

Screening/Scoping Pro Forma

Section	Parks and Countryside – Mobile and Horticultural	Officer responsible for the screening/scoping	Phil Newcombe		
Name of Policy to be assessed	Parks and Garden Maintenance (Includes Floral Displays)	Date of Assessment	21/10/08	Is this a proposed new or existing policy/procedure/practice?	Existing Practice
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/procedure/practice?	To provide residents and visitors to Guildford welcoming and attractive parks, gardens and floral displays within the resources available.				
2. Are there any associated or specific objectives of the policy/procedure/practice? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes a positive image of the Borough, with a professional front line service and with externally assessed awards Standards also monitored by external assessment from in Bloom and Green Flag judges and reports • Facilitates Borough Cleaner Greener Safer policy • Users have a free facility for informal recreation • Internal horticultural and staff safe working practices. • Ensure local by laws are followed – See Ranger Screening • Provides Sponsorship Opportunities s For Business 				
3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy and in what way?	<p>General public, commercial businesses, by having a pleasant and attractive aesthetic and recreational environment.</p> <p>Good quality parks and open spaces are important for enhancing the quality of urban life. Quality green spaces have been shown to support the local economy, enhance physical and mental health, benefit children and young people, reduce crime and the fear of crime, support social cohesion, aid movement between spaces, and protect biodiversity and the environment.</p>				
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/procedures/practice?	Pleasant environment to the Guildford Town centre, and to parks and gardens of the borough. Safe Working Practices. Positive feedback from public, residents, visitors and external assessors.				
5. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the outcomes?	<p>Reduced Budgets of Stakeholders.</p> <p>Skilled workforce and available equipment</p> <p>The correct application of procedures by a skilled trained professional workforce.</p>				
6. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy?	General Public, businesses and sponsors of floral displays	7. Who implements the policy, and who is responsible for the policy?	Guildford Borough Council. Service Head of Parks and Countryside Services.		

<p>8. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact on racial groups?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Recent studies (Sept 08) by a national parks professional body concluded that general access to parks generally for this group was for the same reasons as all groups; the main requirements were a safe and clean environment. (see also Black Environment Network, 2005) Parks and Countryside have sent out 800 surveys Nov 08. that may return further evidence whether this group is unable or unwilling to access specific service areas.</p>	
<p>9. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to gender?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays. Personal Safety Fear around personal safety is cited nationally as a key reason for women not using parks and open spaces.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Access to Parks and gardens and to events held in them are open to all genders. For employment 21% of parks and countryside staff are female. Volunteers are 'employed' from local ladies HMP. This leads in turn to part time and increasingly to more full time employment of women. Personal Safety National statistics show that young men not women are likely to be attacked in public, however issues that made women feel safe are included in Parks Strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Improved lighting (e.g. Stoughton Rec. Stoke Park improved toilet facilities) 2 Sightlines Improved e.g. reduced hedges and bushes at Stoke Park 3 Visually high quality of maintenance 4 Improved Signage 5 Playgrounds with no dogs areas. 6 GBC Cleaner Greener Safer Programme <p>Parks and Countryside have sent out 800 surveys Nov 08. that may return further evidence whether this group is unable or unwilling to access specific service areas.</p>	
<p>10. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to disability?</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>It is necessary for all to have access to Parks and green spaces that have a positive effect on health and well being.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Access to parks by all is encouraged by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Infrastructure -physical facilities e.g. DDA compliance for paving / slopes etc See Infrastructure Scoping Document 2 Facilities include Sensory Garden 	

- 3 Visits from Schools such as Pond Meadow supported by officers
- 4 Volunteers (disabled and disadvantaged) have work and life experience in parks, building their self esteem, and sense of well-being.
- 5 Employment of staff via Shaw Trust providing ability at work for disabled and disadvantaged people.
- 6 Recreation facilities are provided for able and less able users with support.
- 7 Floral Displays and sensory garden particularly note the needs of our partially sighted customers.
- 8 Access and safe surfaces are monitored by ranger s and projects sections, see the infrastructure scoping document
- 9 Literature about the Parks and Countryside Service partially sighted is available as Large Print on request

Parks and Countryside have sent out 800 surveys Nov 08. that may return further evidence whether this group is unable or unwilling to access specific service areas.

