



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Report of Councillor Paul Stokes
Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet
Member for Leisure and Culture

Grantham Principal Parks Update

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with information relating to the three main Grantham Parks including the facilities and activities provided.

Recommendations

Members of the Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

No

What are the relevant corporate priorities?

Connecting Communities
Sustainable South Kesteven

Which wards are impacted?

Grantham St Vincents; Grantham St Wulframs;

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The three Grantham parks sit within the Grantham Special Expense Area (SEA) and any works completed to date have been undertaken within identified budgets and using grants awarded to the Council. If any initiatives are identified which require budget or investment, then an appropriate business case will be developed which identifies the cost and the associated benefit to the community.

Completed by: David Scott, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no legal and governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. The Council's Corporate Plan 2024/27 sets out the Council's ambition to be 'A thriving District to live in, work and visit', with the aim of supporting a thriving society that all our residents are proud to be a part of, and championing our District to be a clean, green and healthy environment for future generations. Underpinning this are the key priorities for the Council of 'Connecting Communities' and 'Sustainable South Kesteven'.
- 2.2. Grantham is home to three urban parks notably Wyndham Park, Queen Elizabeth Park and Dysart Park which are all connected by the Riverside Walk. Each offer something different for the residents of Grantham and visitors to the town.
- 2.3. The remainder of this report is broken down into the following subsets for ease of reading:
- A. Green Flag Awards
 - B. An overview of events in the parks
 - C. An overview of stakeholder engagement in the parks
 - D. An overview of improvement works undertaken the parks
 - E. Volunteering

(A) Green Flag Awards

- 2.4. Each of the three parks has been awarded the coveted Green Flag Award which recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.
- 2.5. The Green Flag Award is managed by Keep Britain Tidy under license from the UK Government Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 2.6. The purpose and aim of the Green Flag Award scheme is:
 - To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
 - To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
 - To establish standards of good management.
 - To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
 - To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.
- 2.7. As part of the award, each park is subject to a formal assessment every two years and a mystery visit in between, ensuring that it continues to meet the aims and requirements of the award.
- 2.8. Both Wyndham Park and Dysart Park were last formally assessed in May 2024, and Queen Elizabeth Park received its most recent formal assessment in April 2025.
- 2.9. The Council have been successful in retaining the accreditation across all the parks for another year. This announcement was made at an awards ceremony held at Smethwick, Sandwell, in July which was attended by the Council's Senior Parks and Cemetery Officer and Parks and Events Community Engagement Officer. Flag raising ceremonies were then held by the Council during Love Parks Week on 28 July 2025 with Officers, Councillors and representatives from each of the parks volunteer groups in attendance.
- 2.10. In addition to the Green Flag raising ceremonies, the Council hosted a celebratory afternoon tea event at Wyndham Park Visitor Centre on 19 August 2025 to recognise all the hard work and efforts of the Officers and Volunteers involved in maintaining the Council's three parks.



Dysart Park



Queen Elizabeth Park

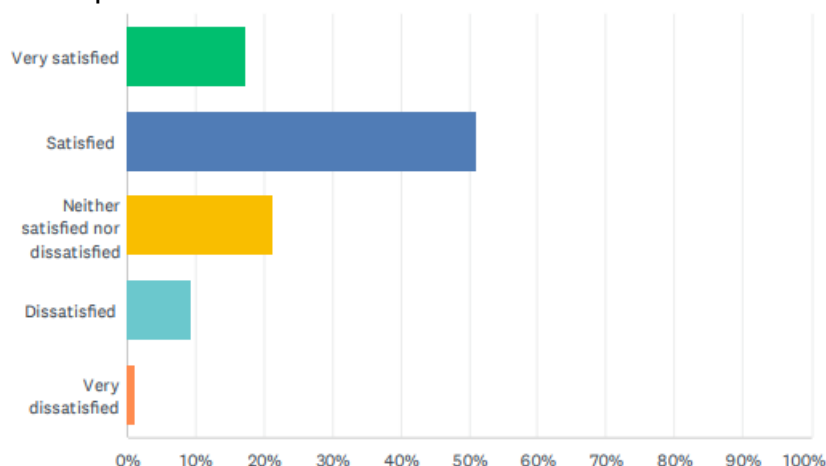


Wyndham Park

- 2.11. Wyndham Park has been awarded the award for its 14th consecutive year and was also awarded the Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management and promotion of its historic features. Queen Elizabeth Park has been awarded for its fifth consecutive year, and Dysart Park for its third.
- 2.12. Annual consultations are held in each of the parks to find out the views of residents and users, to understand satisfaction levels, and to help with planning any potential future investment. The responses to satisfaction levels are shown below:

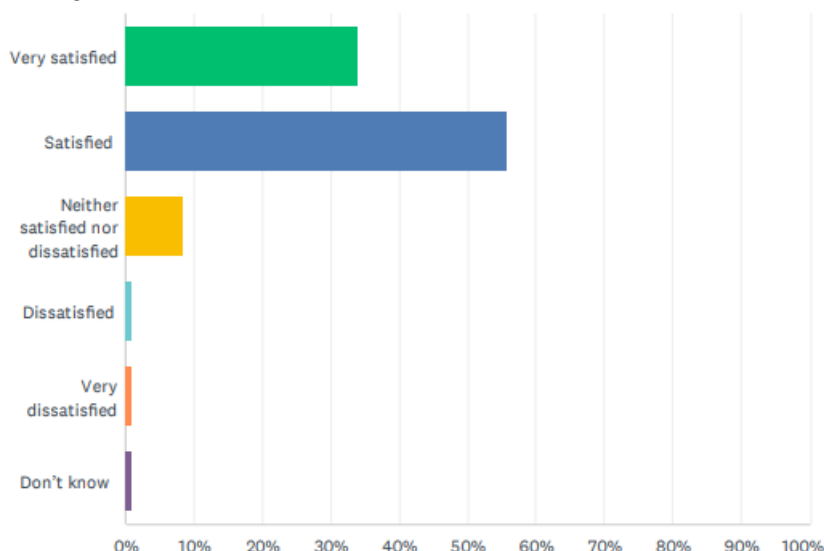
Dysart Park

- Just over two thirds of respondents were very or fairly satisfied, with a fifth of respondents neither satisfied nor dissatisfied



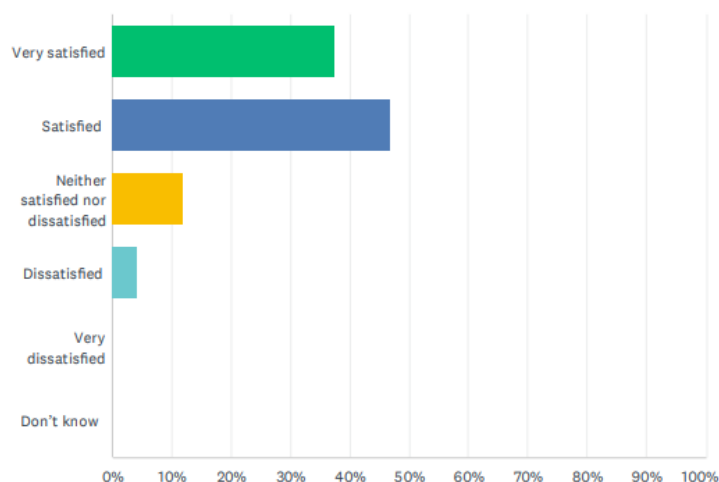
Wyndham Park

- 89.5% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the park, with less than 10% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied



Queen Elizabeth Park

- 84% of respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the park, with 12% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied



(B) An overview of events in the parks

- 2.13. Since the introduction of the Parks and Events Community Engagement Officer role in 2023, there has been a greater focus on utilising the parks to showcase their features, helping to attract more visitors to each of them. This includes the Council hosting events within the parks and also working with other organisations who wish to host their own events.
- 2.14. So far during 2025 there have been a total of 24 events held across the three parks with **Table One** below providing an overview of each of the events.

