

A large tree trunk is being lifted by a crane and placed into a red trailer. The crane is a blue and white truck-mounted crane. The trailer is a red metal trailer with yellow wheels. A person in a white shirt and dark trousers is standing near the crane. The scene is outdoors, with trees and buildings in the background. A red and white striped caution tape is visible in the foreground.

PLANNING CONTEXT

3.



PLANNING POLICY AND SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

This section of the Management Plan identifies the relevant strategies and policy statements that potentially impact on Abbey Fields Management Plan. In doing so it:

- highlights the relevant aims and objectives within these policies and statements;
- provides a clear statement about how the policies and statements impact the Management Plan to support and contribute to the relevant aims and objectives; and,
- identifies, where appropriate, any legal constraints that may impact on the Management Plan.

The wider policy context includes national, regional and local policies, statements, documents and strategies that may impact on the delivery of Abbey Fields services. These documents are likely to be used in many areas of public service and include the following:

- **Community**
- **Culture**
- **Planning**
- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Environment**
- **Regeneration**
- **Transport**
- **Sustainable development**
- **Equality of opportunity**
- **Education**
- **Climate Emergency; and**
- **Covid Recovery**

These documents are likely to have a level of influence on the management of Abbey Fields and where available have been summarised below.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Key heritage legislation that underpins the conservation of the designated heritage assets includes the following:

- **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979**
- **Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**

The scheduled monument is protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents>).

The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>) sets out provisions for listed buildings and conservations areas.

NPPF 2021

NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how to apply them.

CH2 ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The relevant overarching objectives of the planning system for our green spaces are:

- a. A social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities...; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities'

health, social and cultural well-being

- b. An environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity...and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (include by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.

Impact on the Plan

Abbey Field's function will be about addressing social, health and cultural needs to support local communities but will need to protect and enhance natural, built and historic environment. This will be undertaken through a collaborative approach with stakeholders and local communities, ensuring that changing needs are being addressed and monitored throughout the life of the Management Plan. Additional challenges will be mitigating and adapting to climate change that may include:

- Maintaining tree cover
- Appropriate meadow management and creation
- Potential SuDS infrastructure for surrounding roads, the car park, and hard surfaces
- Ensuring development within the Fields is environmentally responsive and highly sustainable.

CH3 PLAN-MAKING

The planning system should be genuinely planned. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.

NON-STRATEGIC POLICIES

Non-strategic policies should be used by local

planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas... This can include the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.

Impact on the Plan

Community involvement will shape and help to deliver the Management Plan. Numerous stakeholders are involved in Abbey Fields and creating a Management Plan that works for all will assist in creating a high quality green space. The risk to the Management Plan with numerous stakeholders is ensuring that the plan is followed and that all parties work together. There is currently Friends of Abbey Fields, Kenilworth Historical and Archaeological Society (KHAS), Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee (KAAC), St Nicholas EcoChurch, and Kenilworth Town Council.

Opportunities to write site specific non strategic policies may assist with the delivery and future management of the Fields and provide focus for key areas within the Fields for future funding.

CH8 PROMOTING HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- a. **Promote social interaction...**
- b. **Are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and**
- c. **Enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.**

To provide the social, recreational and cultural

facilities and services to the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a. **Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;**
- b. **Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;**

Open Space and Recreation

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sports and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.

Impact on the Plan

The plan will ensure that Abbey Fields will become a high quality green space. It will provide equal access for all by improving entrances, pathways and access to facilities, encouraging walking and cycling to the Fields, improvements to the tennis court facilities and encouraging more informal play, as well as linking to health and sports providers to encourage Fields use for more active fitness and wellness programmes. Improving the facilities of the Fields and connecting these facilities with key providers will ensure the Fields is more actively used to improve health, social and cultural well-being and will adapt to climate change.

CH14 MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, FLOODING AND COASTAL CHANGE

Planning for climate change

Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.

Impact on the Plan

The plan will identify locations for high quality meadows to lock in carbon, as well as potential opportunities for SuDS from buildings and car parks within the site, and possible roadside SuDS. Further investigation needs to be undertaken to consider the provision of alternative green energy supply sources for the new Leisure Centre and all built structures within Abbey Fields, as well as consideration of SuDS.

As climate change progresses, and in light of the COP26 the Management Plan would need to be reviewed to ensure it retains relevance to the needs of the community in tackling climate change and stays relevant to policy.

CH15 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a. **Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils**
- b. **Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services...**
- c. **Minimising impacts on an providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.**

Habitats and Biodiversity

To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- a. **Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks...**
- b. **Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habits, ecological networks...**

Impact on the Plan

The plan will look to protect and enhance the

natural environment whilst ensuring it remains functional as a green space. Providing the interface between people and nature is important but also has its challenges. Improving the quality of footpath networks, providing locations for dogs and people to access water and directing people to mown paths through meadows will help to reduce the impact on the natural landscapes within the Fields. Education and legibility of the landscape will also help to protect it and create a better understanding of the needs of the Fields. Community involvement in its management will also help to ensure the Fields is well cared for.

CH16 CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of highest significance...These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance...

Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment...This strategy should take into account:

- a. The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b. The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring...
- c. Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place

Impact on the Plan

Abbey Fields is designated a Scheduled Monument (Kenilworth Abbey) with numerous archaeological remains both above and below ground throughout. St Nicolas' Church is a Grade I listed church to the north east of the Fields.

The Management Plan will identify opportunities for historic buildings within the Fields, as well as working with Historic England to manage the archaeological remains for their safety within a public setting.

The Management Plan will identify the need to upgrade interpretation and site legibility exploring more relevant technology. Linking this with Kenilworth Castle in a more 'joined up' approach with key stakeholders will ensure that Abbey Fields is well respected locally and nationally.

THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2008

It legally commits the UK to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050.

The Act requires the government to set legally-binding 'carbon budgets' to act as stepping stones towards the 2050 target. The carbon budgets are set 12 years in advance to allow policy-makers, businesses and individuals enough time to prepare. Once set the Climate Change Act places obligation on the Government to prepare policies to ensure the budget is met.

The Act requires the UK government to produce a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment every five years. This assesses current and future risks to an opportunities for the UK from climate change. It also requires a National Adaptation Programme.

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

CH6 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Focus Area 1:- Building ecological resilience to the impacts of climate change

Objective 19: To build the resilience of wildlife, habitats and ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, marine and coastal) to climate change, to put our natural environment in the strongest possible position to meet the challenges and changes ahead.

The government wants to see more integrated approaches to terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems management that reflect both local and larger scale priorities. National Improvements Areas (create better connected habitats and landscapes) and Local Nature Partnerships = facilitators

Focus Area 2: - Preparing for and accommodating inevitable change

Objective 20: To take action to help wildlife,

habitats and ecosystems accommodate and smoothly make the transition through inevitable change.

Focus area 3: Valuing the wider adaptation benefits the natural environment can deliver

Objective 21: To promote and gain widespread uptake in other sectors of adaptation measures that benefit, or do not adversely affect, the natural environment.

The idea is to create approaches that can create opportunities to reduce costs and provide multiple benefits for society. Eg. Planting trees in cities, creation of wetlands etc.

