



13<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP

To be held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices,  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 2.00pm**

Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

#### Working Group Members:

*Quorum minimum of 3 elected members:*

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Cllr Victoria Granville
Cllr Claire Shea	

### AGENDA

1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.	-
2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	-

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3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this agenda.	
4	<u>MINUTES OF THE GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024</u> To receive and sign the Minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2024.	Attached
5	<u>FRIENDS OF GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND PROMOTION</u> To receive and note the promotion poster for the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground.	Attached
6	<u>POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF PLAY AREA</u> To receive and note the proposed relocation of the play area in the Greatness Recreation Ground Play Area Survey.	Attached
7	<u>GREATNESS PAVILION UPDATE</u> To receive and note the Responsible Finance Officer's update on the New Greatness Pavilion.	Attached
8	<u>PAST AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS</u> To note past events and receive promotion posters for forthcoming events at Greatness Recreation Ground.	Attached
9	<u>GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN – DRAFT REVIEW 2024</u> To note the updated management plan.	Attached
10	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u> To note that the next meeting of the Greatness Recreation Working Group is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October at 14:00.  Further meetings are to be held on:  Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	
11	<u>CURRENT MATTERS</u> To consider updates on current matters.	Attached
12	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u> To consider any agenda item considered appropriate for a press release.	

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group**  
**Held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

**Meeting Commenced:** 2.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 3:00p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr Claire Shea ( <b>Chair</b> )	Present	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville	Present		
<b>External Stakeholders</b>			
<b>SDC- Animal welfare Officer-</b> Ann-Marie Milton	Apologies	<b>Sevenoaks Football Club-</b> Paul Lansdale ( <b>Chair</b> )	
<b>Greatness Residents Association</b>			

**Also in Attendance:**

Town Clerk, Youth Committee Clerk

**51. Apologies for Absence**

Received as noted above.

**52. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**53. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**54. Minutes of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the minutes of the Greatness Recreational Working Group held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 as a true record.

**55. Greatness Park New Community Pavilion – Update**

The Councillors heard that the Pavilion was now out to tender. The football club's consultant was in the process of preparing the funding application to the Football Foundation.

**56. Infinity Project Art Installation- Formal Launch**

It was noted that the Launch of the Infinity project on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of June had gone well despite rainy weather and is an asset to the open space as it is visible from the entrance encouraging people to walk to it.

**57. Play area**

The Working group noted that during the last meeting it was suggested that the play area be moved from its current location to a location closer to the new pavilion building. This would allow for a larger carpark as well as providing a play area that is not accessed across a carpark. It was noted that there would still be some visibility of the play area from the road.

The councillors noted that it would be beneficial to get suggestions from residents regarding the moving of the play area.

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group**  
**Held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

**RESOLVED:** To design a survey to residents regarding the suggestion to move the current play area.

**58. Recreation Ground & Dog Use**

**RESOLVED:** To invite Sevenoaks District Council's Animal Welfare Officer to the next meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

**59. Greatness Recreational Ground – Future Topics Update**

- **CCTV-** it was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council had CCTV at the site. However, it was now too old to be effective. New CCTV in collaboration with the Football Club to be installed on the existing poles at the site as a deterrent for Anti-social behaviour at the site.
- **Flooding-** it was noted that Sevenoaks District Council have held a meeting with Thames Water regarding flooding in the Northern Ward, the councillors mentioned that storm water runoff from buildings has been going into the sewage system. It was noted that they are looking into ways to prevent this at the planning stages moving forward.  
It was noted that Thames Water 'Flood Bus' had also attended the site on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and provided information to local residents.
- **Events at park-** it was noted that a discussion would be need moving forward on the status of the recreational ground and whether it should be moved to a park status where events could be held in the future. The councillors noted that if events where to be held at the location, then a Premises License would need to be applied for to cover the site, similar to the Vine.
- **Artwork-** it was noted that more future art installations with cultural ties similar to the infinity project would be of interest to the area. The Councillors noted that an art installation trail could encourage more people to explore the area.
- **Railings at the Cemetery-** It was noted that in the railings between Greatness Cemetery and Greatness Recreational Ground there are gates that are used to allow machinery from the Cemetery on to the Recreational Ground to pass through to allow essential maintenance work to be conducted. It was noted that there have been some complaints that these gates are been locked.  
**RESOLVED:** To arrange for signs to be created, explaining that the gates are designated for maintenance access.