<p>11. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to sexual orientation?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>		
<p>12. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their age?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and gardens have facilities and are important for a broad range of ages. For example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 In the provision of play for children benefiting creative play, social skills and concentration span 2 For satisfying the social needs of older people,
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>School visits to parks and gardens, and play an active part in Guildford in Bloom. The In Bloom awards cover a wide range of categories, with a wide age range from primary school to the elderly taking an active part. Young people actively use parks for sport and recreation, horticultural understanding is enhanced by school visits and the Horticultural Academy established with a secondary school.</p> <p>Events held on Parks are also for a broad range of ages such as Surrey County Show, Guilfest, Philharmonic Event, Plays in the castle grounds etc.</p> <p>Staff .Parks and Countryside considers and has employed staff beyond retirement age.</p> <p>Parks and Countryside have sent out 800 surveys Nov 08. that may return further evidence whether this group is unable or unwilling to access specific service areas.</p>	
<p>13. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to their religious belief?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback have not highlighted issues for this group.</p>	
<p>14. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them having dependants/caring responsibilities?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback have not highlighted issues for this group, however issues raised for age and disability would be alike.</p>	

<p>15. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them have an offending past?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>Visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group.</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>Links with a local HMP for work experience and job application opportunities, Has enabled the successful employment of staff and volunteers with an offending past.</p>		
<p>16. Are there concerns that the policy <u>could</u> have a differential impact due to them being Transgender or transsexual?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>Parks and Countryside Service has no reason to believe that there are barriers to this group in accessing the parks, gardens and floral displays</p>
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?</p>	<p>This is presumed – visitor surveys and customer feedback has not highlighted issues for this group</p>		
<p>17. Could the differential impact identified in 8-16 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy/procedure/practice?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>The emphasis for access for all ages and disabilities has benefits across all groups, particularly in safety and security, in line with Cleaner Greener Safer, improving parks and gardens for all. No adverse impact.</p>
<p>18. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>See above No adverse impact</p>	
<p>Business improvement</p> <p>19. Is there any concern that there are unmet needs in relation to any of the above groups?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p>There may be opportunities to further increase all age awareness of the parks and gardens, these are being explored by our <u>in Bloom Committee</u>, and Staff, particularly increasing this in primary and secondary school age groups, using existing events and resources. <u>Web site</u> information could be reviewed and if necessary enhanced.</p> <p>The broad range of public green spaces, parks, sports and recreation grounds, woodlands, play areas and allotments helps to ensure that everybody outdoor leisure and recreational preferences can be delivered. Continued facilitation of these facilities would help to resist and barriers that could form to social inclusion allowing all community members to come together. Events held at parks greatly assist in the consolidation of the communities.</p> <p>Customer feedback should continue to be sought and used to enable the parks and countryside service to positively respond to the changing needs and expectations of the local</p>

		community and identify the barriers that remove the barriers that prevent people from getting the most benefit. Survey Nov 08 survey focuses on reaching disadvantaged groups.
20. Does differential impact or unmet need cut across the equality strands (e.g. elder BME groups)?	Y	The equality strands items in the majority emphasise our Cleaner Safer Greener strategies.
21. If yes, should the full EIA be conducted jointly with another service area/contractor/partner/agency?	N	N.B. Parks & Countryside Service has conducted other scoping assessments in the areas of: Bereavement Services, Countryside, Parks Development Team, Sports and Ranger Service.
22. Is there a missed opportunity to improve your business in relation to any of the policies, procedures or practices to promote racial, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief equality?	Y	<p>Opportunities may be missed by lack of customer insight; surveys do not breakdown feedback into the equality strands, however most staff are on the front line and have the opportunity to contribute customer needs to management and to strategies.</p> <p>Two proposals:</p> <p>A) <u>Training</u> Customer awareness and Insight with regards equalities e.g. by Front line officer training for equalities as part of customer service training</p> <p>B) <u>Identify Opportunities</u> To identify offer a diverse range of opportunities in parks including environmental and education resources that all community members can relate to.</p> <p>C) Survey (Nov 08) survey focuses on reaching disadvantaged groups, Parks and Countryside have sent out 800 surveys (Nov 08). That may return further evidence whether a group is unable or unwilling to access specific service areas.</p>

			Yes	No
		<p>24. If No, are there any changes required to the policy to improve it around the equality agenda? See notes above on customer awareness.</p>		

Signed
(completing officer)

Date October 2008

Signed
(Head of Section)

Date

Countersigned
(HR representative)

Date October 2008