CH8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Focus Area 1: Raising awareness, building capability and making the case for action

Objective 28: To raise and maintain the profile of adaptation with local authorities and promote action to embed climate resilience across local authority services and responsibilities.

Objective 29: To support local government to build a credible business case for action and take well-informed decisions both internally across service areas and externally with their local communities and businesses.

Focus Area 2: A framework for action

Objective 30: To ensure the policy framework for local government supports councils to increase community resilience in partnership with local and regional players.

Objective 31: To support sector-led activities, which allow councils to make local commitments to address their own unique challenges and opportunities arising from a changing climate.

Impact on the Plan

Building resilience requires greater understanding of the needs of plant communities. The Management Plan will identify that tree planting and meadow creation may not be able to rely solely on native species. Key stakeholders such as Forestry Commission with their Forest Research can provide critical evidence in relation to future

resilience of trees in particular and working with environmental charities such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation will provide a better understanding of the opportunities and needs of meadow creation and how these can be adapted to maximise wildlife benefit and lock in carbon.

The Management Plan will look at opportunities for SuDS and wetland area creation within the Fields that can benefit nature and the wider environment. Further investigation needs to be undertaken to consider the provision of alternative green energy supply sources for the new Leisure Centre development, as well as consideration of SuDS.

As climate change progresses, and in light of the COP26, the Management Plan would need to be reviewed to ensure it retains relevance to the needs of the community in tackling climate change and stays relevant to policy.

FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010

A lead local flood authority for an area in England must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area (a Local flood risk management strategy”). The lead local flood authority must publish a summary of the strategy.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will look at opportunities for SuDS and wetland creation building on established rain gardens and wet areas within the Fields. There may be opportunities to create additional seasonal wetland areas and look at reducing local pollution through SuDS schemes. The Management Plan will look at erosion control to improve the quality of the water further downstream by managing locations for access to water for dogs and people.

LOCALISM ACT 2011

For Local Authorities this gives a general power of competence. It gives increased confidence to do creative, innovative things to meet local needs to drive down costs.

For communities it allows community groups to challenge the local authority to deliver a better

service, and where accepted run a procurement service allowing local groups with good ideas to put them forward.

For the Planning system it allows for a neighbourhood plan. It allows a community organisation formed by members of the local community to bring forward development proposals providing they meet local support.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify the needs of the Kenilworth Neighbourhood Plan appertaining to Abbey Fields as well as providing all local community groups a strong voice in how the Fields is managed.

SPORT ENGLAND ACTIVE DESIGN GUIDE

This is a key guidance document to unify health, design and planning agendas...for individuals and communities to lead active and healthy lifestyles.

Ten principles:

1. **Activity for all - Neighbourhoods, facilities and open spaces should be accessible to all users and should support physical activity across all ages.**
2. **Walkable communities – ...open spaces and sports facilities should be within easy reach = create conditions for active travel. Opportunities for funds from Investment Strategies & Personal Travel Planning & Travel Plans. [possibly look at routes to schools through the park] [Beat the Street – get points for walking or cycling to school & earn so many points and obtain a reward]**
3. **Connected walking & cycling routes – all destinations should be connected by a direct legible and integrated network of walking and cycling routes – safe, well lit, overlooked, welcoming, well maintained, durable and clearly signposted. Active travel should be prioritised over other modes of transport**
4. **Co-location of community facilities. A mix of land uses and activities. Creates multiple reasons to visit a destination minimising the number and length of trips and increasing the awareness and opportunity to participate in**

sport and physical activity.

5. **Network of multifunctional open space – a network of multifunctional open spaces should be created across all communities to support a range of actives, including sport, recreation, and play plus other landscape features including SUDS, woodland, wildlife habitat and productive landscapes (allotments, orchards)**
6. **High quality streets and spaces. Flexible and durable high quality streets and public spaces should be promoted employing high quality durable materials, street furniture and signage.**
7. **Appropriate infrastructure. Supporting infrastructure to enable sport and physical activity to take place should be provided across all contexts including workplaces, sports facilities and public space, to facilitate all forms of activity**
8. **Active buildings. The internal and external layout, design and use of buildings should promote opportunities for physical activity (more associated with workplace design). Ensure buildings are connected to surrounding walking & cycling routes over vehicular modes.**
9. **Management, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation – long term maintenance and viability of these facilities should be considered in the design. Monitoring and evaluation should be used to assess the success of Active Design initiatives and to inform future directions. Maintaining spaces project an active image. Communities involved in ongoing management of facilities to promote a sense of ownership**
10. **Activity promotion and local champions – promoting the importance of participation in sport and physical activity as a means of improving health and wellbeing. Health promotion measures and local champions should be supported to inspire participation in sport and physical activity across neighbourhoods, workplaces and facilities**

Public Health England, established in 2013 is charged with improving the health and wellbeing

of the nation and reducing health inequalities. The outcome includes increasing the proportion of physically active adults.

DEVELOPING THE ACTIVE DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

Improve Accessibility – easy, safe, convenient access to a choice of opportunities for sport & physical activity

Enhance Amenity – promote environmental quality in the design of sports and recreational facilities, their links and relationships to buildings & public realm.

Increase awareness – raise prominence and legibility of sports & recreational facilities & opportunities for physical activity through the design & layout of development.

There is an Active Design Checklist that assists with applying active design principles within a site. A useful tool to be used alongside Green Flag award status.

Impact on the Plan

The 10 principles of Sport England Active Design Guide are valuable contributions to the Management Plan of Abbey Fields.

The Management Plan should consider the 10 principles of Sport England Active Design Guide alongside the Green Flag Award status to ensure that the site is functioning in its entirety for the benefits of the community.

The Management Plan will improve accessibility and legibility and create ‘connected’ routes within and to external walkable streets, open spaces, and countryside and as such the Fields will achieve greater active connection with the community.

The Management Plan will improve the quality of the Fields and its facilities, work with activity promoters and local champions to encourage active use of the Fields for improved health and wellbeing. Providing key actions to achieve the improvements of the Management Plan will ensure any improvements are met within budgetary constraints and can be planned for through appropriate funding or contribution.

THE ENVIRONMENT BILL

Aims to establish a new framework for environmental governance and to meet the ambitions of the Government’s 25-year environment plan. The aim of the 25 Year Environment Plan is to set out a comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing our natural landscapes and habitats in England for the next generation.

The Environment Bill makes provision for:

1. **Targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment, with at least one target in:**
 - a. Air quality
 - b. Biodiversity
 - c. Water
 - d. Resource efficiency and waste reduction
2. **Statements and reports about environmental protection in the UK Environmental Protections policy allowing transparency and scrutiny regarding future legislation.**
3. **The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) is a new independent regulator holding the government to account.**
4. **Waste and resource efficiency**
5. **Air Quality**
Air pollution is the single most significant environmental public health concern.