**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group**  
**Held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

- **Friends of Greatness Recreational Ground-**

**RESOLVED:** To promote and try to establish this Friends Group.

**60. Dates of Future Meetings**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2024- 2pm  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024- 2pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024- 2pm  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025- 2pm  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025- 2pm

**61. Press Release:** To engage people in the creation of a Friends of Group for the Greatness Recreational Ground.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Signed .....  
Chair

Dated .....

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# Join the Friends of Greatness Recreational Ground!



## Why Join?

**Make a Difference:** Play a direct role in enhancing the beauty and utility of our beloved park.

**Community Spirit:** Meet like-minded neighbors and work together on exciting projects.

**Family Fun:** Great opportunities for family activities and educational projects for kids.

**Health & Wellness:** Enjoy the physical and mental benefits of spending more time in nature.



## Contact Us:

Email: [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Phone: 01732 459 953



**SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL**

Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3QG 01732 459953 [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk)

Follow us on social media on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SevenoaksTC) @SevenoaksTC [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/sevenoakstowncouncil) @sevenoakstowncouncil [Twitter](https://twitter.com/7oaksEvents) @7oaksEvents



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In 2023 Sevenoaks Town Council carried out a survey for feedback on ideas for the future of Greatness Recreational Ground. Included in the feedback was suggestion for relocation of the play area.

## Proposed relocation of the Greatness Recreational Ground play area



1. How often do you, your family, or friends use the current play area?

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ A few times a week
- ☐ About once a week
- ☐ A few times a month
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Less than once a month

2. Looking at the map above do you support the relocation of the play area to the proposed site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Undecided

3. What do you like about the new location of the play area? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ Proximity to home
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Accessibility
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. What concerns do you have about the proposed new location? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Accessibility
- ☐ Other (please specify)

5. Please share any other comments you have below:

\* 6. please complete the contact form below.

Name	<div></div>
Address	<div></div>
City/Town	<div></div>
Postal Code	<div></div>
Email Address (if you wish to be contacted)	<div></div>

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey and to help shape the future of Greatness Recreation Ground.

Sevenoaks Town Council, Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG  
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**Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group**  
**19<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Sevenoaks Town Council**

**Greatness Pavilion Report**

**1. Background**

The tender documents were placed on the Contracts Finder Portal with the expiry date being 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The budget was £1,975,000.

**2. Tender Results**

The tenders were disappointing, there was a wide range in price and all above budget.

Contractor 1      £2,541,251

Contractor 2      £4,249,590

Contractor 3      £3,535,644

The council is awaiting a more detailed analysis from Academy Consulting once they have spoken to some further interested parties.

The architect will be analysing the tender with the aim of reducing the specification.

**Recommendation: To note the pavilion update.**

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## **Past and Forthcoming Events**

Several summer events aimed at families and children have been organised at Greatness Recreation Ground. These include:

### **Family Fun Day – 1<sup>st</sup> August**

The free fun day was funded by Sevenoaks District Council and was run by Play Place. It was supported by Sevenoaks Town Council who provided the venue, and additional activities including dinosaur puppets and an inflatable dartboard.

Aimed at families with children under the age of 12, the event included games, crafts, sports and facepainting as well as entertainment stalls including West Kent Housing and several charities.

The event welcomed over 200 attendees.



### **Wind in the Willows – 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Funded by Sevenoaks Town Council, the family friendly interactive performances of the Wind in the Willows are scheduled to take place at four different locations in Sevenoaks town, one of these being at the Greatness Recreation Ground. The original adaptation will be performed by actors from The Cat's Grin Theatre Company and is suitable for children of 4 years and older.

Event poster attached.

### **Sevenoaks Skate Jam – 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

The Sevenoaks Skate Jam will be taking place at the Skatepark at Greatness Recreation Ground and will include workshops run by professional skateboarders and BMX riders, demonstrations as well as competitions and practice sessions.

