RPG 4 is the entrance to the gardens and significantly busier on a Saturday.
- RPG 5 is located by the garden's carpark towards the tennis courts and is the next busiest entrance
- RPG 11 and 12 have equal numbers of counter data. RPG 11 is located at the north end of Radipole Park Drive and RPG 12 is located at the pedestrian access from the housing estate.
- The middle entrances are (RPG 6,7,8) were particularly low which suggests people don't like using the entrances that come directly from the road, possibly as they don't feel safe. Also, RPG 2 which is located opposite Alexander Bridge and goes straight onto the road.
- RPG 9 visitor numbers are also fairly low and again entrance is from Radipole Park Drive.
- RPG 13 entrance is from the residential area behind the park and has quite low visitor count possible as people don't know it leads to the park and it's a poorly lit area.

From the installation date in July 2018 to May 2019, approximately 350,000 people visited the park and gardens. We also know which events attracted the most people, with the Family Fun Days being the most well attended.

Please see Appendix 1 for further details.

### 1.5.3 Observational Surveys

With the help of volunteers, several observational surveys took place in the park and playing field, on different days of the week to gauge who and how many people currently use the facilities. See Appendix 1 for full details.

The following observations were made:

- There were more female than male visitors during weekdays.
- On a weekend day the ratio of female to male visitors is more evenly distributed.
- There was a consistently high number of younger children demonstrating that the park is very much a family destination.
- The number of older children, aged between 11-16 years was minimal
- Visitors classed as 'Older People' only make up 6.6% of the visitor profile, which is not reflective of local demographics.

### 1.5.4 Questionnaires

In preparation for the Round 1 Application, a paper questionnaire was sent out to 1,000 properties that surround the park and gardens. The questionnaire was also available online and promoted by the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens. A total of 445 responses were received. (158 online and 287 paper) Of the responses only 2% reported that they never used Radipole Park and Gardens therefore we can learn significant information regarding the current visitor profile.

In order to ensure that this information was up to date, a further questionnaire was sent out in August 2019. This questionnaire was promoted online through the Weymouth Town Council website, Facebook and twitter pages. The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens also promoted the questionnaire on their website and Facebook page. A total of 154 responses were received. The



results have been filtered so that only current users of the park and gardens (139 responses) are shown. The results of the two questionnaires are compared in the table below:

	Round 1 Questionnaire	Round Two Questionnaire
<b>Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The age group with the highest percentage is 65+ years (36%)</li> <li>The age group with the lowest percentage is 18-24 years (1%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The age group with the highest percentage is slightly lower at 56-65 years (25.17%)</li> <li>The age group with the lowest percentage is similarly 18-25 years (3%)</li> <li>This questionnaire included a 75+ years bracket which was significantly low at 2.65% (though this may be due to the questionnaire being solely online)</li> </ul>
<b>Gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33% of respondents were male</li> <li>66% of respondents were female</li> <li>1% preferred not to say</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23% of respondents were male</li> <li>74.34% of respondents were female</li> <li>0.66% of respondents identified as transgender</li> </ul>
<b>Disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12% considered to be disabled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.28% considered to be disabled</li> </ul>
<b>Where do visitors come from?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postcodes were either DT3 or DT4 (the questionnaire was posted to houses surrounding Radipole Park though 158 were online responses)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postcodes were mainly DT3 and DT4 though there were some DT5 and a BH6 suggesting that Radipole Park does have some visitors from further afield</li> </ul>
<b>How often do they visit?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most popular response was 'every week' with 38%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most popular response was 'once a month' with 39.74%</li> </ul>
<b>How long do visitors stay?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most popular response was 30 mins-1 hour with 42%</li> <li>Only 1% responded that they stayed 'more than 4 hours'</li> </ul>	

<b>Who do they come with?</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31.17% responded as 'an individual'</li> <li>• 52.35% responded 'as a family'</li> </ul>
<b>What do people do when they arrive?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>'Walking'</b> was the most popular response with 81%</li> <li>• <b>'Relaxation'</b> and <b>'To enjoy nature/wildlife'</b> were the next most popular responses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>'Walking'</b> was listed as the second most popular activity with 25.66%</li> <li>• <b>'To use children's play area'</b> was the most popular reason with 26.97%</li> </ul>
<b>Barriers to participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Have no children and walk into town via seafront</i></li> <li>• <i>Nothing for my age.</i></li> <li>• <i>Too noisy, no refreshment area.</i></li> <li>• <i>Elderly - regular use when my children were young</i></li> <li>• <i>Drunks, homeless and drugs</i></li> <li>• <i>Difficulty walking.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No toilets</i></li> <li>• <i>There isn't much there</i></li> <li>• <i>I've got little kids and there's no toilet or cafe and the play area's a bit boring</i></li> <li>• <i>Nothing of interest</i></li> <li>• <i>A little run down</i></li> <li>• <i>Didn't know it was there</i></li> <li>• <i>Park gets very boggy when it has rained.</i></li> <li>• <i>No reason to. It is seen more as a walk-through area than an actual park area like Lodmoor Country Gardens</i></li> <li>• <i>I don't visit often as it's quite far away from everything</i></li> <li>• <i>No reason to, there's nothing really there.</i></li> </ul>

Please see Appendix 2 for full Stage One Consultation Report and Appendix 3 for Stage Two Questionnaire Results.

### 1.5.5 Groups Currently Underrepresented

By comparing the information gathered about current audiences engaged with Radipole Park against local demographics we can identify groups of people that are currently not using the park and investigate reasons to why this might be and what barriers there are to engagement. Research gathered about our current audiences suggests that the main groups that are under-represented are:

<b>Group currently underrepresented</b>	<b>Reasons why they do not visit the park</b>	<b>Solution</b>
<b>Older children between the ages of 11-16 years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It's boring</i></li> <li>• <i>not enough recreational resources for this age group</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>provide fun, challenging resources to entice this age group</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• currently not enough appealing activities</li> <li>• sports facilities are in poor condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure activities are inclusive</li> <li>• update sports facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Young adults between the ages of 16-24 years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No reason to</i></li> <li>• minimal volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• sports facilities are in poor condition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide interesting and varied volunteering opportunities</li> <li>• update sports facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Older people aged 65+ years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nothing of interest</i></li> <li>• uneven paths</li> <li>• not enough seating</li> <li>• currently not enough appealing activities</li> <li>• no café or toilet facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve paths and accessibility</li> <li>• install more benches</li> <li>• ensure activities are inclusive and suitable for this age group</li> <li>• install café and toilet facilities</li> </ul>

### 1.5.6 Target Audiences

Our research and consultation show that there are specific audiences that we need to target to enable them to experience the benefits the park will offer, help them engage with heritage, and make the visitor profile more representative of the local demographic as detailed in the above section.

Through the identification of groups that are currently underrepresented, we have chosen target audiences who we wish to engage with the project. These include:

#### 1. Local families who may be on a low income

We know that there are 35,320 families in Weymouth, a significant number of which live in proximity of Radipole Park. Acorn analysis suggests that 'Struggling Families' account for almost one in ten households across all of Weymouth and that these families will typically be on a low income and looking for a low-cost day out that involves plenty of activities for children.

In addition, the park sits on the border of Melcombe Regis which has high levels of deprivation in living environment; education; skills and training; health; employment; income and crime. A priority of the project will be to provide a variety of free or low-cost activities to encourage participation from low income families, supporting objectives outlined in the Melcombe Regis Strategic Plan. Many families who live in Melcombe Regis, or the 'Park District' as it sometimes referred to, live in terraced houses with no gardens. Radipole Park serves the very important purpose of providing these families with green space to walk, exercise, play, meet people and get away from the bustle of urban life.

Within the surrounding area of the park, there is a significant Polish Community who may benefit from greater community engagement, inclusive volunteer opportunities and family focused activities. Although recent consultation suggests that many Polish families regularly use the play

area, this group are underrepresented at events which indicates the need for better communication and more effective promotion.

The British Medical Association Report 'Health at a Price' (2017) highlights the clear connection between poverty and the positive outcomes for people's health. "*Children living in poverty are more likely to suffer from chronic diseases and diet-related problems. Twice as many people are obese in the most deprived areas of the UK than in the least deprived areas. Poverty can affect children's cognitive development, and those living in poverty are over three times more likely to suffer from mental health problems.*" Through working with organisations such as Public Health, Active Dorset and local healthcare providers, the project aims to create targeted activities that will help combat significant health issues amongst children and families.

The Department of Health indicate that adult and child obesity levels across Weymouth are higher than the average in England. In Radipole, specifically, the National Childhood Measurement Programme 'Measures of Excess Weight' show 33.70% (overweight 4-5 year olds including obese) worse than the English Average. It is therefore crucial that local families are encouraged to have active lifestyles and combat this serious and increasing health issue.

Children between 11-16 years have been identified as a group that is currently underrepresented. Anxiety and depression linked to a disconnection with nature and outdoors, is also a concern amongst this age group. This project aims to upgrade play and sporting equipment, such as the skate ramps and sports courts to encourage greater involvement. There will also be organised activities such as orienteering and table tennis tournaments that may appeal to this age range. Such activities and events will be promoted through local schools, youth clubs and scouts.

Volunteer roles and work placements will be advertised through social media, the town council website, libraries and job centres to ensure widespread appeal so that areas with high unemployment and people needing work experience have the opportunity to apply.

## 2. People with health and wellbeing needs

The percentage of people that have a disability that limits their day-to-day activities is higher in Weymouth and Portland (9.7%) compared to Dorset (8.6%) and England and Wales (8.5%).<sup>13</sup> Though consultation suggest that people with disabilities are currently represented in Radipole Park, research and feedback suggests that we still have a long way to go before we fully meet requirements in providing inclusive and accessible facilities.

Connections with the Weymouth and Portland Access Group and a report written by the Chairman, have identified several barriers such as uneven pathways and no designated disabled parking, which will be addressed in the capital works of the project.

Dementia Groups have been consulted and a desire for more activities centred around the needs of people with dementia and their carers has been identified in this area. In order to effectively

---

<sup>13</sup> Census 2011

create and promote dementia friendly activities, we will work with Stepping Into Nature and Active Ageing.

Weymouth College and Westfield Specialist School have expressed an interest in volunteering opportunities for their students, which will be catered for through the creation of a Sensory Garden, details of which are outlined in the Volunteer Plan. We will also adapt volunteer opportunities where possible to ensure that they are inclusive and accessible.

Research shows that visiting outdoor locations can bring many positive benefits for those suffering from poor mental health. The project will provide activities such as health walks and ecotherapy volunteer groups to encourage people that may be suffering with anxiety or depression to engage with the park. We will ask for specialist advice from organisations such as Dorset Mind and Samaritans to ensure our activities and volunteer opportunities are suitable for those suffering from mental health problems and to effectively promote the services we wish to offer.

### 3. Older people aged 65+

In Weymouth, there is a high percentage of people aged 65 and over, making up approximately a quarter of the town's demographic.

Age UK nationally has found that 203,000 older people in the south west can go for a month without meeting up with a friend, and that 41,000 over 65s in the region have not even had a conversation with their family or friends in the same period. Radipole Park is located on the border of an area of high risk of loneliness and very high risk of loneliness.<sup>14</sup> The project aims to reach out to people of this age category who may be experiencing feelings of depression and social isolation.

Activities that may appeal to older people, such as vintage tea parties, will be offered with plenty of opportunity for people to chat and get to know each other. Local churches, adult care agencies and befriending initiatives such as 'Dorchester Friends in Need' will be contacted in order to promote activities and engage older members of the community. Volunteer opportunities such as, gentle gardening and ecotherapy gardening will also be incorporated into the programme so that older people feel able to participate.

Feedback from nursing homes, staff and residents showed an interest in seated activities such as outdoor theatre, storytelling, picnics and live music. Closer links with local nursing homes and sheltered housing will be made to ensure we gain specialist advice and that activities are appropriate, considering issues such as mobility and safety risks.

Recent consultation highlights lack of adequate seating and uneven pathways as a main barrier to engagement for older people. The project will improve the path network and create more spaces for people to sit and relax.

The Heritage Café will also be promoted as a welcoming place for older people to meet and chat with regular 'get-together' sessions being held.

---

<sup>14</sup> <http://data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/weymouth%20and%20portland/>



### 1.5.7 What People Value About Radipole Park

During the Family Fun Days, people were asked to write down what they value about Radipole Park. The responses clearly demonstrate the positivity that people feel about the park as many people view it as a special place to build memories with family and friends.

Other comments included:

*It's my safe space*

*To gather my thoughts*

*It helps my depression*

*We sit remembering good times*

*It lifts my mood*

*I have thinking time*

*I visit my father's memorial bench*

*It's so quiet and peaceful here*

*I love seeing all the wildlife*

*The children love visiting this park*

*The gardens are beautiful*



**Reviews on Trip Advisor include:**

Reviewed 19 March 2018

## The Cinderella Park of Weymouth

I'm biased because I grew up right next door to these wonderful gardens and spent my childhood playing in them.

I refer to them as the Cinderella gardens because they are beautiful but hidden out of the way just like Cinders in her kitchen.

Because they are out of the main town, that becomes part of their magic, peaceful and serene.

The gardens are famous for their romantic gnarled old weeping willows, which many a bridal party has posed under over the years. there are naturalistic planted flower beds that in the summer are a blaze of colour. a variety of trees are planted through the park including many unusual ones. the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens hold events here throughout the warmer months, from Teddy Bear Picnics to Big Fun Days, Brass Bands in the park and Wildlife events. Walk further along and you come to the more sporty section, tennis courts, basketball courts, MUGA. then you arrive at the enclosed children's playground and vast expanse of the playing fields complete with goal posts. Walk to the very far end and you'll be rewarded with wild flower meadows and community orchard.

Reviewed 24 April 2019

*Beautiful gardens*

*Amazing flower display, always so well kept as well. Disabled access is great as all the paths are tarmac and not a hill in sight. So tranquil just sitting and listening to the birds. Dogs welcome but please pick up after bins are there.*

*Lots of space to tire the kids out as well*

### 1.5.8 Barriers and Limitations

Barriers	Issues	Feedback from Consultation	Implication for the project
Physical	The park could be better signposted.	<p><i>Didn't know it was there</i></p> <p><i>I don't know which way to go</i></p> <p><i>It's awkwardly situated between a fast-busy road and an industrial area with railway lines</i></p>	<p>Better promotion, including information on how to access the park.</p> <p>Better promote 'Parks Poster' linking all of Weymouth Parks on a map</p>
	The car park is unsuitable for disabled parking and the pathways are not accessible throughout the site.	<p><i>There is no disabled parking or place for a minibus to park or even drop off</i></p> <p><i>Uneven pathways. The gardens are pretty good but towards the playing field end accessibility is not good at all</i></p> <p><i>The gardens are very accessible, but the park is a long way for older people to walk and there's not enough places to rest on the way</i></p> <p><i>Parking can be difficult and no toilets</i></p>	<p>Improve car park, include designated disabled parking</p> <p>Improve pathways and accessibility to connect all areas of the park</p>
	Flooding on the field	<i>When there is a lot of rain the sports field tends to flood badly</i>	Install a drainage system on the field to help improve conditions

	No café or toilets	<i>No toilets, no refreshments</i>  <i>There is no toilet. We can only go for a very short time due to this.</i>  <i>I've got little kids and there's no toilet or café.</i>	
	People cycling in the park	<i>Do not allow bikes – it's crazy they have a cycle lane along the road on the pavement which is really wide</i>	Create more signage about cycling in the park
<b>Intellectual</b>	<i>Limited signage and interpretation throughout park.</i>	<i>I never knew Radipole had all this history</i>  <i>It would be good to be able to offer walks through the park with volunteers who know more about the plants etc or have notice boards about the plants.</i>	Create interesting information panels about park heritage  Include informative walks in the activity programme
	Website is difficult to navigate	<i>The pop-up adverts are very annoying.</i>	Upgrade website and provide training for Friends Group
	No educational resources.	<i>It would be great to have printable resources for bug hunting, map of the park, tree names, etc</i>	Create educational resources and upload onto the website
	No training plan	<i>I would like some training regarding conservation</i>	Create relevant and valuable training opportunities
<b>Social</b>	Anti-social behaviour	<i>Get rid of the drug dealers</i>  <i>I have friends living in the council flats and their kids are always playing up and in trouble because they have nothing to do.</i>	Install a flood light in the car park.  Create engaging activity programme which includes activities specifically targeted at youths
	Not enough engaging or inclusive activities or volunteering opportunities	<i>Any activities that increase confidence in speaking to people, learning new skills and being independent.</i>	Ensure activity programme and volunteer plan has a varied and inclusive opportunities
<b>Economic</b>	Cost of activities for families	<i>I hope the project will run more events like this. It's</i>	Ensure activities have minimal costs for families

		<i>nice having something free for a change.</i>	
<b>Organisational</b>	More training for staff and volunteers	<i>Any accessible and inclusive activities would encourage families to come to Radipole Park and Gardens.</i>	Training to ensure project is inclusive and accessible

## 1.6 Our Current Activities

### 1.6.1 Activities in Radipole Park

Though Weymouth Town Council currently offer no formal community engagement, The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens run a full, year-round events programme. These events span a range of activities and offer something for everyone. They form a very strong basis for the Activity Plan and have been crucial in deciding what will be included and developed in the Action Plan.

Since formation the Friends have very successfully raised funds to support projects in the park. Many of their events are designed primarily to raise funds but the programme is carefully developed to ensure activities are appropriate to the park, link to key themes and attract different audiences. Many events are interpretative in that they enable visitors to learn about the park and its heritage and nature.

Their events are always well attended, showing strong support from the local community. Analysis of the counter data suggests that the 'Family Fun Days' are the most popular but even the smaller scale events such as 'Easter Egg Hunts' and 'Halloween Hoolie' attract a significant number of visitors.

This year, Radipole Park hosted its first Picnic in the Park Event (4<sup>th</sup> May 2019) organised by the Friends of Radipole Park and Weymouth Town Council in partnership with Live Well Dorset, Stepping into Nature and Active Ageing.

Radipole Park has also accommodated Weymouth and Portland's first Pride Event (26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2019) which is the first time the park has been used to hold an event of this scale and shows promising potential for the future.







