



**Lichfield**  
District Council



# **Stowe Pool & Fields**

## Green Flag Management Plan

### 2026 – 2030



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This five-year plan has been prepared by the Historic Parks Manager, Parks Team and Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks, providing information to support the ongoing management of the park, with the aim of achieving the nationally recognised **Green Flag** accreditation, which focusses on the following main criteria:

- A welcoming place.
- Health, safe and secure.
- Well maintained and clean.
- Environmental management.
- Biodiversity, landscape & heritage.
- Community involvement.
- Marketing and Communications.
- Management.

The Action Plan at [Appendix A](#) details targets, where progress will be monitored and reviewed.

The Management Plan is a useful tool for effective management of the park detailing key information and creates a vision/direction with specific measurable aims and objectives, ensuring the future care of the park is considered and planned for, including any improvements.

This plan will be accessible to the Parks Team, stakeholders and available online at: [Stowe Pool and Stowe Fields - Parks, heathlands and nature reserves](#)

### 1.1 Parks vision statement

*The district parks are all unique, valuable and popular assets, enhancing the district's status as a pleasant place to live, work and visit, contributing to the regional and national importance as a cultural and historic destination. This statement is to help illustrate a clear direction for the parks: 'To protect, enhance and interpret the area's compelling heritage; encourage greater use of the parks by residents and visitors in an environment which is delightful, accessible and safe; engage, entertain and educate people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds; and develop a treasure of public jewels of which the residents of Lichfield District are proud'.*

### 1.2 Site description

**Stowe Pool & Fields** are set in the heart of Lichfield City in the shadows of Lichfield Cathedral. Covering an area of approximately 21 acres of which 12 acres is formed as the historic reservoir. With a play area, outdoor gym, exercise circuit, woodland coppices, mature trees, opportunities

for water-based activities and regular seating along with a Victorian boatshed.

### 1.3 Location address/What3words

Stowe Road, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 6DT.  
<https://w3w.co/plots.watch.spider>

### 1.4 Site boundary

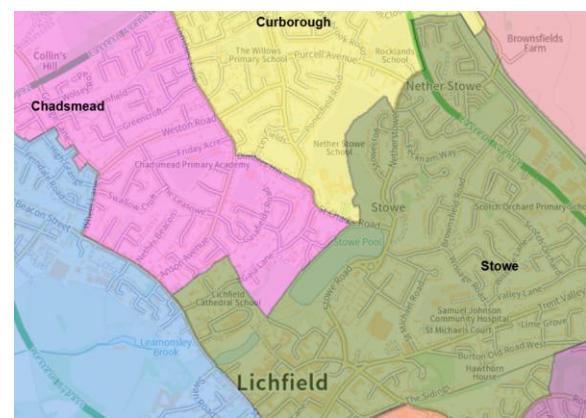


### 1.5 Site ownership

Stowe Pool & Fields is owned and managed by Lichfield District Council.

### 1.6 Ward information

Stowe Pool & Fields sits within the Stowe ward, with Chadsmead bordering on the north-west, and Curborough touching just at the north end.



## 2.0 A WELCOMING PLACE

### 2.1 Welcome

Stowe Pool and Fields are open and accessible to the public at all times, with various hardstanding

footpaths around the site accessing various residential points and the City Centre.

A recently installed play area offers a range of fun and accessible play opportunities with level wet pour safety surfacing.



Benches, many of which are memorial benches are located at regular spacing for rest, relaxation and contemplation around the site. The more recently installed benches also have hard-standing spaces for wheelchairs and pushchairs to sit alongside.

## 2.2 Accessibility

A range of steps and ramps allow access to the circular pathway round the pool.

The hedgerows are kept to a suitable height to aid sightlines in and around the park.

### 2.2.1 Maintenance vehicle access

There are two access points for maintenance vehicles which have appropriate barriers in place. The barrier nearest the Cathedral is usually kept open, with a droppable bollard preventing vehicle access, however, the barrier is closed during times when there is a high risk of unauthorised entry.

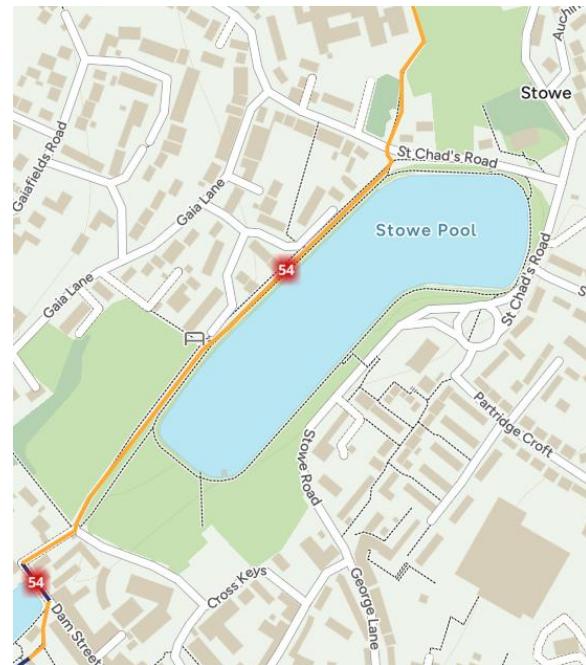
### 2.2.2 Car parking

The neighbouring pay and display car park on Lombard Street also serves visitors to Stowe Pool and Fields with an accessible ramp from the upper level, and the disabled parking spaces [Lombard Street car park - Lichfield city car parks](#)

### 2.2.3 Cycling

Cycling is not permitted around the pool, in accordance with the park byelaws and due to limited pathway width for shared use at points. The neighbouring Lichfield City Council pathway

incorporating cycle route 54 runs parallel with the pool.



## 2.3 Signage

Various signs are displayed on site, including the play area sign detailing ownership and emergency guidance, advisory and safety signs. Recorded in the [Action Plan](#) to review and update site signage.

### 2.3.1 Site interpretation

New interpretation boards are currently in design for installation during 2026, which will show the site map, along with an array of facts, history and information on Stowe Pool, local people and places. See [8.3.2](#).

## 2.4 Equal access for all

Stowe Pool & Fields has been assessed and listed on the AccessAble website [AccessAble - Your Accessibility Guide](#), noted within [Action Plan](#) to review updates.

### 2.4.1 User feedback

Visitor surveys are available online, where data is captured and the feedback analysed for how we can improve user experience and expectations. See [7.1.3](#).

### 2.4.2 Staff identification and support

Staff working on site are fully visible with high-viz uniform, and have received various training to help visitors including: customer service, first aid, dementia awareness, safeguarding and dog behaviour awareness.

### 3.1.3 Health and wellbeing

We work closely with Lichfield District Council's Active Lichfield Communities Team who help people of all ages become healthier, happier, and more active. Delivering programmes and activities locally, supporting clubs, schools, and work with health partners, statutory and community groups, to improve wellbeing, reduce inactivity, and create safer, stronger communities.



Making good use of **parks and open spaces**, offering outdoor physical activity sessions that help people enjoy being active in nature and in their local area. Key programmes include:

#### Us Girls (Women & Girls Focus)

Us Girls is designed to support **women and girls**, including **young mums**, to become more active and feel confident and connected. The programme aims to:

- Increase regular participation in sport and physical activity
- Build friendships and reduce loneliness
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Promote personal safety and awareness
- Develop leadership and life skills through the **female ambassador volunteering pathway**



#### Health & Wellbeing Programme (Adults)

The Health & Wellbeing Programme supports adults to become more active and maintain healthy habits long-term by providing weekly sessions at low cost within the community including parks and open spaces. Offering a free health referral 12-week programme, designed to help residents build confidence, improve their fitness, and develop routine activity in a safe and friendly environment through our formal referral pathway, work closely with health professionals to support people with health conditions or health inequalities.



#### Getin2it (Young People, 7-19 yrs)

Getin2it provides free weekly sports and activity sessions in local communities. It gives young people fun and positive things to do and helps reduce anti-social behaviour by offering safe, local, doorstep activities.

## **Volunteer Programme (Young People 13+ and Adults)**

The Active Lichfield Communities Volunteer Programme is open to anyone aged 13 and above across Lichfield District.

Volunteers can work alongside experienced community coaches and help deliver across all our community programmes including community events throughout the year. Volunteers have the opportunity to obtain qualifications, gain skills, build confidence, support local people, and make a positive difference in their community.

### **3.1.4 Seating**

As referenced at [2.1](#), there are a variety of benches around Stowe Pool, including steel and recycled material benches in the new play area.

## **3.2 Safety of equipment & facilities**

The Parks Team have a robust structure in place to attend to Stowe Pool & Fields daily, along with a series of independent inspections of the reservoir, play equipment, tree stock and overall site inspections.

### **3.2.1 Site safety**

Park staff regularly inspect areas and equipment within the park, as part of their day-to-day activities including life rings and the pool/bank conditions, reporting issues to the Parks and Open Spaces Supervisor. High risk issues are sectioned off, where applicable, and immediate rectification completed. All medium and low risk faults are recorded for the Parks Team to rectify accordingly.

Site inspections are carried out and recorded, quarterly, based on the use of the area, popularity, and seasonal demands (detailed within the Site Assessment file in the Team Office). Site inspections are carried out by the Parks Team reviewing and actioning any works within the area including walls, fences, bollards, barriers, footpaths, benches, signage etc. Aiming to include all cyclic site inspections on the site inspection software.

### **3.2.2 Tree inspections**

A survey of the District Council owned tree stock has been completed, which included cataloguing all trees and condition. A software system, Arbortrack, is used to plot each tree and to individually record issues and inspection details.

All trees are inspected by a qualified external arboricultural officer on a frequent basis to ensure all seasons are covered, as per the council's tree procedure. Should any concerns be raised within this period re-inspections will be scheduled sooner. In the interim the parks staff, who are Lantra qualified attend to trees which are reported to have or are identified with issues.

A procedure for dealing with emergency tree work is in place where the Historic Parks Manager is informed immediately; Arboricultural advice sought and approved tree surgeons to attend. All tree incidents are subsequently reported on the council's Accident and Incident forms and followed up by the Health & Safety Team if necessary.

### **3.2.3 Play equipment & outdoor gym**

Staff are qualified to RPII Play Inspector Operational level, whereby a robust play inspection software system is used to record inspections, maintenance works and the annual inspection. These records are reviewed and processed by the Safety Ranger and Park Supervisor on completion to action.

A weekly inspection of the play equipment is undertaken by the trained Parks Team personnel, following the RPII criteria along with manufacturers' recommendations.

