What's been happening

The masterplanning process for Victoria Park started in December 2019. The intent is to prepare a long term plan for the park and to identify a series of projects that can be delivered over time. Whilst the masterplan won't provide all the detail, it will provide clear strategic direction for how the park can be enhanced and managed in the future.

We've been busy doing lots of analysis and observations of the park and its surroundings. We've also been listening to park users and the key stakeholders involved in the management of the park and activities within it.

A community questionnaire with specific questions about the park was available for 4 weeks ending in early March 2020.

This update provides a broad summary of what we've heard through the stakeholder and community engagement process and explains what this means for the long term masterplan.

We have prepared a draft masterplan that shows where potential enhancements and improvements are located within the park.

We plan to continue to refine this draft masterplan based on your feedback on it.

Please take a good look at the emerging themes, the draft masterplan and the list of potential projects and complete the online questionnaire.

Please look out for more updates on the MSDC website:

www.midsussex.gov.uk/leisure-sport/parks/

DRAFT

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALLEN SCOTT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
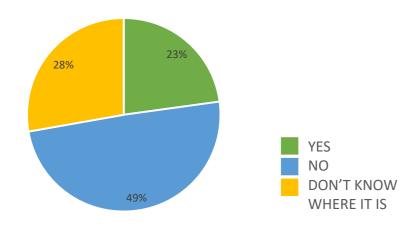
What we've been hearing

We had nearly 300 people complete and submit answers to the online questionnaire. Thank you to everyone that took time to answer the questions.

The information we gathered from this questionnaire and the additional conversations we've had with stakeholders has been incredibly useful. The feedback has directly influenced the emerging themes (next page) and the emerging draft masterplan (following page).
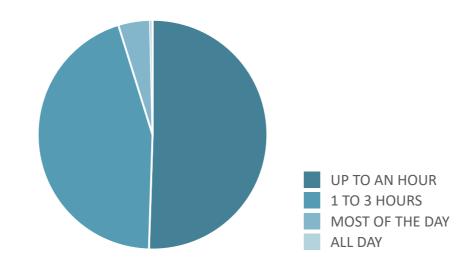
We now have a better understanding of how people are already using the park and what they would like to improve it. We have some interesting statistics on how long people stay in the park, how far they travel to get to it and what they think about the existing facilities.

We received a broad range of fantastic ideas. We've noticed some common aspirations for enhancing the park, such as wanting a better play area, addressing the anti-social behaviour issues and retaining and enhancing the much loved and well visited cafe.

We were also interested that not that many people were aware of or use the Plantation positioned on the higher ground within the park.

- UP TO AN HOUR
- 1 TO 3 HOURS
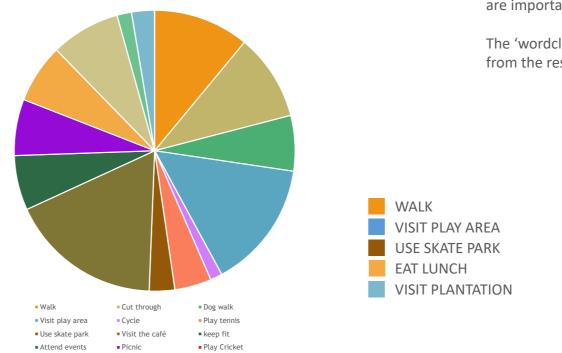- MOST OF THE DAY
- ALL DAY

How long you stay in the park

We asked "If you could choose one thing to improve the park / to the park what would it be ?"

You gave us lots of great ideas and an insight into what you feel are important priorities for the future of Victoria Park.

The 'wordcloud' above has been created by counting words from the response to this question.

- YES — 23%
- NO — 49%
- DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS — 28%

We asked you if you visit or walk through the Plantation

- Walk
- Visit play area
- Use skate park
- Attend events
- Eat lunch
- To visit the plantation
- Cut through
- Cycle
- Visit the café
- Picnic
- Relax
- Dog walk
- Play tennis
- keep fit
- Play Cricket
- Watch wildlife

- WALK
- VISIT PLAY AREA
- USE SKATE PARK
- EAT LUNCH
- VISIT PLANTATION
- CUT THROUGH
- CYCLE
- VISIT CAFE
- PICNIC
- RELAX
- DOG WALK PLAY
- TENNIS
- KEEP FIT
- WATCH WILDLIFE

What you do in the park

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What this means

Our research and analysis has led us to prepare three over arching 'themes' that will guide the masterplan. It will also steer the individual projects and the activities that will come from this.

The themes overlap but are intended to help us focus on specific ideas to improve the park. We feel these themes are a good representation of the shared values and aspirations that we have heard from the community. The themes are, however, still in draft and we welcome comments on these.

The emerging masterplan (next page) shows how these themes have been applied to the park and demonstrate the long term future for Victoria Park.

The masterplan includes some fairly straight forward proposed enhancements such as an improved play area, better entrances and more trees.

It also includes some long term enhancements aimed at helping transform the park and addressing many of those concerns we heard such as problems with antisocial behaviour and making better use of the whole park.