Comments from the events include:

*What a fun idea for a theme, the kids absolutely love these Fun Days.*

*I never knew Radipole Park had all this history. I love looking at old photographs. What a lovely display.*

*We always come to the events in the park – it wears the children out!*

*I'd definitely be interested in more health and nature themed activities.*

### 1.6.2 What Activities People Would Like

Although feedback about current activities and events is generally positive, research and consultation through questionnaires with the general public, schools, community groups highlight the following:

	Activities people would like	Implications for the Project
<b>Questionnaire 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86.66% interested or very interested in outdoor theatre</li> <li>75.33% interested or very interested in wildlife talks</li> <li>63.52% interested or very interested in arts and crafts</li> <li>59.87% interested or very interested in health walks</li> <li>45.52% interested or very interested in storytelling</li> </ul> <p>Other suggestions include:  <i>Gardening classes</i>  <i>Activities for children with disabilities</i>  <i>More events for kids</i>  <i>Evening activities for local teenagers during school holidays and weekends</i>  <i>More vintage events</i>  <i>Dog show,</i>  <i>Water play area</i>  <i>Open air cinema</i>  <i>Special design for disabled children play equipment</i>  <i>Currently no benches outside of the park</i>  <i>I love the idea of a café</i>  <i>Dog exercise area and dog free area</i>  <i>Neighbourhood picnics</i>  <i>Skate park</i>  <i>Outdoor cinema</i>  <i>Extended kids play area</i>  <i>Art projects</i>  <i>Photography groups</i>  <i>Nature Trail</i>  <i>Christmas activities/lights</i>  <i>Bug hotels</i>  <i>Bush crafting</i>  <i>Birdwatching</i>  <i>Netball</i></p>	<p>Research if local theatre groups would be interested in using the park as a venue</p> <p>Provide an activity plan that has a wildlife and nature focus</p> <p>Include opportunities for art and crafts in the activity plan</p> <p>Include storytelling and work in partnership with local libraries</p> <p>Ensure activities are inclusive and throughout school holidays/weekends.</p> <p>There is a strong requirement for dog themed events.</p> <p>Café, toilets and benches are commented on several times.</p> <p>The skatepark is popular, though it needs updating</p> <p>Radipole Park is very much seen as a picnic destination.</p> <p>There is a strong emphasis on art/photography themed activities          Nature trails, bug hotels, bush crafting and other nature-based activities are sought after.</p>
<b>Preschool comments</b>	<p><i>Nature trails, activity sheets for little ones to fill in, egg hunt, something to encourage toddler age children to walk will be appreciated.</i></p>	<p>Provide activities that have an element of search and discovery to engage preschool aged children</p> <p>Provide activities that link with nature</p>

<b>Primary schools' comments</b>	<p><i>Educational activities, orienteering, sports courts. Storytelling, outdoor theatre, music, carol singing.</i></p> <p><i>Fun fayres, themed days</i></p> <p><i>bug hunting, nature walks, sports that our school can't offer.</i></p> <p><i>The skate ramps could be a good reward.</i></p> <p><i>Good sports facilities.</i></p> <p><i>An exciting play area to use as a reward for good behaviour. Anything that can tie into the National Curriculum such as information regarding wildlife or history.</i></p> <p><i>Anything sports related, sponsored walks, run, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Fayres with stalls, bouncy castle, and games.</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the activity plan has cross curricular activities</p> <p>Promote our sports facilities with schools</p> <p>Provide an orienteering course</p> <p>Provide story-based sessions for schools</p> <p>Continue to provide family focused events such as 'Fun Days'.</p>
<b>Special Education Schools Comments</b>	<p><i>All activities outside the school are worthwhile for our pupils. If it can tie in with the curriculum it's even better! (i.e. wildlife, life-skills etc)</i></p> <p><i>Volunteering- gardening, café work, community work, helping at events. Any activities that increase confidence in speaking to people, learning new schools and being independent.</i></p> <p><i>Low cost and inclusive activities with good accessibility.</i></p> <p><i>Any accessible and inclusive activities would encourage families to come to Radipole Park and Gardens. Especially if it remains free to park by the tennis courts.</i></p>	<p>Promote the park and gardens as a valuable trip out</p> <p>Provide wildlife themed activities</p> <p>Create inclusive volunteer opportunities with an aim to increase confidence and independence</p> <p>Ensure activity programme has some low cost or free activities</p> <p>Ensure activities are accessible and inclusive</p>
<b>Secondary school-aged pupils Comments</b>	<p><i>Park run</i></p> <p><i>Football match</i></p> <p><i>Cricket match</i></p> <p><i>Food afternoon</i></p> <p><i>Treasure hunt</i></p>	<p>The park and gardens are not the required length for 'Park run' and this is already offered at Lodmoor Country Park.</p> <p>The drainage on the field will be improved so that sport's such as cricket and football can take place</p> <p>There will be more benches for picnics</p>



<b>Community Group Comments</b>	<p><i>Yes, talks by gardeners about plants and how to grow them etc</i></p> <p><i>Walks and talks</i></p> <p><i>Maybe you could look at designing an app that I could download on my phone and maybe have an app to play music. I do a lot of work with mental health people and this could be a great place for reflection.</i></p> <p><i>Family stuff for little ones – painting with nature / crafts etc</i></p> <p><i>Maybe something along the lines of forest school at the weekend like they do at Bincombe valley during the school term.</i></p> <p><i>A football pitch would be good as the one at Littlemoor is only junior size.</i></p> <p><i>Or a building café – would they learn skills like crafts using natural materials willow winding etc</i></p>	<p>There will be a digital offer included in the activity plan</p> <p>There will be family focused events that incorporate nature, arts and crafts.</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

The consultation demonstrates how there is public requirement for an activity programme that is more varied and targets the needs of individual groups.

### 1.6.3 Currents Sports Facilities

The central area of Radipole Park is composed of a series of sports facilities sandwiched between two parking areas. The facilities currently consist of double tennis courts managed by Weymouth Tennis Club and four courts, basketball courts and MUGA (multi-use games area) managed by Weymouth Town Council. There is also a small skate park and a playing field which includes a goal post.

Though some of the sports facilities are well used, the general feeling is that there are too many courts and it would be better to condense and redefine these facilities. Through better promotion with local residents, schools and sports groups, interest could be reignited, and the facilities more frequently used.

Consultation from the Round Two Questionnaire suggests the following:

34.69% would be interested or very interested in **tennis**  
 45.2% would be interested or very interested in **table tennis**  
 28.67% would be interested or very interested in **football**  
 25.7% would be interested or very interested in **basketball**

49.32% would be interested or very interested in **orienteering**

People also said they would be interested in:

*Gentle exercise classes*

*Yoga, tai chi in the park*

*Netball*

From the Secondary School's Consultation, tennis, football and the skatepark were the most popular reasons to visit the park.

#### 1.6.4 Education Engagement

Through consultation with local nurseries, pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, we now know that Radipole Park is occasionally used, mainly for fun, play and as a reward for good behaviour. These activities are organised by the schools themselves, self-managed and rarely engage with the heritage or ecology of the parks. There is an appetite from schools for educational activity, however feedback suggests that this would be more useful and well used if it was available for teachers to access themselves through printable risk assessments, lesson resources, maps with picnic areas on, and information about parking. Comments relating to this include:

*All trips outside the school are worthwhile for our pupils. If it can tie in with the curriculum it's even better! (i.e. wildlife, life-skills etc)*

*The school timetable is busy and we have a lot to fit into a relatively short time, trips that can be tailored to fit in with topics or educational objectives are favoured.*

#### 1.6.5 Current Volunteering & Training

Volunteer opportunities at Radipole Park are currently limited to one- off activities, such as litter picking, that are often arranged by other organisations. Such activities are often well attended, and the consensus is that the community are generally supportive and want to contribute to their local park.

Radipole Park is lucky to have an extremely active and dynamic Friends of Radipole Park Group', that has 250 members. The committee currently consists of a group of five and is chaired by Mike Goulden. Members are kept informed and up to date with events, fundraising and prospective projects via the 'Radipole Ripples' newsletter which is circulated by email. Despite this, very few volunteer at any of the fundraising events and most of the work is carried out by the committee. With a proper volunteer plan in place, promotion and recruitment would be improved potentially engaging more people.

Last year, a secondary school student requested to volunteer some hours for a Duke of Edinburgh Award. He volunteered over a course of a few months assisting at events, judging an art competition and designing a sports questionnaire that he distributed amongst his peer group. This proved to be a useful way of consulting with this age group and has been included in the Consultation Plan. This flagged up the potential to create a more structured work placement, offering the opportunity to see what the Parks Department do and engage with the park and gardens.

Staff training includes courses such as:

- Safe handling and application of pesticides
- Safe use of pesticides using pedestrian handheld equipment
- Handheld hedge cutter



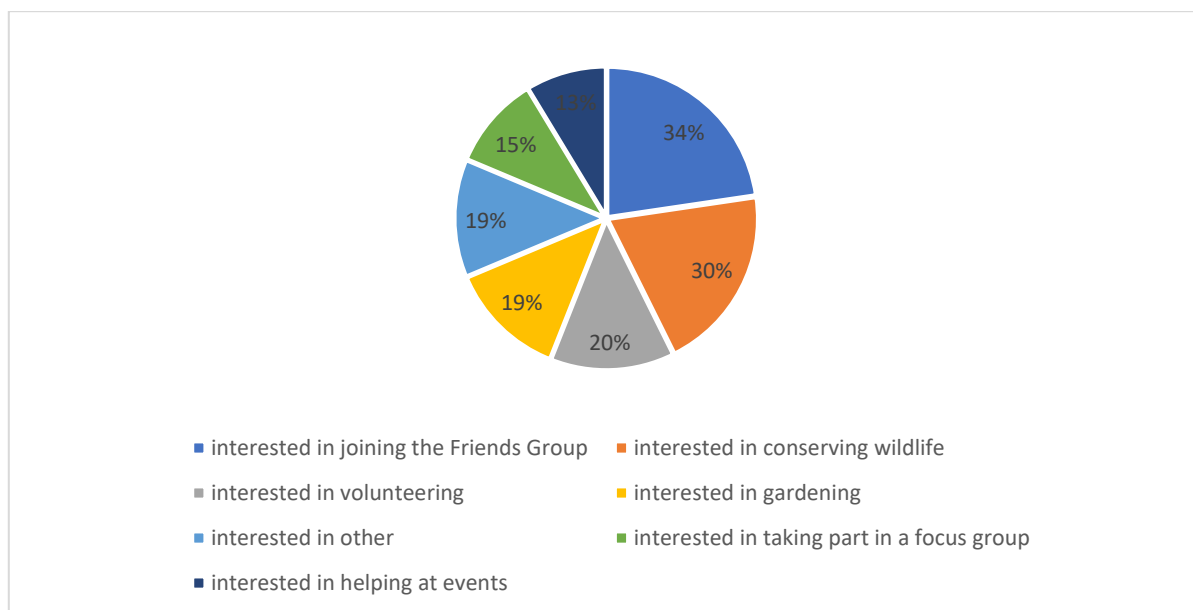
- Abrasive wheels
- First Aid at Work
- Safe manual handling
- Risk assessment principles

There are currently no training opportunities for volunteers, though consultation shows that there is a significant interest in horticulture, maintenance, conservation and developing website and social media skills.

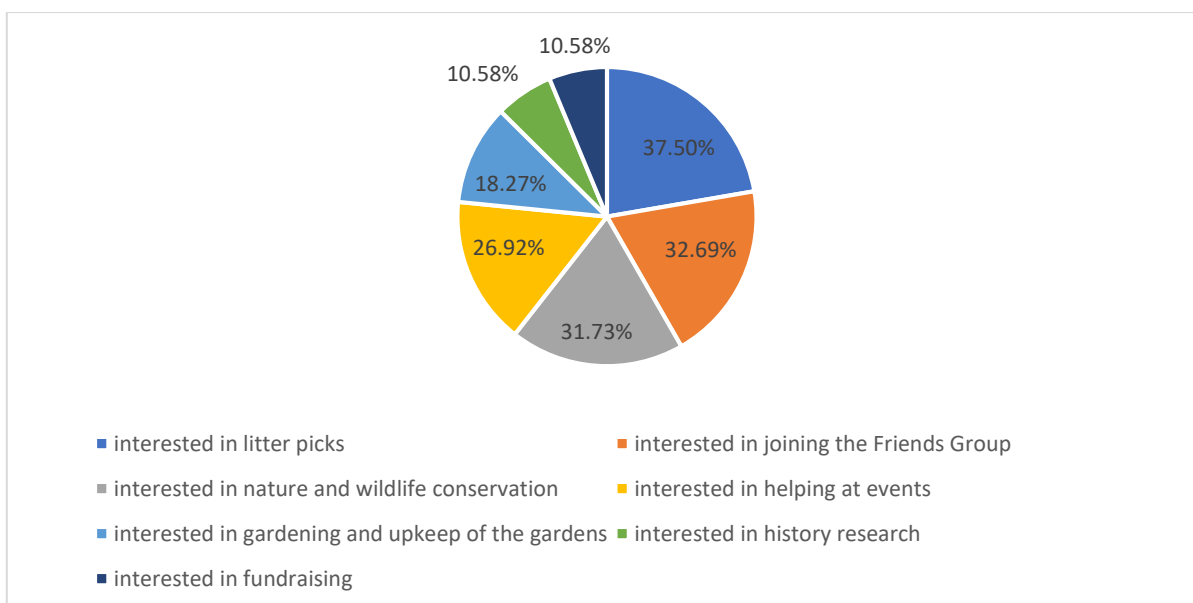
### 1.6.6 What Volunteer Opportunities are people interested in?

From the questionnaires, feedback suggests that there is a requirement for more volunteering opportunities particularly surrounding nature, wildlife and horticulture.

The Round 1 Questionnaire found that:



The Round Two Questionnaire found that:



### 1.6.7 Current Interpretation

Current interpretation within Radipole Park is limited primarily to signage and notice boards promoting events in the park. Weymouth Town Council has a house style for signage across all parks which is evident in the welcome signage at the southern entrance.

Over the past few years, the Friends of Radipole Park have installed noticeboards at main entrances. These have an attractive, bespoke design giving visual consistency across the site whilst also offering the opportunity for distinctiveness at each entrance through the inclusion of different coloured animals in the design.



These noticeboards are used primarily for the promotion of events and activities but do not provide any visitor orientation or interpretation of the site. Interestingly it is only the notice board at the southern entrance that includes the name of the Park.

During the development phase a map of the park was developed, highlighting important trees and birds. Volunteers were engaged in developing the content with the aim that, it would encourage people to explore the whole park and actively look at key features within it. Whilst the concept is very good and the design clear and attractive, the map itself is somewhat hidden on the back of a noticeboard in the middle of the park.

A report provided by KMC Management Consultancy Ltd made the following observations<sup>15</sup>:

- Whilst signage at the Jubilee Retail Park entrance was 'welcoming' there is little signage to direct people to the park from further away. There needs to be better signposting to carparks along Radipole Park Drive.



<sup>15</sup> Radipole Park and Gardens Audit Report, KMC Management Consultancy Ltd, August 2019

- There is scope for more and better interpretation of the site – Information regarding what can be found on the site to be available at all entrances. Opportunity for interpretation of interesting features throughout the site.
- There is also scope for more 'park artistry' e.g. cut tree trunks being left on site as features
- There should be better promotion of Friends and ways for contacting them

Please see Appendix 11 of the Management and Maintenance Plan for full report.

### 1.6.8 Current Publicity and Promotion


Radipole Park is currently promoted on the Weymouth Town Council website, Facebook page and twitter account.



There is also a page explaining the project and an opportunity to find out more or to join us at our next consultation event.

The Friends of Radipole Park also have a website which contains blogs about the park relevant to history, nature and wildlife, the N.H.L.F project and upcoming events. The blog was started in January 2018 and so far, has 871 followers and over 11,000 hits.

In addition to the website, the Sue Hogben, Secretary of the Friends Group, maintains several very active Facebook Pages including 'What's happening Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens' which has 510 followers and reaches approximately 11.2K people over a 28-day period.


01305 239839

WEYMOUTH  
TOWN COUNCIL

Search here:

[HOME](#) [SERVICES](#) [NEWS](#) [EVENTS](#) [THE COUNCIL](#) [EXPLORE WEYMOUTH](#) [CONTACT US](#)



[Home](#) | Radipole Park and Gardens Lottery Project

## Radipole Park and Gardens Lottery Project

In March 2018 the Parks Department, with the support of the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens, secured initial lottery funding of £78,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to draw up plans to improve the park and gardens.

The plans, so far, include a new café, toilets, a sensory garden, new play equipment, water shoots, wildlife area, upgraded sports areas, new car park surfacing and pathway network. If the bid is successful, the project will cost approximately 1.4 million to complete.

The main aims of this project are to

- reconnect local people with their park, giving people a sense of pride and ownership over the gardens
- improve park facilities, making it a central focus for the community
- build a heritage café and toilets to encourage people to use the park and to stay longer
- offer a wider variety of events and activities in the park
- encourage voluntary groups and schools to make more use of the park
- develop opportunities to learn about the history and heritage of the park

For more information on this project please visit [www.radipoleparkandgardensfriends.wordpress.com](http://www.radipoleparkandgardensfriends.wordpress.com) or to join us at any of the engagement activities, pilot studies, consultation events or planning workshops, please contact [rosleesborne@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rosleesborne@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## SECTION TWO

### Where Do We Want To Be?

#### 2.1 Recreating Radipole Park and Gardens

##### 2.1.1 The Vision

This project will completely transform the park and gardens, halting its rapid decline and restoring the physical fabric to create a new chapter in the history of Radipole Park for future generations to enjoy.

Improvements will increase visitor numbers and the depth of engagement, enabling the park to become accessible to all. Strong partnerships will build sustainable relationships offering volunteering and training opportunities, providing specialist advice and supporting the future management and maintenance of the site.