The play areas are also inspected annually by an external approved inspector. All equipment is photographed, and any defects are recorded. From 2019 the annual inspections have also been recorded on the software system.

Routine quarterly inspections and maintenance of all play equipment is completed by trained staff, in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines.

A small selection of common replacement parts is available in stock. For specialist larger items details are listed in the play equipment folders for ease of ordering.

When vandalism occurs, the equipment is made safe for immediate use as appropriate. Otherwise, any unsafe item is removed from service until replacement parts are available.

### **3.2.4 Health and fitness activities**

Any organised fitness sessions follow a booking process whereas, risk assessments and public liability insurance documentation is provided,

along with a nominal fee to contribute to the park maintenance.

### 3.2.5 Events, activities and volunteering

Stowe Pool and Fields hosts several events throughout the year. Some are run by external event organisers, with the council facilitating and assisting to varying degrees and attract thousands of visitors from around the country.

Events are important for the park and provide tourism income to the city and a boost to the local economy.

Many of the events have been running for several years, however, it is vital that the Event Officers ensure the stringent checks are in place obtaining booking forms, events management plans, risk assessment, insurance details, along with any relevant inspection certificates.

A careful balance between the number of events and the impact on the park is required.

The Parks Team also deliver a series of activities and volunteer opportunities, all of which are risk assessed and appropriate plans, supervision and tool talks in place.

## 3.3 Personal Safety

The safety of employees, park users, contractors etc is paramount, whereby a series of park policies/strategies and other departments within the council are drawn upon to aid the management of the park.

### 3.3.1 Health and Safety Policy

Available on Lichfield District Council intranet and hard copy format, the main objectives of this policy is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, covering:

- Recognising the development of positive safety, being supportive of health and safety, ensuring adequate control of risks are in place.
- Ensuring a systematic approach to identify risks and allocate resources to control them.
- Recognise and evaluate hazards within the council's full range of activities and provide information to be followed as standard safe systems of work.
- Supporting employees to enable them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities effectively through effective health and safety training, supervision, instruction and guidance.
- Minimise financial losses which arise from avoidable, unplanned events.

- Support quality initiatives aimed at continuous improvements.

### 3.3.2 Coshh

Under the Health and Safety Policy, the council is required to examine the workplace to ensure that neither the employer, employees nor any other person (whether at work or not) are exposed to any substance that may be hazardous to their health arising from any of the practices carried out or any substances used. To do this an assessment of the risks to health must be made and include the following information:

- i. The nature of the risk - whether it is a substance or something that evolves from a practice that is carried out.
- ii. The product and its active ingredients.
- iii. The safe use of the substances.
- iv. First aid procedures.
- v. Emergency procedures.
- vi. Safe disposal.

During the examination of the workplace, the council must determine whether employees are exposed to hazardous substances and if their health is affected. If it is, then the health of the employees will be monitored and recorded.

Coshh procedures have been reviewed to ensure that new products are reviewed under Coshh guidelines and details sent to appropriate officers. This has included ensuring correct storage and labelling of all substances, including cleaning chemicals, ensuring all staff have access to Coshh sheets, and are aware of how to use the chemicals.

### 3.3.3 Risk assessments

Full role and site-specific risk assessments have been compiled and are updated on an annual basis unless risks are identified in the interim. The risk assessments are issued to, and acknowledged by, all staff and relevant officers.

## Parks Risk Assessment Register

|                       |                       |                  |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Date file last update | April 2025            | Update by :      | Chris Hammant   |
| Position :            | Operations Supervisor | Parks Signature: | <u>Chammant</u> |

| Ass. No. | Task / Activity                         | Summary                        | Last Updated | Review Date     |
|----------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| PRA_01   | Fixed Asset Site Assessment             | Cyclical site checks           | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_02   | Building Assessment                     | Cyclical site checks           | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_03   | Structure Risk Assessment               | Incl. statues & memorials      | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_04   | Using council vehicles                  | Drivers and passengers         | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_05   | Play Area(s) Assessment                 | Generic RA play areas          | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_06   | Ranger, Attend. & Att. <del>Stewc</del> | Employee RA                    | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_07   | Community & Education Officer           | Employee RA                    | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025        |
| PRA_08   | Parks Administration RA                 | Employee RA                    | April 24     | As needed       |
| PRA_09   | Neaten & Natter Group                   | Volunteers RA                  | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_10   | Volunteer & Work Experience             | Volunteers/WE in Parks         | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_11   | Use of vehicles on site                 | Authorised drivers in Parks    | Feb 2025     | Feb 2026        |
| PRA0_12  | Community <del>Drop</del> In Sessions   | Public consultation event      | April 24     | As needed       |
| PRA_13   | Beacon Park Skatepark                   | Generic skate area RA          | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_14   | Croquet Activity                        | Community Event Activity       | 04.05.21     | As needed       |
| PRA_15   | Netball sessions                        | Netball coaching sessions      | 04.05.21     | As needed       |
| PRA_16   | Victorian May Day Event                 | Community Event Risk Assess.   | 04.05.21     | As needed       |
| PRA_17   | Maypole Dance Workshop                  | Community Event Risk Assess.   | 22.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_18   | Coconut Shy                             | Community Event Risk Assess.   | 15.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_19   | Community event Fernery planting        | Community Event Risk Assess.   | 6.11.13      | As needed       |
| PRA_20   | Lichfield Proms in Beacon Park          | Event Risk Assessment          | 30.06.23     | See events team |
| PRA_21   | Olympic Torch Day "Flag Parade"         | Flag Parade                    | June 2012    | As needed       |
| PRA_22   | Stall holders                           | Events                         | 22.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_23   | Official Opening of BP Skatepark        | Event Risk Assessment          | 3.4.14       | As needed       |
| PRA_24   | Hoopla Activity                         | Community Event Activity       | 22.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_25   | Construct/Dismantle Star Tent           | Works                          | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_26   | Barefoot Walk Trail                     | Community Event Risk Assess.   | 04.05.21     | As needed       |
| PRA_27   | First aid within Beacon Park            | First aid for all within parks | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_28   | Reservoir Inspections                   | Routine reservoir Inspections  | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_29   | Christmas Event                         | Community event                | Dec 2015     | As needed       |
| PRA_30   | Seed Sundays                            | Community event                | 18.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_31   | Poppy Field event                       | Community event                | 18.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_32   | Tennis Coaching                         | Tennis coaching sessions       | 19.12.19     | As needed       |
| PRA_33   | Plant Sale                              | Seasonal plant sale            | 18.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_34   | Tulip Lasagne Event                     | Community Event                | 18.12.16     | As needed       |
| PRA_35   | Peace Woodland Opening event            | Community Event                | 15.04.19     | As needed       |
| PRA_36   | Young Vol. & Work Experience            | Volunteers/WE in Parks         | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_37   | Exposure to Coronavirus                 | Volunteers                     | 13.02.22     | When needed     |
| PRA_38   | Deck chairs                             | Safe use/hire of deck chairs   | April 2025   | April 2026      |
| PRA_39   | Golf, Foot/Disc and crazy golf          | Playing the activity           | June 2024    | June 2025       |
| PRA_40   | Chainsaw operation                      | Use of chainsaws               | March 2025   | March 2026      |

### 3.3.4 Operating procedures

A series of operating procedures have been established within parks covering various sites, shifts, tasks and duties to ensure staff have a clear understanding of the standards required. Each member of the team contributes to the updating of procedures, capturing new innovative ways of working and acknowledge the procedures annually.

## Parks Operating Procedure Register

| Date file last update:                                  | April 2025       | Update by:   | Lyn Hunt    |
|---|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Position:   | Park Manager     | Signature:   | LHunt       |
| <hr/>   |                  |              |             |
| Procedure   | Procedure Number | Last Updated | Review Date |
| Open (Early Shift) Operating Procedure                  | OP/01            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Close (Late Shift) Operating Procedure                  | OP/02            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Tree Assessment Procedure                               | OP/03            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Changing Rooms Set Up / Clean Down Procedure            | OP/04            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Radio Communication Procedure                           | OP/05            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Cleaning Schedule for Public Toilets                    | OP/06            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Play Inspection Checks                                  | OP/07            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Fire Alarm Test Procedure                               | OP/08            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Stowe Pool Procedure                                    | OP/09            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Out of Hours / Call Out Procedure                       | OP/10            | -            | -           |
| TMS Procedure   | OP/11            | -            | -           |
| Fixed Asset Inspection Procedure                        | OP/12            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Golf Course Maintenance Procedures                      | OP/13            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Cleaning Schedule Discovery Hub                         | OP/14            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Fountain Maintenance Procedures                         | OP/15            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Star tent set up and take down                          | OP/16            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Building Inspections                                    | OP/17            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Stokebreak Park Changing Rooms-NO LONGER IN USE         | OP/018           | Feb 2024     | Feb 2025    |
| Spraying of play equipment (only in outbreak of covid). | OP/19            | -            | -           |
| Field, Skatepark and Woodland Procedure                 | OP/20            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Tree Management Procedure                               | OP/21            | Dec 2024     | Dec 2025    |
| Play Equipment Management Procedure                     | OP/22            | April 2025   | April 2026  |
| Stowe Pool Emergency Drawdown Procedure                 | OP/23            | July 2024    | July 2025   |

### 3.3.5 Contractors on site

Method statements, risk assessments and public liability insurance details are requested from all contractors working on site. The officer responsible for co-coordinating the works ensures the details are strictly followed and a 'Consent to Works' permit is issued, to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and contractors themselves.

### 3.3.6 Communication on site

Park staff are issued with walkie talkies and mobile phones for communication/support on site.

### 3.3.7 Safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse or neglect

Lichfield District Council has a duty of care for Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse or Neglect, ensuring that they are protected and kept safe from harm, during activities connected with the council, following the [council's policy](#).

The Parks Team have undertaken Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse or Neglect training, with enhanced sessions on Child Sexual Exploitation awareness.

All agencies and individuals organising activities on Stowe Pool and Fields are asked to sign up to the council's safeguarding policy. In addition, organisations dealing with child activities are requested to submit their child protection policies.

Staff training requirements regarding safeguarding has been reviewed, in accordance with the roles and responsibilities in parks, whereby it was confirmed DBS clearance is not required for the Parks Team, with the exception of the Community and Education Officer, due to the nature of the role.

### 3.3.8 Community safety

Stowe Pool has a relatively low level of crime, with occasional reports of vandalism, anti-social behaviour and complaints which are continually monitored. Working closely with the police and the council's Community Safety Team, the parks contribute towards various projects focusing on reducing crime and helping to make the district a safe and welcoming place where individuals and communities take a sense of pride in where they live.