The event will be managed and organised by King Ramps. The event is funded with the support of Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council and West Kent Housing

Event poster attached.



**The Free fun family show**

**Cats Grin Theatre Company**

**Presents:**

# **WIND IN THE WILLOWS**

**Free live performances provided  
by Sevenoaks Town Council**



**FREE FREE FREE**



**Tuesday 20th August – Bat & Ball Centre**

**Wednesday 21st August – Pontoise Park**

**Thursday 22nd August – Greatness Recreation Ground**

**Friday 23rd August – the Vine Gardens**

**All performances  
start  
at 2pm**

**All performances  
start  
at 2pm**



# SEVENOAKS SKATE JAM

Greatness Recreation Ground, Sevenoaks, TN14 5BU

**Fri 23 August  
11 to 4**

**Join Kings Ramps  
for workshops &  
coaching with Pro  
skate, BMX, and  
Scooter demos,  
and Competitions.**

**KING  
RAMPS**  
kingramps.co.uk

A huge thank you to our Sponsors who have made this event possible:

**WestKent**

Places to live. Space to grow.

**Sevenoaks**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Kent**  
County  
Council





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Sevenoaks Town Council  
Greatness Recreation Ground – Management & Improvement Plan 2021

## **SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL**



**Greatness Recreation Ground  
Management & Improvement Plan  
Adopted September 2008  
Reviewed July 2024**

Sevenoaks Town Council  
Town Council Offices  
Bradbourne Vale Road  
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## 1. Introduction

This document was created by Sevenoaks Town Council in 2008 and most of the actions have been carried out and reviewed in 2021. The Management & Improvement Plan provides a comprehensive framework for all management and development within Greatness Recreation Ground. It is an organic document, which will develop further with input, not only from the Town Council, but also stakeholders and users of the facility.

**The Aims** of this Management & Improvement Plan are to assist those responsible for the conservation, management and improvement of Greatness Recreation Ground and to do so in a consistent, sustainable and – where possible – an environmentally sensitive way, with the intention of encouraging more people to enjoy this local facility and to respond to changing needs.

Copies of the document are available from the Town Council Offices and on the Town Council's website at: [www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk).

Sevenoaks Town Council wishes to encourage existing and potential new partner agencies to collaborate in incorporating targets into this Plan. We also encourage suggestions from the wider community, from park users to local residents and community groups, to contribute to the management and improvement of Greatness Recreation Ground.

## Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan Review 2024

### 2. The Role of Parks

There are estimated to be more than 27,000 parks and green spaces across the UK (Urban Parks Forum, 2001). These spaces are diverse, ranging from principal parks with many facilities and amenities, to small neighbourhood or pocket parks.

Parks encourage physical exercise and wellbeing, whether through organised sports or through informal activity such as walking, running or playing. The OPENspace Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh noted that the health benefits linked to urban green space include:

- Improved social functioning.
- Improved functioning of the immune system.
- Reduced exposure to air pollution.
- Optimised exposure to sunlight and improved sleep.
- Improved mental health and cognitive function.
- Reduced cardiovascular morbidity.
- Reduced prevalence of type 2 diabetes.

The Parks Alliance provides the following information: for every £1 spent on parks in England an estimated £7 in additional value is generated for the health and wellbeing of local people and the local environment. Parks have never mattered more to local people. They connect people to the natural world, providing places for people to enjoy the outdoors, exercise their pets, keep fit and meet their neighbours.

### 3. Greatness Recreation Ground – Fundamental Purpose

- i) Social cohesion – to be free, accessible, inclusive and to provide an important urban ‘social space’ for the community.
- ii) To provide meaning and significance by use so contributing to people’s quality of life. To provide a location that enables recreational activity, general opportunities for sociability or – alternatively – peace and solitude to escape from everyday life.
- iii) Environmental benefits – to have a high amenity value by providing a contrast to the urban environment.
- iv) To provide positive psychological effects, even for those not consciously appreciative.
- v) An ecological benefit in the value of an urban park in removing toxins in the air.
- vi) Health and wellbeing – to provide an attractive environment, an antidote to the stresses of modern living, can contribute to a sense of wellbeing and improved mental health.
- vii) Educational benefits – can provide an educational resource for a wide range of subjects, including acting as a catalyst to educate visitors about the nature of the countryside as a sustainable resource. Can provide outdoor education / activity programmes, which are used as tools suitable for addressing issues such as juvenile delinquency.
- viii) A safe environment for everyone to meet, exercise, socialise and for the young to play together.