The Government's 25-year Environment Plan states that,

*'Spending time in the natural environment – as a resident or a visitor – improves our mental health and feelings of wellbeing. It can reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression. It can help boost immune systems, encourage physical activity and may reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as asthma. It can combat loneliness and bind communities together.'*<sup>16</sup>

With this knowledge, we have a responsibility to reach out to local people and provide high quality greenspaces to encourage people to get outdoors and use the natural environment to live healthy, happy and active lifestyles. We want to reconnect people with nature and wildlife through an exciting and engaging programme of activities which will offer opportunities for finding about the natural and historic heritage of the park and gardens, attractive and meaningful volunteering and sessions that will enhance education and learning.

##### 2.1.2 The Project

The proposals for Radipole Park are based on extensive and thorough consultation, the details of which are presented in the Appendix 1. Consultation results have informed all aspects of the project development, ensuring that it reflects local needs and engendering a sense of ownership and pride.

At present there is no interpretation within Radipole Park and therefore visitors are unaware of its historic heritage or the special qualities of the natural environment. Despite an interest evidenced through consultation, there is no structured programme of activity to engage and involve audiences beyond the current fundraising and promotional activity for the project. Similarly, although clear interest in volunteering and supporting the park in the future, the lack of management, training and support structure hinders the opportunities for volunteer engagement.

Current infrastructure and facilities are tired, in need of repair and therefore underused. On a practical level, the inaccessibility of pathways due to encroaching tree roots and the damp conditions of the gardens means that it is unusable for significant periods of the year. The project is a key opportunity to address and rectify the physical issues and create a park that will be well used into the future.

---

<sup>16</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)



The restoration works to Radipole Park will mean that, for the first time, all of the park will be accessible to those with disabilities. The project will provide a range of facilities and activities to improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life for people of all age groups. The gardens play a vital role in offering outdoor space that is not available to many people, including those of ethnic minority backgrounds, who may be on low incomes and live in houses of multiple occupancy, flats or shared accommodation that have no gardens or outdoor space. This is especially relevant to adult mental wellbeing and the mental and physical well-being of children who need space to play and develop.

The Activity Plan has been designed to support the restoration works through a programme of community engagement to rediscover and document the “hidden heritage” of the park. Throughout the Delivery Phase, the Activity Officer will continue to work with the Friends of Radipole Park and other stakeholders, to engage a wide range of local people in a programme of activities. The project will reconnect local people with their park, explore and celebrate the park’s hidden heritage and help to create a new enthusiasm for becoming involved in its future development.

The new heritage café will become the focus for activity in the park. Not only will it address demand for refreshment and toilet facilities, as evidenced in the consultation, it will be the hub for engagement with the park. Core interpretation will share historical and natural heritage with visitors and offer key visitor information. Changing seasonal content will maintain interest and encourage visitors to explore the park. Children’s activities including interactive discovery table, orienteering, heritage trail and scavenger hunt will begin and end at the café as will walks, talks and workshops. It will host events linked to nature and heritage but also tackle local issues of social isolation and mental health, encouraging better local social cohesion by providing a meeting place and opportunities for local people to get together, make new friends and take advantage of the many positive health and wellbeing benefits of parks and green spaces. The café will also provide a warm, social space for volunteers to get together.

Radipole Park is an important green space in the heart of an urbanised area. Important not only to people but also wildlife, as the park and gardens are adjacent to an RSPB SSSI nature reserve. Opportunities to conserve wildlife and to create and actively manage wildlife habitats are included in the landscape design and will increase people’s access to wildlife. Partnerships with local organisations such as RSPB, Dorset Wildlife and Kingston Maurward College will help deliver a range of formal and informal learning opportunities which will enable a better understanding of the park environment and support the management and preservation of it in the future.

Play, sports and well maintained and managed open spaces can contribute to economic growth by helping to reduce anti-social behaviour and by contributing to the development of health and wellbeing.

Having high quality, well maintained facilities for people and their families to use and enjoy, that are located close to housing, is important in making Weymouth an attractive location to move to or re-locate business to. Radipole Park is a prime example of just such a facility being located near residential housing with a year-round, rather than seasonal, appeal.

The heritage value of Radipole Park is of both physical and social significance. The park has a story to tell and the people who have visited and enjoyed the park over the decades have many fond memories and recollections of how and why the park is important to them. In recent years the condition of the park has deteriorated so that it has become less attractive to many people. The project will restore the physical fabric of the park and capture and record these memories so that they may be shared and celebrated by future generations. More details of the heritage significance of the park are given in the Conservation Plan.

### 2.1.3 Project Aims

- 1 To ensure that Radipole Park and Gardens delivers as a high-quality inclusive, recreational facility for the general public, encouraging greater community engagement and reducing anti-social behaviour
- 2 To enable diverse audiences to learn more about the park as a natural resource through the provision of both formal and informal learning opportunities
- 3 To provide opportunities for people to engage with the natural environment and to enable varied health and wellbeing benefits
- 4 To conserve, enhance and celebrate the biodiversity and landscape value of Radipole Park and Gardens
- 5 To promote and conserve the historical and cultural heritage associated with Radipole Park and Gardens
- 6 To offer opportunities for people and organisations to get involved in the operation of Radipole Park and Gardens
- 7 To improve accessibility and offer inclusive opportunities to currently underrepresented groups, including those who suffer from mental and physical disabilities
- 8 To ensure financial and environmental sustainability and meet all legal and other obligations

### 2.1.4 Project Outcomes

The project will completely transform the park, as detailed in the Master Plan, which addresses a range of needs and opportunities including creation of a new heritage centre/café with toilets, re-introduction of a water feature reflecting the 1937 plan, new equipment in the children's play area as well as undertaking significant improvements to the park's fabric, including planting, new footpaths and seating with improved accessibility for a wider range of users. The project will also address the drainage issues to enable better year-round use of the recreation areas and halt current deterioration.

The new heritage café will become a focus for visitors and the local community. Offering events and activities that not only tell people about the park and its heritage but encourage greater interpersonal interaction and develop new social relationships. It will be embedded in its location as the starting point for trails, walks and park discovery, a support facility for events, a venue for social activities and close interrelationship with the sensory garden. A direct connection with the natural setting will keep visitor interest alive through changing seasonal interpretation, supported by an active events programme.

A Sensory Garden will be introduced adjacent to the café offering a wide range of volunteering and participatory opportunities to support the health and well-being objectives of the project. Special education schools and mental health support groups will be contacted and encouraged to participate in our volunteer programme, opportunities of which will centre around the Sensory Garden, vegetable patch and community orchard.

Alongside the heritage restoration works, a programme of community engagement to rediscover and document the "hidden heritage" of the park and gardens. The project will reconnect local people with their park, explore and celebrate the park's historic and natural heritage and help to create a new enthusiasm for becoming involved in its future development.

Engagement opportunities will be both formal (through training programmes, apprenticeships and workshops) and informal (community activities and events, interpretation throughout the park). More detail of proposed activities is given in Section 2.2.5.



In summary the project will:

- Deliver a new drainage scheme to improve usability of the recreation area.
- Improve access and increase accessibility, making the fully accessible and fit for purpose.
- Improve play facilities and reintroduce a water feature.
- Improve infrastructure, i.e. fencing of ball game areas, resurfacing pathways and recreational areas.
- Introduce a café offering new interpretation of the Park and providing an orientation point for a programme of community activities to widen the range of audiences.
- Introduce accessible toilet facilities to enable families to stay at the open space longer and encourage groups with disabilities to use the park.
- Introduce interpretation throughout the site.
- Introduce a Sensory Garden.
- Introduce a vegetable patch
- Improve planting throughout the site in line with the original landscape designs.
- Create new learning opportunities (formal and informal).
- Improve biodiversity.
- Create opportunities for people to volunteer in projects.
- Encourage people to take an active part in the project.
- Implement a programme of events and activities to help the public and particular groups of people learn about the natural and historic heritage of the park and gardens.

The outcome of this will:

1. Increase in visitor numbers
2. Create a more varied audience
3. Working in partnership with other organisations
4. More opportunities to volunteer and learn new skills
5. More opportunities for people with disabilities
6. Improved health and wellbeing
7. Quality of the park improved
8. More people engaged with the natural and historic heritage
9. Improved biodiversity
10. Improved access

## 2.1.5 Measure of Success

Project Aim	Method of Measuring Success	Person (s) Responsible	Measure of Success
1. To ensure that Radipole Park and Gardens delivers as a high-quality inclusive, recreational facility for the general public, encouraging greater community engagement and reducing anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback through visitor satisfaction questionnaires</li> <li>Observational surveys to ensure wider audiences are being reached</li> <li>Monitor counter data</li> <li>Feedback from Police Community Support Officers</li> </ul>	Activity Officer FRPAG Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive feedback from visitor satisfaction questionnaires</li> <li>Observational surveys reflect local demographic and show that wider/target audiences are engaged</li> <li>Counter data shows visitor increase by 15% (from 350,000 per year to 402,500)</li> <li>Police Community Support Officers report a decrease in anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>
2. To enable diverse audiences to learn more about the park as a natural resource through the provision of both formal and informal learning opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback through questionnaires from schools, colleges, cubs, scouts, etc</li> <li>Monitor the number of resources downloaded from the website</li> <li>Natural and historic heritage related activities are well attended</li> </ul>	Activity Officer FRPAG Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive feedback from education establishments, including specialist schools.</li> <li>Five schools use downloadable resources</li> <li>A minimum of 10 attendees to heritage related activities</li> </ul>
3. To provide opportunities for people to engage with the natural environment and to enable varied health and wellbeing benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance monitoring of activities</li> <li>Liaising with health professionals</li> <li>Feedback from participants</li> </ul>	Activity Officer Community Support Officer Public Health FRPAG Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum of 10 attendees to nature related activities</li> <li>Positive feedback from healthcare professionals</li> <li>Positive feedback from attendees</li> </ul>

4. To conserve, enhance and celebrate the biodiversity and landscape value of Radipole Park and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological surveys that show an increased range of wildlife</li> <li>• Surveys relating to biodiversity in the park</li> <li>• Monitor attendance of nature and wildlife related activities</li> </ul>	Activity Officer Dorset Wildlife Trust RSPB FRPAG Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More plant species and bat species inhabiting the park</li> <li>• Increased awareness and knowledge of biodiversity in the park</li> <li>• A minimum of 10 attendees to nature and wildlife related activities</li> </ul>
5. To promote and conserve the historical and cultural heritage associated with Radipole Park and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic information and photographs gathered relating to the park</li> <li>• Questionnaires relating to the historical and cultural heritage associated with Radipole Park</li> </ul>	Activity Officer Weymouth Museum Weymouth Civic Society FRPAG Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic information shared with organisations such as Weymouth museum and Weymouth Civic Society</li> <li>• Increased understanding and knowledge of park's historical and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Feedback from Weymouth Museum</li> </ul>
6. To offer opportunities for people and organisations to get involved in the operation of Radipole Park and Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor involvement from organisations</li> <li>• Record number of volunteers</li> </ul>	Activity Officer Park Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work in partnership with a minimum of 5 different organisations</li> <li>• Number of volunteers will be a minimum of 100</li> </ul>
7. To improve accessibility and offer inclusive opportunities to currently underrepresented groups, including those who suffer from mental and physical disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out accessibility audit on park</li> <li>• Involve Weymouth Access Group in creation of opportunities</li> <li>• Gain feedback from Special Education Schools and Community Groups attending activities/events</li> </ul>	Activity Officer Weymouth Access Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An audit of the park shows that accessibility is good</li> <li>• Weymouth Access Group deem opportunities as inclusive</li> <li>• Feedback from SEN schools and community groups is positive</li> </ul>
8. To ensure financial and environmental sustainability and meet all legal and other obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings with Finance Manager</li> <li>• Meet with the Councillor's Environmental Working Group</li> </ul>	Finance Manager Project Manager Environmental Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Manager confirms finance plan is sustainable</li> <li>• Environmental Working Group confirm that project meets environmental objectives</li> </ul>

### **2.1.6 Alternatives to the Project**

Over a decade ago, the Friends of Radipole Park was formed to work alongside the Council's Parks Department with the intention of improving Radipole Park. During this time a 'wish list' of site improvements was drawn up but it soon became clear that without financial support, these aspirations would be undeliverable due to the magnitude of the work, which was too vast to be addressed from either the Parks Department budget or general fund raising. In the last 10 years few improvements have been made to the park beyond patchwork repairs to paths and ad hoc replacement of individual pieces of play equipment. The condition of the park is therefore in a significantly worse condition than it was 10 years ago when the issues were first raised.

The future of Radipole Park, without major investment, faces uncertainty. The increasing deterioration of the infrastructure has negative impact on the local community and if not rectified, may cause anti-social behaviour to increase.

If nature and wildlife are not given space to flourish, the negative impact on ecology and biodiversity will be significant. There is also a large body of research that shows the positive effects that being connected with nature can have on physical and mental wellbeing. Unless we provide these opportunities, people's wellbeing could be seriously at risk.

Should the funding not be secured then there is a high risk that Radipole Park will fall into disrepair and its long-term heritage will be jeopardised.

## 2.1.7 SWOT Analysis



## 2.2 New Ways to Engage Audiences

### 2.2.1 Developing Existing Audiences

The project has been developed to be accessible and appropriate to all in order to cater for a wide range of visitors. This broad interest across all ages and social groups is reflected in the findings of the consultation (attached as Appendix 1).

The nature of the project aims to provide different points of access depending on interest including heritage, natural environment, fitness/wellbeing and social interaction. The different elements of the park appeal to different audiences from toddlers and families interested in play areas, young people in sports facilities, adults engaging in health and fitness, general leisurely walking and relaxation, older people with memories of the park and its history. The project will engage with existing and develop new formal groups of people across ages through the programme of workshops, events and activities.

The improvements to the park will have a tangible effect on people with disabilities or mobility issues as physical access will be made possible throughout the site. Work on the play areas, introduction of café and toilets and the programme of events and activities will attract families and children. Older children and young people will benefit from improved sport and recreational facilities, in which they will have had an input. Improved seating and signage will benefit all visitors, as identified in the consultation.

More details of this can be found in Section 1.5

### 2.2.2 Target Audiences

Our target audiences have been identified as:

- Local families who may be on a low income
- People with health and wellbeing needs
- Older people aged 65+

The reason these audiences have been identified are outlined in more detail in Section 1.5.6. Key barriers to engagement and new ways in which the project aims to target these audiences is highlighted in the table below:

Target Audience	Reason this audience has been identified	Consultation with this audience	Key Barriers to engagement with Radipole Park	How the project will help engage this audience
<b>Local families who may be on a low income</b>	They make up a large part of the local demographic  'Struggling Families' account for almost one in ten households across all of Weymouth	Questionnaires  Family Fun Days  Friends Events in the park  Observational surveys	Not enough exciting play equipment  Current play equipment does not cater for all ages  No café or toilets so time spent in	Installation of new play area  Install heritage café and toilets  Free or low-cost family focused activities and events



	<p>Adult and child obesity levels in Weymouth and Radipole in particular are higher than the average in England</p> <p>Many local families live in terraced houses or flats without gardens or green spaces to play</p> <p>Anxiety and depression linked to a disconnection with nature and outdoors, is a concern amongst young adults</p>	<p>Dorset Polish Centre</p> <p>Consultation with local schools</p>	<p>the park is limited</p> <p>Language barrier and limited opportunities for minority ethnic groups</p>	<p>More picnic areas</p> <p>Installation of orienteering course</p> <p>Improved sports facilities</p> <p>More inclusive activities and events</p> <p>Bilingual promotional materials</p> <p>Install orienteering course and app to encourage young people to get outdoors and be active</p>
<b>People with health and wellbeing needs</b>	<p>The percentage of people that have a disability that limits their day-to-day activities a lot is higher in Weymouth and Portland compared to Dorset and England and Wales</p> <p>Research shows that visiting outdoor locations can bring many positive benefits for those suffering from poor mental health.</p>	<p>Weymouth Access Group Report</p> <p>Questionnaires from two specialist schools</p> <p>Questionnaires from community groups</p> <p>Interview with Dorset Blind Association</p> <p>Consultation with Dorset, Mind</p>	<p>Inconsistent accessibility</p> <p>No disabled parking</p> <p>Gaps in hedges</p> <p>No sheltered areas</p> <p>No toilets</p>	<p>Upgrade current pathways and install new ones</p> <p>Create designated disabled parking</p> <p>Improve hedges</p> <p>Install heritage café and toilets</p> <p>Offer inclusive activities and volunteering opportunities</p> <p>Ensure play area is inclusive</p>

<b>Older people aged 65+</b>	There is a high percentage of people aged 65 and over, making up approximately a quarter of Weymouth's demographic.	Public questionnaire	Not enough seating	Provide more seating
	Radipole Park is located on the border of an area of high risk of loneliness and very high risk of loneliness.	Consultation with residential homes	No refreshments	Install heritage café and toilets
		Consultation with community and dementia groups	No toilets	Create informative noticeboards for walkers to read
		Consultation with members of the Friends of Radipole Park.	Not enough interpretation or signage	Improve pathways
			Uneven pathways	Create more opportunities for social meet ups.

### 2.2.3 Building Partnerships

Partnership working will be crucial to the future success of Radipole Park and the sustainability of the activities programme. Weymouth Town Council has limited resources and once the project is complete the Parks Development Officer will return to their core role, resuming responsibility for work across all parks in Weymouth, in addition to Radipole. Partnership working is the key to ensuring that the park maintains the momentum of community engagement and continues to provide a high quality, inclusive and enjoyable visitor experience.

Building partnerships has been an area of focus throughout the initial phases of development and the project is now in a strong position to consolidate relationships and implement a meaningful and valued programme of partnership activity. The following organisations and groups have expressed a commitment to supporting the objectives of the park into the future:

#### Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens



The key partnership for the project and crucial to its success is the relationship between Weymouth Town Council and the Friends. The Friends have been the driving force behind the project and will continue to sit as partners on the Project Group. Not only will the Friends of Radipole Park deliver a programme of community events and activities in the park, but they will take on additional responsibilities around maintenance of the Sensory Garden. To support the increased responsibilities of the Friends, a Volunteer Plan (attached as Appendix 4) has been developed to increase the number of volunteers and give better structure to their management and operation. Accompanying this a training programme will be delivered as part of the project, more details of this are given in Appendix 5.