The main focus for the park is to encourage incident reporting to the police as it occurs, reducing the level of anti-social behaviour and disturbances.

### 3.3.9 Water safety

Life rings are located at regular intervals around the pool, which are checked daily, and replaced immediately if missing or any defects identified by the park attendants. As noted in the [Action Plan](#) there is the potential to replace the life rings, which are better suited to rivers, with throw bag stations, secured with a key coded cabinet, which would engage emergency support sooner and plus reduce the risk of tampering/theft.



Signs are on display advising swimming is not permitted within Stowe Pool - this is due to potential hidden dangers and changes in depth/temperatures across the pool.

The parks team work closely with the fire service to promote seasonal water safety campaigns - summer hidden dangers and frozen pools in the winter.



The parks staff have also received training from the fire service to deploy throw bags. The fire service also frequently use Stowe Pool for their in-house training.

### 3.3.10 First aid

First aid to the public is not obligatory within public parks; however, all members of the Team have received either First Aid at Work or Emergency First Aid training and will always assist anyone if needed.

A First Aid at Work qualified member of the team is always



on duty to help colleagues. Staff have also received further training in Paediatrics and Mental Health First Aid.

The teams First Aid Provision is checked and restocked monthly by the Parks Team.

All staff receive frequent defib/CPR refresher training, and various stakeholders including the Friends Group and CPCG volunteers have been offered training too.

In 2023 various staff members received bleed kit training in conjunction with the Knife Angel statue being displayed in Lichfield.

### 3.3.11 Street lighting

The only streetlight on LDC's land is located at the junction of the car park ramp and footpath, fed from the car park electric supply. Requests for additional lighting around the top pathway has been received over the years, however, being a raised reservoir and excavating in the proximity of the dam wall presents high risks.



### 3.3.12 CCTV

There are no CCTV cameras on Stowe Pool and Fields. There are nearby cameras on the neighbouring car park.

## 3.4 Incident reporting

Users, neighbours, and staff are encouraged to report incidents to the police. The police 101 telephone number is published on site.

Incidents witnessed by the parks team are reported to the police, recorded on Accident and Incident forms, shared with management, and logged on a H & S database, taking further action as necessary, as per the council's Health and Safety Policy.

### 3.5 Byelaws

Stowe Pool & Fields are covered by several byelaws. These were last amended in 1971. The main drawbacks are currently the lack of byelaws covering public fires, metal detecting and drones.

A summary of the byelaws is listed (legal definitions can only be determined by the full byelaws):

- No climbing permitted on fences, barriers, railing and posts.
- No removal or displacement of any furniture on site.
- No livestock or beast of burden to be brought on site without prior agreement.
- No vehicles on site including cars, bicycles, and motorcycles, except when previously agreed.
- No wilful damage to the park or anything within the park.
- No removal of plants or other material from site.
- No bathing in, wading or washing in the waterways or intentional polluting of water.
- No disturbance or endangerment of wildlife.
- All dogs must be under proper control and not disturb waterfowl.
- No games or sports other than in designated areas and ensure these don't interfere with others enjoyment of the park.
- Not to play sports on ground if unsuitable and will cause damage.
- Not to erect any structure in the park.
- No items to be sold on site without agreement of the council

There is currently a penalty fine of £100 following conviction. The Parks Team do not have the ability to enforce the byelaws. Many offences cross over with criminal law and would therefore be dealt with appropriately. A summary of the park byelaws is available for public information on on-site notice boards.

### 3.6 Fishing rules

In order that everyone can relax and enjoy the peaceful setting of Stowe Pool, the following fishing rules have been established:

- Night fishing is not permitted at Stowe Pool.
- Live bait must not be brought in or taken away from the pool.
- No bloodworm or joker.
- Maximum two rods per angler.
- Anglers must not use the same peg for more than two consecutive days.
- Unhooking mats must be used for specimen fish.

- Anglers must not disturb any wildlife or plants in or around the pools.
- Do not leave any litter or lines in or around the pool.
- Anglers are not permitted to park on the grass.
- No open fires.
- Pathways must be clear for the general public.
- For safety reasons we recommend anglers under the age of 14 to be accompanied by an adult.
- During competitions anglers may be restricted to certain pegs.
- It is your responsibility to obtain a [rod licence](#) from the Environment Agency.
- No tents are permitted – bivvies only.
- All angling equipment must be thoroughly washed before and after use at Stowe Pool.

Reserving the right to exclude anyone not following these rules.

### 3.7 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO'S)

a) **Alcohol in parks** - The original 'Drinking in Public Places' (DPP) covering Stowe Pool & Fields has expired. DPP's have since been replaced with 'Public Space Protection Orders'. There are no plans to introduce a Public Space Protection Order in relation to drinking at the moment as there is no evidence of current problems and no requests/evidence from the police. The key period in the year for drinking is the summer months. The team liaise with potential group drinkers reminding them of being in a family environment, using a positive approach. The team also notify the police of any potential underage drinking.

b) **Night fishing** – although already prohibited within the fishing rules, at the time of writing this plan, the council is consulting on the possibility of introducing a PSPO to prevent night fishing, following complaints about anti-social behaviour.

### 3.8 Control of dogs/fouling

Well behaved dogs are very much welcomed in all of the district parks. Working closely with the council's Environmental Health Department and police, if necessary, any issues of dogs being out of control or fouling are reported and owners are challenged appropriately in accordance with the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.



## We ❤️ friendly dogs in our parks

To make sure everyone feels safe in our parks, please keep your dog under control when walking it here.

If you see a dog that is out of control, we recommend asking the owner to bring it under control. If they can't or refuse call the police on 101, as they have enforcement powers under the revised Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

A dog is considered dangerously out of control if:

- makes someone worried it might injure them
- injures someone

A court could also decide if a dog is dangerously out of control if:

- it injures someone's animal
- the owner of the animal thinks they could be injured if they try to stop the dog attacking their animal

The penalties are:

- £5,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months if the dog is out of control.
- Imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine if the dog injures someone.
- Five years' imprisonment if a dog is used to deliberately injure someone.

If you see an out of control dog, or feel threatened by a dog owner, call the police on 101. If it's an emergency dial 999.



The council's Environmental Health Team enforce laws to keep public areas clear, encouraging everyone to report dog fouling on council-owned land or highways using an online form at [Report dog fouling/request enforcement | Instructions – Lichfield District Council](#)

The team patrol hotspots and issue fines up to £100 for those not clearing up after their dogs.

The Parks' Team have received Assertiveness Training and Canine Behaviour Awareness Training to be able to identify problems, giving the team the skills and more confidence in dealing with issues.

## 4.0 MAINTENANCE & CLEANLINESS

### 4.1 Litter and waste management

The site is litter picked daily by the Parks Team, with both the general and dog waste bins emptied, as needed each day and all waste either disposed in the on-site wheelie bin or removed from site daily.

Waste removed from site is taken to Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) generating energy from waste: [Energy Recovery Facility in Staffordshire | Veolia Staffordshire](#).

The site is also fortunate to benefit from a good partnership with local volunteers 'Lichfield Litter Legends', who frequently pass by and address any litter in between routine collections.

#### 4.1.1 Recycling

A wheelie bin housing unit is available on site for recycling, which is emptied by the Street Scene Team once a week at a minimum.

#### 4.1.2 Dog fouling

[See 3.8.](#)

#### 4.1.3 Fly-tipping

Any reports of fly tipped waste is investigated with the support of the Environmental Health Team, prosecuting whenever possible. The higher risk areas for fly tipping are along Stowe Road, members of the public are encouraged to report witnessing these crimes confidentially.

## 4.2 Horticultural maintenance

As Stowe Pool is classified as a raised reservoir, the Reservoir Act determines the fundamental horticultural maintenance around the inner and outer pool embankments and the maintenance of specific hedgerows. These areas need to be strictly maintained to be visible to identify signs of potential leakage/dam failure which would result in a public safety issue.

#### 4.2.1 Horticulture schedule

Parks = Parks team

GM = Grounds maintenance team

| Site / Area                 | Item             | Number of occasions pa  | Dept. Resp. |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|-------------|
| Stowe Pool inner bank       | Strimming        | 12 (between Apr-Sept or as needed, depending on growing conditions) | Parks       |
| Stowe Pool Outer bank       | Grass cutting    | 16  | GM          |
| Stowe Fields Grassed areas  | Grass cutting    | 16  | GM          |
| Stowe Road Horseshoe hedges | Cut top and face | 1   | Parks       |
| Stowe Pool Hedge line       | Cut top and face | 1   | GM          |
| Stowe Fields Hedge line     | Cut top and face | 1   | GM          |

#### 4.2.2 Horticulture volunteering & work experience

A variety of popular volunteer and work experience opportunities are available each year, which is co-ordinated by the Community & Education Officer, to work alongside the Community Gardeners and Park staff. This is a valued asset to the site, along with giving a fabulous insight into parks for potential future careers.

The Parks Department also has a horticultural training area in nearby Linear park, Beacon Park - with a working greenhouse, accessible raised beds, composting areas, water butts, a demonstration table and workshop area.

#### 4.2.3 Water horticulture

With Stowe Pool being a SSSI site and restricted by the Reservoir Act, horticulture within the pool is a vital supply for the wildlife both in and on the water. Several floating islands have been trialled over the years, which have proven very popular with the wildfowl and others. Rebuilding the islands is a popular activity, which a number of volunteers enjoy taking part in.



The lily pads, which formed valuable shade to the fish stock, have sadly dispersed, which is believed to be due to the change in water quality. A key area for improvement has been noted in the [action plan](#).

### 4.3 Arboricultural maintenance

As summarised above at [3.2.2](#) the trees are inspected by Lantra qualified parks staff after extreme weather events, in addition to all trees being inspected on a scheduled basis, as detailed within the council's Tree Procedure by external arboricultural inspectors, allowing the trees to be inspected in and out of leaf.

Tree data is held on a tree software system called 'Arbortrack', utilising tablets for mobile working, to

track and detail surveys for each individual tree. This system records the information, generating reports for forthcoming inspections and works.

An approved Tree Management Procedure has been implemented and is available to all on the council's website at [Trees and hedges in our parks and open spaces \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](http://Trees and hedges in our parks and open spaces (lichfielddc.gov.uk)).

#### 4.3.1 Arboricultural works

Basic low-level trees works are completed by qualified parks personnel, whereas the larger/higher risk works are completed by approved tree surgeons, who have been approved and appointed for a 3-year period.

All tree incidents are subsequently reported on the council's Accident and Incident forms and followed up by the Health and Safety Team, if necessary.