#### **4. Greatness Recreation Ground – Facilities**

At the point of review in 2021 Greatness Recreation Ground had the following facilities:

- i) Play area
- ii) Skateboard Park
- iii) Futsal goals
- iv) Open air gym equipment
- v) Two football pitches (one enclosed)
- vi) Sports pavilion (plans for 2<sup>nd</sup> new community pavilion)
- vii) Infinity Project – A natural public art installation.

#### **5. Declaration of Aims**

- i) Continue to improve leisure facilities and recreational space within Greatness Recreation Ground.
- ii) Continue to improve security to provide a safe environment for the local residents and users of the park.
- iii) Promote the facilities of Greatness Recreation Ground through public events.
- iv) Work together with residents, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations.
- v) Encourage new users and activities in the park.
- vi) Improve the landscaping and car parking of the park.
- vii) Explore and obtain funding for achieving these aims.
- viii) Continue to support those providing exercise, both formal e.g. Sevenoaks Town Football Club and local walking groups, or those using free outdoor gym equipment.
- ix) Create and support Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground (to include a diversity of membership).

#### **6. Sevenoaks Town Council – Open Spaces Services**

##### **Strategic Policy**

The Town Council aims to provide a strategic approach to the management, development and promotion of recreational and statutory facilities in a sustainable way. Within the service, the key objectives that relate to Greatness Recreation Ground are to provide a facility that meets the needs of both the local community and across Sevenoaks Town, encourages involvement, promotes a healthy lifestyle and provides a safe, clean and sustainable environment.

## Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan Review 2024

### Mission Statement

“Sevenoaks Town Council together with local stakeholders will ensure that the outdoor environment is valued, nurtured and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of all, now and for the future.”

### Vision

To maintain a high performance, multi-skilled team (including volunteers) that will strive to develop the full potential of green space within the remit of Sevenoaks Town Council through effective partnership and joint working; to achieve the aims and key tasks within agreed principles and values and in particular to:

- Contribute to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing, improvement and development of Sevenoaks town.
- Improve the quality of life for the people of Sevenoaks in accordance with their needs.
- Make the recreation ground more attractive to visitors.
- Promote inward investment, development and heritage conservation.
- Promote biodiversity through sustainable habitat and species management practices.
- Promote community activities on the recreation ground (not including fun fairs).
- Promote and develop a Friends Group.

## 7. Greatness Recreation Ground – Ownership and Management

Greatness Recreation Ground is solely owned and operated by Sevenoaks Town Council.

Two football pitches and the area for the football pavilion is leased to Sevenoaks Town Football Club who manage these facilities.

## 8. Aims for Achievement in Five Years – 2021 - 2026

The vision for Greatness Recreation Ground’s 5-year Management & Improvement Plan is to increase the enjoyment for all sections of the community visiting Greatness Recreation Ground. This will be achieved by improving leisure, play and customer services facilities and by renovating areas of horticultural interest.

The vision can be split into the following objectives:

- i) Continue to create a safe, secure and welcoming park and facilities.
- ii) Continue to maintain customer service facilities, bins, benches and good paths etc.
- iii) Develop a planting scheme for high quality / fully stocked shrubs / wildflower area.
- iv) Continue to provide and review signage and on-site interpretation (where necessary) to improve the quality of experience for visitors.
- v) Maintain and further improve play facilities.

- vi) Increase community involvement by liaison with local stakeholders; consider community planting days and other events and the creation of a Friends Group.
- vii) Seek funding to achieve the above.
- viii) Continue to support community groups using the recreation ground e.g. Sevenoaks Town Football Club.
- ix) If the football club proceeds with plans to build a new pavilion, to retain the current pavilion for community use.