#### Weymouth Town Council



The Project has been developed by the Weymouth Town Council, Parks and Open Spaces Team in collaboration with the Friends of Radipole Park. There are however other resources and specialisms across the Council

which will, through partnership working support the project. In particular, these include:

- Finance and Business Planning – Weymouth Town Council officers have an extensive knowledge of leasing and licensing. The Deputy Town Clerk and Contracts and Facilities Officer have both advised on the business plan for the café. The Business and Finance Manager has also helped with budget and VAT issues.
- Events – the Events Team organise and host a wide range of events. With capital improvements Radipole Park has the potential to become a venue for larger events and the expertise of the team will help to manage this.
- Community Liaison – the Community Development Officer has already supported consultation activities with their network of local groups. They will continue to provide advice and assistance with community engagement and liaison.

### Kingston Maurward College



Kingston Maurward College is involved specifically in the design of the Sensory Garden. They have provided development and design time free of charge. During the project delivery students will have the opportunity to be involved in the construction of the garden, offering 'real life' project experience. Staff have also expressed an interest in supporting the project through offering workshops and talks. The College will also support the horticultural apprentices as part of the project.

### RSPB



giving  
nature  
a home

The RSPB through their Radipole Lake site have offered advice and support as the project has development. They are keen to work more collaboratively on event planning and marketing. They have also suggested a sharing of volunteers to support community events and workshops. Support for the ongoing monitoring of biodiversity has also been offered.

### Dorset Wildlife Trust



DWT were commissioned to write the bat survey, ecology and biodiversity reports and plans. They have also provided support with events, consultation and general project development based on their experiences in a similar field. The project will continue to build on relations with DWT particularly in the area of ecology and biodiversity and in the programming of speciality learning opportunities.

### Stepping into Nature



Stepping into Nature have supported the development of the sensory garden proposals and continue to remain interested in future opportunities to promote health and wellbeing activities in the park. The organisation is currently reviewing its future plans and have identified Weymouth as an area for activity and are interested in using the Radipole Park as a focus.

### Weymouth Area Development Trust



Conversations with WADT suggest opportunities for future collaboration on projects and activities. WADT is a relatively new organisation but has a big vision for Weymouth. Their draft strategic planning identified 'empowering communities' as a key strand so

the Radipole project offers the opportunity to trial new ways of working through its strong community relations.

### Weymouth Museum Trust



Currently developing its own capital Lottery project, Weymouth Museum will hopefully have a much greater presence in the town in the future. It offers research opportunities and will be an important partner in the hidden heritage archive strand. There is potential to develop more collaborative events and activities.

### Public Health, Dorset



Public Health Dorset aims to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the population across Dorset with an emphasis on reducing health inequalities. They have been incredibly supportive of the project and have offered to contribute towards a new orienteering course at Radipole Park.

### Active Dorset



Active Dorset are one of 43 Active Partnerships across England. Their aim is to work collaboratively to create the conditions for an active nation and use the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives. We have already worked in partnership with this organisation to deliver the Picnic in the Park- Wildlife and Wellbeing Event and they are keen to be involved in our future programme of activities.

### Dorset Local Nature Partnership



Dorset Local Nature Partnership, formed in 2013, has worked with LNPs across the South West, and colleagues from both the environment and health sectors to develop a Health and Nature Charter with the aim of gaining endorsement from Local Nature Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards and individual stakeholder organisations. The Health and Nature Charter commits to joint action on improving health and wellbeing through natural capital assets in Dorset. Weymouth Town Council is the first town council to endorse the charter and supports the increasing evidence demonstrating the benefits of nature and greenspaces, such as parks and gardens, on people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. The project focuses on reconnecting people with nature and wildlife, through activities and engagement that encourages active, healthy lifestyles.

### Weymouth Library



Weymouth Library are committed to provide free storytelling, when possible, at our events. They have expressed particular interest in working with us on our family focused activities and linking up with us at our wildlife and wellbeing events to increase awareness through promotion of self-help books, healthy eating cookbooks, etc.

### Dorset Race Equality Council



Dorset Race Equality Council organised a Multicultural Meet Up in Radipole Park with the aim to breakdown isolation and bring people from different ethnic backgrounds together. The event was well attended with 18 people arriving with picnics and food from different countries to share. After the success of this event, Dorset Race Equality Council are keen to organise more and work in partnership with Weymouth Town Council in the delivery.

## Park Yoga



Park Yoga provides free outdoor yoga sessions around the UK and have expressed an interest in working in partnership with Weymouth Town Council. Their mission statement states, 'Park Yoga aims to connect people to the natural outdoors, through a relaxing, energising and breathtaking yoga session, improving wellbeing and creating a positive ripple effect throughout communities.' As this activity was extremely popular at the 'Picnic in the Park' event, Radipole Park will make an ideal venue with sessions running throughout the summer months.

## Wimborne Orienteers



Wimborne Orienteers is a group made up of volunteers who offer support and assistance setting up orienteering courses across Dorset. They were heavily involved in the creation of two other courses in Weymouth and have offered continued support with the installation of a course at Radipole Park.

## Volunteer Centre, Dorset



The Volunteer Centre has supported many of the events in the park and will continue to do so by promoting activities, advertising volunteer roles and encouraging people from diverse backgrounds to become involved.

## St Aldhelms Church



The Parish of Radipole of Melcombe Regis is an extremely proactive church which has strong links with the local community. The church has shown great support of the project and already uses the park for the 'Nativity on the Move' event which was very well attended. The partnership with this group will be vital in engaging hard to reach groups, people with health and wellbeing needs and older members of the community.

### 2.2.4 Interpretation

The Interpretation Plan (Appendix 6) for Radipole Park sets out how the historic and natural heritage, significance and meaning of the park will be communicated to visitors to enrich their experience and encourage their interest in its future. Public consultation has highlighted that very little is known about the park's heritage and the importance of this 'green lung' to Weymouth as an essential place for wildlife and biodiversity to flourish. At present there is very little interpretation in the park and therefore a significant opportunity to provide a coherent interpretation scheme which enables people to better understand and engage with both the natural and historic character of the site.

The aim of the Interpretation Plan is to create a high quality, strategic and coherent scheme grounded in the stories and heritage relevant to the park, and which will conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness and the heritage of area. This scheme includes:

- Criteria and principles to be used in developing the scheme
- Summary of existing, relevant community consultation and other local activity that might be relevant (e.g. local heritage trails)
- Outlines of the thematic strands and stories to inform design



- Details on potential for engagement of volunteers and community groups in delivering the scheme
- Outline proposal for key elements of the scheme together with indicative costings

Key components of the Interpretation Scheme are described in detail in the Interpretation Plan. In summary these include:

- **Heritage Café:** The heritage café will act as the visitor orientation hub for the park. It will be located in the middle section of the park, close to the new play areas, main carpark and public sports facilities. Dedicated display space at the southern end of the internal space will give an introduction to the history of the park and the relevant themes centring around nature and wildlife. Alongside wall displays there will be an interactive discovery table aimed at children under 10.
- **Welcoming Interpretation:** New interpretation will be introduced at four key sites within the park:
  1. Southern pedestrian access
  2. Tennis court carpark
  3. Play area/café carpark
  4. Northern pedestrian access

Written and visual information will include:

- A welcome to visitor
  - Map showing the extent of the park and the facilities available
  - Introduction to key history and nature themes
  - Promotion of the interpretation trail
  - Contact details and general management messaging
- **Interpretation Trail:** Trails and small snippets of information dispersed throughout a site will encourage visitors to explore, to digest small quantities of information and move on to seek out the next interpretation point. 10 – 12 trail points will be dispersed throughout the park focussing on key natural and historic points of interest or stories. The trail will incorporate opportunities for interactivity such as brass rubbing.
- **Hidden Heritage Resource:** The Hidden Heritage Resource will be developed to collate the wealth of research and historic photographs that have been collected during the project development. It will also include interviews that have captured living memories of the park. Some of the material from this collection will be made available on the Friends website, it will also be used to inform interpretation in the park. Copies of the material will be offered to Weymouth Museum Trust to hold in their local history collection, Weymouth Civic Society, Dorset History Centre and the MERL archive, which was the source of much research material on the original designs for the park. In this way the material will be accessible for research purposes.
- **Website:** The current WordPress site managed by the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens will be improved with professional design input. It will offer interpretation of historic and natural themes as well as visitor information, promotion of events, promotion of the Friends and an invitation to volunteer. Training will also be offered to social media volunteers to enable them to confidently maintain the site in the future.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** The scavenger hunt will be a simple activity sheet designed for children under 8 years. It will be available in the café and give a list of different items that children need to 'find' within the sensory garden and play area.

- **Sensory Story:** Linked to the sensory garden a professional storyteller will be commissioned to write and perform a sensory story about the gardens. It will be accompanied by a sensory box which will include items to touch and feel as the story is read, these could include dry leaves, feathers, or items of historic relevance.
- **Pull up banners:** The Friends run an active programme of events throughout the year and are often invited to give talks to community groups. Two pull up banners will be produced to provide introductory interpretive material on the park. These will be easy to transport and provide a backdrop to various activities.

As well as the interpretation activities listed above the main Activity Plan programme of events, workshops, walks and talks which will add to the interpretation of the Park.

**Temporary interpretation** will be installed on security fencing around the site works while capital work is underway. This will highlight the significance of the park, tell people about the project, what to expect, give information on forthcoming events and contact details for the project. To support this a programme of **walks and talks** with the project manager, architect and landscape architect will talk people through the aims of the project and answer any questions about the detail of the work. The aim is for transparency, openness and mitigation of any negative perceptions of the project.

## 2.2.5 New Activities

### Programme 1- Interpretation

As listed in more detail above, activities will consist of:

- An Interpretation Trail
- Hidden Heritage Resource
- Scavenger Hunt
- Sensory Story

More details are given in Appendix 6 Interpretation Plan.

### Programme 2 – Activities

The location of Radipole Park, directly parallel to the RSPB reserve, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), represents an important and vital space for biodiversity to flourish. This project will explore, improve and celebrate the natural heritage through **nature and wildlife themed activities**. These include:

- **Bat Talk and Walk**

This event will be delivered by a bat expert, giving people the opportunity to learn more about the different bat species living in Radipole Park, highlighted in the bat survey. We will work in partnership with the RSPB and the walk will link in with their visitor centre.

- **Bird and Bat Box Making**

Bird and bat box making will be delivered by the RSPB and will be more of a family focused opportunity for children and adults to learn more about the different species of birds and bats that live in the park.

- **Bug Hotels – ‘Putting the Bugs to Bed’**

‘Putting the Bugs to Bed’ will be an autumnal activity for children to make bug hotels and learn more about insects that inhabit the park.

- **Happy Hedgehog Event**

There is a significant hedgehog population living on the banks in Radipole Park and this event aims to inform people on how they can help protect these vulnerable animals. This event will tie in with National Hedgehog Day (2<sup>nd</sup> February) and will teach people what food they eat, how important it is to keep the park litter free and what to do if they come across an injured hedgehog.

- **Arboretum Walk and Talk**

Radipole Park has various specimen trees, and this walk and talk is an opportunity for people to learn more about them. The activity will also tie in with National Tree Week and people will be given specialist advice on planting trees.

- **Wildlife and Wellbeing Event**

We will continue to hold an annual wildlife and wellbeing event where we work in partnership with Active Dorset, Public Health, Stepping into Nature and any other organisations that share this objective.

To celebrate the new sports facilities and upgraded courts we will hold a new **Sport’s Event** that will act as ‘taster’ day for people to come and try new sporting activities. It will also raise the profile of Radipole Park as a sporting venue and promote the various courts and resources including a newly established **orienteering course**. Local groups, such as youth clubs and table tennis clubs will be encouraged to come and take part in **table tennis tournaments**.

There will also be regular **health walks** to encourage people to be active and lead healthy lifestyles. Walks will be led by friendly, specially trained volunteers who will provide encouragement and support.

**Outdoor Yoga classes** provided by Park Yoga will run throughout summer months and are expected to be well attended as they have been at Lodmoor Country Park and at the Picnic in the Park event. The health and wellbeing benefits of this exercise are well documented and supports our project vision to encourage people to get outdoors and use the natural environment to live healthy, happy and active lifestyles.

In order to combat social isolation and feelings of loneliness and depression, the new heritage café will hold **‘Chatty Café Group’** sessions so that people, regardless of age or background, have the opportunity to meet and socialise. These sessions will be promoted in churches, supermarkets, community halls and on social media in a hope that a wide and varied audience will be reached.

There will also be an annual **Vintage Tea Party** held in the café for older people to attend which will be promoted through residential homes and local community groups.

The café will also hold **sessions specifically for carers**, whether it be Dementia carers or caring for someone with a physical and mental health problem. The aim is for people to be able to share experiences, exchange practical advice and feel supported.

Another regular group that will meet in café, will be a **Parent and Carers Group** which will create a space for parents to discuss challenges they face as parents and share advice and support. The groups will be primarily social but there will also be themed activities to encourage greater

engagement with the park. It is envisaged that this group will eventually be 'owned' by a small team of parent carers.

Consultation highlighted a need for more dog related activities as many people use the park for dog walking. Therefore, we will hold an annual '**Bark in the Park**' event which aims to encourage people to be responsible dog owners and learn about which areas of the park are lead free.

An **Art Exhibition** will also be held in the café to exhibit work by students of Westfield Specialist Arts College. This will tie in with their Art Award and encourage parents to come to the park and view their work.

To celebrate the launch of our **educational resources**, schools will be invited to take part in an event that will promote the scavenger hunt, orienteering course, interpretation trail and sensory story.

There will also be a training opportunity for teachers to learn more about the resources, how to access them and what support we can offer. There will be the option to have this training delivered externally in the school environment to encourage participation.

### Programme 3 - Research and Oral History

Research and oral history will be delivered as part of the hidden heritage programme. A number of stories have already been gathered and will be used to inform interpretation. Volunteers will be offered the opportunity to learn more about recording oral histories through partnership working with Dorset History Centre and other organisations who already have the skills and equipment to record oral histories. A **History of Radipole Walk and Talk event** will take place, outlining the diverse historic heritage of the park and in celebration of Local Community and History Month. Attendees will be encouraged to view historic photos of the park, collated into photo books and available for reference in the café. Memories and stories evoked by these images will be noted and where appropriate follow up appointments made with individuals to further record their memories.

### Programme 4 - Sensory Garden

This will be a project delivered in partnership with Kingston Maurward, enabling students a 'real life' opportunity to apply their skills. Workshop training sessions in drystone walking and willow weaving will be offered to volunteers assisting in the creation of the Sensory Garden. Once completed, sessions such as '**Ecotherapy Gardening**' and light gardening for older members of the community will take place. There will also be involvement from Special Education Schools and Weymouth College in the maintenance and upkeep of the garden. More details found in section 2.2.10.

### Programme 5 – Volunteer Development

For the first time, an exciting and diverse programme of volunteer roles will be created enabling local people the opportunity to learn more about conservation and heritage, assist in the maintenance, be active, meet new people and be proud and take ownership of their park. An annual **Volunteer Appreciation Event** will be held in the park, giving the town council an opportunity to praise and thank volunteers whilst also giving people the opportunity to meet and learn about other volunteer roles. There will also be a **Volunteer Open Day** for people to come along and find out more about the opportunities and speak to current volunteers about their experience. More details on the volunteer and training programme can be found in Sections 2.2.7 and 2.2.8, as well as Appendix 4 and 5.

## Programme 6 – Operational Activity

Once the park is fully operational, there will be a **Grand Opening** to celebrate the completion of the capital works and to promote the park to a wider audience. This will also mark the start of all the activities and events listed in the Section 2.2.6 as well as the launch of the volunteer and training programmes.



## 2.2.6 Activity Programme

Activity	Provider/Partnership	Number of Participants	Target Audience(s)	Cost
<b>Existing Activities</b>				
Tabletop Sale	FRPAG	50	All	No cost
Pruning in the Orchard - demonstration	FRPAG	50	Older people aged 65+ Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Easter Egg Hunt	FRPAG	75	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Wildlife and Wellbeing Event	Public Health, Active Dorset	500	All	£500
Plant sale	FRPAG	50	Older people aged 65+	No cost
Multicultural Picnic	Dorset Race Equality	25	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Teddy Bear's Picnic	FRPAG	50	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Sunday in the Park - Brass Band Concert and Vintage Tea Party	FRPAG	50	Older people aged 65+	No cost
AGM and Social Evening	FRPAG	30	All	No cost
Big Fun Day (Heritage Focus)	Weymouth Town Council FRPAG	1000	All	£500
Nativity on the Move	St Aldhelm's Church	50	All	No cost
Halloween Hoolie and Apple Day	FRPAG	50	All	No cost

New Activities				
Launch event to celebrate NLHF success and to share information about the project and what to expect.	Weymouth Town Council FRPAG	500	All	£150
Grand Opening of the park to celebrate the completion of the capital works and to promote the park to a wider audience.	Weymouth Town Council FRPAG	1000	All	£500
Bark in the Park – Dog Event	Weymouth Town Council Linda Stephens	500	All	No cost
History of Radipole Walk and Talk (in celebration of Local Community and History Month)	FRPAG	30	Older people aged 65+	No cost
Sport's Event	Weymouth Town Council in partnership with sport's organisations	500	People with health and wellbeing needs Local families who may be on a low income	£500
Bat Talk and Walk	Bat Conservation Trust	30	People with health and wellbeing needs	£75 per half days x 2 = £150
Volunteer Open Day	Weymouth Town Council Staff	30	All	£100
Volunteer Appreciation Event	Weymouth Town Council	50	All	£250
Orienteering Course Launch	Wimborne Orienteers Activity Officer Public Health Active Dorset	50	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost

Bird and bat box making	RSPB	15	Local families who may be on a low income	£100
Bug hotels - putting the bugs to bed	Dorset Wildlife Trust	15	Local families who may be on a low income	£100
Happy Hedgehog Event	Hedgehog Rescue	10	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Arboretum Walk and Talk (National Tree Week)	Weymouth Town Council	30	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
Art Exhibition in the heritage cafe	Volunteers	10	All	No cost
Health Walk to improve physical and mental wellbeing	Activity Officer 2 x trained volunteers	(15 x 4 walks) 60	All	No cost
Educational Resources Launch with story time, orienteering, scavenger hunt, etc	Activity Officer Volunteers	1000	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
Carers Group Social Meet Up	Activity Officer	6	People with health and wellbeing needs  Older people aged 65+	No cost
Chatty Café Group	Activity Officer	6	All	No cost
Parent/Carers Group	Activity Officer	6	Local families who may be on a low income  People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
Outdoor Yoga	Park Yoga	6	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
Creating the Sensory Garden	Kingston Maurward Weymouth Town Council Staff FRPAG Volunteers	20	All	Cost included in capital costs

ACTIVITY PLAN - Radipole Park and Gardens

The Sensory Garden Launch Party	Kingston Maurward Weymouth Town Council Staff FRPAG Volunteers	100	All	£150
		Total Participants= 5954		Total Cost= £3000

### **2.2.7 New Volunteering Opportunities**

This project aims to create meaningful volunteer opportunities that provide local people with a sense of pride and ownership of Radipole Park. It is essential that these opportunities are interesting and have a clear aim, as well as supplying volunteers with the necessary training and skills to carry out tasks in a safe and effective way.