Where possible, deadwood and fallen branches are chipped on site, or suitably located for ecological value.

#### 4.3.2 Tree protection

Being within the City Centre Conservation Area, the tree stock is afforded protection under Conservation Area legislation. All works to trees are undertaken in consultation with the council's Arboricultural section, following Tree Protection consent.

### 4.4 Building & infrastructure maintenance

#### 4.4.1 Buildings

Located on the edge of the pool is a Victorian boat shed, built in the 1890's. The boat shed is not a listed building, however, being in the shadows of many other listed structures of the same era and within the conservation area is treated as such. Over the years it has had a variety of uses including: original caretaker storeroom for the boats etc, park office space and store area, sailing club rest and storeroom along with, more recently, an art space. The council's property section oversee the maintenance of all council buildings, including the boat shed, at the time of writing this plan options for enhancing the building are being considered.



#### 4.4.2 Walls and fences

Much of the original reservoir site boundary walls and fencing remain in place along Stowe Road and St Chads Road, with the later addition of a retaining wall. All walls and fences are covered within the site inspections (as detailed in section 3.2.1) in accordance with the site inspection risk matrix, risk assessment and the operating procedure for inspecting park fixed assets (OP12).

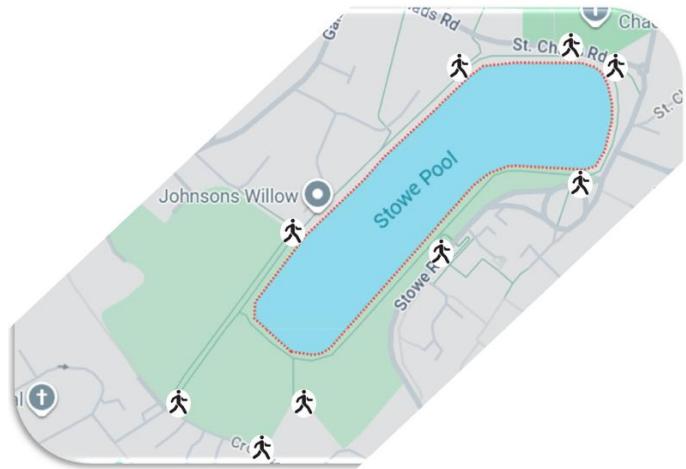
The materials were provided for the Community Payback Team to paint the railings around Stowe Pool and the Church of St Chad, who provided the welfare facilities.



#### 4.4.3 Footpaths, steps and handrails

There are tarmac footpaths of varying widths across the site, from Dam Street, Gaia Lane, the Parchments, St Chad's Road, Stowe Road, direct from Lombard Street car park via a sloped ramp

from the top deck, and a recently added path from the boat shed to the city centre avoiding the need to cross the car park. Most are of decent condition, with phased re-surfacing.



There are several sets of steps and handrails to the pool circuit pathway. Along with the footpaths, these are also included within the site inspections, ensuring areas are in good order, with no signs of damage, trip hazards, or unevenness and ensuring no foreign objects present.



#### 4.4.4 Outflow weir

Constructed between 1856 and 1863, the stone weir structure houses the weir and mechanisms to control the outflow and water levels of Stowe Pool which is frequently tested under management instructions and 6 monthly Reservoir Supervising Engineer visits.



The outflow grid is cleared daily by the Park Attendants.

In accordance with the Reservoir Act, a 10-year raised reservoir compliance inspection and report, is completed and submitted to the Environment

Agency by approved Panel Engineers in the interest of public safety and reservoir enforceable compliance. The last inspection was completed in 2022, the next inspection is due in 2032.

#### 4.4.5 Stowe bridge

The bridge over Stowe Road was built in the 1960's as part of the housing development to the east of Stowe Pool, to provide safe access to the pool. The ownership of the bridge is unclear due to a number of parties being involved. The Property Department have been overseeing this structure on behalf of Lichfield District Council.

#### 4.4.6 Graffiti and vandalism

The most common form of graffiti within parks is small opportunist graffiti, in particular 'tags'. If possible extremist symbols are discovered they are reported to the police and removed accordingly. There is little evidence of graffiti and vandalism at Stowe Pool and Fields.

#### 4.4.7 Arson

There have been several reports of arson over the years, with small fires in the wooded areas, bins fires and attempts to set fire to trees, benches and play equipment. If required the fire brigade attend site to assist, and low-key arson attempts are recorded, rectified, and used to analyse trends along with the police and fire service. The parks team work in partnership with the fire brigade to promote fire safety during the summer period, including restricting BBQs to prevent grass fires.

#### 4.4.8 Flyposting

No flyposting is permitted within any of the council parks. Any flyposting without contact details is removed immediately. Alternatively, if the party concerned is identifiable, they are contacted and instructed to remove the unauthorised advertising/notice within 48 hours to avoid further action. However, there is little evidence of flyposting at Stowe Pool and Fields.

#### 4.4.9 Asbestos surveys

In line with the council's Health & Safety Policy, asbestos surveys are carried out as a corporate approach, by the council's Property Team. The latest report confirms that there is no evidence of asbestos within the boat shed.

### 4.5 Equipment maintenance

#### 4.5.1 Maintenance of play and gym equipment

In addition to the ad hoc repairs, the park staff complete routine cyclic maintenance works on the play and gym equipment, as per the manufacturer's recommendations at a minimum.

Should vandalism occur, the equipment is made safe. The team ensure any unsafe items are removed and the kit taken out of service until replacement parts are available. They also display public notices where appropriate.

The Rotary Club of Lichfield St Chad still play a vital role in supporting the maintenance and repair of their donated outdoor gym equipment.



#### 4.5.2 Stowe reservoir operations

Being a reservoir which originally supplied water to the West Midlands, several weirs and structures require frequent checks, operations and inspections. The Parks Team do daily visual checks, weekly recordings, monthly valve checks and there are 6 monthly visits from the Supervising Engineer to satisfy the Environment Agency. Records are kept within the Reservoir Prescribed Record, available in Beacon Park offices and saved locally electronically.

#### 4.5.3 Vehicle maintenance

The Parks Team have access to several vehicles which are maintained by the fleet team. Vehicle checks sheets are completed on each use, reporting defects without delay. Accident forms are completed, when needed, in accordance with the Driving at Work Policy.

#### 4.5.4 Vibrating equipment

Strimmers and vibrating equipment are frequently used in Parks and Open Spaces, by qualified/approved users only. In accordance with the council's Vibration Management Policy, all

persons are regularly trained, monitored and record usage. All equipment is maintained and measured as per the policy and personnel undergo occupational health screening.

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### 5.1 Managing environmental impact

A key element within Lichfield District 2050 strategy is Green Communities, where we aim to be the greenest district in the country. Pledging that by 2050:

- being a District where carbon neutrality is achieved, reducing the impact and implications of climate change.
- Be nationally renowned for enhancing and protecting our natural environment.
- Lowland heathland and associated habitats connecting Cannock Chase to Sutton Park be restored.
- New nature reserves, a series of wildlife ponds be introduced
- Living green spaces on roofs, walls and bus stops.
- The tree canopy across the district be extended and more street trees introduced to our urban areas.
- River restoration explored and introduced, connect rivers and waterbodies back to floodplains.
- Species with local provenance be reintroduced i.e., white-clawed crayfish, water voles, other scarce species.

The council has already:

- Introduced a green corridor between Burntwood and Lichfield contributing towards both sustainable and active travel.
- Has a robust district-wide Carbon Reduction Plan in place, which is being delivered with our partners.
- Developed a new scheme to increase the rate of recycling in the district [Recycle for good](#).

The council is:

- Introducing a food waste service and have in place plans to generate more energy from our waste.
- Creating a live digital dashboard on our environmental performance, so that we can

encourage all to do their bit to tackle climate change.

- Introducing a number of green streets, which include additional street trees, bee bricks and bird boxes.
- **Aiming to reduce or mitigate the council's carbon emissions to a net zero position by 2035.**

### 5.2 Waste minimisation

Recycling is a priority across parks, where all avenues are explored for opportunities. Recycle wheelie bins are located within a bin housing next to the popular exit point, which is emptied (at least) weekly by the Street Scene team.

Various recycling and sustainable projects have been completed over the years, including using pallets to make bird boxes and natural materials to create floating islands.

Brash and deadwood etc are chipped on site, if not left as deadwood in select areas.

No cut and collects take place at Stowe Pool and Fields, with all cuttings remaining on site.

### 5.3 Chemical use

Adopting a greener approach we have pledged to ensure all parks go pesticide free, if they are not already, like Stowe Pool and Fields [Adopting greener approaches – Reducing pesticides in our parks](#)

### 5.4 Peat use

Although there are no seasonal bedding areas at Stowe Field, the council sources 100% peat free stock for the district.

The parks team supply the compost from the onsite composting facility in parks.

### 5.5 Climate change adaption strategies

Parks play a key role within the council's carbon reduction team, pledging to increase tree planting and carbon capturing, along with phasing tools and equipment to battery and more environmentally friendly options.

Street Scene and GM use a selection of electric tools and vehicles across the district, which is charged at the depot, sourced from solar panels.

The following have been replaced so far:

| Item           | Replaced with   |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Diesel pick up | Electric van    |
| Petrol blower  | Battery blower  |
| Petrol sweeper | Battery sweeper |

## 6.0 BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE & HERITAGE

### 6.1 Management of natural features, wild fauna and flora

A phase one habitat report has been completed by the council's Ecology Team, looking at a variety sources for a desk assessment, along with surveying the site.

The Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks also complete monthly bird counts, submitting findings to the British Trust for Ornithology.

We also encourage park users to register and record findings in Stowe Pool and Fields on iNaturalist - an app used by millions of scientists and naturalists across the world. Enabling people to record, share and verify photographs of plants, animals and fungi, creating research-quality data which is available to view via their website: <https://www.inaturalist.org>.

