

Appendix D – Summary Feedback from the consultation workshops. on the 8th and 15th July 2009 - for the development of the Parks and Open Space Strategy

Location:

1. 10am – 1pm on the 8th July, Abington Park Museum, attendance 30. Council Officers 6, Councillors 5, Community Group members 9, Officers from non NBC organisations 5, Facilitators 5.
2. 12:30pm – 4pm on the 15th July, Northampton Museum, attendance 35. Council Officers 4, Councillors 4, Community Group members 15, Officers from non NBC organisations 6, Facilitators 6.

The Workshop events: Included a number of presentations and exercises.

Exercise One – Creation of a Vision.

10 of the 11 groups from the two workshops created a vision.

Exercise One - Input into Strategy Process:

The visions helped formulate a mission statement for the Consultative Parks and Open Spaces strategy as below, elements and words from all the visions are included in this statement:

‘In Northampton, through partnership working, we will provide attractive, enjoyable, safe and accessible open spaces, managed and maintained to meet the needs of our existing and future communities. This will contribute to everyone’s quality of life, the natural environment and social and sustainable economic prosperity.’

Exercise Two – Place the Space (Categorisation)

Totals - Combining both workshops results: (Numbers indicate respondents – many groups came to a consensus).

List of Open Space	Strategic Open Space	Premier Open Space	Neighbourhood Open Space	Town and Country Open Space	Majority type of Space	Other Possibilities
1. Abington Park	19	36	2	0	Premier	Strategic
2. Becketts Park Barnes and Midsummer Meadow	47	7	0	1	Strategic	
3. Delapre Estate	34.5	11.5	2	10	Strategic	Premier
Allotments at specific locations	0	0	28	0	Neighbourhood	
4. Eastfield Park	6	12	36	3	Neighbourhood	Premier
5. Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground	12	5	41	0	Neighbourhood	Strategic
6. Victoria Park	8	6	44	0	Neighbourhood	
7. The Racecourse	18.5	38.5	1	0	Premier	Strategic
8. Errington Park	0	0	58	0	Neighbourhood	
9. Upper Nene Country Park	9	6	2	41	Town / Country	
10. Hunsbury Hill Park	7	6	13.5	30.5	Town / Country	Neighbourhood
11. Bradlaugh Fields and Parklands Park	0	10	8.5	36.5	Town / Country	Premier
12. Lings Wood	6	0	19	29	Town / Country	Neighbourhood

13. Kingsthorpe NSN/Nature Reserve, Mill Lane NSN, Lyncroft Way	4	0	10	31		
					Town / Country	Neighbourhood
Thornton Park	0	0	6	0	Neighbourhood	

Exercise Two - Input into Strategy Process:

The results of this have gone into a categorisation of parks in the consultative strategy.

Exercise Three – Prioritisation

Total results combined from both workshops 8th and 15th July.

	Total	Rank
Importance on the Green Infrastructure Network (Strategic Importance)	41	2
Existing Masterplan	15	8
Level of Community Interest (Friends of Group)	47	1
Level of deprivation	21	5
Heritage value of space	39	3
Quality of amenities	39	3
Funding secured	15	8
Economic Potential	18	6
Bring up to minimum standard	2	16
Community Value	3	12
Protect and improve natural environment	9	10
Community/cultural events	4	11
What needs/deficits in the area	3	12
No and needs of people living/working in the area	18	6
Potential external funding	0	
Sustainability = longevity	2	16
Actual and potential users	3	12
Levels of ASB	1	18
Statutory/legal obligations (duty of care)	1	18
Good Design Layout	3	12

The top five criteria people believed were the most important for prioritising open space were:

1. Level of Community Interest (Friends of Group)
2. Importance on the Green Infrastructure Network (Strategic Importance)
3. Quality of amenities
3. Heritage value of space
5. Level of deprivation

Exercise Three - Input into Strategy Process:

The results will help us understand how we should prioritise action in the Parks and Open Spaces Implementation Plan.

Exercise Four - Accessibility

Overall Totals	Total		
Type of Space	Number	Minutes	Average
Strategic Open space	53	1490	28
Premier Open space	54	960	18
Neighbourhood Open space	51	500	10
Town and Country open space	55	1180	21

A significant number of residents live further than the recommended walk times to open space. However consultation indicates that residents are willing to walk further than the recommended standards to strategic and premier open spaces. Up to 30 minutes to strategic and 20 minutes to premier open space. As they have more facilities to offer than to neighbourhood open space, which the standards are based upon. This is significant to accessibility standards when considering the walk times to Parks is 10 minutes, to Natural Semi Natural 15 minutes and 5 minutes to Amenity Greenspace.

Exercise Four - Input into Strategy Process:

The main impact of this information is on the audit and findings/recommendations made by the audit. As the information is significant for park accessibility as we have 2 parks in the Strategic category, 2 parks in the premier category and 4 parks in the Town and Country category. For 8 of the 22 parks people are willing to walk longer and further distances too. Showing that when the audit suggests we have deficits in park accessibility in certain areas like the (based on 10 minutes walk time), Town Centre, Abington, Headlands, Far Cotton in reality when we explore further into residents willingness to walk to different functioning parks like premier, strategic or country and town park function these areas are covered by provision (accessibility - buffer zones), as can be shown by the map below.

Exercise Five – Ladder of Participation

The ladder denoted differing degrees of participation from direct community control at the top, to at the bottom of the ladder a relationship that involves receiving information.

Workshop participants put forward an array of different groups. Most groups felt they were lower down the ladder than they wanted to be (25) although of the 48 groups looked at 23 were happy where they were. Most groups were at receiving information level (23) or consultative relationship level (19) and wanted to move up. The most popular position groups wanted to be at was an equal partnership (15) with consultative relationship (12).

Exercise Five - Input into Strategy Process:

In the consultative Strategy (pg 35) we have suggested improvement policies to help improve NBC and partner participation with the community.

Exercise Six – Impact Implementation Matrix – How we can improve

High Impact, Easy implementation - or do now

Results from the Workshop in this category

- Mentoring Chairs of Friends Groups
- Prioritisation of when and where to work (agreed with friends, joint bidding)
- Ring fencing money for parks and allotments in an organised way
- Raising the awareness of the importance of parks/open spaces and allotments
- Capacity build groups
- NBC support in kind staff time
- Design for less maintenance
- Thematic Partnership Forum
- NBC commitment to local community
- NBC understand issues around partnership

Similar Suggestions

- Improve communication and information on funding, create central forum or website outlining green space funding.
- Friends Forum Central contact point
- One forum to improve communication with council and within council
- Council info pack

- Mentoring partnership funding applications (RNRP and NBC)
- Opportunities for funding, require information
- Need for capital investment, funding on webpages at a central location, groups to share information and funding expertise

Exercise Six - Input into Strategy Process:

Elements of the above are either as improvement policies in the consultative strategy or will be direct actions in the Implementation Plan.