Table One: An overview of events across the parks in 2025			
Date	Location	Event Details	Organiser
21 st March – 6 th April	All Parks	Great British Spring Clean	Grantham RiverCare
12 th April	Wyndham Park	Scavenger Hunt	Wyndham Park Forum
19 th April	Wyndham Park	Easter Trail White Rabbit Event and Bonnet Competition	SKDC
4 th May	Wyndham Park	May Day	Wyndham Park Forum
11 th May	Dysart Park	Gingerbread Festival	Dysart Park Action Group
24 th – 26 th May	Wyndham Park	Winnibriggs Stone Age Festival	Lindissi CIC
1 st June	Dysart Park	Volunteering Everywhere	Grantham Town Council

8 th June	Wyndham Park	Grantham Journal Fun Day	Grantham Journal
15 th June	Wyndham Park	Great Big Green Week	SKDC
6 th July	Dysart Park	Family Fun Day	Dysart Park Action Group
19 th July	Queen Elizabeth Park	Dragonfly Day	Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park/Wyndham Park Forum
25 th July – 3 rd August	Wyndham Park	Love Parks Week	SKDC
26 th July	Wyndham Park	Wyndham Park Forum 20 th Anniversary Day	Wyndham Park Forum
2 nd August	Dysart Park	The Pantaloons: Robin Hood	Dysart Park Action Group
9 th August	Wyndham Park	Busking Festival	SKDC
13 th August	Wyndham Park	Shine Family Fun Day	Shine Lincolnshire
13 th August	Wyndham Park	Dog Show	SKDC
13 th August	Wyndham Park	Lego Day	Lego Club Sleaford
17 th August	Wyndham Park	Brass Band in the Park	Linda Jackson
14 th September	Dysart Park	Jazz Festival	Dysart Park Action Group
25 th October	Wyndham Park	Apple Day	Wyndham Park Forum
26 th October	Wyndham Park	Halloween Trail	SKDC
7 th December	Wyndham Park	Santa Fun Run	Rotary Club of Grantham
11 th December	Dysart Park	Christmas Festival	Dysart Park Action Group

2.15. In addition to the events listed in **Table One** above there is now also a programme of regular activities which take place at Wyndham Park Visitor Centre throughout the year, these are overseen by many of the Council's own volunteers. These include:

- Monthly Book Club with Little Readers Book Club during school holidays
- Weekly Wellbeing Walks
- Lincolnshire Police drop in sessions
- Grantham Deaf Chat Group
- Arts and Crafts activities
- Young Adults Social Group
- Building Better Futures Coffee mornings

- 2.16. During each of the school holiday periods the opening hours of the visitor centre increases to five days per week with a themed programme of free events taking place. These have included love and friendship, easter, Halloween and nature.

(C) An overview of stakeholder engagement in the park

- 2.17. To help strengthen relationships and communication amongst all the stakeholders within the parks, the Council introduced quarterly stakeholder meetings in March this year. There is a short agenda for these meetings which provide each stakeholder the opportunity to provide a short update from their group, as well as the Council providing a general update on what is happening in the parks.
- 2.18. Membership of the group is made up of the following:

- The Council – including Officers, and the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture
- Wyndham Park Forum
- Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park
- Dysart Park Action Group
- Grantham RiverCare
- Grantham Model Boat Club
- Cliffe Edge Cycles
- Grantham Tennis Club

- 2.19. During the most recent meeting Grantham Tennis Club announced that the refurbished tennis courts in Wyndham Park had won the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Lincolnshire Tennis Award for Park of the Year. Volunteers from their Wyndham Park Activator Project collected the award at The Nottingham Open in June 2025.

(D) An overview of improvement works undertaken the parks

- 2.20. The Council is continuously looking at ways in which the parks can continue to be a welcoming place whilst offering an array of different activities.
- 2.21. One of the ways in which the Council can identify potential improvements within the park is through the annual surveys undertaken. Whilst it is not always possible to take forward all suggestions received, the responses do help in providing evidence for improvements when applying for funding to facilitate these.
- 2.22. As a result of feedback received, the Council were awarded UK Shared Prosperity Funding for the creation of a dual use area in the top field of Wyndham Park to promote biodiversity as well as a dog exercise paddock. This was completed in March 2025 and later opened in July 2025, once the wildflowers had established.

An application is now being made to the Green Flag Best of the Best Awards 2025 following the delivery of this project.