#### 6.1.1 Birds

Birds observed during the site survey include a range of conservation importance species – red, amber and green status, including:

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| House sparrow       | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          |
| Black-headed gull   | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> |
| Common gull         | <i>Larus canus</i>                |
| Mallard             | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         |
| Mute swan           | <i>Cygnus olor</i>                |
| Blackbird           | <i>Turdus merula</i>              |
| Blue tit            | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>        |
| Canadian goose      | <i>Branta canadensis</i>          |
| Coal tit            | <i>Periparus ater</i>             |
| Collared dove       | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>      |
| Coot                | <i>Fulica atra</i>                |
| Domestic pigeon     | <i>Columba livia domestica</i>    |
| Great crested grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>         |
| Great tit           | <i>Parus major</i>                |
| Jackdaw             | <i>Corvus monedula</i>            |
| Magpie              | <i>Pica pica</i>                  |
| Moorhen             | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        |
| Pied/White Wagtail  | <i>Motacilla alba</i>             |
| Treecreeper         | <i>Certhiidae</i>                 |



#### 6.1.2 Bats

With a variety of supporting features around Stowe, i.e. roosts: trees & buildings, foraging areas: hedgerows & open water and commuting routes: linear features such as hedgerows, there is great potential for bat activity, which has been observed around the boat shed too. A total of five species of bat have been recorded within the vicinity:

- **Pipistrelles (Nathusius and soprano)**
- Noctules
- Leisler's
- Daubenton's
- Brown long-eared bats

#### 6.1.3 Badgers

There are 24 records of badger within the 2km study area. However, possibly due to Stowe Pool's urban setting, there were no signs of badger on or in the immediate vicinity of the site. No further recommendations as regards habitat enhancement due to potential conflict with the legislation on reservoir structural integrity.

#### 6.1.4 Water vole

The desk study revealed Water Voles *Arvicola terrestris* within a 2km radius of Stowe Pool with 8 records noted. The site's potential to support water voles has been assessed taking into consideration: the habitats present on and around the site, the context of the site in the wider landscape and the results of the desk survey. The survey concluded there was no sign of suitable habitat and no direct evidence of water vole habitation. No further recommendations as regards habitat enhancement at this time are suggested due to a potential conflict with the legislation on reservoir structural integrity.

#### 6.1.5 Great crested newts

Due to the historical presence of Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus* (GCNs) in the area surrounding the survey site, a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment was conducted to ascertain the likelihood of the pool supporting a

breeding population of GCN's in its present state. Resulting in the findings being of poor quality – it is unlikely that GCNs are present. The pool contains fish and large numbers of wildfowl are present throughout the year, which are the largest contributors to its current unfavorable condition as regards breeding newts. However, the species presence in the surrounding area cannot be ruled out. Therefore, no further recommendations as regards habitat enhancement at this time are suggested due to a potential conflict with the legislation on reservoir structural integrity and the use of the area for recreation.

#### 6.1.6 Reptiles

Currently there is no direct evidence of the presence of reptiles on site and the habitat currently offers little suitability. However, common lizard (*Lacerta viviparia*) and, although less suitable, grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) are known to be present in the local area. As a result of this caution should be used during any works on site. As part of this staff and contractors are made aware that reptiles may be present and to put in place a method statement for the clearance of areas suitable for reptiles. In addition, deadwood should also be retained in suitable areas of the site to improve the habitat for reptiles.

#### 6.1.7 Fish

Stowe Pool is a popular community fishing pool providing a relaxing setting for coarse fishing, with the following fish stock: carp, bream, tench, roach, perch, pike and eel.

#### 6.1.8 Hedgehogs

The amenity parkland of Stowe Pool provides potential foraging and nesting sites for hedgehogs - this includes scrub, hedge and grassland. Care is taken when maintaining the site, particularly piles of deadwood or leaves and areas of long grass or dense vegetation, and when using machinery within a foot of ground level in case of nesting hedgehogs. Areas are cleared on rotation with scrubby patches left to provide nesting habitat and cover.

#### 6.1.9 Habitat areas

Stowe Pool and Fields are primary urban landscape, with several habitat areas, not listed as priority of ecological significance.

- Amenity grassland.
- Hard standing.

- Building.
- Standing water.
- Tall ruderal herbs.
- Marginal vegetation.
- Scrub.
- Mixed parkland trees.
- Fences.
- Hedge with trees.
- Hedges.
- Individual trees.
- Small floating islands.

#### 6.1.10 Trees

Scattered trees are found in the southern section of the site, these parkland trees frame the grass park and buffer against the car park.

Alder spp. (*Alnus cordata*),  
Apple spp. (*Malus sp.*),  
Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*),  
Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*),  
Black poplar (*Populus nigra*)  
London plane (*Platanus hispanica*)  
Common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*).

To the north of the pool is a mature Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), among other evergreen species, typical of the Victorian era, being a symbol of mourning, planted opposite the Church of St Chad's churchyard.

To the west of Stowe Pool is a more recent planting of Johnson's Willow, see also [6.2.1](#). This specimen was planted in 2021, following the decay of the previous tree. Further saplings from Johnson's Willow have been shared locally at a junior school, The National Memorial at Alrewas, Woburn Abbey and even further field in America, having spent time in quarantine. This project was a joint effort with the Johnson Society.



### 6.1.11 SSSI Designation

Stowe Pool was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature in 1998. Prior to any works being completed within the pool and banks, consent will need to be secured from Natural England under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, should there be a significant impact on the ecological feature.

## 6.2 Conservation of landscape features

### 6.2.1 A summary of Stowe

Stowe and other city centre pools were valuable fisheries. In the 18th century the mill stream on Reeve Lane was divided to flow into Stowe Pool as two streams.

A conduit carries Leomansley and Trunkfield brooks under Beacon Park, Museum Gardens and Bird Street into Minster Pool. The water is fed into a pipe under Dam Street and Stowe Fields, and then into Stowe Pool.

Many of the fields in this area were referred to as 'moggs', a word peculiar to Lichfield meaning boggy ground. The ground to the south of Stowe Pool was occupied by long narrow gardens belonging to the houses on Lombard Street.

Before 1856, Stowe Pool existed as a mill pond, with Stowe Mill located to the west of the Church of St Chad.

In the 18th century, the pool was visited by, among others, by Samuel Johnson and Anna Seward. On the north side of the pool, Johnson's father owned a parchment factory, today commemorated by the street name The Parchments. Nearby stood an enormous willow tree which was much admired by Johnson whenever he returned to Lichfield in later life. Due to his connection with the tree, it became known as 'Johnson's Willow'. The current Johnson's Willow on the site is a descendant of the original tree.

Stowe Pool was taken over by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company in 1856 and was made into a reservoir. This man-made structure is around six metres higher than the original ground level.

During construction, the water company planted ornamental trees and created a new path along the top of the embankment. The boat shed was built around 1890.

Since 1968 the reservoir has not been used to supply water, and it is now solely used for recreation.

### 6.2.2 Register of historic parks and gardens

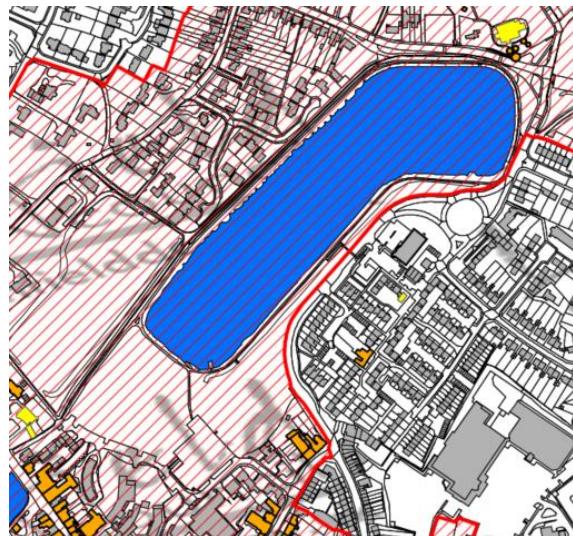
Forming part of the Cathedral Close and Linear Parks, registered Grade II listed on the 3 September 1998, on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (entry number 1001399). Recorded as an interlinked series of public walks and parks of later C17 to C20 date running through the centre of Lichfield.

### 6.2.3 Raised reservoir status

Stowe Pool is classified as a Raised Reservoir in accordance with the Reservoir Act 1975. A key piece of legislation in the UK, aimed at ensuring the safety and regulation of large, raised reservoirs, mandating strict inspection and maintenance protocols to prevent catastrophic failures.

### 6.2.4 Conservation area

Stowe Pool and Fields are in the 'Lichfield City' designated Conservation area of the district.



## 6.3 Conservation of buildings and structures

### 6.3.1 Stowe boat shed

Although not listed status the Victorian boat shed is considered a valuable asset to Stowe Pool. Accessed via the pedestrian footpath, with steps either side and railings to the pool side. A timber frame construction built on brick walls in the pool. Built in the region of 1890 for the reservoir caretaker to store boats and equipment, with a viewing

window across the pool, and a trap door to access the boats on the water. Various utility options have been considered over the years with a view to increase usage potential. Conservation area status with the vista between the Cathedral and the Church of St Chad being key with any enhancement options.



Working closely with the council's Property Team, who oversee the management and maintenance of the council buildings, options are currently being considered to maximise the potential for this well-loved structure.

### 6.3.2 Original walls and railings

As noted in [4.4.2](#), the original reservoir walls and railings are still in place on the north-east of the site. Although within the conservation area, little information is held on these features. [Action Plan](#) item, to liaise with Conservation Officer for further details, along with the sweeping steps opposite the Church of St Chad.

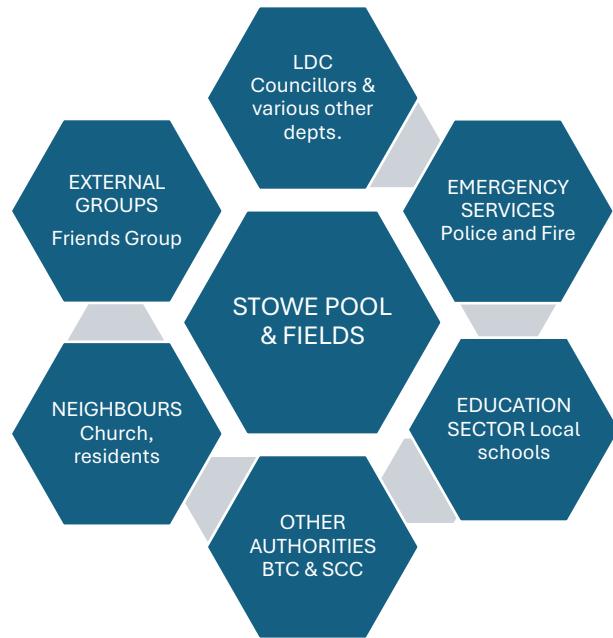


## 7.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### 7.1 Community involvement in management and development

#### 7.1.1 Stakeholders

Stakeholders play a vital role in the management of the park, where it is imperative these key partners are considered and consulted with wherever possible.



#### 7.1.2 Social Progress Index

Lichfield was the first District Council in the UK to build a Ward level Social Progress Index. The Social Progress Index draws together a wide range of datasets from different sources to better understand wellbeing across the district.