We are very keen to hear your thoughts, endorsements or concerns on the emerging masterplan before we finalise it.

THE OVER ARCHING THEMES

ENHANCING ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS

- IMPROVED FRONTAGE ON SOUTH ROAD AND CONNECTIONS TO TOWN CENTRE
- IMPROVED ACCESS TO CAFE THROUGH SKATE PARK
- BETTER LIGHTING
- IMPROVE SENSE OF PERSONAL SECURITY
- MORE SPACE FOR PARK RUN
- IMPROVE ACCESS AND AWARENESS OF THE PLANTATION
- ENCOURAGING SOCIAL CONNECTION
- ENABLING EVENTS

IMPROVING PLAY PROVISION THROUGHOUT THE PARK

- MORE VARIETY OF PLAY FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES
- NATURE PLAY / WOODLAND PLAY
- ENHANCED PLAY AREA
- PLAY TRAILS THROUGHOUT
- PLAY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
- IMPROVED ACCESS AND CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PLAY AREA AND THE CAFE / HUB SPACE

CREATING A COMMUNITY HUB WITHIN THE PARK

- MAKE BETTER USE OF THE SPACE ON HIGHER GROUND (A LOO, A VIEW AND A BREW) - WITH A POTENTIAL NEW SHARED COMMUNITY BUILDING
- IMPROVED LIGHTING, FURNITURE, INFORMATION AND PLANTING
- IMPROVED STORAGE / CHANGING FACILITIES
- POWER FOR THE TENNIS AND EVENTS
- ENHANCED CAFE FACILITY
- ENHANCED PUBLIC SPACE

Precedent images are used to demonstrate potential successful outcomes

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LEGEND

	MSDC site boundary
	Existing trees
	Proposed trees
	Existing path surfacing
	Proposed surfacing
	Proposed building (by tennis club)
	Proposed planting
	Proposed boundary treatment
	Existing clearing in Plantation
	Proposed tree thinning and crown lifting
	Proposed seats
	Proposed sign
	Proposed enhanced lighting
	Proposed granite threshold paving
	Proposed improved drainage
	Proposed detention pond
	Long views
	Proposed table tennis
	Proposed picnic bench
	Proposed enhanced play area
	Proposed wildflower rich meadow

1. South Road boundary
2. Park entrances
3. The Pitch
4. Playspace
5. Community hub space
6. Tennis courts
7. Wet meadow
8. Cycle / walk way
9. The Plantation
10. The Grass Bank

Please refer to the next page for a description of the proposals within each area

SCALE : 1:750 @ A1
DWG No.: 677_03_Rev A
DWG Title: Proposed Masterplan
Project: Victoria Park, Haywards Heath, RH16 4LR
Client: Mid Sussex District Council

THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN

DRAFT

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALLEN SCOTT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Victoria Park: Future improvement plans

THE 10 POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

1. South Road boundary

- improved access
- new paths, ramps, steps and terracing
- hedge removal
- redundant building removal
- improved lighting
- new area of public space at road level
- interpretation / signage
- viewpoints / focus points
- seating
- new trees

2. Park entrances

- tree / shrub clearance
- entrance signage / interpretation
- feature planting
- granite setts paving thresholds
- improved paths

3. The Pitch

- improved drainage
- events space
- wildflower rich grasses on banks / slopes

4. The Playspace

- new play equipment
- improved play experience
- enhanced planting and natural play
- enhanced fencing / gates
- realigned path

5. Community hub space

- enhanced cafe (internal / external)
- outdoor dining / picnic areas
- sensory planting / kitchen garden
- enhanced table tennis
- new path connection to eastern entrance
- interpretation / signage
- enhanced connection with tennis club building
- improved storage / changing rooms

6. Tennis courts

- new floodlighting
- new terrace seating to replace planted sloping bank between courts
- re-configured entrances
- new Tennis Club building / community hub building

7. Wet meadow

- improved drainage
- improved edging / surfacing
- potential boardwalk
- riparian planting
- informal play
- wildflower rich grasses

8. The Cycle / Walkway

- improved lighting
- improved surfacing
- tree planting
- signage / wayfinding

9. The Plantation

- tree trails / naming
- new paths
- nature play / bug hotels
- improved access
- thinning trees / crown lifting to allow views

10. The Grass Bank

- small events
- new seating

Next Steps:

LOOK AT THE PLAN AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK BY FILLING IN THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

>

PLEASE TELL US WHICH ONES OF THE POTENTIAL AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT EXCITES YOU THE MOST

>

WE'LL THEN FINALISE THE DRAFT MASTERPLAN AND LET YOU KNOW THE NEXT STEPS

>

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A LONG TERM PLAN FOR THE PARK AND MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE EVERYTHING. THE PROJECTS ALSO RELY ON FUNDING BECOMING AVAILABLE. EACH PROJECT WILL NEED FURTHER PLANNING AND DESIGN WORK AND POTENTIALLY MORE COMMUNITY INPUT.

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROJECTS AFTER THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS IS COMPLETE.

DRAFT

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ALLEN SCOTT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE