

**PISHIOBURY PARK GREENSPACE ACTION PLAN (GAP) 2018-2023
ENGAGEMENT RESPONSE DOCUMENT**

Below is a summary of the main comments received from the engagement process on the Pishiobury Park Draft Greenspace Action Plan (GAP) 2018-2023, carried out in June 2018.

Theme of Comments	Response and Outcome
General support:	
The majority of comments received acknowledged the need for continued management and supported the aim and objectives of the plan.	N/A
People – Events & Activities:	
Suggestion to provide opportunities for informal games/play and promote greater use of the park for physical activities, such as park run.	As a grade II historic parkland it is important to preserve and maintain the character of the park as a pastoral landscape, traditionally used for genteel leisurely pursuits. Activities such as park run could potentially disturb the ecologically rich grassland, which is under a HLS agreement, as well as place additional pressure on car parking facilities. However, the opportunity to set up a regular walking route through Pishiobury Park as part of the Hertfordshire Health Walks programme will be explored by HCC's Countryside and Rights of Way Service, and discussed with Sawbridgeworth Town Council.
Support for establishment of interactive heritage focused walking route. Suggestion for involvement of the local history society.	N/A The local history society will be contacted as part of the development of the Heritage Lottery Fund application and associated works. This has been added to the GAP.
Access:	
Suggestion to establish cycle route through the park, and to clarify through signage whether cycling is permitted or not.	Cycling is not considered appropriate within Pishiobury Park, and the use of bicycles is discouraged through the presence of kissing gates.
Suggestion to restore original entrance at Newton Drive and fence off the land within the park that is frequently abused.	Following recommendations from the Pishiobury Park Restoration Plan (2005), the Newton Drive entrance was previously modified in order to maximise the visual impact of Oak Walk as visitors enter the park. The council has reduced scrub cover in areas identified as a concern.
Please clarify the party responsible for maintaining the River Stort Tow path and consider whether its condition is suitable for multiple users.	The tow path is beyond the boundary of the park, and as such its condition is beyond the scope of the GAP. This is the responsibility of the Canal and River Trust. We still have much to achieve within Pishiobury Park over the next 5 years. Following this

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Inaccurate references are made to recent upgrades along the tow path.	GAP there will be an opportunity to consider how the park links to the surrounding landscape and look beyond the site boundary. Removed reference in GAP.
Disagreement with proposal to increase the capacity of the car park, as this may lead to over-intensive use of the park and a change in character, with the park becoming more urbanised.	Pishiobury Park is a popular and well used park, and current parking facilities are not considered adequate to meet current usage. Improvements will be investigated through a cost benefit approach to ensure that a well-informed approach is taken towards the work. Maintaining the historic character of the park is a key theme of the GAP and is at the forefront of all management activities. We strive to maintain a balance between maintaining the site's historic and ecological character as well as supporting public use and enjoyment.
Landscape Character:	
Concerns were raised over loss of the 'wild' and historic character of the park.	The site is managed to reflect its parkland character. The GAP aims to enhance, maintain, and promote the 18 th Century designed landscape features.
Maintenance:	
Can more bins be added and can these be labelled as dual use for litter and dog waste	We are unable to provide more bins as there is a limit to the budget available for emptying. There are litter bins in the car park and a number of dog waste bins around the park. However, we will be reviewing this in the future and may begin to introduce dual use bins to make better use of our resources and provide greater opportunity for visitors to dispose of their waste. Whilst we currently collect and dispose of litter and dog waste separately and have separately designed bins, we would not discourage visitors from using a litter bin to dispose of dog waste or vice versa where that the only bin available. We would always encourage visitors to follow the country code and take litter home with them where a bin is not readily available.
Interpretation & Promotion:	
Access and promotion to schools is limited due to absence of toilet facilities.	We are unable to provide toilet facilities on site. Investigating the feasibility of school use has been listed as an action in the GAP. Schools would have to use the park at their own discretion.
Some respondents welcome the proposal for improved interpretation provision, whilst others were adverse to excessive signage.	We will work with the friends of Pishiobury Park in the design and siting of interpretation panels, which will be respectful of the park's character. This has been added to the relevant specification within the GAP.