The Index has been developed in partnership with Social Progress Imperative; a global organisation whose mission is to use data to influence policies and investments to better serve all of humanity. The Index is made up of three dimensions – Basic Human Needs, Foundations of Wellbeing, and Opportunity. Within each dimension there are several different indicators grouped into topics. A suite of interactive dashboards have been created to allow anyone to explore and interrogate the data. The Index is updated on an annual basis, to include to-date view, this will also allow us to track and understand trends over time. [Social Progress Index Lichfield | Tableau Public](#). A useful tool for developing the subsequent Management Plan.

### 7.1.3 Visitor surveys

A visitor survey is available in print format or online within the Feedback section of the website [Give us your views – Lichfield Historic Parks](#). Based on key areas from the original Greenstat surveys, we look at, frequency of visits, average stay, travel method, reason for visit, rating of the design & appearance, maintenance of the park, accessibility, and facilities, along with identity and overall satisfaction ratings.



### 7.1.4 Surveys results and feedback

The results from the completed surveys are recorded and reviewed by Parks Management, taking action where necessary, using suggestions and feedback as part of developing the park further.

The aim is to continue to obtain data to evaluate the overall satisfaction level at Stowe Pool and Fields, something that wasn't captured prior to Green Flag submission. The [Action Plan](#) identifies the need to promote further feedback on and off-site, along with collating the usable data.

### 7.1.5 Previous consultations

Several methods are used to consult with residents and park users including:

- Written surveys
- Web based surveys
- Approaching local groups and schools
- Presentations and on-site displays
- Friend's and other user groups
- Project steering groups with stakeholders.
- Consultation with various other organisations.
- Press releases.

### 7.1.6 Parks volunteer vision statement

*Helping local people to enjoy and learn by taking positive action for Parks' environment, wildlife, heritage, and communities. Making sure volunteers have the chance to enjoy and learn in a safe and rewarding environment.*

*We create a variety of volunteering opportunities across parks, and work in partnership with an array*

*of amazing independent voluntary groups, including Park Friends Groups, resident associations, and Lichfield Litter Legends.*

### 7.1.7 Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks

The Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks was set up in 2008, by Lichfield District Council, for residents and people who had a keen interest in Beacon Park, the Garden of Remembrance, Minster Pool and Stowe Pool. Devoted to the Parks, acknowledging the wonderful green assets in the centre of Lichfield, wishing them to be places enjoyed and valued by people of all backgrounds, ages, abilities, and interests. The Friend's Group has continued independently from the council, although in close partnership.

The aims of the Friends Group are:

- to be the main forum for consultation between Lichfield District Council and users, volunteers, friends, and residents, through which all these can be involved in decisions made about the Parks.
- To suggest, be aware of and support (or, where necessary, oppose) ideas for the continued maintenance and future development of the Parks in an environmentally favourable way, to protect, conserve and enhance the Parks as places of recreation, freedom, and enjoyment for the long-term benefit of all sections of the local community.
- As volunteers to contribute ideas and assist with promoting the Parks and the running of events. The Friends Group also complete the monthly bird count as detailed in [6.1](#).

The Friends of Lichfield Historic Parks meet regularly with council officers to discuss the maintenance and development of the Parks and to hear about forthcoming events and projects.

The Friends Group have since developed a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FoLHP](http://www.facebook.com/FoLHP), which currently has over 2,000 followers.

### 7.1.8 Countryside & Parks Conservation Group (CPCG)

The Countryside & Parks Conservation Group has been running for many years. The group formed in February 2011 bringing together like-minded enthusiastic individuals from across the district to deliver a range of conservation tasks. A logo was developed, a uniform designed, and a mailing list compiled.



The group initially met once a month across a variety of parks and open spaces then during 2014 moved to two events a month. The group now regularly completes about 25 work parties a year.

We have a diverse mix of local volunteers, some retired, some working. Depending on the seasons the group might be found planting and laying hedges, clearing scrub, managing reedbeds, coppicing a woodland or sowing wildflowers. CPCG events have enabled features such as the floating islands, hedge laying, bug hotels and bat box installations at Stowe Pool alone. At the time of writing, there's over 100 people on the mailing list and over 400 hours of volunteering completed over the past year, the group continues to provide strong community involvement in our parks.

One of the many benefits of the group is the connection it provides to our wider community. Over the years we have developed ever stronger partnerships with other volunteer groups: Lichfield & Hatherton Canal Trust, Burton Conservation Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Lichfield Cathedral, and various friend's groups, residents' associations, corporate groups, the NHS and many more.

The Parks Team have assisted a group of CPCG volunteers with training, whereas volunteers now able to use a range of power tools and provide emergency first aid.

### 7.1.9 Corporate volunteering

Corporate volunteering in parks is growing in popularity, with companies increasing engagement in social value, contributing staff workdays, in addition to making financial contributions to parks. A range of organisations have joined the parks team, including the Ministry of Defence and other local businesses, completing projects from litter picks, to creating a woodland walk at Stowe Fields.

We also work closely with the council's Social Value Officer, engaging with suppliers to give something back for the benefit the community.



Various park projects have been added to the Social Value Wishing Well. [Delivering social value](#).

### 7.1.10 Appreciating our volunteers

The Parks Team work closely with all the wonderful volunteers across the district parks, whereas volunteers are invited to seasonal thank you events: a summer social boules and a Christmas event, which is a great opportunity for networking and meeting likeminded volunteers supporting parks across the district, giving Councillors the opportunity to also show their appreciation.



## 7.2 Provision for the community

### 7.2.1 Potential conflicts of use

Assessments of the main conflicts of use has been taken from previous visitor surveys, and collated from interviews with the park staff and anecdotal evidence highlighting:

- Older people and teenagers.
- Teenagers and young children.
- Conflict on play areas.
- Cyclists and pedestrians.
- Ecology and safety.
- Safety and aesthetics.
- Grounds maintenance standards & costs.
- Angling and passive recreation/residents.
- Dog walkers and children's play area.
- Drinking and potential drug use.

Various zones have been established to reduce conflict issues. i.e.:

Various benches spaced across the site, to allow interaction with others, or seek peace and solitude.

Retaining the junior play area, for younger ones wishing to avoid older users and busier play areas.

Signage displayed to advise the use of the cycle path, rather than the pool circular pathway.

Dog friendly signs on display.

Consultation on introducing a PSPO on night fishing.

Fishing rules in place and team patrolling the site.

Close partnership with police, attending parks monthly meetings.

## 7.2.2 Current and past users

The various zones attract a range of users at Stowe Pool, in addition to those using Stowe Pool as a walking route into the city centre, or local school children walking to and from school.

### Stowe play area

Families, grandparents and young ones, during the daytime, more popular with the older ones in the evenings.

### Stowe Pool circular path

Popular with city centre workers, taking a lunchtime stroll. Elderly and less able able to sit amidst nature for rest and contemplation. Walkers, joggers and wildlife spotters. Popular with running events and school sponsored lap events.

### Stowe Pool

Popular with anglers, being a local accessible pool in walking distance for many. Used for sailing, paddleboarding and wind surfing over the years.



### Stowe Fields

A popular open green space during the nicer weather for picnics, BBQ's, reading a book, rest and contemplation. Casual sports: football, cricket, rounders. Being in the heart of the city Stowe Fields is frequently used for events and event parking.

### Stowe boat shed

The boat shed has been used mainly as an operational space, apart from a period when the local 'Sculpture and Art Foundation' co-ordinated upcoming artists the opportunity to use the space, benefitting from being in a tranquil setting and being able to engage with members of the public. [The Boat House Art Space | The Sculpture and Art Foundation C.I.C.](#) One artist created an indoor park, which also included a park bench, and attracted large numbers to the display.

## 7.2.3 Capturing community needs

From experience and lengthy knowledge of the site we have a tendency to assume the user's needs. As part of the visitor survey scheme, we aim to capture more detailed feedback on site. *Have we got it right?* Recorded in the [Action Plan](#).

# 8.0 MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Lichfield District attracts 2.65 million visitors each year, with sightseeing being one of the most common reasons for visiting. Stowe Pool is seen as a visitor attraction, listed as one of the reasons to visit Lichfield.

## 8.1 Marketing and promotion

The Marketing & Communication Plan has historically focused on key areas for income generation, however with the renewed focus on our residents and striving for Green Flag status, it has been realigned to what our residents want, and what we could change to encourage community visits to the parks and open spaces and possible volunteering. See **Appendix B** for the district wide marketing plan.

With a joint approach to marketing within Lichfield District Council, wherein Parks and Operational Services work in partnership with the Tourism Team to develop and coordinate marketing material produced in the city. This includes the council's in-house Communications Team which offers graphic design and PR.

A programme of scheduled events and activities for the parks across the district is available at **Appendix C**.

### 8.1.1 Events and Festivals policy

The Parks Department supported the development of the Events and Festivals Policy. To continue the delivery of high-quality events and festivals in the district with clear guidelines on the council's needs. Event organisers go through a series of stages to meet the council's expectations.



### 8.1.2 Licensing policy

Providing a unified system for regulating 'licensable activities' i.e. the sale and supply of alcohol, and the provision of entertainment, plays, music, and hot food.

### 8.1.3 Events at Stowe Pool and Fields

Stowe Pool and Fields hosts a series of events throughout the year. The majority of these events are run by external groups, with the council

facilitating and assisting to varying degrees. These include Lichfield Half Marathon, Sheriff's Ride, Lichfield Food Festival and a Santa Hat Dash.

These events are important for the park and provide tourism income to the city and a boost to the local economy. Some attracting visitors from around the country, giving parks the opportunity to promote further events and activities within them.

Many of the events have been running for several years, however, it is vital that the Event Officers ensure the stringent checks are in place and the roles of the parks staff are clearly defined.

A careful balance between the number of events and the impact on the park is required.



### 8.1.4 Community activities at Stowe

The Community and Education Officer, Community Gardeners and park staff produce an annual activities programme, aiming to:

- Create a conduit for volunteers to participate in parks.
- Increase existing user numbers and attracting new audiences to the park.
- Provide a range of activities considering the benefits of health and wellbeing.

These community activity sessions are included in the event summary is detailed in **Appendix C**.

## 8.2 Information channels

The Communications Team also assist with the development of the dedicated website [www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk](http://www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk). Keeping the site up to date for existing and potential visitors to the park.

We have access to social media offerings on the council's Facebook, X, Instagram and YouTube channels, along with partnerships with Visit Lichfield and the FoLHP Facebook page.



