



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

30 November 2021

**Report of:** Councillor Robert Reid

Cabinet Member for Housing and Property



**Green Flag Status at Council Parks including Jubilee Park, Deeping St James**

This report provides an overview in relation to Green Flag status at Council Parks, including Jubilee Park (Deeping St James).

**Report Author**

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Corporate Priority		Decision type:	Wards:
Clean and Sustainable Environment		Administrative	All Wards
Reviewed by:	Paul Stokes (Head of Corporate Operations)		18 November 2021
Approved by:	Gary Smith (Director for Commercial and Operations)		18 November 2021
Signed off by:	Councillor Robert Reid (Cabinet Member for Housing and Property)		18 November 2021
<b>Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)</b>			

- Notes the context and considerations in terms of Green Flag status at Council Parks, including Jubilee Park (Deeping St James), and comment on any potential next steps.**

# 1 The Background to the Report

1.1 A request to add an item to the agenda regarding the topic of 'Green Flag Status at Council Parks including Jubilee Park, Deeping St James' was received by the Head of Democratic Services on 11 November 2021, requested by Councillor Ashley Baxter as per South Kesteven District Council's Constitution, paragraph 6.9.2.

1.2 South Kesteven's District Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2023 contains the following key action under the 'Clean and Sustainable Environment' priority:

*Maintain and enhance our green areas across the district, aiming to secure Green Flag status for Queen Elizabeth Park, Dysart Park and other relevant areas.*

1.3 The current target to support this key action related to Green Flag status is:

Key Performance Indicator – Green Flag Status	2020/21 Target	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target
Wyndham Park (Grantham)	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain
Queen Elizabeth Park (Grantham)	-	Achieve	Maintain
Dysart Park (Grantham)	-	-	Achieve

1.4 In terms of these agreed targets, the Council is progressing well. It was recently announced that Wyndham Park secured Green Flag status for the tenth year and Heritage Award for the second year. At the same time, Queen Elizabeth Park achieved Green Flag status for the first time.

1.5 Progress is being made to work towards a Green Flag application for Dysart Park in 2022 with further action still required.

1.6 It is understood that Jubilee Park (Deeping St James) is currently not eligible to apply for Green Flag status as it is designated as 'public open space' and it would need to be redesignated as a 'public park' in order to be eligible for consideration for a Green Flag scheme.

1.7 The Council has recently undertaken repairs to the play equipment and renewal to the safer surfacing in the play area along with two new pieces of play equipment in Jubilee Park. There has previously been an area of the park where 'rewilding' was trialled in previous years but this was removed following local feedback. A further proposal for 'rewilding' and a wild flower bund was proposed and consulted on in December 2020.

1.8 The Green Flag award scheme is a process of external accreditation intended to encourage the delivery of well managed public parks. Green Flag judges measure how well a site is managed against 27 predetermined standards under the following key criteria:

1. Welcoming Place
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Well Maintained and Clean
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing and Communication
8. Management

1.9 A key characteristic of parks with Green Flag status is a robust park management plan, alongside active community engagement.

## **2. Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

2.1 The only recent consultation that there has been for Jubilee Park related to a proposed 'rewilding' and a wild flower bund initiative. This consultation went out in December 2020 to SKDC ward Members and was copied to the Deeping St James Parish Council clerk.

2.2 The response from Deeping St James Parish Council on behalf of ward Members in January 2021 advised:

'It was decided that whilst we welcome rewilding; Jubilee Park is not considered to be the place to do this.'

2.3 The Parish Council stated that they would consider potentially putting forward suggestions for other locations and options in the future.

## **3. Available Options Considered**

3.1 For the Committee to note the content of the report and give a steer on any potential next steps.

## **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 For the Committee to give a steer on any potential next steps.

## **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

5.1 As outlined in the report.

## **6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

6.1 Dependent on the steer from the Committee.

## **7 Financial Implications**

7.1 The financial considerations of applying for Green Flag status need to be carefully considered and approved before applications can be submitted. At this time it is not possible to cost the potential financial implications of any such application.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Assistant Director Finance**

## **8 Legal and Governance Implications**

8.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer**

## **9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

9.1 No significant issues have been identified.

## **10 Risk and Mitigation**

10.1 No significant issues have been identified.

## **11 Community Safety Implications**

11.1 No significant issues have been identified.

## **12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?**

12.1 None at this stage.

## 13 **Background Papers**

13.1 None.