The air quality part of the Bill:

- » Introduces a duty to set a legally-binding target for fine particulate matter, the pollutant of most concern for human health, plus one further long-term air quality target. Delivers significant public health benefits
- » Establishes a clear framework for local action and collaboration on air pollution
- » Creates a simpler mechanism for local authorities to tackle smoke emissions

- » Provides the government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles

6. Nature and biodiversity

A major part of the Bill covers biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery strategies (LNRSs). Mandatory biodiversity net gain by a minimum of 10% will be mandatory in spring 2023. It can be delivered on site or locally off-site or via biodiversity credits.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) are a new system of spatial strategies for nature in England. Each Strategy for the area that it covers will:

- » Map the most valuable existing habitat for nature
- » Map specific proposal for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals
- » Agree priorities for nature's recovery

The idea is to guide effective delivery of biodiversity net gain and other nature recovery measures by helping developers and planning authorities avoid the most valuable existing habitats.

Introduce a new Species Conservation Strategy to safeguard species at greatest risk.

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) will amend or replace the duty on public bodies to 'have regard to the purpose of 'conserving biodiversity'. This will change to allow public authorities 'to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity'. This policy has an expectation on public authorities to look strategically at their policies and operations from time to time (at least every 5 years).

The Bill requires LPAs to consult with local communities before felling street trees unless the tree qualifies for exemptions.

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7. Conservation covenants

This measure plans to help leave the environment in a better condition for future generations through the use of conservation covenants, as recommended by the Law Commission. This is a 'private voluntary agreement' between a landowner and a 'responsible' body such as a conservation charity, government body or local authority. It delivers lasting conservation benefit for the public good. It sets out obligations in respect of the land which will be legally binding not only on the landowner but on subsequent owners of the land.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan seeks to encourage active travel with walking and cycling to encourage health and fitness but also to reduce the use of vehicles and thus reduce air pollution in the local area.

Biodiversity will be conserved and enhanced as part of the Management Plan and can form part of the wider District's Local Nature Recovery Strategy as these emerge.

Conservation Covenants may be considered for land not currently in the LPA ownership for Abbey Fields such as Church of England land, but would require third party agreement to safeguard the land for future generations.

25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

The 25-year Environment Plan sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health. The policies the plan focuses on are:

1. **Using and managing land sustainably –**
 - » Support community forests that can play a leading role in urban tree planting to bring trees and green infrastructure to towns and cities across England
 - » Reducing risks from flooding by expanding natural flood management solutions, putting in place more sustainable drainage systems
2. **Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of the landscape –**
 - » Protecting and recovering nature by publishing a strategy for nature, developing a Nature Recovery Network to complement

and connect our best wildlife sites and provide opportunities for species conservation; opportunities for reintroduction of native species; Explore how to give individuals chance to deliver lasting conservation, improve biosecurity to protect and conserve; Creating a new strategy called Biodiversity 2020.

- » Leaving a lighter footprint on the global environment by enhancing sustainability

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

There will be an annual progress report that will refresh the plan to ensure targets are being achieved. Establishing a new green business council and exploring the potential for a natural environment impact fund.

Goals and Targets

1. **Clean air – achieve by meeting legally binding targets to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants. Halve by 2030.**
2. **Clean and plentiful water**
3. **Thriving plants and wildlife - achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife. By restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term. By increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060.**
4. **Reduce the risks of harm from environmental hazards – mostly flooding**
5. **Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently**
6. **Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment – we will conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment and make sure it can be enjoyed, used and cared for by everyone. We will do this by:**
 - a. Safeguarding and enhancing the beauty of our natural scenery and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage
 - b. Making sure that there are high quality accessible natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, and encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing
 - c. Focusing on increasing action to improve

- » Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- » Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces by considering how environmental therapies could be delivered through mental health, promoting health and wellbeing through the natural environment – ‘green prescribing’
- » Encouraging children to be close to nature in and out of school by helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds, and supporting more pupil contact with local nature spaces
- » Greening our towns and cities by creating more GI and planting more trees in and around our towns and cities

3. **Increase resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste**

- » Maximising resource efficiency and minimising environmental impacts at end of life by...reducing litter and littering
- » Reducing pollution by Publishing a Clean Air Strategy ...ensuring we continue to maintain clean recreational waters and warning about temporary pollution
- » Publishing a Chemicals Strategy to monitor chemicals and their effects
- » Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans

4. **Protecting and improving the global environment**

- » Providing international leadership and leading by example by tackling climate change, protecting and improving international biodiversity – Clean Growth Grand Challenge in Industrial Strategy; Deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals

the environment from all sectors of society. We also need to manage environmental pressures.

7. **Mitigating and adapting to climate change – action to mitigate climate change while adapting to reduce its impact.**

8. **Minimise waste**

9. **Managing exposure to chemicals**

- a. Enhancing biosecurity – we will enhance biosecurity to protect our wildlife and livestock and boost the resilience of plants and trees by managing and reducing the risk of existing plant and animal diseases, lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species; by reaching the detailed goals to be set out in the Tree Health Resilience plan of 2018; by ensuring strong biosecurity protection at our borders, drawing on the opportunities leaving the EU provides...

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify potential locations for SuDS, rain gardens and wetlands to improve water quality and help to reduce localised flooding if and where possible. The Management Plan will consider the types of replacement tree planting considering climate change and biosecurity.

The plan will serve both nature and people, by improving existing and creating new wildlife sites and working with appropriate delivery partners to ensure that Abbey Fields becomes part of the Nature Recovery Network as well as enhancing people's connection with nature, by improving path networks, actively encouraging community groups and schools to use/manage the Fields, work with local health providers and improve the environmental legibility of the site.

The plan will look at opportunities of reducing and managing waste, such as recycling at source, and litter management. Encouraging more active travel to the Fields will help to reduce air pollution.

The plan will serve to adapt to the needs of Climate Change and will ensure the Fields is climate change ready in its current and future

provision.

Use of the Plant Health and Biosecurity Toolkit for landscape practitioners prepared by The Landscape Institute in conjunction with SGD, The Association of Professional Landscapers and BALI will ensure the risk of pests and diseases associated with movements of plants will be managed appropriately prevent the introduction of pests and diseases that could seriously impact the health of existing and new plant communities.

CYCLING AND WALKING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Ambition that cycling and walking are the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey and that there is more access to safe, attractive routes for cycling and walking by 2040.

By 2025, the ambition is to

- **double cycling**
- **increase walking activity, and**
- **increase percentage of children aged 5 to 10 that usually walk to school from 49% to 55%.**

By 2040 the ambition is to deliver:

- **Better safety – streets for cyclists and walkers; better connected communities; safer traffic speeds; cycle training opportunities for children**
- **Better mobility – More high quality cycling facilities; more urban areas considered walkable; rural roads with safety for walking and cycling; more networks of routes around public transport hubs and town centres; better links to schools and workplaces; technology for safer walking and cycling; behaviour change opportunities to support increased walking and cycling; better integrated routes for those with disabilities or health conditions**
- **Better streets – Places designed for people so they can choose to walk or cycle; improved public realm; better planning for walking and cycling; more community-based activities; wider green network of paths, routes and open spaces.**

INVESTING IN CYCLING NUMBERS

If UK was to achieve Danish levels of cycling in UK would save the NHS £17 billion in 20 years. Moving 10% of journeys from car to bike would reduce air pollution and save 400 productive life years.

Funding bodies that encourage cycling or walking that may still be relevant have included:

- **Bikeability,**
- **Cycling Ambition Cities,**
- **Highways England,**
- **Access Fund plus local transport programmes = Local Growth Fund,**
- **Highways Maintenance Block and Integrated Transport Block;**
- **Walk to school and travel tracker; and**
- **big bike revival.**

NPPF promotes sustainable transport and the Community Infrastructure Levy can fund a wide range of infrastructure projects including transport and green spaces etc.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will consult with Sustrans and Warwickshire County Council Transport Planning to consider potential cycle routes through and/or around the Fields that connects with existing off road cycling provision through Kenilworth. It will look at funding providers locally to provide key messaging and campaigning to encourage active travel to the Fields.

The Management Plan will tie in with Kenilworth Town Council's Wayfinding Strategy and Cycling Strategy in line with the Design Guide to improve legibility and encourage active participation to the Fields in terms of walkable and cyclable routes from within the townscape, green spaces and other key tourist features.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY

WARWICKSHIRE HABITAT BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

Partnership project established in 1995 run mainly by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust provides an up-to-date record of habitats and land changes over time.

Remit to produce a continuous revision of the Phase 1 Habitat Survey map that can inform planning and legislation.

A call for Nature Recovery Networks to be a key output of the new Environment Act. Need local nature recovery network maps and plans, to identify where good wildlife habitat is already and where it should be and how to protect, restore,

Impact on the Plan

The Plan will look to work with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to include the Fields within the Nature Recovery Network and include any recording processes such as ecological surveys to achieve aims of the Environment Bill.

WARWICKSHIRE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Warwickshire County Council Biodiversity Strategy outlines how it can work with partners to protect and enhance Warwickshire's wildlife.

To meet the NERC Act (2006) the main biodiversity aims are to:

- **Obtain, manage and share environmental data to inform decision-making and monitor changes**
- **Ensure the Council considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions**
- **Improve the management of biodiversity of lands and buildings owned by Warwickshire County Council.**
- **Raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning about and understanding of the natural world. (Manifesto for learning outside the Classroom)**
- **Promote, conserve and enhance Warwickshire's biodiversity within these close-working relationships.**
- **To report on how WCC is actively progressing biodiversity.**

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key partners such as Warwickshire County Council to share environmental data. The Management Plan will identify the need to have collaborative working with WCC to involve local schools in relation to

active travel to school through the Fields and also the involvement of local schools in using the Fields' rich wildlife as an educational, nature play space and involvement in creative activities such as habitat creation as well as secondary schools to undertake geography, history and biology studies.

RIGHTS OF WAY AND RECREATIONAL HIGHWAY STRATEGY – 2011-2026 BY WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Strategy is for the public to gain maximum use and enjoyment of the network, whilst protecting and improving it for future generations of residents and visitors.

Objectives to achieve

- **well maintained asset;**
- **a sustainable network which meets modern users;**
- **a network which is accessible to, and used by, a wide variety of people from different backgrounds and with differing abilities;**
- **responsible users who respect the countryside; and**
- **a better rights of way network for all.**

Policy RW1: Managing the network – The County Council will assert and protect the rights of the public to use and enjoy the rights of way and recreational highway network, by maintaining the asset and taking enforcement action where necessary

Policy RW1b: Signing and waymarking of rights of way and recreational highways – Routes within built up areas will not normally be signed unless, for example, they lead to the countryside, are part of a recognised promoted route...

Policy RW2: Improvements – the County Council will aim to improve the physical rights of way and recreational highway for all users.

Policy RW2a: Gaps, gates and stiles on footpaths and bridleways. The County Council will only authorise the least restrictive option for new boundary crossings. The CC will always aim for the least restrictive option when landowners or land managers replace or install structure in existing boundary crossings. Least restrictive option

means a gap is the preferred option; if a gap is not practicable then a field gate or wicket gate shall be used.

Policy RW3: Communities and volunteers -

The County Council will work with communities to deliver local improvements and provide support and training to community partners and volunteers.

Policy RW5c: Legal widths of rights of way and recreational highways - The legal width which must remain clear and unobstructed is, for an unenclosed footpath, 2m.

Impact on the Plan

Centenary Way from the west of Abbey Fields within the countryside passes through the north of the Fields. This PROW connects with Kenilworth Common and to countryside to the east and north of Kenilworth.

The Management Plan will work with WCC to ensure that way marking of this route is in keeping with the Fields' Design Guide, and to ensure that, where possible and not conflicting with historic or archaeological features, that paths are an appropriate width to comply with WCC policies.

WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN – 2011-2029

HS3 Local Green Space

The council supports the principle of designating land as Local Green Space. Local communities, through Neighbourhood Plans, may designate Local Green Spaces that are demonstrably special to their local community and of particular local significance in accordance with national planning policy.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will work with the Kenilworth Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that this Local Green Space is managed appropriately.

HS4 Improvements to Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities

Contributions from developments will be sought to provide, improve and maintain appropriate open space, sport and recreational facilities to meet

local and district-wide needs. The exact level and form of contributions required will have regard to the location, nature and size of development. See the Warwick District Council Public Open Space Supplementary Planning Document.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key areas for improvement and management within Abbey Fields to ensure that contributions are appropriately allocated. The Management Plan will identify the need to prepare detailed costings for inclusion in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for investment of Planning Obligations and CIL.

HE1 Designated Heritage Assets and their setting

Development will not be permitted if it would lead to substantial harm to or total loss of the significance of a designated heritage asset, unless it is demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss...

Where development would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

HE2 Conservation Areas

There will be a presumption in favour of the retention of unlisted buildings that make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of a Conservation Area. Consent for total demolition of unlisted buildings will only be granted where the detailed design of the replacement can demonstrate that it will preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area. Measures will be taken to restore or bring back into use areas that presently make a negative contribution to conservation areas.

HE4 Archaeology

Development will not be permitted that results in substantial harm to Scheduled Monuments or other archaeological remains of national importance, and their settings unless in wholly exceptional circumstances.

There will be presumption in favour of the

preservation of locally and regionally important sites, except where the applicant can demonstrate that the benefits of development will outweigh the harm to archaeological remains.

(Work with Historic England and National Trust and other parties to seek and secure the management and maintenance of archaeological sites – including interpretation and education and recreation)

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify opportunities for historic buildings within the Fields, working with KHAS and KAAC, as well as working with Historic England to manage the archaeological remains for their safety within a public setting.

The Management Plan will identify the need to upgrade interpretation and site legibility exploring more relevant technology. Linking this with Kenilworth Castle in a more 'joined up' approach with key stakeholders will ensure that Abbey Fields is well respected locally and nationally.

The Management Plan will identify the unlisted buildings that make positive contributions to the character of Abbey Fields and the conservation area it sits within. Any improvements required of these buildings will be detailed within the management plan.

The Management Plan will identify the need to develop a good relationship with Historic England in relation to any development or changes that may be required within the SAM and its proximity to the listed Parks and Gardens and Kenilworth Castle.