In order to offer a clear and well-structured programme, we have created different volunteer teams that offer various roles or tasks to appeal to a broad audience. Within these teams, there are one off sessions, such as support for events or litter picking and then more regular, long term opportunities such as general park maintenance or joining the Friends Group.

A Volunteer Working Group (VWG) will be formed to ensure that there is consistency across the volunteer teams and that feedback from volunteers is being heard. This will ensure that any decisions made from the project group are informed and representative of what the community want.

The aim of the volunteer programme is to inspire people to get involved with a desired level of commitment that ensures a positive experience. Those that decide they would like further involvement can apply to become volunteer leaders where full training will be offered.

Here is a brief outline of the new areas of volunteering we wish to offer:

#### **The Sensory Garden**

The Sensory Garden will provide two main volunteering opportunities. Initially opportunities will arise from the creation of the garden which intends to bring the local community together in its construction, working in partnership with staff and pupils from Kingston Maurward. There will also be opportunities to learn new skills such as stone walling and willow weaving.

Subsequently opportunities will focus on the upkeep of the garden, which will include new planting schemes, weeding, pruning and general maintenance. This will provide gentle and therapeutic volunteering ranging from regular drop in sessions available to everyone, to set times for specific groups. The Sensory Garden will involve a varied audience ranging from older, less mobile people with the aim to combat social isolation; to students from Westfield Specialist College with the aim to increase confidence and boost independent.

#### **Conservation and Maintenance**

This will involve general conservation and maintenance across the whole park. It could involve pruning, weeding, clearing, litter picks, apple picking, etc. The installation of a tool shed will enable greater opportunities for maintenance and a regular horticulture/gardening group will be set up.

In order to monitor our project, volunteers will be asked to undertake visitor surveys and ask for feedback at events.

#### **Historical Research**

There will be opportunities to assist in the creation of a fuller, more comprehensive understanding of the park's historical heritage working in collaboration with museums, civic society and libraries. This will involve historical research, recording memories, discovering pictures and photographs, etc and producing interesting and informative literature to present in the heritage café.



## **Wildlife and Wellbeing**

A new programme of volunteering opportunities specific to wildlife and wellbeing will be created. This will include wildlife talks, nature walks, ecological surveying and walking for health.

We will work in partnership with Public Health, Dorset, Active Dorset and the Dorset Local Nature Partnership to actively promote volunteer opportunities across audiences that may have a special interest in wildlife and wellbeing. The project will also aim to reach out to those who are currently not engaged with this initiative through closer links with community groups, local GPs and schools.

## **Events and Engagement**

Many opportunities will arise regarding engagement, including helping with activities, promoting the park and the programme of events. People who use Radipole Park for photography and art, will be invited to exhibit their works in the heritage café- including pupils from Westfield Specialist School.

As storytelling was listed as an activity people would be interested in, we will create a 'Bag Book' which will include sensory items and give people the opportunity to learn how to deliver the story.

## **Friends Group**

The Friends Group will define volunteer roles and offer opportunities in fundraising, helping at events, promotion and carrying out research and consultation. These opportunities will enable the Friends Group to grow so that their important work can be sustained.

## **Work Experience Placement**

For individuals looking to gain work experience as part of career progression or in order to apply for higher education, we will offer 2 placements per year which will offer a variety of different roles in both the park and office-based environment. These roles will range from park research, events, conservation and general maintenance depending on what skills the individual requires. Depending on the success and requirement of these placements, the number we offer may be increased. Applicants will need to attend an interview in order to be appointed for these placements.

## **Ecotherapy Gardening Group**

This group will meet regularly to take part in ecotherapy gardening which involves light gardening, pruning, weeding, fruit picking, planting, etc with the aim to boost mental health and wellbeing. The group will be encouraged to share experiences, make friends and join other groups such as the Chatty Café Group or other volunteering teams.

See Appendix 4 for further details.

Volunteer Area	Volunteer Tasks	Provider/Leader	Number of Volunteers	Target Audience(s)	Cost
<b>Sensory Garden</b>	Planting, weeding and pruning	WTC Staff Kingston Maurward FRPAG	10	People with health and wellbeing needs  Older people aged 65+	No cost
	Stone walling	Kingston Maurward FRPAG	8	All	No cost
	Willow weaving	Kingston Maurward FRPAG	8	All	No cost
	Sensory Garden Maintenance	WTC Staff FRPAG	10	All	£250 (for tools)
<b>Conservation and Management</b>	General park maintenance	WTC Staff	5	All	No cost
	Orchard maintenance	WTC Staff FRPAG	6	All	No cost
	Inspecting orienteering course	WTC Staff	2	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
	Record counter data	WTC Staff	2	Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
	Observational surveys	WTC Staff	5	All	No cost
	Litter picks	WTC Staff	10	All	No cost
<b>Historical Research</b>	Researching historical heritage	FRPAG	4	Older people aged 65+	No cost
	Recording memories of the park	FRPAG	6	Older people aged 65+	No cost
	Creating literature relating to the park's heritage	WTC Staff FRPAG	4	All	No cost

	Promoting historical heritage	FRPAG	2	All	No cost
<b>Wildlife and Wellbeing</b>	Ecological surveys	WTC Staff RSPB Dorset Wildlife Trust	11	People with health and wellbeing needs  Local families who may be on a low income	No cost
	Nature walks	RSPB Dorset Wildlife Trust	2	All	No cost
	Wildlife talks	RSPB Dorset Wildlife Trust	2	All	No cost
	Health walks	WTC Community Officer	2	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
<b>Management and Events</b>	Helping at events	WTC Staff FRPAG	4	All	No cost
	Storytelling	Professional storyteller	2	All	No cost (cost of storyteller training in Appendix 5)
	Photography and Art Exhibition	WTC Staff	8	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
	Park and events promotion	WTC Staff FRPAG	4	All	No cost
<b>Join the Friends Group</b>	Help at events	WTC Staff FRPAG	10	All	No cost
	Maintain noticeboards	WTC Staff FRPAG	2	All	No cost
	Promotion of events	WTC Staff FRPAG	6	All	No cost
<b>Work Placement</b>	A range of project roles and tasks.	WTC Staff	2	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost

ACTIVITY PLAN - Radipole Park and Gardens

<b>Ecotherapy Gardening Group</b>	A range of light gardening tasks, fruit picking and vegetable planting.	WTC Staff Stepping into Nature Dorset Mind	6	People with health and wellbeing needs	No cost
			<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:</b> 143		<b>TOTAL COST:</b> £250

### 2.2.8 Training

The Radipole Park Project will offer a range of interesting and relevant training opportunities for the general public, volunteers and staff in order to deliver our project successfully, meet NLHF outcomes and to ensure that people have the skills for the project to be sustained in the future. In a similar vein to the volunteering opportunities, the range will include one off 'taster sessions', as well long-term training to suit the needs of all our visitors. Some training will involve developing or learning a new skill, such as gardening or carrying out observational research, whereas some training may be compulsory, such as health and safety and tool training.

The parks' catchment area includes areas of significant deprivation, with employment and skills both major issues for the area. We want to boost skills and create opportunities for people to develop work related skills and take part in vocational training. We will also develop volunteering opportunities so that a wider range of people can develop skills and experiences that will help them access employment. Although open to all, we will specifically target areas of deprivation.

We will continue to work with local partners including Kingston Maurward, Weymouth College and Westfield Specialist Art College to develop a training programme that remains relevant and useful to its students.

See Appendix 5 for more details on the Training Plan

Here is a brief outline of the areas of training we will offer:

#### Sensory Garden

- Willow Weaving Workshop
- Dry Stone Walling Workshop
- Introduction to Horticulture (relevant to Sensory Garden)
- Dementia Friendly Course

#### Conservation and Maintenance

- Introduction to Horticulture
- Orchard Maintenance
- Orienteering Course
- Counter Data Recording
- Carrying out an observational survey

#### Historical Research

- Introduction to the historical heritage of Radipole Park
- Creating literature relating to the park's heritage

#### Wildlife and Wellbeing

- Introduction to wildlife in Radipole Park
- Ecological surveying
- Health Walks
- Nature Walks



## Events and Engagement

- Managing an event
- Storytelling
- Disability Awareness
- Website and Communications Training

## Work Placement

- Introduction to Parks and Open Spaces

## Education and Learning

- Introduction to Educational Resources

## Health and Safety

- First Aid Course
- Safeguarding
- Manual Handling
- Tool Training
- Play Area Inspection

## Staff Training

- Level 2 Horticultural Apprenticeship
- School work experience and Duke of Edinburgh placements
- Dementia Training

### 2.2.9 Learning

Learning in the park will be both informal and formal, offering passive and participatory learning opportunities. Visitors will learn about the park, its history, nature and management implications through interpretation board, trail and displays in the café. Opportunities to delve deeper will be provided through the Hidden Heritage archive, historic photograph books in the café and content on the website. Additional sources of more in depth information on particular themes will be signposted as appropriate – these may include more detail on wildlife, environmental themes or the wider history and heritage of Weymouth.

Children will have the opportunity to explore the garden and learn more through the interpretation above but also through the orienteering course, scavenger hunt and activity cart in the café. The sensory story will also be performed at events offering another way in to learning about the park.

The Sensory Garden will focus on themes of health and wellbeing, offering talks, workshops and volunteering opportunities to learn more. The edible plants and vegetable patch will also provide opportunities for people to learn about growing food and healthy eating. Laminated recipe cards will be on display in the café to inspire people to cook using fruits, vegetables and herbs grown in the park. To cut down on paper and to be more sustainable, visitors will be encouraged to take a photo of the card. The recipe cards will also be available on the town council website.

A programme of events and activities will pick up on key themes and provide additional learning opportunities. Themed activity days will be promoted with specific events focussed on history, nature

and wildlife, the orchard and the sensory garden. The Friends talks team will offer guided walks and talks in the garden as well as outreach talks for interested local community groups.

Following consultation with local schools it was decided that a formal education programme linked to the National Curriculum is not appropriate. This is partly due to limited staff resources to manage and deliver the programme but also an interest from schools to have a more flexible approach to using the park as a learning resource. Therefore, all interpretation and activities will be developed to also be appropriate for local schools. The schools offer will be self-guided and loosely packaged up to include the following, available as a menu of activities from which teachers can plan their visit:

- Background historical information available on the website
- Reproductions of historic photographs available on request to support learning
- Introductory information on ecology and biodiversity available on the website with pointers to other more detailed and specialist sources of information e.g. Dorset Wildlife, RSPB
- Interpretation boards and heritage trail on site
- Orienteering on site
- Scavenger hunt for younger children
- Sensory story
- Option to request a guided walk or talk by a member of the Parks team or one of the Friends team depending on preferred subject matter
- Option to request activities such as bird box or bug hotel making. This would be delivered by one of the Parks team or a volunteer depending on availability.

An introductory session for teachers explaining what's available and how the park can be used as a resource will also be offered.

The project will support school 'qualifications' such as the bronze, silver and gold art award offered at Westfield Special School and provide opportunities to learn more about the Parks Department through work experience and Duke of Edinburgh placements. The Activity Officer will be the primary point of contact for schools' enquiries.

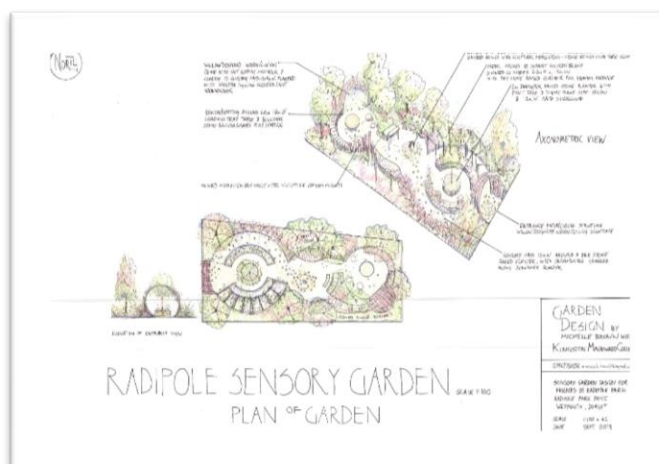
Local Scout Groups will have the opportunity to learn about the park and gain a Naturalist Activity Badge. This learning opportunity will be delivered by the Activity Officer.

### 2.2.10 Sensory Garden

The sensory garden is a distinct and substantial project element. It is being designed free of charge by Michelle Brown, a Chelsea silver gilt winning designer.

Michelle states, “*The initial concept for the garden was to create a space that people could connect, socially, and creatively. We are all born with an innate well-being and life as we experience it can shape the mind positively or negatively.*”

She is looking to provide a garden that evokes curiousness, stimulation and relaxation can nurture positive thought. The garden will be for the community to enjoy and use all year round, using locally sourced materials sustainability is a key message for the space.



The sensory garden will be a collaboration with Kingston Maurward College. The College celebrates the diversity of learning and has taught generations of aspiring students to work in land-based industries. This project will enable them to experience the reality of creating a garden for the community.

Community volunteers will be offered the opportunity to work with the team and also given training to enable the ongoing maintenance of the space. A programme of workshops will be themed around the traditional techniques employed in the garden including dry stone walling and willow weaving. Michelle will also run an introduction to landscape design session linked to the sensory garden.

The garden is designed to include edible planting which will hopefully be used by the café and engage with local community groups in its ongoing maintenance including Incredible Edibles, a volunteer group who have already expressed an interest to be involved.

Students with specialist needs and learning difficulties from Westfield Arts College and Weymouth College have also indicated an interest to be involved in regular gardening activities in the space.

The Garden will include an interpretation board giving more information. A programme of events will offer workshop opportunities as well as ecotherapy gardening sessions which will tell people more about the garden and pick up themes of health and wellbeing.

### 2.2.11 Marketing and Promotion

The communications approach is designed to present the park as a welcoming site of recreation and enjoyment where visitors can engage in sporting activities, meet friends, play, gently exercise or just experience the natural environment to support health and wellbeing. Through onsite information, the website and other digital encounters visitors will discover what makes the park special and how they can contribute to maintaining and protecting it as a community resource into the future.

Communications campaigns will reflect the thematic strands describes in section 4.3 of the Interpretation Plan, namely:

## History

- Why is the Park here?
- How was this place different in the past?
- What interesting stories are there to tell about the place?
- What are the key historic features and why are they important?
- How does this place relate to the town/other places?

## Nature

- What kind of wildlife/plants/trees can you see in this place?
- Which are important and why?
- What makes this a good place for different wildlife/plants/trees?
- What are the interesting natural features?
- How do these link to other places?

## Management

- How is this place cared for?
- What are the important considerations?
- What are the plans for the future?
- How can I help?
- Where can I go for more information?

We will ensure that the value of our volunteers is given centre stage in our communications. We will acknowledge the significant contribution that volunteers make to the park and promote the benefits and opportunities to volunteer.

With limited budgets, we will make full use of new investment in our digital tools, ensuring that our online presence works hard for us before, during and after a visitor's trip to the park.

We will work collaboratively with other local organisations, including the RSPB, Dorset Wildlife, Weymouth Museum, Weymouth Area Development Trust and the Tourist Information Service to ensure that visitors get the most from their stay in the area.

We will be alert to campaigns and initiatives that align closely with our themes. Examples of this are:

- National Nestbox Week (February)
- World Health Day (April)
- Local Community and History Month (May)
- Volunteers Week (June)
- World Environment Day (June)
- National insect Week (June)
- World Mental Health Day (October)
- Seed Gathering Sunday (October)
- Apple Day (October)
- National Tree Week and Tree Dressing Day (November)

We will capitalise on the achievements of our local community and education activity undertaken as part of our project **Activity Plan**, using messages and images from this work to endorse our core aims, namely, to encourage more people to be involved in, to learn about and to enjoy the Park.

We will ensure:

- Our imagery is fresh and welcoming, and within context, capitalise on the natural setting.
- The copy is invitational, reflecting the words and phrases used by complimentary visitors, especially those who give feedback in the public domain, such as Trip Advisor. We will also ensure that our copy is encouraging to support the desire to comment, and offer feedback
- Our plan understands our different visitor segments, and their motivational needs and relates directly to our **Interpretation Plan**
- We aim to cross market through other relevant visitor attractions (as detailed above) building confidence in our offer and the relevance of a visit
- We will develop skills in the use of our digital and online investment, ensuring our volunteer team is confident, enthusiastic and up to speed in this contemporary and highly cost-effective area of communications.
- We continue to use PR as one of our most powerful marketing tools, enabling us to secure coverage to build awareness and reflect the breadth of our offer and the achievements of our **Activity Plan** to visitors and the resident community.
- The support of NLHF and other funders is acknowledged in all communications

Please see Marketing and Communications Plan (Appendix 10) for more details.



## 2.3 Project Management

### 2.3.1 Management of Activity Programme

During the Delivery Phase the project will be overseen by a Project Group led by Weymouth Town Council (WTC) Parks and Open Spaces team. The Project Group will meet monthly and receive regular updates from the Project Delivery Team to ensure delivery of the agreed objectives within the proposed timescale. The group will have delegated responsibility from Weymouth Town Council for the project but will provide regular reports to Councillors through the committee meeting infrastructure.