- 2.23. Survey results over the past few years have demonstrated a demand for a skate park to be re-introduced in Wyndham Park following its removal several years ago. Following some preliminary work undertaken by both Officers and Councillors, a successful application for £125,000 was made to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in August 2025 to facilitate this. The skatepark will be in the same location as previously in the junior teen zone area of the park, and it is anticipated that this will be installed and ready for use by February 2026.
- 2.24. Dysart Park is often referred to as the forgotten of the three parks. As such the Council have made this a focus for improvements over the past 12 months. Improvements have been funded by the Council's Central Property Maintenance budgets, UK Shared Prosperity Funding, and third-party funding by the Rotary Club of Grantham and include:
- Replacement of tennis court fencing and cleaning of court surface
 - Rebuilding of park boundary wall
 - Rebuilding of car park entrance pillars
 - Extensive drainage improvements
 - Installation of additional fitness equipment and older children's play equipment
 - Installation of outdoor table tennis table
 - Footpath repairs
 - New fencing around the spring
 - Roofing repairs to the toilets, pavilion and store areas
- 2.25. Following the success of the refurbished tennis courts in Wyndham Park, Officers have explored whether there is funding available through the LTA to undertake

similar works to upgrade the tennis court at Dysart Park. Unfortunately, the funding scheme previously used is no longer available, therefore a successful application was made to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in August 2025. The funding received will enable the court to be resurfaced and will complement the works already undertaken by the Council. It is anticipated that these works will commence in September 2025, although this is weather dependant, and will provide an improved facility which will remain free to use by the public.

(E) Volunteering

- 2.26. Since the introduction of the Council's Volunteer Policy in September 2023 a total of 15 SKDC Volunteers have been recruited and are working within Wyndham Park on a regular basis. During 2025 the parks team have also supported two work experience students from Grantham College within the Visitor Centre, who were looking to develop their skills and confidence.
- 2.27. Each volunteer is required to sign up to the Council's Volunteer Policy, and as part of this receives an initial induction which covers health and safety, Council policies and procedures, along with requirements of the role.
- 2.28. To support the development of the volunteers and the continued success of the parks, there are five different categories of volunteer roles within the park with each volunteer assigned to one or more category showcasing their individual skills. These volunteer categories are:
- Learning and Engagement
 - One-off Opportunities
 - Wildlife and Conservation
 - Horticulture
 - Outdoors
- 2.29. During recent months, five of the Council's volunteers have begun developing their skills further by undertaking light gardening duties within Wyndham Park, maintaining planters and some flower beds around the Visitor Centre and Ticket Office. This in turn has helped support the Grounds Maintenance team as well as giving the volunteers a sense of achievement in their work.
- 2.30. Prevent Duty training has been undertaken by each of the volunteers earlier this year, to develop their skills and align them with the Council's policies and procedures. Officers are currently exploring expanding this to include safeguarding training with the Council's Deputy Safeguarding Lead.
- 2.31. Working with Lincolnshire Co-op's Community Co-ordinator a total of eight volunteers have completed their Wellbeing Walk Leader training, with a weekly wellbeing walk now taking place across the parks.

- 2.32. It is estimated that during 2024 a total of 3,378 volunteering hours were completed by the Council's volunteers which is in addition to those hours completed by the parks other stakeholders; Grantham RiverCare, Wyndham Park Forum, Dysart Park Action Group, and Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. This report provides information on each of the three Green Flag accredited public parks within Grantham. It offers the opportunity for Members to ask any questions in relation to the parks.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously agreed to receive an update report on the Grantham Parks. Therefore the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. This report is purely for noting and to provide Members with an opportunity to raise any questions in relation to the three parks in Grantham which are managed by the Council.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. Annual consultations have been undertaken with users of each of the parks as part of the Green Flag Awards. Satisfaction results from each of these can be found within the main body of the report.
- 6.2. To support the application for the biodiversity area and dog exercise paddock in Wyndham Park, consultation was undertaken with the community and park stakeholders to establish support for the project. A total of 286 responses were received which were overwhelmingly in support of the project.
- 6.3. Consultation surrounding the skate proposal was undertaken with stakeholders and Ward Members, this demonstrated significant support for the project.