NE1 Green Infrastructure

The Council will protect, enhance and restore the district's green infrastructure assets and strive for a healthy integrated network for the benefit of nature, people and the economy...

The Council recognises the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy and will support the periodic updating of this important document.

The Council will continue to work with partners, including neighbouring authorities and the Local

Nature Partnership, to plan for green infrastructure at a landscape scale:

- **Protecting and enhancing existing habitats and restoring fragmented areas;**
- **Ensuring access to natural green space; and**
- **Improvements to landscape character.**

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key partners to assist with the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Study. The Management Plan will ensure that the Fields delivers GI principles in relation to creating a healthy integrated network for the benefit of nature and people and provide key active travel connections with the community, town centre and tourist destinations to improve economy.

NE2 Protecting Designated Biodiversity and Geodiversity Assets

Sites of local importance

Development will not be permitted that will destroy or adversely affect c) Local Wildlife Sites. All proposals likely to impact on the above assets will be subject to an ecological assessment. The ecological assessment should include due consideration for the importance of the natural asset, the nature of the measures proposed (including plans for long term management) and the extent to which they avoid and reduce the impact of development.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will look to protect and enhance the natural environment whilst ensuring it remains functional as a green space. Providing the interface between people and nature is important but also has its challenges. Improving the quality of footpath networks, providing locations for dogs and people to access water and directing people to mown paths through meadows will help to reduce the impact on the natural landscapes within the Fields.

Education and legibility of the landscape will also help to protect it and create a better understanding of the needs of the Fields. Community involvement in its management will also help to ensure the Fields is well cared for.

The Management Plan will also include ecological assessments that will feed into the Nature Recovery Network and to continue its status as a Local Wildlife Site.

DM1 Infrastructure Contributions

Development will be expected to provide, or contribute towards provision of:

- j. **Measures to directly mitigate its impact and make it acceptable in planning terms, and**
- k. **Physical, social and green infrastructure to support the needs associated with the development.**

Infrastructure and mitigation measures will be provided in a timely manner to support the objectives of the Plan.

The Council will, where appropriate, seek to secure site-specific infrastructure investments and/or contributions as well as off-site contribution and/or investments. The nature and scale of these will be related to the form of development and its potential impact on the site and surrounding area. The cumulative impact of developments will also be taken into account.

Developer contributions in the form of Planning Obligations and/or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will contribute towards strategic infrastructure required to support the overall development in the Plan.

The Council will work in partnership with infrastructure providers and other delivery agencies in updating the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure an up-to-date evidence base regarding infrastructure requirements and costs is maintained.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key areas for improvement and management within Abbey Fields to ensure that contributions are appropriately allocated. The Management Plan will identify the need to prepare detailed costings for inclusion in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for investment of Planning Obligations and CIL.

KENILWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2017-2029

VISION FOR KENILWORTH

‘The growth of Kenilworth provides an opportunity to preserve the character and improve the quality of life for both present and future generations, by protecting our heritage and improving our environment, making it the town and the community where we all wish to live and work, and which people want to visit.’

Relevant Objectives

Green spaces (including Abbey Fields) – to protect, enhance and utilise the green spaces in and around the Town and to ensure that they are properly maintained.

Transport links – to better connect all parts of the town both internally and externally by all means of transport

Heritage – to protect, appreciate and exploit the historic aspect of the town.

Policies

KP9 Cycle routes

Proposals to create new dedicated cycle routes to connect the existing and new residential areas of the town with the Town Centre along the indicative connections, will be supported.

Proposals to create new priority cycle routes to connect to the town to the University of Warwick and to link in with other proposed routes such as K2L particularly within the corridors indicated on the Policies Map will be supported.

New cycle routes should preferably be created off the highway on either dedicated routes or routes shared with pedestrians when it is safe to do so...

KP10 Connecting the Castle to the Town

Option to create a safe crossing to Abbey Fields over Castle Road at the Ford.

KP 13G Design Management at Abbey Fields

Details important information in relation to the features of high regard and value to Abbey Fields. The car parking is almost at full capacity and careful consideration needs to be given to any future car parking location. A link to the Castle needs consideration.

KP19 Local Green Space

The area running between Abbey Fields and Kenilworth Common is designated as a Local Green Space.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will Consult with Sustrans and Warwickshire County Council Transport Planning to consider potential cycle routes through and/or around the Fields that connects with existing off road cycling provision through Kenilworth. It will look at funding providers locally to provide key messaging and campaigning to encourage active travel to the Fields.

The Management Plan will identify the need to work with English Heritage to establish positive links between Kenilworth Castle, Abbey Fields and the wider area, with good legibility and signage to encourage active travel to Abbey Fields and the town centre.

The Management Plan will ensure that this local green space is managed appropriately.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY 2012

The GI Study suggests tree planting across urban areas for Kenilworth and a new Peri-urban park to the North of Kenilworth to alleviate open space deficiency.

Key delivery principles:

- **Sustainable – minimal use of natural resources and low maintenance**
- **Multifunctional – The desired functions of each green space should be considered and management should be designed to ensure a balance between the sites key functions.**
- **Integrated – link with adjoining green spaces and links, community centres, schools and residential areas.**
- **Climate change adapted – designed and managed to alleviate the effects of climate change and withstand it too**
- **Quality – high quality design, appearance, access and wildlife – Green Flag Standards**
- **Reflect local character and sense of place – planting appropriate species, sensitive design of built infrastructure and appropriate interpretation of natural and cultural heritage features.**
- **Engage communities – in the enhancement and creation of GI. Develop good communication skills with local community groups including schools.**

Partnership working to support GI management = creation of a GI forum or partnership for the District.

Environmental impact – land, ecology and archaeological surveys required to inform development. Woodland creation this will be key. More detailed ecological advice is likely to be required in relation to site specific habitat creation to ensure that high level nature conservation objectives are met.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key partners to assist with the delivery of the Green Infrastructure Study. The Management Plan will ensure that this local green space is managed appropriately. will ensure that the Fields delivers GI principles in relation to creating a healthy integrated network

for the benefit of nature and people and provide key active travel connections with the community, town centre and tourist destinations to improve economy.

Green Flag Standards will be used to ensure that the Fields achieves high targets in its future management and will consider the Sport England Active Design Guide.

The Management Plan will identify community partnership working and Key Stakeholders such as Warwickshire County Council to engage with local schools.

The Management Plan will ensure the site is climate responsive as detailed previously in response to national policies.

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY 2012-2026

Green Space Vision

- **By 2026 there will be a well planned and managed network of integrated, accessible and diverse green spaces within Warwick District; creating a sustainable environment for the benefit of people, wildlife and our natural heritage.**
- **Success will be marked on:**
- **Green spaces will be at least ‘good’ in quality**
- **Green spaces will be more welcoming, safer, cleaner and more sustainable**
- **Green space will further contribute to economic and social wealth**
- **Everyone will have sufficient access to unrestricted green space**
- **Networks of habitats will improve species diversity.**
- **Children and young people can safely access and explore the local environment.**
- **Communities are actively included with managing their local green space**
- **People are healthier and fitter through accessible, high quality green space.**

Parks and Open Spaces Audit was conducted to assess the quality and accessibility of green space. Criteria included Classification, accessibility and hierarchy, quantity, quality (Green flag scoring), green space value, connecting (opportunity to link to others).

Future seven principles:

1. **Provide** – we will seek to provide sufficient accessible green space to meet current and future need
2. **Improve** – we will seek to maintain and raise the quality of all green spaces (Management Plan will do this + Green Flag Award)
3. **Connect** – we will work in partnership to develop and manage a continuous network for people and wildlife
4. **Involve** – we will work in partnership with the community, governing bodies and stakeholders to develop, manage and promote green spaces.
5. **Resource** – we will seek to ensure sufficient resources are available to develop, manage and maintain green spaces
6. **Sustain** – we will work to ensure that the management of all green spaces have a positive impact on people, the local economy and the environment.
7. **Conserve** – we will ensure that green space biodiversity, landscape and natural heritage is protected and conserved.

Impact on the Plan

The Green Space Strategy is fundamental to the success of green spaces within Warwick District and underpins the work of Abbey Fields Management Plan.

The Management Plan will base its management plan on Green Flag Award criteria with consideration of the Sport England Active Design Guide. However, it will also ensure that the seven principles of the Green Space Strategy are clearly identified and monitored within the reviews and outputs that form key requirements of the Management Plan.

ABBAY FIELDS CONSERVATION AREA

Kenilworth Conservation Area 7

- Central greenbelt, significant historical relationship with St Mary's Abbey and its grounds
- Important relationship with castle
- Partly SAM
- Significant archaeology
- Significant views both north and south across to Abbey Fields
- Abbey Fields Mere – important water feature recreated in 2000.
- Important trees within the Field and gardens adjacent to the Fields
- Boundary treatments important to the interface with the surrounding streets
- War memorial in significant location with views.
- Swimming pool and children's play occupy significant location with views from Abbey Hill
- St Nicholas Church (Grade I) and churchyard are within the fields. Important relationship of church to rear of houses on High Street.

Abbey Hill Area 4

- historic boundary to Abbey Fields –
- open views to north access to be maintained
- War memorial focal point.
- South side has views across Abbey Fields from High Street
- important that this skyline is maintained
- Important trees on Abbey Fields

Forest Road and Castle Road Area 5

- south and eastern sides have open views over Abbey Fields – important to remain.
- Good boundary treatments on west side with mature hedgerows and long front gardens

Bridge Street Area 6

- Historic routeway linking Bridge Street to Abbey Hill, known as Holmes Avenue.
- Important open aspect on west side of Abbey Fields.
- Significant boundary trees in Abbey Fields (Spanish chestnuts) at northern end.

- Limit street clutter and traffic signage.

Impact on the Plan

Abbey Fields is designated a Scheduled Monument (Kenilworth Abbey SAM) with numerous archaeological remains both above and below ground throughout. St Nicolas' Church is a Grade I listed church to the north east of the Fields.

The Management Plan will identify opportunities for historic buildings within the Fields, working with KHAS and KAAC, as well as working with Historic England to manage the archaeological remains for their safety within a public setting.

The Management Plan will identify the need to upgrade interpretation and site legibility exploring more relevant technology. Linking this with Kenilworth Castle in a more 'joined up' approach with key stakeholders will ensure that Abbey Fields is well respected locally and nationally.

The Management Plan will ensure that the important features that have informed the Conservation Area status are managed and maintained and that any improvements or development requirements have regard to the Conservation Area status.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT APR 2019

Relevant primary objectives:

- **To secure and ensure the provision of high quality, appropriate public open spaces**
- **To give clarity to developers as to what will be expected of them in terms of...commuted contributions or enhancements to existing open space**
- **To ensure that development is designed, laid out and maintained to an acceptable standard**
- **To help ensure that financial contributions for off-site POS enhancements to existing provision are calculated fairly in accordance with the Council's standards and spent appropriately...**

Provides indicative costs for developer contributions for commuted payments for new provision/enhancement of POS and 20 years maintenance. This includes parks and gardens, Natural and semi-natural space, amenity, children and youth provision, and allotments.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify key areas for improvement and management within Abbey Fields to ensure that contributions are appropriately allocated. The Management Plan will identify the need to prepare detailed costings for inclusion in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for investment of Planning Obligations and CIL.

TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

Parks and Open Spaces

Policy 20 – the council will seek to establish new areas of woodland which offer multiple benefits to residents, wildlife and the landscape.

Policy 21 – The Council will seek to create a varied and sustainable tree population in Council parks at the same time continuing to manage the existing trees/copses.

Policy 22 – The Council will seek to continue and develop long term management plans for parks and open spaces to prevent decline.

Policy 23 – The Council will continue, where appropriate, to plant ornamental trees

Policy 24 – There will be a presumption against the removal of trees which are healthy but subject to complaint, unless the basis of the complaint is an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

Actions for Parks and Open Space Tree Management

1. **Seek alternative sites and funding for tree planting**
2. **Survey all parks and open spaces to priorities replacement planting of declining tree populations. Replace trees with a variety of tree species to ensure diversity and sustainability.**
3. **Tree management in major parks and green spaces to be integrated into overall Parks management plans**

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will consider the types of replacement tree planting considering climate change and biosecurity. Due to Historic England restrictions, additional tree planting is restricted.

The Management Plan will detail the requirements for arboricultural impact assessments and management of existing trees, as well as the management requirements for any new tree planting.

The Management Plan will ensure the use of the Plant Health and Biosecurity Toolkit for landscape practitioners prepared by The Landscape Institute in conjunction with SGD, The Association of Professional Landscapers and BALI will ensure the risk of pests and diseases associated with movements of plants will be managed appropriately prevent the introduction of pests and diseases that could seriously impact the health of existing and new plant communities.

FINAL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT, JUNE 2019

Key drivers:

- **Corporate vision to make it a great place to live, work and visit where we aspire to build sustainable, safe, stronger and healthier communities.**
- **To enable and encourage the people of the district to have an equal access to a healthy life and sense of wellbeing**
- **Increasing opportunities for everyone to engage in sport, the arts and cultural activities**
- **Reducing obesity, particularly in children and improving health outcomes...**
- **To ensure that the impact of projected population growth and new development on the demand for sports pitches and the adequacy of the existing pitch stock is fully understood;**
- **To ensure that resources are maximised and are tailored to meet local need and to provide a foundation to increase opportunities for everyone to engage in outdoor sport and recreation**
- **To provide an evidence base to support funding bids, from National Sports bodies like**

Sport England and National Governing bodies of sport and of regional funders, for the delivery of sports and recreational facilities in the District;

- **To continue to provide a basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the adequacy of pitch provision to meet both current and projected need.**

Football

There are no football pitches identified at Abbey Fields.

Tennis

Public facilities are currently of poorer quality than club sites. However, there is a 14% year on year increase in players participating in programmes in focus parks. There was a 7% year on year rise in the participation in the summer months. Based on current levels of participation the current provision is sufficient to meet demand.

Key opportunities to increase demand by encouraging target groups:

- Family Tennis: 'Tennis Troupers'
- Tennis Health and fitness/Wimbledon Warriors/Seasonal Spinners
- Social Butterflies
- Senior Stalwarts
- Tennis Titans

At Abbey Fields, the courts are classed as poor quality and require refurbishment to attract regular usage. The court markings are clear but overmarked with netball.

The New Development Calculator does not cover tennis but using an estimate of 3% participation resulting in an extra 768 players. This would require an additional 19 courts to accommodate new housing growth. However, there is scope to maximise the use of existing facilities before new courts are required.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will identify the key requirements for management intervention and support the improvement of tennis facilities at Abbey Fields.

The Management Plan will identify the need to prepare detailed costings for inclusion in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for investment of Planning Obligations and CIL.

The Management Plan will identify various opportunities for informal football and Multi Use Games Area provision.

PLAY AREA STRATEGY 2009-2012

Fundamental aim is to improve children and young people's play opportunities and experiences.

Objective 1 – improve the public realm as a child friendly environment, ensuring that all parks, thoroughfares, housing estates and other public spaces within the District, are as conducive as possible to play.

Objective 2 – Promote the importance of play in relation to children and young people's health, well-being and personal development, to all those that have an influence.

Objective 3 – Develop a joined up approach to the distribution of play resources, striking a balance based on need between supervised and unsupervised provision.

Objective 4 – Work to reduce the barriers that prevent from accessing and playing in the general public domain

Objective 5 – Aim to offer all children and young people the chance to encounter acceptable risks in stimulating and challenging play environments.

Impact on the Plan

Although out of date, the Play Area Strategy will be incorporated into the Management Plan to ensure that Abbey Fields can provide a much larger 'play' facility than equipped play, encouraging a wider, active use of Abbey Fields through interpretation and involving partner organisations and charities to create nature based activities.

The Management Plan will assist in removing any barriers that prevent access to play, incorporating inclusivity into the design and management of play provision and nature play.

The Management Plan will ensure that play provision is stimulating, engaging and relevant and that play provision is regularly managed, maintained and improved.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE STRATEGY

THE VISION:

Warwick District, a great place to live, work and visit, where we aspire to build sustainable, safe, stronger and healthier communities. The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an "external" and "internal" Council element to it. The Council's Service Area

Plans are the programme of work fundamental to the delivery of the strands described in the table to the right.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will look to support and create strong working relationships with volunteer groups, partner organisations and neighbour tourist destinations to create a Fields that is intrinsically part of the community as well as a great place to visit for the enjoyment of arts, wildlife, history, recreation, play and tourism.

The Management Plan will link to health and sports providers to encourage the Fields use for more active fitness and wellness programmes.

The Management Plan will identify antisocial behaviour issues and methods of management.

The Management Plan will look at opportunities for SuDS and wetland creation building on established rain gardens and wet areas within the Fields. There may be opportunities to create additional seasonal wetland areas and look at reducing local pollution through SuDS schemes.

The Management Plan will look at erosion control to improve the quality of the water further downstream by managing locations for access to water for dogs and people.

The management plan will look at enhancing connections with English Heritage and applying for Brown signs to make Abbey Fields a destination site for tourism.

FFF STRANDS

PEOPLE	SERVICES	MONEY
External		
Health, Homes, Communities (Ref A)	Green, Clean, Safe (Ref B)	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment (Ref C)
<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health for all • Housing needs for all met • Impressive cultural and sports activities • Cohesive and active communities 	<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becoming a net-zero carbon organisation by 2025 • Total carbon emissions within Warwick District are as close to zero as possible by 2030 • Area has well looked after public spaces • All communities have access to decent open space • Improved air quality • Low levels of crime and ASB 	<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic and diverse local economy • Vibrant town centres • Improved performance/ productivity of local economy • Increased employment and income levels
Internal		
Effective Staff (Ref D)	Maintain or Improve Services (Ref E)	Financial Footing over the Longer Term (Ref F)
<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff are properly trained • All staff have the appropriate tools • All staff are engaged, empowered and supported • The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours 	<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on our customers' needs • Continuously improve our processes • Increase the digital provision of services 	<p>Intended outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better return/use of our assets • Full Cost accounting • Continued cost management • Maximise income earning opportunities • Seek best value for money

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The commitments are as follows:

- **Being a carbon neutral organisation by 2025, including with all contracted out services**
- **Facilitating decarbonisation by local businesses, organisations and residents, in order for Warwick District to be as close to zero by 2030 as possible.**
- **Engaging with and listening to all relevant stakeholders, including members of the Warwickshire Youth Parliament regarding approaches to tackling the climate emergency**
- **Ensuring that tackling the Climate Emergency in terms of adaption and mitigation, is central to the strategic business plan.**
- **Producing by November 2019, an action plan to implement these commitments.**

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PROGRAMME (CCAP)

Ambition 1: Net Zero Carbon Council 2025: ensure the new South Warwickshire Council is net zero carbon within a year of its first elections.

Ambition 2: Low Carbon South Warwickshire 2030: to reduce net carbon emissions from across South Warwickshire by a minimum of 55% by 2030 and alongside this, plan how to further reduce net carbon emission by at least 80% by 2050; and

Ambition 3: Adaptation 2050: by 2050 to enable our environment and communities to have adapted to the potential of at least a 3 degrees rise in global temperatures by 2100.

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Climate Working Group was set up in August 2019 to produce a roadmap to encourage and enable public and community-led carbon reduction schemes within Kenilworth. The Kenilworth Climate Action Roadmap was approved by Council in February 2020.

An independent group of people will begin a three month inquiry into how to address the issues of

climate change in Warwick District. The inquiry will make its recommendation early next year and this will be used by the Council and other organisations to develop an action plan to achieve the ambition for the District to be carbon neutral by 2030.

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTIONS – A ROADMAP – FEBRUARY 2020

The roadmap is a strategic plan that defines a goal or desired outcome and includes the major steps or milestones needed to reach it. This Roadmap is a strategic plan for encouraging and enabling public and community-led carbon reduction schemes within Kenilworth. It comprises five main sections:

1. Reducing carbon emissions and footprints

The largest contributions to the greenhouse gas emissions in Kenilworth is road transport, domestic gas and electricity, as well as the commercial, institutional and industrial sector buildings. Although these figures do not include consumption of imported goods. Friends of the Earth have identified that Warwick District's performance on climate change is average, and WDC needs to improve the use of public transport, cycling and walking, home insulation and renewable energy.

2. Making change happen

Net zero carbon means achieving a balance between carbon emissions produced and carbon emissions taken out of the atmosphere. Growing more trees has benefits and carbon offsetting schemes rely on growing trees. However, from 2021 the EU will stop allowing offsets to be counted towards emissions reductions targets.

Actions will therefore need to be developed using all sorts of knowledge, skills and talents in all sorts of initiatives.

WCC has responsibility for roads and transport, energy plans and strategy, education, businesses, environment and planning, waste management. WDC has responsibility for council housing, planning applications, rubbish collection and recycling.