Membership of the Project Group will include:

- Weymouth Town Clerk (WTC)
- Parks and Open Spaces Manager (WTC)
- Project Manager (freelance)
- Mike Goulden – Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens
- Activity Officer (WTC) (Seconded Parks and Open Spaces Development)
- Sue Hogben – Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens

**The Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer** was appointed at the beginning of the development phase and whilst their role covers the whole parks service, they will effectively be seconded as an Activity Officer to the project for 22.5 hours a week over 3 years. The Activity Officer will take responsibilities for the delivery of the Activity Plan, supported by the Project Manager and working closely with the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens. A brief for the Activity Officer role is attached as Appendix 7. On project completion the Activity Officer will return to their substantive role as Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer, providing continuity and ensuring the ongoing delivery of the project objectives.

A **Project Manager** will be appointed on a freelance bases to manage the delivery of the capital works to oversee project delivery and reporting to NLHF and other stakeholders. They will ensure that all elements of the project, capital and activity, are integrated and coordinated.

A **Landscape Architect** will be appointed as a consultant to oversee the project management and delivery of the Master Plan.

An **Architect** will be appointed to manage the construction of the café, they will work closely with the Landscape Architect to ensure that all works between the café and main park redevelopment are coordinated.

A team of consultants under a lead architect will be appointed to deliver specific elements of the project. A full project management structure is given below. Briefs for all consultant roles are included in the Management and Maintenance Plan

Additional specialist support will be given by Weymouth Town Council staff working in finance, commercial and leases, events and community liaison. All marketing and publicity will also be developed in partnership with WTC communications staff.

A volunteer working group (VWG) will be formed and will ensure that the views and wishes of the public for the future of Radipole Park link with any decisions taken by the Project Group. The VWG will be formed from some of the committee members of the Friends Group and some of the residents who volunteered to sit on focus groups for Radipole Park. Once the volunteer programme is under

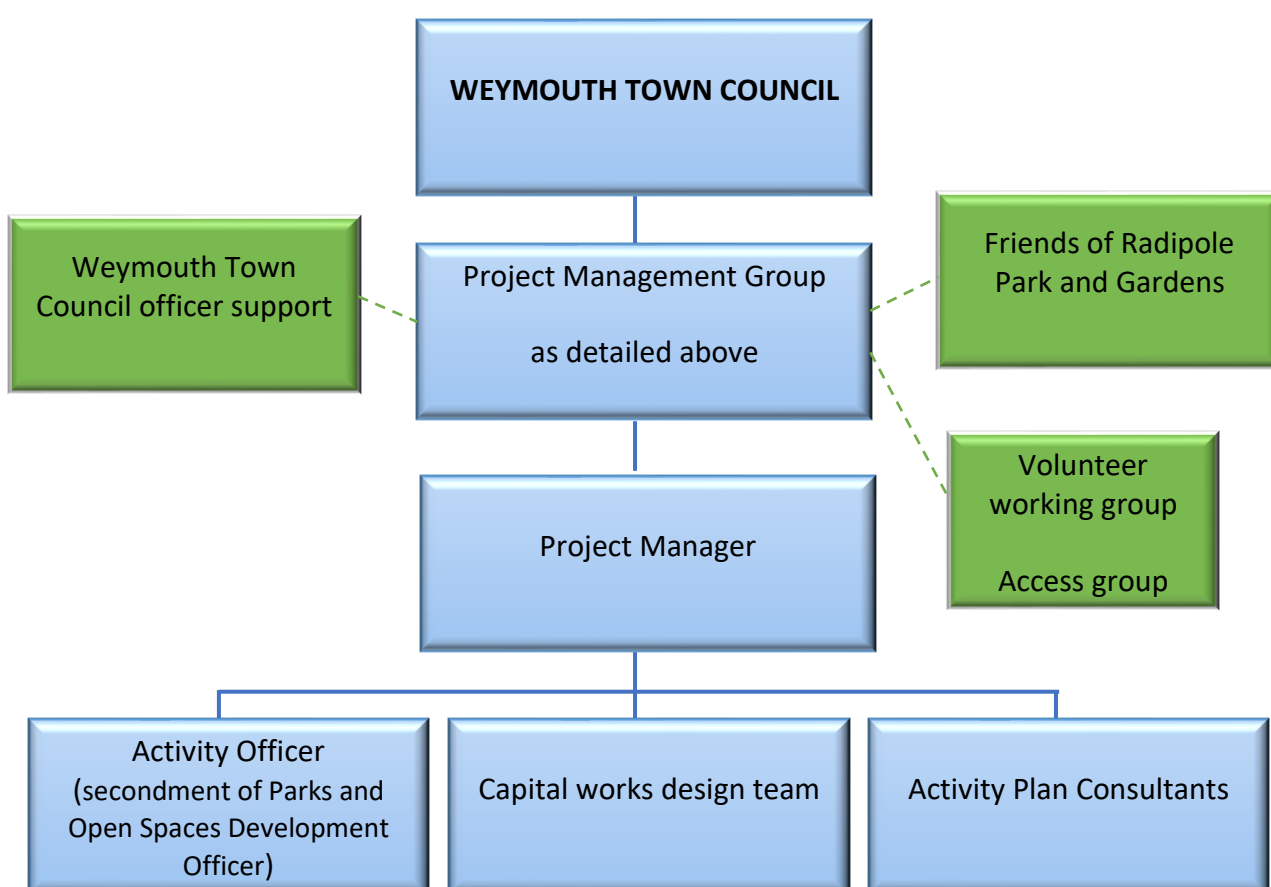
way, the VWG will continue to meet and will also consist of any volunteer leaders too, to ensure that there is cohesion across the whole project.

In addition, an access group will be convened to check plans and ensure they meet the needs of disabled users – Westfield Specialist School and Weymouth and Portland Access Group have already agreed to participate in this.

Many of the activities described in Section 3 will be delivered in collaboration with partners, the Activity Officer will be responsible for managing these relationships and overseeing delivery of all activities.

Further details on project and ongoing management are given in the Management and Maintenance Plan.

### 2.3.2 Project Management Structure



### 2.3.3 Project Timetable

The timetable below details activities within the context of the main project. A full timetable for all elements of the project is included in Supporting Documents.

PL – Project Lead      PM – Project Manager      AO – Activity Officer      GD – Graphic Designer      PT – Project Team

YEAR			2021												2022												2023											
MONTH		Responsible	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	
General	Permission to start	PL																																				
	Project begins	PL																																				
	Meetings with HLF	PL/ PM																																				
	Project Management meetings	PM																																				
	Progress report to HLF	PM																																				
	Implement Evaluation plan	PM																																				
	Contract Evaluation support	PM																																				
	Review evaluation findings and draft report	PT																																				
	Finalise Evaluation report	PM																																				
	Procurement - design team	Procurement for design team including PM	PL																																			
Appoint design team		PL/WTC																																				
Activities	Advertise for horticultural apprentices	PL																																				
	Appoint horticultural apprentices	PL																																				
	Convene volunteer working group and access group to inform development	AO																																				
	Meetings of above groups at key points	AO																																				
P1 Interpretation	Undertake content research	AO																																				
	Advertise for graphic design contract	PM/ AO																																				
	Appoint GD	PT																																				
	Appoint web designer	PT																																				
	Review website and identify enhancements	AO																																				
	Draft, design and launch website enhancement	GD																																				
	Research and draft content for heritage café content	AO																																				
	Consult with user groups on interpretation content	AO																																				
	Design and print heritage café content	GD																																				
	Install heritage café interpretation	GD																																				

# ACTIVITY PLAN - Radipole Park and Gardens

YEAR			2021												2022												2023										
MONTH		Responsible	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
P1 Interpretation cont.	Research and draft content for childrens activity cart	AO																																			
	Design and production of children's activity cart	GD																																			
	Research and draft content for heritage trail	AO																																			
	Design and production of heritage trail	GD																																			
	Install heritage trail	GD																																			
	Identify signage requirements - to include welcome interpretation boards	PT																																			
	Draft content for signage and interpretation boards	AO																																			
	Design and production of new signage	GD																																			
	Install signage and interpretation boards	GD																																			
	Develop content for children's scavenger hunt	AO																																			
	Design and print scavenger hunt	AO																																			
	Commission sensory story	AO																																			
Develop sensory 'bags' to accompany story	AO																																				
Launch event for story - reading by author	AO																																				
P2 Activities	Activities - linked to key local and national events	AO																																			
	Liaise with environment/health/wellbeing partners to inform events programme	AO																																			
	Develop workshop and events programme	AO																																			
	Roll out workshop and events programme	AO																																			
	Develop get active in the park programme	AO																																			
	Test walks and talks programme	AO																																			
	Roll out walks and talks programme	AO																																			
	Activities programme (full) - on going	AO																																			
	Draft route and mapping for orienteering	AO																																			
	Draft, design and produce orienteering points and orientation board	AO																																			
	Launch orienteering	AO																																			
	Plan heritage skills workshops in collaboration with partners	AO																																			
	Promote heritage skills workshops	AO																																			
	Delivery heritage skills workshop	AO																																			
	Schools resources planning - liaison with teachers	AO																																			
	Collate schools resources into digital 'pack'	AO																																			
	Load school resources onto website	AO																																			
	Promote resources to local schools	AO																																			
P3 Research and oral history programme	Research and collate content for hidden heritage archive resource	AO																																			
	Liaise with Weymouth Museum ref hidden heritage archive resource	AO																																			
	Edit and upload hidden heritage content to website	AO/ GD																																			
	Produce hidden heritage photograph 'book' for cafe	AO																																			
	Scope research, indentify oral history interviewees and key stories	AO																																			
	Recruit volunteers and undertake training	AO																																			
	Agree method for recording and sharing research	AO																																			
Implement	AO																																				

# ACTIVITY PLAN - Radipole Park and Gardens

YEAR			2021																								2022												2023				
MONTH		Responsible	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M						
P4 Sensory Garden	Research and draft interpretation content	AO																																									
	Design and production interpretation	GD																																									
	Plan workshop programme	AO																																									
	Promote workshop programme	AO																																									
	Roll out workshop programme	AO																																									
	Promote and establish core volunteers for gardening club	AO																																									
	Initial input in planting sensory garden then fortnightly club meeting	AO																																									
P5 Volunteer Development	Research and develop volunteer policies	AO																																									
	Consultation on draft policies	AO																																									
	Finalise policies	AO																																									
	Plan volunteer recruitment drive	AO																																									
	Develop volunteer team structure	AO																																									
	Implement volunteer recruitment drive	AO																																									
	Plan training	AO																																									
	Roll out training	AO																																									
	Volunteering celebration events	AO																																									
	Evaluation of current Friends board and identification of development needs	AO																																									
	Develop plan for training, succession planning and recruitment	AO																																									
	Implement plan	AO																																									
P6 Operational activity	Review and revise policies and procedures -Friends and WTC	AO																																									
	Fundraising continues with community events and small scale grant applications	PL																																									
	Project newsletter (online and e-distribution)	PM/ AO																																									
	Ongoing marketing and comms	AO																																									
	Draft content for pull up banners	AO																																									
	Design and production of pull up banners	GD																																									
</																																											

Project completed and gardens fully open to public

### 2.3.4 Risks

The Activity Plan has been developed with extensive consultation, specialist and staff input. Identifying and monitoring risk has been integral to the project development and therefore risk has been embedded in into all planning. This approach ensures that the project is well planned and deliverable as detailed in Section 3.

At the beginning of the Delivery Phase a comprehensive project Risk Register will be produced and agreed, each area of work will have its own specific risks which will be monitored by the project manager and fed into the overarching Register. Reporting to monthly Project Group meetings will then be monitored and evaluated. This will ensure that risks are identified early and the appropriate mitigation or risk response implemented. It anticipated that the biggest areas of risk will be in the capital work rather than activities.

Risks requiring action that will impact the overall outcomes of the project or have a significant impact beyond stakeholders will be flagged to Weymouth Town Council through the Town Clerk. These risks will be recorded and reported to Councillors through the existing reporting structures on a quarterly basis.

PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
DELIVERY	Pressure on staff and volunteers	2	4	8	Ensure staff time and priorities well managed. Provide additional support as required through Project Manager and consultants.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
DELIVERY	Staff leave	2	2	4	Ensure project information is well documented and any handover is thorough. Develop operational partnerships with volunteers, Friends and other stakeholder groups. All staff to inform Parks and Open Spaces manager of any expected prolonged period of absence as far ahead as possible if know.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager



PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
DELIVERY	Poor team performance	1	3	3	Well defined brief at an early stage with regular and structured team meetings. Oversight by Project Manager with clear reporting structure for any issues.	Project Manager
DELIVERY	Poor project communication internally and with consultant team	1	2	2	Ensure regular meetings with notes taken. Use email to communicate. Appoint experienced and well organised Project Manager to coordinate.	Project Manager
DELIVERY	Change in personnel in Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens	2	2	4	The committee will change over time but there is a Memorandum of Understanding about their contribution	Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens
DELIVERY	Capital costs overrun	2	3	6	Ensure the initial budgets are drawn up as accurately as possible, and allow for contingencies where necessary. Use external QS to develop budgets.	Project Manager / Quantity Surveyor
DELIVERY	Project overruns – agreed timetable not met	2	3	6	Constant monitoring of timetable. Agreement of milestone dates. Ensure all required information delivered and decisions made by necessary deadlines. Regular project team meetings.	Project Manager

PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
DELIVERY	Management disagreement	1	2	2	Ensure transparency of communications at all times. Allow time or meetings for discussions to resolve issues.	Project Manager / Parks and Open Spaces Manager
DELIVERY - CAPITAL WORKS	Poor performance by Contractors used	2	4	8	Well defined tender documents with regular and decisive meetings. Use of more appropriate form of contract. Experienced landscape project manager appointed to oversee works.	Project Manager / Landscape Architect / Architect
DELIVERY - CAPITAL WORKS	Excessive unforeseen disruption to Park operations during works	2	2	4	Fully programme all project activities and inform users of works in advance	Project Manager / Landscape Architect / Architect
DELIVERY - CAPITAL WORKS	Programme delays due to bad weather	2	2	4	Proactive programming and rescheduling. Ensure sufficient slack and alternative dates in timetable	Project Manager / Landscape Architect / Architect
DELIVERY - ACTIVITY	Overspend on activity budgets	1	2	2	Budget forecast produced and reviewed at monthly project board meetings	Project Manager / Activity Officer
DELIVERY - ACTIVITY	Volunteers not recruited	2	3	6	Maintain good relations and regular communication with Friends. Effective PR and support from Activity Officer to ensure advertised in correct places. Follow up potential for new volunteers through partner organisations e.g. Dorset Wildlife	Activity Officer

PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
DELIVERY _ ACTIVITY	Problems with installation of interpretation, lack of coordination or damage	2	3	6	Clear timetable agreed with Interpretation Consultant, overseen by Project Manager to ensure coordinated with build schedule.	Project Manager
DELIVERY _ ACTIVITY	Interpretation does not meet objectives, fails to meet visitor needs and excite interest	2	4	8	Ensure interpretation consultant works closely with client. Ensure clear content provided to interpretation consultant. Regular meetings and communications to discuss drafts, agreed milestones for sign off at different stages. Allow time for proof reading of all content and design approval	Project Manager
DELIVERY	Loss of community support	1	3	3	Seek to understand and deal with issues. Plenty of staff time to be invested in volunteer management. Keep up communications with volunteers so they fully understand any issues. Ensure any bad publicity is counteracted with positive.	Project Manager / Parks and Open Spaces Manager
DELIVERY	Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the park	2	3	6	Ensure key areas at risk are secured or monitored (CCTV) at night. Continue to involve local community and hard to reach groups in activity in the park, maintain positive PR	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
DELIVERY	Inclement weather delays capital works	2	2	4	Flexibility built into schedule of works and contingency budget	Project Manager / Landscape Architect / Architect

PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
OPERATION	Volunteer interest diminishes	2	3	6	Develop recruitment and management plans for volunteers. Maintain good communication and engagement opportunities for volunteers. Links to national volunteer programmes, partner organisations, existing Friends groups and continued PR. Ensure volunteers are well managed, motivated, trained and thanked for their contribution.	Activity Officer
OPERATION	The park and gardens fail to attain and maintain Green Flag status	1	3	3	Detailed Management and Maintenance Plan adopted. Appropriate allocation of maintenance budget/resources	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
OPERATION	Project fails to meet target audience	1	3	3	Continued engagement with local community groups. Continued press and PR	Activity Officer
OPERATION	Key staff leave	1	2	2	Engagement in the project across the team supported by detailed management and deliver documents should minimise disruption while recruitment takes place.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager

PHASE	RISK	Probability	Impact	Risk rating	Mitigation	Lead
OPERATION	Loss of community support	1	4	4	Seek to understand and deal with issues. Plenty of staff time to be invested in volunteer management. Keep up communications with volunteers so they fully understand any issues. Ensure any bad publicity is counteracted with positive.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
OPERATION	Suitable leasee not found for café	2	2	4	Detailed business plan demonstrates viability. Support from procurement and contracts manager within WTC who have experience of leasing to concessions.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager/Deputy Town Clerk
OPERATION	Operation is not financially sustainable.	1	4	4	Ensure that the financial projections are carefully calculated to be as accurate as possible. Monitor budgets to identify any shortfall early on and look at additional fundraising opportunities.	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
OPERATION	Anti-social behaviour and vandalism in the park	3	2	6	Ensure key areas at risk are secured or monitored (CCTV) at night. Continue to involve local community and hard to reach groups in activity in the park, maintain positive PR	Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Probability - Calculated on scales of 1-3, 1 being least, 3 being worst

Impact - Calculated on scales of 1-3, 1 being least, 3 being worst

Risk rating - Probability x Impact

## 2.4 Measuring Success

### 2.4.1 Meeting NLHF outcomes

#### HERITAGE

##### Heritage will be better managed

- The Master Plan approach to the management and maintenance of the park will be formally adopted and implemented by WTC.
- The Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer will have a clearly defined responsibility to support the future management of the park and ensure all activities are coherent and complimentary to the management master plan.
- Relationships with external organisations and groups will be consolidated to create sustainable relationships that will support the delivery of the project outcomes and safeguard the future of the park e.g. RSPB, Dorset Wildlife Trust delivering workshops and activities, apprenticeship through Kingston Maurward College, community policing partnership.
- Better management through increased resources (Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer) will offer more structured and meaningful volunteering opportunities to help maintain the park in the future.
- New café will generate more income, attract audiences and provide a focal point for the delivery of activities programmes.
- The park will achieve Greed Flag Award and operate according to its principles and objectives.
- New planting and layout schemes will take into consideration ongoing management and maintenance requirements.
- Ecological surveys will enable a better understanding of the site and biodiversity plans will support its future management.
- The project will enhance the entrance into and orientation around the park and gardens, making the whole park accessible for the first time.
- The improved facilities, better interpretation, and the management of the site will ensure greater resilience for the future. Building partnerships and diversifying income generation will assist in this.