- ✓ a school booking system
- ✓ a dedicated school information leaflet
- ✓ promotes the service the parks have to offer through a variety of media
- ✓ developed several school packs linking into the national curriculum at various key stages.

### 8.3.2 Signage and interpretation

With the amazing help and support of Lichfield City Council, the Friends Group, the Johnson Society, and various other partners funding has been secured, and designs are developing well for 3 interpretation panels on site, 1 of which will also have the facility for notices to be displayed. Being consistent with the already established interpretation boards along with the linear parks, Minster Walk, Garden of Remembrance and Beacon Park.



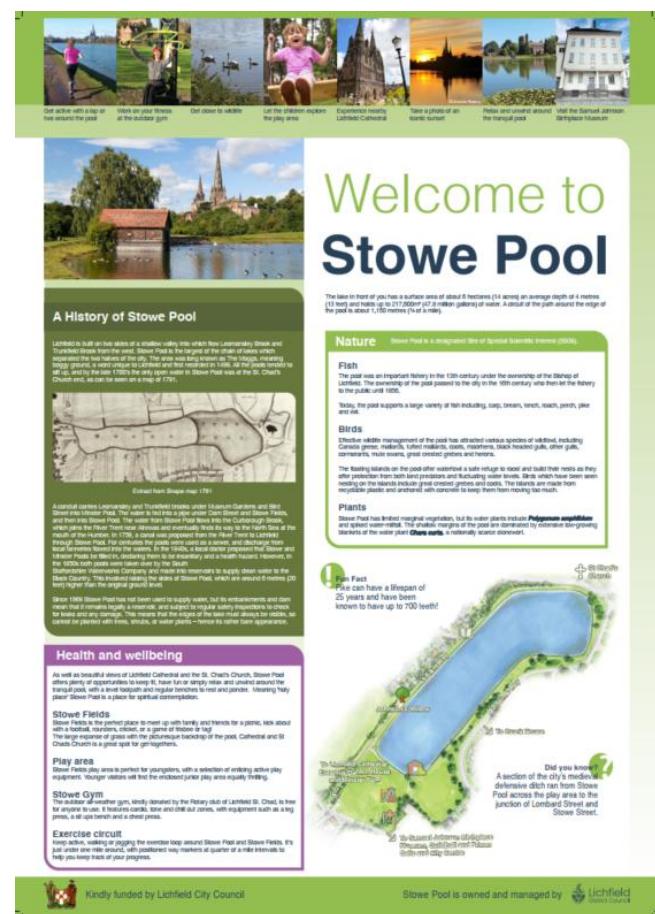
## 8.3 Education & interpretational information

The council's Community and Education Officer, based within the Parks Team delivers an array of educational sessions based around the environment and historical themes, along with working towards elements of the council's health and wellbeing strategy. A range of educational tools have been developed to assist with self-led/home schooled education to bespoke educational themes to suit schools/Ofsted structure, where possible.

### 8.3.1 Key principles of education within parks

The overall aim is to increase the use of parks and open spaces for formal and informal education purposes covering schools, volunteers, work experience and lifelong learning. Developing core education activities which are appealing to schools but also provide activities that are attractive to harder to reach groups. A unique selling point is the park itself – it's history, biodiversity, and outdoor space.

In order to increase the number of schools visiting the Historic Parks for formal education purposes, the Community and Education Officer has developed and will continue to progress:



**Welcome to Stowe Pool**

In the 1850s Stowe Pool was taken over by the South Staffs Waterworks Company and made into a reservoir to supply clean water to the Black Country. This man-made structure is around 10 metres higher than the original ground level, since Lake Stowe itself has not been used to supply water.

**Samuel Johnson**

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) is famous for compiling *A Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1755, which has been called "one of the greatest single achievements in the history of the English language". He also made enduring contributions as a poet, playwright, essayist, moralist, literary critic, and biographer. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried at St. Chad's Church, Lichfield.

**Johnson's Willow**

The original willow tree (made bole) stood an enormous willow tree, which is now a mere skeleton of its former self. Describing the willow as the delight of his early and waning life, he always visited the tree when he returned to Lichfield. He would sit on a rock on the bank of the stream below St. Chad's Church, and gaze across the water. Later, "To this place, through green meadows, I used to walk, and sit on a rock where so often as a boy I had sat on the willow bank. Here I was frustrated by the awkward movement of my limbs, and by my failing voice, my father taught me to swim."

**Johnson's Willow**

The willow attracted interest from other literary figures including Lichfield poet Anna Seward, and because of the willow's association with Johnson, many visitors to Lichfield come to see it.

The original willow was felled in 1929 but was replaced by another, which in turn was felled in 1977. The new willow was felled in 2001. Planted in November 2021, the new willow is growing, a cutting of its original willow now stands on the pool bank and is open for visitors to see. The Lichfield City Council and Dr. Johnson Society Johnson's Willow remains a part of Lichfield's heritage and a much-loved link with Johnson and his age.

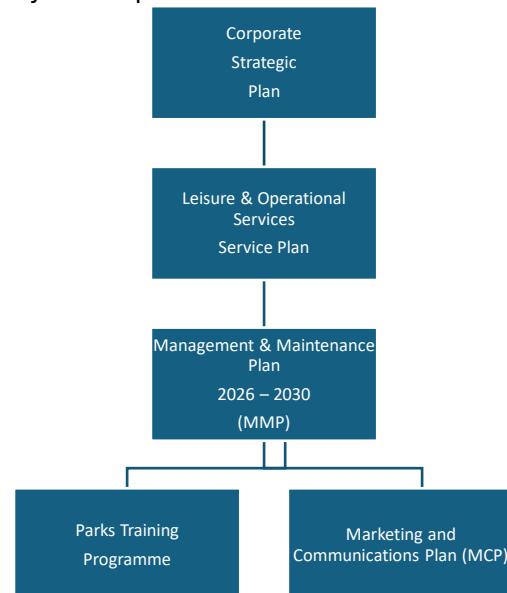
Kindly funded by Lichfield City Council

Stowe Pool is owned and managed by Lichfield City Council

## 9.0 MANAGEMENT

### 9.1 Implementing this plan

The Parks and Open Spaces Department sit alongside Grounds Maintenance and Street Scene within the Residential and Business Directorate. Contributing towards the Directorate Service Plan, with various actions feeding into the council's yearly action plan and financial forecast.



Documents that feed into this five-year Management Plan

The Parks Department cover various other parks in the district within the Parks Management remit, consisting of parkland, cemeteries, country parks, pools and watercourses, play areas, woodlands, sports and amenity areas.

Action Plans have been developed for Green Flag accreditation sites, with the support of other teams, Friends Groups and survey suggestions etc, which the Park Manager oversees.

### 9.2 Finances

Supported by the section's Business Advisor / Accountant, the revenue budget for the park is managed by the Operational Services Manager and Historic Parks Manager.

A budget summary is attached within **Appendix E**.

#### 9.2.1 Fees and charges

The fees and charges i.e. park hire, plus the day and season angling fees, are reviewed annually, in accordance with the Corporate Fees and Charges Policy.

**Welcome to Stowe Pool**

The lake in front of you has a surface area of about 85 hectares (14 acres) an average depth of 1.5 metres and a maximum depth of 10 metres. It is a part of the Stowe reservoir.

**Stowe Mill**

For centuries, a water mill stood at this end of Stowe Pool. It was probably one of two in Lichfield mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. In the early 13th century, it was granted a water mill lease. In the 14th century, there were two mills in Lichfield, one of which was St. Chad's Mill, the other St. John's Mill. In 1727, the mill was leased by the city for rebuilding as an ornamental feature, and in 1741, it was completed. It was used as a ducking stool for the St. John's Mill watercourse. An agreement dated 1753 was for remodelling it as a 3-storey sack flour mill. In 1758, the successor building was in use as a corn mill. The mill's last recorded use was in 1800, when it was demolished by the South Staffs Water Company.

**Stowe House, Stowe Hill House and "Spite House"**

Stowe House can be glimpsed through the trees. It was built around 1730 by Elizabeth Astor, the widow of Sir William Astor, a member of the Astor family. Another early occupant was Sir William's son, Sir William Astor, 1st Baronet, and his wife, Elizabeth, and has recently been restored. Elizabeth Astor built her own house, St. Chad's House, on the opposite bank of the river. The original St. Chad's House, built for one of her sisters, is now hidden by trees. The trees seem to have disappeared by 1780.

Looking closer to the far end of the pool, one cannot help noticing that large house which looks like a castle. This is the "Spite House", built by the widow of another of Elizabeth Astor's sisters, to spoil the view of the cathedral from St. Chad's House. The house was built in 1777, and was never occupied by her sisters, and in a fit of indignation one built a house as tall as possible to block their view, and to get the popular name of "Spite House" or the "House of the Devil". The house was demolished in 1870, but the foundations remain. Palmer (1730-1811), a canon at Lichfield Cathedral, had nothing to do with the Astor sisters, but the legend stuck a tightrope persists.

Kindly funded by Lichfield City Council

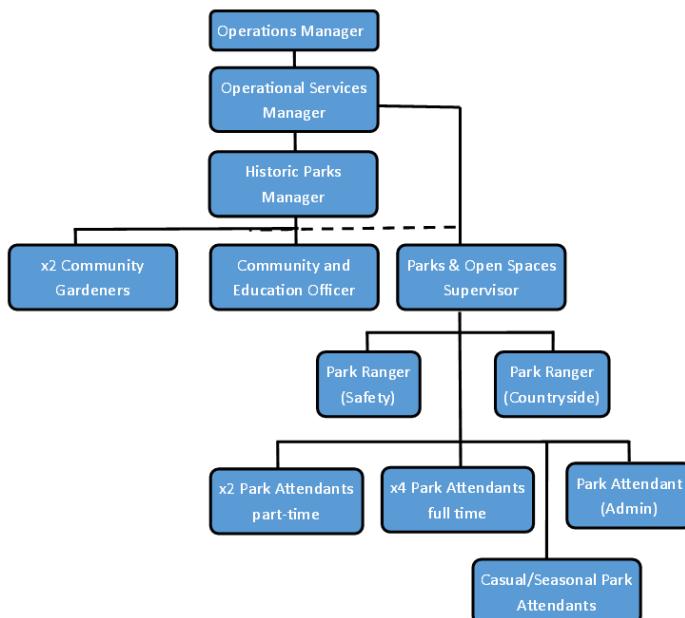
Stowe Pool is owned and managed by Lichfield City Council

## 9.2.2 Other potential income streams

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Central / Capital funds   | Unexpected high-cost items i.e. reservoir works   |
| External funding (Local grants)   | Local trusts, rotary clubs / round tables, parish council grants and CIL                |
| External funding (National and Regional grants)   | Forestry Commission, English Heritage, Landfill Tax                                     |
| Revenue from activities   | Angling   |
| Sponsorship   | Events, benches, trees and shrubs, throw bag housing, defib / bleed kit units.          |
| More details at: <a href="#">Commemorative benches, trees and shrubs – Lichfield Historic Parks</a> |   |
| Hiring the park for more activities   | Events/park hire, wedding photos, children's parties, team building days, water sports. |

## 9.3 Staff structure

Helping to deliver this plan, the Parks Team and various other departments, in support of the Leadership and Councillor vision for Green Flag accredited parks.