The role of KTC in reducing carbon emissions is therefore:

- a. **To use influence, encouragement and persuasion**
- b. **To support and cooperate with other community groups, schools, businesses and individual initiatives**
- c. **To develop an effective communication policy on carbon reduction and community actions**
- d. **To provide a working group tasked with assessing progress and steering future actions**
- e. **To generate, encourage and promote ideas for actions, events etc,**
- f. **To co-operate with and to lobby other councils where this is likely to be fruitful.**

The Roadmap builds on KTC plans, reports and strategies such as the Neighbourhood Plan and Cycling Strategy.

3. A Roadmap for change

The aim of the Roadmap is to enable residents, businesses and town council's own operations to reduce their carbon footprints.

These include 4 streams of activities for promoting change:

- » Work Stream 1: Providing Information to residents and businesses.

Inform Kenilworth Residents and businesses directly or indirectly about the climate emergency and the personal choices that we can all make. In particular:

- * *Target personal 'win-win' choices where making a change actually improves the wellbeing of the individual or other benefits (e.g. energy cost-savings, and improved health and wellbeing)*
- * *Target people who are limited in their ability to make change, for example through disability or low incomes. The most obvious issues is in tackling fuel*

poverty.

- » Work Stream 2: Supporting existing groups and projects

Encourage and promote other Kenilworth groups that are involved with environmental and climate change initiatives. In particular, engage with children and young people.

- » Work Stream 3: Town Council Actions

Achieving net zero carbon within Town Council operations including the events and activities it promotes and funds. This will involve the working group meeting with the WDC Portfolio for Environment and Business to discuss interactions between the two councils and how they can work to deliver the WDC Climate Emergency Action Programme.

- » Work Stream 4: Self-sustaining working group

Create a working group that can disseminate and receive information to and from other bodies, monitor progress in Kenilworth and steer new actions in the longer term according to the feedback on previous actions, new legislation and new opportunities. Community groups/ organisations can apply for KTC funds for community initiatives related to the climate emergency.

4. Establishing the Roadmap

The working group considered events and actions that could establish the initiative in the short term. NB Covid may have disrupted these initial events. But these include Roadmap Launch Event, Zero Carbon 2030 Event with talks from Warwick University, Kenilworth Eco-Fayre run by churches, Business Climate Breakfast, Energy and Repair Cafes, COP26, Fact-finding visits, Plastic-free Kenilworth.

5. A Vision for Kenilworth 2030

The vision incorporates adaptation and mitigation, with more people adopting healthier lifestyles, cheaper energy bills, more comfortable homes and workplaces, and more attractive urban and rural landscape:

- » The town has less busy, quieter and safer roads with more children walking and cycling to school
- » With easier and safer travel across towns through electric cars, low emission vehicles, bus services, electric bicycles connecting to the Greenway and K2L cycle routes
- » A more visually attractive and viable town centre
- » Where higher numbers of visitors and tourists to the town and Castle come by improved public transport
- » where the town and into surrounding countryside includes more trees, wetlands and wild areas raising biodiversity, stored carbon and giving natural downstream flood protection.

The Roadmap is to ensure that we get there and on time

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will look at opportunities for SuDS and wetland creation building on established rain gardens and wet areas within the Fields. There may be opportunities to create additional seasonal wetland areas and look at reducing local pollution through SuDS schemes.

The Management Plan will consider the types of replacement tree planting considering climate change and biosecurity. Due to Historic England restrictions, additional tree planting is restricted.

The plan will serve both nature and people, by improving existing and creating new wildlife sites and working with appropriate delivery partners to ensure that Abbey Fields becomes part of the Nature Recovery Network as well as enhancing people's connection with nature, by improving path networks, actively encouraging community groups and schools to use/manage the Fields, work with local health providers and improve the environmental legibility of the site.

The plan will look at opportunities of reducing and managing waste, such as recycling at source, and litter management. Encouraging more active travel to the Fields will help to reduce air pollution.

The plan will serve to adapt to the needs of

Climate Change and will ensure the Fields is climate change ready in its current and future provision.

Use of the Plant Health and Biosecurity Toolkit for landscape practitioners prepared by The Landscape Institute in conjunction with SGD, The Association of Professional Landscapers and BALI will ensure the risk of pests and diseases associated with movements of plants will be managed appropriately prevent the introduction of pests and diseases that could seriously impact the health of existing and new plant communities.

The Management Plan will Consult with Sustrans and Warwickshire County Council Transport Planning to consider potential cycle routes through and/or around the Fields that connects with existing off road cycling provision through Kenilworth. It will look at funding providers locally to provide key messaging and campaigning to encourage active travel to the Fields.

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL CYCLING STRATEGY DECEMBER 2019

Three objectives of the strategy:

1. **Improving facilities for cyclists**
2. **Helping cyclists and potential cyclists feel more confident**
3. **Educating all road users about the needs of cyclists**

Three top ideas were prioritised:

1. **Improving cycling infrastructure and linking up existing cycle routes**

Route 1 – Abbey Fields connection of Sustrans Route 52

The desire to create a cycle route through Abbey Fields enjoys considerable support locally. With the planned Leisure Developments at Abbey Fields and Castle Farm the idea has added importance as part of a potential green travel plan to service the new facilities.

Whilst the issue has proved contentious with some people, removing restrictions on cycle access to this area of the town is seen as vital

to facilitate East-West travel and form better connectivity.

By adopting this strategy the Town Council is taking a clear position that it supports the provision of safe cycling routes within Abbey Fields which respect the particular environment and history of the area. This is in line with the policy outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan (KP9).

The subject will be covered within the current Abbey Fields Management Plan consultation and as an immediate action the Town Council agrees to do the following:

- » Write to the District Council outlining its support for safe cycling in Abbey Fields and ask WDC to come forward with a plan that includes cycling in this area.
- » Engage with WDC as part of its Leisure Development Programme to ensure that an effective Green Travel Plan is developed.

This does not negate the requirement for further consultation with interested groups including but not limited to English Heritage, The Friends of Abbey Fields and a full exploration of ways to mitigate any impacts and improve biodiversity. However it will provide a clear statement of the position of the Town Council

2. Improving signage around the town to improve way-finding, safety and awareness for people who cycle, with
 - » Welcoming and Heritage Signage
 - » Safety Signage
 - » Way-finding Signage
3. Promote cycling across Kenilworth through cycling related events.

Impact on the Plan

The Management Plan will consult with Sustrans and Warwickshire County Council Transport Planning to consider potential cycle routes through and/or around the Fields that connects with existing off road cycling provision through Kenilworth. It will look at funding providers locally to provide key messaging and campaigning to encourage active travel to the Fields.

The Management Plan will tie in with Kenilworth Town Council's Wayfinding Strategy in line with the Design Guide to improve legibility and encourage active participation to the Fields in terms of walkable routes from within the townscape, green spaces and other key tourist features.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND – ECO CHURCH SCHEME.

St Nicholas' Church located in Abbey Fields is an EcoChurch. To receive an award the church must demonstrate environmental engagement on

- **Worship and teaching**
- **Management of church buildings**
- **Management of church land**
- **Community and global engagement**
- **Lifestyle**

Impact on the Plan

The management plan will work with the diocese under the management of the Vicar and Churchwardens and WDC to ensure that their needs are being met within the management and maintenance of Abbey Fields and that key drivers for additional award systems can be achieved through collaborative working.