##### Heritage will be in better condition

- The project will improve drainage making the site more useable all year and halting deterioration.
- Repairs to pathways and surfaces and new routes will make the park fully accessible to all.
- Repairs and alterations to existing facilities will be sympathetic to the context of the park, they will ensure the park's long-term survival through increased usage and visitor numbers and enhance the heritage value.
- New management and maintenance practices together with the introduction of more bird boxes and wildlife habitats will increase biodiversity.
- The renovation of the entire site will enable a more efficient and manageable programme of maintenance to ensure its future sustainability.

##### Heritage will be better interpreted and explained

- A structured interpretation plan will be implemented to cater for a wide audience base and to cover historic and environmental themes. All interpretation will be high quality, easy to use and appropriate to the target audience.
- New signage and interpretation will sympathetically sit within the natural environment and reflect the natural and social heritage significance of the site. Community engagement will



inform the development and design of signage so increasing a sense of ownership and pride in the park.

- The new café will incorporate interpretation of the gardens and provide a focal point for the delivery of a wide-ranging programme of activities, events and volunteering opportunities.
- Heritage will inform the design of all new elements within the park including the café, sensory garden, play areas, water feature and park furniture. Local communities will be involved in the redesign of the park.

### **Heritage will be identified/recorded**

- All heritage will be recorded and capital work monitored to ensure new finds are recorded.
- Ecological surveys will continue to identify and record existing habitats.
- Volunteers will be recruited to research the history of the park. Information will be recorded and used to inform new interpretation. All findings will be shared with Weymouth Museum and partnership projects developed to promote the heritage importance of the park.
- A catalogue of old photographs and images of the park will be collated and material used in interpretation.
- Local memories of the park will be recorded and included in the Hidden Heritage archive strand of work. Particular groups will be targeted to share their stories e.g. older people with memories around WW2.
- The project and increased awareness of the park will enable opportunities for developing stronger relationships and partnerships with other local and regional organisations and groups.
- The project will provide opportunities to share knowledge and good practice with the local community, with other projects of a similar nature, and with other historic parks and gardens.

## **PEOPLE**

### **People will have developed skills**

- There will be a better structure for volunteers to support the redeveloped site and activities and this will provide an opportunity for individuals to develop their own skills and experience. Training will provide opportunities for personal development in areas around practical maintenance, horticulture, environment and interpretation.
- The project will deliver a programme of events and workshops for all ages and interests. Young people can be inspired to learn about the park and become involved in its future.
- Partnership with Kingston Maurward College will provide opportunities for students to support the park regeneration.

### **People will have learnt about heritage**

- The project will enable access to all areas of the park enabling people to experience and appreciate it in its entirety. This will enable the visitor to learn about the history of the site and its local heritage significance. The value of the heritage will be understood.
- The improved interpretation around the park, events and displays in the café will enhance opportunities to learn about the history of the park, the surrounding area and the context of the town.
- Individuals, schools and local groups will be invited to participate in the project, to learn about their heritage and apply their learning to the development of activities within the park.
- The improved interpretation and cafe displays will enable the local community to better understand and appreciate the significance of the park and will provide a greater sense of place.
- Improved interpretation and a structured programme of events will provide a more cohesive offer for visitors and information.

- The project will include a variety of engaging, innovative and sensory interpretation methods to make the interpretation themes more accessible to a wider range of visitors enabling all audiences to engage more readily.
- Raising awareness of the park and the project to restore it for the future will encourage the gathering and recording of more local stories and memories.

### **People will have volunteered time**

- The Friends are a voluntary organisation which is steadily growing in size and will be key to delivering the project and supporting it in the future. People will feel a sense of worth and value in the contribution their time can make to the local community.
- Volunteers will be part of the project delivery group and have already played a significant role in developing the project to date.
- Volunteers will support the redeveloped site and activities will provide opportunities for individuals to take an active role and to share their knowledge and expertise. Volunteers will feel a sense of ownership for the future of the park.
- New opportunities to volunteer will promote active citizenship and the development of life skills.
- Additional volunteer roles will provide opportunities for active engagement with the Park and will promote a greater sense of community. Better management of volunteers will provide more rewarding experiences.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit**

- The involvement of local people in the project will create a sense of local identity, civic pride and lead to a community empowerment and improved cohesion.
- The project will provide enhanced opportunities for heritage-based recreation and activity.
- New interpretation, the café, improved facilities and the restoration of the park and gardens will provide increased opportunities for an enjoyable visitor experience.
- The project will create a welcoming cafe which will encourage visitors into the park and will increase visitor engagement and enjoyment.
- The cafe and new toilet facilities will provide a more comfortable and enjoyable visit and encourage more people to stay longer throughout the year.
- The project will be a significant contributor to the regeneration of Weymouth, enhancing its green spaces, increasing its heritage value and providing additional recreational facilities and activities for both residents and visitors.
- The project will provide business for local suppliers and construction companies.
- The project will improve the aesthetic appearance of the area, tackle issues of anti-social behaviour and encourage greater local pride in the area.

### **Negative environmental impacts will be reduced**

- Weymouth Town Council have recently declared a climate emergency and therefore the project will work within the guidelines being developed and adopted by the Council
- Designs for the new café and toilet facilities consider environmental impacts both in design and construction and with regard to ongoing operation.
- It will also be guided by>NNLHF's guidance notes 'Planning Greener Heritage Projects'  
Specific goals will be:
  - procuring local goods and services where possible.
  - making new buildings as energy efficient as possible.
  - using recycled, sustainable and traditional building materials where possible

- ensure all timber comes from verifiable legal sources and sustainably managed forests.
- use materials which are low in embodied energy
- seeking alternative uses for resources prior to disposal.
- ensuring the work won't contaminate the ground or environment.
- Non-petro-chemical and solvent base products will be used wherever possible to protect the natural and historic environment.
- A site waste management plan will be developed and implemented.
- Carry out a biodiversity impact assessment and seek to enhance overall biodiversity interest
- No peat will be used.
- Hard surfacing will be from natural or recycled materials wherever possible.
- The quantity of printed material produced will be minimised through online resources, emailing and permanent interpretation. Where printed material is required the project will endeavour to use recycled or sustainably manufactured paper and include recommendations for disposal and recycling.
- Public transport will be promoted.

### **More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage**

- The visitor profile will broaden due to greater physical access throughout the park, better signage and visibility and enhanced facilities.
- The project provides greater opportunity to engage with specific groups through targeted activities.
- New interpretation, and better facilities will attract more visitors, enhancing the offer of the town, and supporting strategic initiatives around local distinctiveness, green spaces and heritage.
- The project will help to promote community engagement across generations and diverse communities.
- Activities throughout the project will offer people different ways to engage with heritage and develop a greater sense of ownership and understanding.
- The redevelopment and the facilities that it offers will increase a sense of individual well-being and impact physical and mental health through visiting the park and garden.

### **2.4.2 Evaluation of Activities**

Following the Parks for People Evaluation Guidance, the Project will be assessed against the ten 'Parks for People' outcomes. The Evaluation Plan (Appendix 9) sets out each outcome and includes indicators, methods and tools for gathering evaluation data, baseline information and gaps and links to other plans. This approach will ensure success is recognised and performance assessed in direct relation to the outcomes. It will provide evidence to use in advocacy documents and future funding applications and demonstrate to stakeholders and partners a commitment to achieving shared outcomes.

Baseline evaluation has been carried out in the Development Phase. This identified what visitors and stakeholders wanted or expected from the project. It informed the project development and the outcomes and objectives for delivery.

During project delivery formative evaluation will be carried out to inform decision making and enable amendments based on evidence from participants and stakeholders. At the end of the project summative evaluation will be completed to determine whether the project achieved its outcomes. This will be collated into an end of project report. This report will 'tell the story' of the project and what it has achieved. It will seek to answer the following questions:

1. Has the project vision been attained?
2. What has worked well and why?
3. What could have been improved?
4. Who benefitted from the project and how?
5. How has the project enabled local communities to feel an increased connectivity to the heritage of the Parks?
6. What range of people are now using the Park, and how are they using it?
7. How has the range of volunteers increased?
8. What are the longer-term impacts of the project?
9. What are the learning outcomes of the project?

There is a small budget for an evaluation consultant to advise and support during the delivery of the Activity Plan including conducting an initial workshop with the project team to embed the principals of evaluation from the outset. Most of the evaluation work will be undertaken by the Activity Officer supported by the Project Manager.

Evaluation will use a combination of different evaluation techniques. Data collection will be both qualitative and quantitative and use the following methods:

- Desk based review of project documentation
- Scoping meeting at the beginning of the project delivery phase
- End of project review meeting
- Collection of visitor numbers and patterns of usage through counter system
- Event and activity photographs
- Activity and event monitoring spreadsheet
- Feedback activities at events
- Volunteer monitoring spreadsheet
- Face to face interviews with key stakeholders
- Feedback from teachers and community group leaders
- Post it note style feedback in heritage café
- Online activity analysis
- Ecology and biodiversity review
- Independent audit (KMC Review)
- Collecting social media comments
- Press coverage

### **2.4.3 Project Legacy**

Weymouth Town Council will continue to own and maintain Radipole Park after completion of the project.

The project is being designed to be as sustainable into the future as is possible, this is a key requirement for both the Council and the NLHF. To this end, the project includes a catering facility that will be income generating. The income would be offset to both assist in the slightly increased revenue costs after the project and to maintain capital infrastructure, which currently is in rapid decline in some areas. Full details of this are given in the Management and Maintenance Plan.

A principal outcome of the project will be a better understanding of the needs, interests and priorities of potential visitors and users of the park and gardens, which will be used to inform and develop future plans.

The project will have improved management and maintenance procedures and the standards established through the project will continue to be maintained after the park has achieved Green Flag status.

The volunteer plan will be regularly reviewed. Use will be made of internal/inhouse and other training sources available to WTC and the park service in the future to ensure skills levels are maintained and in-house induction will be provided for all new volunteers.

A strengthened and enlarged Friends group will provide a ready supply of volunteers and active volunteer recruitment will continue, building on lessons learnt during the project.

The new partnerships and support networks established through the project will be consolidated and expanded to inform future operations and new ways of working. New information and research on heritage, biodiversity and local ecology will be consistently recorded and maintained to inform future activity and interpretation. Findings of the project will be promoted as a resource for other organisations and the public.

#### **2.4.4 Project Sustainability**

The Activity Plan has been designed to be sustainable. Activities will continue to build on the outcomes of the National Lottery Heritage Fund investment into the future.

The Friends of Radipole Park have already demonstrated their commitment and drive to support the park and this will continue to grow and build in the future. The project will have a strand of work which will recruit and train new volunteers, who will help to ensure the continuation of the community engagement as well as assist in the delivery of community events into the future.

The investment in training and volunteers, together with partnership working with relevant organisations, will mean that the future monitoring and management of the ecology, biodiversity and interpretation in the park will be sustainable. The project will also ensure that key volunteers are given the skills, support and confidence to train and lead new volunteers in the future.

In addition to the ringfenced income from the café, the Friends will continue to fundraise for special activities in the future. Friends events not only raise valuable income but are key to sustaining community engagement and support. The structured programme of events and activities overseen by the Activity Officer, together the consolidation of new partners in delivery, will ensure that the profile of the park increases, audiences grow and diversify and the perceived value of the park is maximised to safeguard its long terms future.

We will also work with our target groups to secure partnership funding to continue or develop their activities, having demonstrated need and benefits through the project delivery.

In summary:

- The project is underpinned by learning and will increase skills, knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the park
- The project will deliver a high quality, well thought out learning and engagement offer which has been developed, through consultation, to meet the needs of target audiences.
- Learning and participation are at the core of all activities, for staff/volunteer development and audience development and engagement.
- The project will build on consultation and partnerships and through ongoing evaluation activities, ensure that participants help inform the development of new resources and

activities, providing them with the opportunity to develop their own meanings and understanding.

- The project offers opportunities for people to develop their understanding of their local heritage in an active way, appropriate to their needs, interest and background.
- The activities respond to a variety of learning styles and background interests so catering for diverse audience needs.
- The project will put in place the structures and resources for future collaborative working.
- Partnership working, together with training and support for an increased number of volunteers will build resource to continue to grow and develop activity in the park.

#### **2.4.5 Sharing Lessons Learnt**

Lessons learnt will be shared during the project through project blogs, updates and newsletters. There will also be regular reporting to Council meetings, many of which are open to the public. The project has benefited from advice and support from other similar projects and will offer the same to other organisations embarking on projects in the future.

Evaluation will track progress and provide qualitative and quantitative data. This will not only help to inform planning for the future but will also be captured in the project evaluation report. Lessons learnt will be shared externally through a range of activities including:

- Attendance and presentations at workshops and seminars for other networks and groups, such as the Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Coastal Communities, Weymouth Area Development Trust.
- Web updates, blogs and project information / case studies published online
- Media coverage, for example at the project launch and key milestones, building on established interest and support from local radio and press.
- Hosted visits for other groups and organisations planning similar projects
- Making the evaluation report available.



## SECTION THREE

## Action Plan

The following activities span the delivery phase and first year of operation post capital works completion. The aim is to deliver a programme of activities which will test interest and form the basis of an ongoing programme. All activities will be evaluated annually. The timetable for activities is also detailed in the timetable given in Section 2.2.3

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
Recruit and employ Project Manager to coordinate project delivery.	Weymouth Town Council (WTC)	Will maintain project management documents, undertake all reporting and ensure whole project is coherent and integrated.	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be better interpreted and explained	WTC staff to manage appointment process	Fixed fee £25,000	Jul – Sep 2020	Good selection of candidates make applications – at least 3 submissions Post appointed within agreed timescale Successful completion of development phase and implementation of delivery phase Reporting to NLHF of high quality	Well qualified and experienced consultant appointed within agreed timescale Feedback from project team and stakeholders on performance
Second Parks Open Spaces Development Officer to deliver Activity Plan. The role will manage the ongoing programme of	All visitors to the park Weymouth Town Council (WTC) Friends of Radipole	Park is well managed and maintained Structured programme of events and activities developed and delivered to	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be in better condition Heritage will be better interpreted and explained	WTC staff to manage recruitment process	In kind as secondment calculated at 22.5 hours per week over 3 years	Sep 2020	Secondment made within agreed timescale Successful implementation of all activities. Quality of future management of park and	Activity Plan delivered and outcomes achieved Feedback from project team and stakeholders on performance

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
activities and oversee the management and maintenance of the park.	Park and Gardens (Friends)	engage a wide range of audiences Relationship with Friends and other community groups consolidated and developed Structures and supported plans for volunteer recruitment, management and training developed and implemented increasing sustainability and value of volunteering	Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time				increasing participation and engagement in the future.	
Advertise and appoint Horticultural apprentice  The apprentice will be appointed for the duration of the project, offering experience and involvement from development through to delivery.	WTC  Potential apprentices	Offers structured training programme as part of project.  Supports project development and realisation	People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage Heritage will be in better condition	Staff time to support, train and manage apprentice	£28,095	Advertise Aug – Sep 2020  Appoint Oct 2020	Good selection of candidates make applications – at least 3 applications  Apprentice appointed within agreed timescale  Apprentice completes course and receives qualification	Ongoing through formal apprenticeship structure and management

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
Temporary interpretation of project – this will include information board on security fencing around site works to highlight the importance of the park and explain what is happening with the project. Alongside this a programme of walks and talks with key members of the project team will talk people through the detail of the project and answer any questions	All visitors and local residents	Creates openness and transparency about the project Keeps people informed and involved Answers any questions and concerns about the work Mitigates any negative perceptions about the project	Heritage will be better interpreted and explained People will have learnt about heritage	Time from the project team to run the walks and talks Time from the Activity Officer to develop the temporary interpretation boards and promote activities Contractor time to install temporary interpretation boards	£600 allocated in marketing and promotion budget for production for interpretation boards	Boards to be ready for installation as soon as work starts on site July 2021 Walks and talks to take place during works July 2021 – April 2022	Boards produced and installed within timeframe At least 3 walks and talks programmed with minimum 10 attendees at each Project well received and any negative comments mitigated	Record number of talks and attendees Feedback from attended Collate press and social media coverage Record all questions and enquiries and how these were dealt with
Sensory Garden - Developed with Kingston Maurward College (Specialist College in Land based Studies)	All Experience offered to young people on College Courses Volunteers and public	Young people get real life experience on the project to support learning. Young people feel sense of ownership and	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be in better condition Heritage will be better interpreted and explained	Time in kind from Activity Officer to develop relationship Time in kind from staff to support	£20k materials budget allocated to sensory garden	To be coordinated with Landscape contract once main contractor appointed	Programme of engagement developed, agreed and implemented during delivery phase.	Evaluation built into programme of engagement with questionnaires for event and workshop participants.

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
to deliver sensory garden  The College has already offered to support the project with staff time in kind and student engagement.  The College has also offered to support the activities programme to offer workshops and participation opportunities in traditional skills.	who participate in workshops and activities	positive contribution to local community. WPBC develops sustainable relationship with local college and young people. All visitors benefit from improvements to the park.	Heritage will be identified/recorded  People will have developed skills  People will have learnt about heritage  People will have volunteered time  The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit  Negative environmental impacts will be reduced  More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	students working on site Kingston Maurward staff time to coordinate and manage student involvement.	Staff and student time given in kind  £500 is allocated for interpretation which will be presented in repurposed Friends notice boards  £250 is allocated for the purchase of hand tools for volunteers undertaking maintenance of the sensory garden	and details delivery schedule agreed. Initial design and planning work will start as soon as permission to start is received.  Traditional skills workshops scheduled during garden construction . Ongoing events and volunteering opportunities arranged whilst construction is underway and launched once the capital work is completed.		Focus group of students and staff to evaluate the experience.  Record of number of students participating, number of events, people volunteering and attending activities.  Focus groups with volunteers, community groups and others engaged with the sensory garden.

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
Support Friends to deliver core events programme.  Full details are given in Section 2.2.5 and events listed in Section 2.2.6  Friends will also run competitions and include temporary displays at events to ensure continued community engagement throughout the project.	All – some events may have specific audience focus e.g. multicultural picnic	Improve sense of community ownership and pride in the Park Provide social networks and improve community cohesion People will be able to learn and take an active part in their heritage Increase in people's satisfaction with and enjoyment of the Park	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be better interpreted and explained Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	Salary costs covered in project cost Staff costs covered by core costs of participating organisations £500 annual income has been included in the Management and Maintenance budget in the form of contributions towards costs from partner organisations/event sponsorship. Volunteer time from Friends	Events costs contribution = £1,000	Ongoing throughout project delivery and future operation	Friends deliver 12 annual community events with programme of community events with overall attendance at of at least 1,980  2 competitions during delivery phase.  Displays presented at all community events.	Record programme of events and number of attendees.  Information table at events to encourage feedback and comments.  Questionnaires and surveys with attendees and participants.  Focus group with friends and volunteers to seek feedback.
Deliver new events and activities programme as described in Section 2.2.5 and listed in Section 2.2.6 The Activity Officer will coordinate the programme with delivery support	All – some events may have specific audience focus e.g. chatty café group, parent/carers group	Improve sense of community ownership and pride in the Park Provide social networks and improve community cohesion People will be able to learn and take an active	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be better interpreted and explained Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills	Activity Officer time to coordinate, promote and deliver Delivery of programme with partner in kind support In kind support from parks team and Friends for logistical delivery	Many events will have little cost as delivered with partners support or be self-financing Event budget of £2,00 for new activities in addition to the support	Events will be planned, partnerships confirmed during capital works. Launch of all events and roll out of programme	At least 19 new events/activities with programme of community events with overall attendance at of at least 3,824 (NB many of these attendees will be individuals attending multiple events)	Record of events, participants/ attendees, partners and volunteer contributions will be maintained  Feedback sought at larger events through information

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
from partners and volunteers		part in their heritage Increase in people's satisfaction with and enjoyment of the Park	People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage		for Friends events above	from April 2022		table inviting comments – random survey of attendees as appropriate Questionnaires distributed to participants at smaller events 1:1 feedback from event partners Focus group evaluation at end of project
Deliver training plan for volunteers – See Appendix 5 for more details Some training will be in house but external support will be sought to cover key areas around legislation, health and safety and inclusion.	Local people	Volunteers will be offered a structured programme of training to support their needs, learn new skills and enhance volunteering experience. Volunteering will become integrated with the management of the park, therefore developing a sustainable and inclusive future	Heritage will be better managed People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	Staff time to develop the training plan. Staff and volunteer time to consult with existing and potential volunteers to identify and clarify training needs and research potential courses/training methodologies.	£2,205 for programme of training. An annual training budget has also been included in the Management and Maintenance costs to ensure continued volunteer development	Following an initial planning period volunteer training will be rolled out from November 2020	53 individual training sessions planned over the course of the project – See Training Plan for details. Programme of training developed and reviewed annually to meet needs of volunteers Consistent participations numbers	Evaluation feedback through participant questionnaires Record number of training events and number of participants Focus group evaluation at end of project



Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
Provide new, structured volunteering opportunities as identified in Volunteer Plan.	Local people as volunteers Visitors to the park appreciating the input of volunteers WPBC	People will gain new or improved skills People will be better prepared to manage the Park People will be able to learn and take an active part in their heritage Increase in people's satisfaction with and enjoyment of the Park Improve quality of Park environment for visitors	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be in better condition People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	Activity Officer and Friends time to coordinate delivery and promote opportunities In kind support from external organisations to support specific training areas	Costs covered primarily in kind. Costs for volunteer open day and volunteer recognition event are included in the events costs above. Volunteers primarily local and tend not to claim expenses if giving time but £250 allocated for expenses	Volunteer recruitment to begin as soon as permission to start received. Key volunteer promotion events September 2020 and March 2022 Activity ongoing	137 volunteers participate 1136 hours contributed to new structured activities 126 unskilled days 36 skilled days 3 professional days	Number of opportunities and participants at each will be recorded. All participants will complete evaluation form. Staff will feedback on impact and effectiveness of volunteers in specific areas of the project. Focus group feedback at end of project
Research - Create a Hidden Heritage Archive Box - a digital catalogue of all material generated throughout the project which is collated and uploaded to an online archive for future	Local people Young people Schools Older people Disabled people	People will be able to learn and take an active part in their heritage People will gain a greater understanding of park heritage People will develop new or improved skills	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be better interpreted and explained Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage	Activity Officer to coordinate, liaise with partners and develop photo book Volunteers to undertake research Professional time in the design of website, interpretation	£200 to cover reproduction and expenses £150 to produce historic photo books for reference in the cafe	Main research Aug 2020 – Jan 2021 Liaison with partners Oct 2020 – Feb 2021 Edit and production	All material made accessible through agreed routes Good working relationship with Weymouth Museum and Dorset history Centre developed Positive user feedback	Feedback from participants, partners and users Feedback from designers regarding usability of material in interpretation

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
reference and sharing. Material will also be shared with Weymouth Museum and Dorset History Centre. This will also be used to inform interpretation within the park Historic photos will be collated into photo books that will be available for reference in the café. This will also be suitable for use in future reminiscence work and as a reference resource for research.		Develop a sense of ownership, community pride and social cohesion Increase in people's satisfaction with and enjoyment of the Park	People will have volunteered time More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage		Website to be managed by volunteers - £2,500 allocated for website development and training	Mar – Aug 2021  Photo book production Oct – Dec 2021	Photo books produced and installed on time	Public feedback through surveys and word of mouth  Monitor use of photo book  Monitor hits on website
Oral history This will be delivered as part of the hidden heritage programme. A number of stories have already been gathered and	All visitors Researchers Volunteers Older people	People will gain a greater understanding of park heritage People will develop new or improved skills Develop a sense of ownership, community pride	Heritage will be better interpreted and explained Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills	Activity Officer to coordinate Volunteers to record and collate stories	£200 to cover admin costs	Research Sep 2020 – Feb 2021 Recruit and train volunteers Sep 2020 – Apr 2021	5 new stories recorded Volunteer interest and willingness to participate Stories used to inform interpretation and made available as	Record number of volunteers engaging Record number of stories recorded Feedback from participants through 1:1

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
will be used to inform interpretation. Volunteers will be offered the opportunity to learn more about recording oral histories through partnership working with Dorset History Centre and other organisations who already have the skills and equipment to record oral histories		and social cohesion	<p>People will have learnt about heritage</p> <p>People will have volunteered time</p> <p>More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage</p>			<p>Record and share Stories – key focus Jan – Apr 2021 but will be ongoing</p>	part of hidden heritage archive	<p>conversations and meetings</p> <p>Visitor feedback through survey and comments box</p>
<p>Interpretation display in café. This will be permanent display covering the history of the park and also highlighting the key environmental themes. See Interpretation Plan for more details</p> <p>An interpretation designer will be</p>	<p>Visitors to the café</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	People will be able to learn about the heritage of the park and the key feature of natural importance.	<p>Heritage will be better managed</p> <p>Heritage will be better interpreted and explained</p> <p>Heritage will be identified/recorded</p> <p>People will have developed skills</p> <p>People will have learnt about heritage</p> <p>People will have volunteered time</p>	<p>Activity Officer time</p> <p>Volunteer time</p>	<p>Print and installation of interpretation - £4,5000</p> <p>Overarching interpretation designer fee - £8,000</p>	<p>Designer appointed Mar 2021</p> <p>Content research and collating Mar – Oct 2021</p> <p>Design and print Nov 2021 – Jan 2022</p>	<p>Interpretation developed and installed on time and within budget</p>	<p>Feedback from research volunteers</p> <p>Record number of café users</p> <p>Feedback from café users through comments box</p> <p>Ad hoc visitor surveys as appropriate</p> <p>Feedback from café operator</p>

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
appointed to oversee all elements of the interpretation to ensure consistency across the Park – see Brief in Appendix 8			<p>The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit</p> <p>Negative environmental impacts will be reduced</p> <p>More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage</p>			Install Feb 2022		
<p>Children's interactive discovery table</p> <p>Located in the café the cart will incorporate a range of activities for children to use while in the café. It will connect to the heritage trail and draw themes and content from the heritage and natural environment of the park.</p> <p>Dorset Wildlife Trust and RSPB</p>	Families, young children	<p>Children will be occupied while visiting the café so encouraging adults to stay longer</p> <p>Children will learn more about the local area and its heritage.</p> <p>Children and families will be encouraged to explore the park and find out more through the heritage trail</p>	<p>Heritage will be better interpreted and explained</p> <p>Heritage will be identified/recorded</p> <p>People will have learnt about heritage</p> <p>The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit</p> <p>More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with their heritage</p>	<p>Activity Officer time to develop.</p> <p>Time from partnership organisations to input content</p> <p>Volunteer time to undertake consultation to inform content</p>	<p>Budget for production £3,000</p> <p>Overarching interpretation designer fee £8,000</p>	<p>Research and draft content Jun – Oct 2022</p> <p>Production Nov 2022 – Feb 2023</p>	<p>Table completed on time and within budget</p> <p>Local schools/preschools engaged in consultation to develop content</p> <p>Table used on a regular basis by café visitors</p>	<p>Feedback from consultation groups</p> <p>Observed usage of cart</p> <p>Feedback from parents/carers in café</p> <p>General visitor feedback through comments box</p>

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
will offer advice and content								
New interpretation boards will be developed for the key entrances to the park. It will offer visitor information and orientation as well as interpretation content.  See Interpretation Plan for more details.  A designer will be appointed to develop various elements of interpretation to ensure consistence – brief attached as Appendix 8	All	New interpretation will make all areas of park more visible.  Clear and attractive welcome and interpretation will increase overall attractiveness of park.  Signage will reinforce messages of heritage and natural significance as well as encouraging responsible park usage	Heritage will be better managed  Heritage will be in better condition  Heritage will be better interpreted and explained  Heritage will be identified/recorded  People will have learnt about heritage  People will have volunteered time  The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit  More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	Activity Officer to coordinate  Project team and design team time to inform designs  Volunteer time to coordinate community input.	Interpretation board production £5,000  Overarching interpretation designer fee £8,000	Initial Content development Oct 2020 - Feb 2021  Graphic designer appointed Mar 2021  Content developed Mar – Sep 2021  Design and production Oct 2021 – Jan 2022  Installation Feb 2022	New interpretation developed and implemented.	Record of consultation events and feedback maintained.  Feedback from design team and project group on process.  Feedback from designer on process.  Feedback from visitors once installed through face to face survey.
Heritage Trail  This will be a way marker trail around the park aimed at children and families	Primarily children and families.  Information also of	People will be encouraged to explore the whole park and spend longer there.	Heritage will be better managed  Heritage will be better interpreted and explained	Activity Officer time to develop project  Volunteer time to develop content  Staff time to install and maintain	Production of markers in trail £5,000  Overarching design fee £8,000	Designer appointed Mar 2021  Research and draft	Trail produced on time and within budget  Good use of trail and positive user feedback	Feedback from all involved through 1:1 discussions and meetings

# ACTIVITY PLAN - Radipole Park and Gardens

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
although content will be designed to be of interest to adults as well. The trail will be promoted at the entrances to the park and in the café. More details are given in the Interpretation Plan	interest to adults. Could be used to structure schools or community group visit	People will learn more about the park. Children will be actively engaged.	Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit Negative environmental impacts will be reduced More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage			content Apr – Sep 2021 Design and production Oct 2021 – Jan 2022 Installation Feb 2022		Concept texting with focus group Feedback from users through questionnaire Feedback from visitors through comment box
Orienteering This was a hugely popular activity during development phase taster days. It will be rolled out in partnership with Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset.	Public Families Children Schools and other groups	More people know about and understand the different elements of the park and gardens. More people value and want to protect what the park has to offer.	People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit	Activity Officer to coordinate Support from partners	£1,100 to develop and produce maps and signage	Draft route and mapping Jul – Dec 2021 Design and production Jan – Mar 2022 Launch Apr 2022	Route successfully delivered People engage with the activity Positive feedback	Record participation numbers Seek feedback from participants through questionnaire Feedback through comments box



Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
		New audiences are engaged and different ways of participating are promoted						Random survey of users
Sensory story A professional storyteller will be commissioned to write a story about the park, deliver it as an event and train volunteers to deliver it in the future. Alongside this a sensory box will support the storytelling The sensory story will be launched with a special performance by the storyteller	Families Children Older people Groups with specialist needs Volunteers Schools	More people know about and understand the different elements of the park and gardens. More people value and want to protect what the park has to offer. New audiences are engaged and different ways of participating are promoted	People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit	Staff time to coordinate Volunteers ongoing Storyteller	£900 fee for storyteller £200 to develop sensory bag	Commission sensory story Apr – May 2021  Develop sensory box Jun – Aug 2021  Train volunteers Jan – Feb 2022  Story performance Apr 2022	Story commissioned Box produced  Volunteers engaged  Good attendance at event  Ongoing take up of storytelling activity	Feedback from storyteller through 1:1 conversation Record numbers attending events Feedback from attendees through questionnaire Feedback from volunteers through focus group Record number of events
Scavenger Hunt This will be developed using in house expertise and provide a cost-effective activity to get children out into the park	Children Families Schools	More people know about and understand the different elements of the park and gardens. More people value and want	People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will	Staff time to develop and produce	£100 for production costs	Develop content Nov – Dec 2021 Design and print Jan – Feb 2022	Scavenger hunt designed and printed Participation levels	Record number of people using scavenger hunt Feedback from participants

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
and understanding about it		to protect what the park has to offer.  New audiences are engaged and different ways of participating are promoted	be a better place to live, work or visit					
School resources  As described in the Activity Plan the schools offer will be a menu of activities which will also be of relevance to the public. Additional options such as talks, walks and workshops will be offered as requested  The content will be promoted to teachers through a launch event. Local teachers will be invited to come and review the material and ask questions to support using	Local schools  Partner organisations	Local schools will have easy to use structure and supporting material to help develop engagement with the park.	Heritage will be better managed  Heritage will be better interpreted and explained  Heritage will be identified/recorded  People will have developed skills  People will have learnt about heritage  People will have volunteered time  The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit  More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage	Activity Officer time to develop, promote and respond to school enquiries  In kind support from local organisations and volunteers for talks, walks etc	£500 to collate and package materials to appeal to schools	Planning and liaison with teachers Oct – Nov 2020 and Mar – Apr 2021  Collate material into digital 'pack' Apr – May 2021  Resources added to website May – Jul 2021  Promotion to local schools Jun – Oct 2021 then at regular intervals ongoing	Schools visit the park and engage with resources  More relationships with schools developed	Record number of enquiries from schools  Feedback from teachers following launch session and after use of pack through questionnaire  Ongoing monitoring of usage of park by local schools.  Teacher focus group as part of evaluation at end of process

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
the park as a learning resource								
Website development Professional input will be commissioned to improve the structure and navigation of the Friends website. Training will be given to volunteers to better manage the website and social media in the future	Volunteers All	Volunteers will be better skills to promote the park People will more easily be able to find out about the park, events and history Heritage will be more easily accessible Schools will have online access to resources	People will have developed skills People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit	Staff time to coordinate Volunteer time to participate Professional input	£2,500 web designer fee	Appoint web designer Mar 2021  Review website and identify enhancements Nov 2020 – Jan 2021, Apr 2021  Draft design and relaunch website May – Aug 2021	Website enhancements achieved  People use the site as a resource	Number of site visits Feedback from volunteers through focus group Feedback from public, schools through surveys
Pull up banners Two banners will be produced to tell people about the park for use at events and outreach activities	All	More people know about and understand the different elements of the park and gardens. More people value and want to protect what the park has to offer. People will more easily be able to find out about the	2 x banners produced Simple and usable interpretation will be on display at all events and outreach activities to promote the park	Staff time to coordinate Volunteer time to develop content	£250 for banner design and production	Draft content Jun – Dec 2021 Design and production Dec 2021 – Feb 2022	Banners produced on time and budget Banners used at all events and well received	Feedback from event attendees through comment box and 1:1 conversations Feedback from Friends through focus group Record when and where used

Activity: Detailed description	Audience	Benefits for people	Outcome	Resources	Cost in project budget	Timetable	Targets & measures of success	Method(s) of evaluation
		park, events and history Heritage will be more easily accessible						
Support Friends to increase membership and encourage a more active role in the development and management of RPG	Local residents Young people Disabled groups	Greater sense of community ownership and social cohesion People are empowered to make a difference	Heritage will be better managed Heritage will be better interpreted and explained Heritage will be identified/recorded People will have developed skills	Parks Development Officer: Staff time to attend meetings, events and workshops Parks Development Officer:	Volunteer expenses - £150	Ongoing	50 new Friends signed up each year during the project. Friends actively engaged in development of project Friends successful in raising target match funding for delivery of project.	Annual report from Friends on number of new members and fundraising achievements. Verbal feedback from friends on their engagement experience.
Support Friends to achieve fundraising target for project		People take an active part in looking after their heritage	People will have learnt about heritage People will have volunteered time	Staff time to attend meetings, events and workshops				
An annual celebration of volunteers will be held to thank everyone for this participation and to promote the Friends and new opportunities to get involved.		People will develop new or improved skills People are re-connected with the Park and have a positive role in its future	The local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with the heritage					