### 9.3.1 Historic Parks Manager

Stowe Pool and Fields along with various other parks across the district are managed by the Historic Parks Manager, ensuring site Management

and Maintenance Plans are followed and updated, along with various council policies and procedures.

### 9.3.2 Community and Education Officer

The Community and Education Officer leads on developing, delivering, and promoting the educational element and community involvement within parks.

### 9.3.3 Park Rangers

There are two specialist Park Rangers responsible for more detailed areas within parks, requiring in-depth knowledge, skills, and experience. These Rangers also assist the Park Attendants and Parks & Open Spaces Supervisor, however, each ranger post has individual roles and responsibilities.

Park Ranger (Safety) - covers trees, play equipment and general park safety.

Park Ranger (Countryside) - deals with the woodland management and countryside regime.

The Rangers and Supervisor also work the same shift pattern as the Attendants, ensuring safety, promote site presence, ensuring visitor satisfaction and reducing lone working.

### 9.3.4 Park Attendants

The attendants' core duties include providing a high profile, welcoming presence in all parks, through visible site presence and supervision. Supporting community events and carrying out general park-keeping duties. In addition, the attendants are required to assist with the delivery of the parks maintenance and management systems across the district.

### 9.3.5 Parks & Open Spaces Supervisor

The Parks and Open Spaces Supervisor oversees the duties of the attendants, plus the day-to-day supervision, assisting and distributing key tasks, in addition to supervising the Park Rangers, sharing duties at times of absence and peak periods.

### 9.3.6 Community Gardeners

Two Community Gardeners are employed on a full-time basis based in Beacon Park, undertaking horticultural works within ornamental areas, community involvement/engagement, and running the horticultural area. Working closely with the Johnson Society, ensuring the willow saplings thrive, and co-ordinate enquiries/requests.

## 9.4 Staff training and development

A comprehensive Training Plan is in place for the Parks Team, which identifies training and development of staff and volunteers. The training needs are identified as part of individual and team discussions, in addition to annual Objectives and Key Result reviews (OKR's). OKR's focus on 4 ambitious objectives alongside a set of key results for each grade:

- *Our finances* – Deliver best value for the people of Lichfield District, whilst living within our means.
- *Our people* – Be the local employer of choice with high levels of staff satisfaction.
- *Our community* – Working together to make Lichfield District a stronger, more prosperous, active and green place.
- *Our organisation* – Be the very best district council in the UK.

It is important that any training received is used and shared. By developing a 'cascade' system, allowing individuals to undergo training and then pass the information onto their colleagues on a one-to-one basis or in team meetings etc.

The team has access to online learning platforms for a range of statutory training courses to ensure compliance with legislation.

## 9.5 Complying with legislation

National, regional, and local legislation impacts on this Management and Maintenance Plan.

With parks playing a key role in building sustainable communities, enhancing people's quality of life, and contributing to the cleaner, safer, greener agenda, it is imperative to ensure a clear understanding of compliance, educating users if needed.

### 9.5.1 Conservation Area

A legal framework governed by the Planning Authority, the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990. Preserving and enhancing areas of special architectural or historical importance.

### 9.5.2 Reservoir Act 1975

Enacted to enhance safety regulations and oversight for large, raised reservoirs in response to historical failures, aiming to safeguard public safety and property.

### 9.5.3 Site of Special Scientific Interest

Land notified as a SSSI under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), the finest sites for wildlife

and natural features in England, supporting characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and natural features.

### 9.5.4 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

This act offers protection to wildlife, nature conservation and countryside, being illegal to do any of the following:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take wildlife.
- Intentionally disturb, take, damage or destroy wildlife nesting sites while in use or being built.
- Use traps, poison or similar items to kill, injure or take wildlife.

Wildlife includes wild birds, water voles, Great Crested Newts, reptiles, bats (also protected under Conservation of Habitats & Species Regs 2017), and hedgehogs (also protected in Britain under the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996).

### 9.5.5 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

As a result of continued persecution, badgers are protected by primary legislation (the Protection of Badgers Act 1992). The legislation makes it illegal (without licence) to:

- Willfully kill, injure or take, or attempt to kill, injure or take, a badger.
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger, dig for badger, use badger tongs, use a firearm other than the type specified under the exceptions within the Act.
- Interfere with a badger sett by damaging, destroying, obstructing, causing a dog to enter a sett, disturbing an occupied sett - either by intent or by negligence.
- Sell or offer for sale a live badger, having possession or control of a live badger.
- Mark a badger or attach any ring, tag, or other marking device to a badger.

### 9.5.6 Freedom of Information

Lichfield District Council has a Freedom of Information Policy (FOI), whereas a nominated officer covering Parks, Grounds Maintenance and Streetscene processes requests. All employees receive online training on Freedom of Information.

It is important, with additional events and volunteers along with the increased use of the website as a tool, that FOI is considered, and all staff given the appropriate training.

### 9.5.7 Data protection/GDPR

This act is designed to cover all collected, stored, processed, and distributed personal data. The council has appropriate policies, procedures, and security measures in place to ensure compliance

with requirements and staff should ensure they are aware of and follow.

Appendix C : Activities & Events Programme

Appendix D : Stowe Pool budget summary

Appendix E: Budget summary

#### 9.5.8 Fraud prevention

The authority has a duty to protect public funds it administers; therefore, any information provided may be used to prevent and detect fraud. Also, information may be shared with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes. This information is detailed on any forms requested personal information.

#### 9.5.9 Audit

All departments within Lichfield District Council are regularly audited by both internal and external auditors.

#### 9.5.10 Procurement

The Procurement Section within the council provides advice to ensure compliance with the 'Contract Procedure Rules'. Further advice and guidance is also available on the council's internal website for officers for purchasing. The Procurement Team assist with the contract finder portal, recent tenders include tree inspectors and tree surgeons, which includes environmental impact on the park and potential social impact opportunities.

### 9.6 Management Aims

The Management Aims incorporate areas of the council's **Strategic Plan** and **Directorate / Department Service Plan** creating a focused approach:

- 1 Achieve a series of **Green Flag** sites.
- 2 Monitor and update H & S procedures.
- 3 Manage financial budgets.
- 4 Facilitate Training Plan.
- 5 Seek opportunities for digital development.
- 6 Manage accessibility on site.
- 7 Manage site inspection records.
- 8 Seek further opportunities of sustainability.
- 9 Work in partnership with the Ecology Dept.
- 10 Be part of the Carbon Reduction Team.
- 11 Community engagement in parks.
- 12 Continue to promote community safety.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A :Stowe Pool and Fields Action Plan

Appendix B : Parks Marketing & Communications Plan

## Appendix A

| STOWE POOL  |   | Action / Outcome | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|---|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>1.0 A Welcoming Place</b>                      |   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Site signage                                      | Review site signage to refresh/update if needed.                    |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Outdoor Gym                                       | New instruction panel to be fitted.                                 |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Seating   | Review site for potential picnic benches.                           |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Interpretation signs                              | Finalise and install site interpretation boards.                    |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Footpaths   | Complete footpath review, costings, seek funding.                   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>2.0 Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>               |   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Defib   | Explore potential for local defib.                                  |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Throw bag station                                 | Seek sponsor/funds to replace life ring housings.                   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Wellbeing   | Is Stowe Pool a site for a chess table?                             |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Drain security                                    | Secure drain covers from urban explorers.                           |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Healthy activities                                | Explore water activity provider.                                    |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Healthy activities                                | Seek further activity options.                                      |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Reservoir safety                                  | Test emergency flood plan.  |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>3.0 Well Maintained and Clean</b>              |   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Health & Safety                                   | Signs, posters up-to-date.  |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| External Tree Inspections                         | To procure external inspector in line with Procurement Procedures.  |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| External Tree Surgeons                            | Procure team of external tree contractors in line with Procurement. |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Site maintenance                                  | Review daily check sheets, and workprogramme.                       |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Reservoir works                                   | Complete reservoir works as directed.                               |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>4.0 Environmental Management</b>               |   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Vehicles, tools and machinery                     | Continue to seek battery alternatives.                              |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Procurement                                       | Social, environmental and sustainability forms part of the process  |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| <b>5.0 Biodiversity, Landscape &amp; Heritage</b> |   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Biodiversity                                      | Clean/repair/replace wildlife boxes, monitor and record findings.   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| iNaturalist                                       | Link survey to webpage, show sightings & encourage others to use.   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Heritage  | Liaise with Conservation on original walls/features.                |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Water Horticulture                                | Enhance floating islands.   |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Water Horticulture                                | Re-introduce lily pads/appropriate planting.                        |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Habitat survey recommendations                    | Create re-wilding zones, update GM with maintenance spec.           |                  |      |      |      |      |      |
| Heritage  | Work with Property on boat shed improvements.                       |                  |      |      |      |      |      |

## 6.0 Community Involvement

|                  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Friends Group    | Attend meetings /support group.                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community Group  | Assist Litter Legends to facilitate open days, if required.       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visitor Surveys  | Promote surveys wider to achieve more data, including non-users.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visitor feedback | Review surveys/feedback, put in place suggestions where possible. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visitor feedback | Onsite surveys with park users.                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social value     | Liaise with Social Value team for corporate opportunities.        |  |  |  |  |  |

## 7.0 Marketing and Communication

|              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Marketing    | Develop updated Events & Marketing plan. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social media | Share social media posts.                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Website      | Review webpages for accuracy.            |  |  |  |  |  |

## 8.0 Management

|                         |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Management Plan 2026-30 | Compile and update MMP as needed.                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green Flag              | Make application and update documents accordingly.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green Flag              | Engage team with Green Flag awareness/presentation. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green Flag              | Engage others in Green Flag process.                |  |  |  |  |  |
| Procurement             | To renew Tree Inspection contract.                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Procurement             | To renew Tree Surgeon contract.                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green Flag              | Review judges feedback for improvements.            |  |  |  |  |  |