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>i)</b>	Continue to create a safe, secure and welcoming park and facilities	Ongoing
<b>ii)</b>	Continue to maintain customer service facilities, bins, benches and good paths etc.	Ongoing
<b>iii)</b>	Develop a planting scheme for high quality/ fully stocked shrubs/ wildflower area.	Additional tree planting took place in 2023. Unfortunately, a wildfire removed many trees. Look to create planting scheme with proposed Friends Group.
<b>iv)</b>	Continue to provide and review signage and on-site interpretation (where necessary) to improve the quality of experience for visitors.	Signage to be reviewed and updated as part of Community Pavilion scheme.
<b>v)</b>	Maintain and further improve play facilities.	Following community survey – consult on relocating play area.
<b>vi)</b>	Increase community involvement by liaison with local stakeholders; consider community planting days and other events and the creation of a Friends Group.	Promoting Friends Group  Continued Community survey carried out in 2023 responses – see Appendix for full report.
<b>vii)</b>	Seek funding to achieve above.	Ongoing
<b>viii)</b>	Continue to support community groups using the recreation ground e.g. Sevenoaks Town Football Club.	Ongoing
<b>ix)</b>	If the football club proceeds with plans to build a new pavilion, to retain the current pavilion for community use.	Assisted Football Club in obtaining CIL funds and tender progress.

## 9. History of Greatness Recreation Ground

Greatness is an area in the north-east of the town. It was owned by Lord Greatness until the 1920s, when it was given to the local council. Greatness Recreation Ground is situated within this area, adjacent to Greatness Cemetery.

Greatness Recreation Ground is also home to Sevenoaks Football Club, founded in 1883, who currently play in the Premier Division of the Kent County Football League.

## Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan Review 2024

In 2007, Sevenoaks District Council transferred the ownership of Greatness Recreation Ground to Sevenoaks Town Council.

Since acquiring the park, the Town Council has provided tangible improvements in the form of the following:

- Installation of £50,000 play area and fencing.
- Installation of £100,000 skateboard park.
- Outdoor gym equipment.
- Futsal goalposts.
- Public toilet.
- New fencing.
- New seats, including youth shelter.
- Regular grass cutting.
- Regular litter picking.
- Marked reduction of anti-social behaviour.
- Increased usage of open space for correct purpose.

### 10. The Future

Sevenoaks Town Council continues to invest in Greatness Recreation Ground both in regular maintenance and ongoing capital infrastructure. Details for the next five years are included at the end of this document.

In addition, the Town Council continues to encourage ongoing community involvement with the recreation ground by supporting formal organisations such as Sevenoaks Town Football Club with its ambitious plans, encouraging community activities and the proposed creation of a Friends Group.

During the Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan process a Northern Sevenoaks Masterplan was created, which provides aims to improve green corridors between public open spaces, both new and present.

### 11. Nature Conservation and Promotion

Sevenoaks Town Council continues to be committed to realising the potential for open space to be utilised as wildlife resources. The Town Council will bear in mind the following principles in relation to this:

- To coordinate and take action to make sure that all sectors of the Sevenoaks community are committed to improving, valuing and protecting our habitats and wildlife, to provide a well-balanced and sustainable environment, which contributes to a good quality of life for present and future generations.

- The Town Council will – where possible – aim to reduce chemical, energy and water use by good management practices.
- The Town Council will encourage the management of open spaces in a manner which maximises their wildlife value, whilst complementing its open space recreation and amenity objectives on Town Council-owned land. This should be done in co-operation with the local community, which will also be encouraged to keep disturbance of wildlife to a minimum.

## **BIODIVERSITY**

Sevenoaks Town Council will continue to promote and adhere to the green policies and aims within its Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan) – particularly the following policies.

Policy L1: Proposals for new development should whenever possible deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity retaining natural features which support wildlife, establishing ecological networks and including new habitats that respond to the local context and the character of the site. New planting and landscapes should respond to the wider landscape through use of native species that support greater biodiversity.

Policy L2: New development will be expected to manage surface water to minimise flood risk and flows to watercourses. Development proposals should normally incorporate sustainable urban drainage (SuDS) as an integral part of the landscape structure.

Policy L4: Wherever possible, existing trees and hedgerows must be retained and protected as part of development proposals. Proposals to remove trees and hedgerows must be justified<sup>1\*</sup> and any trees or hedgerows lost through development should be replaced within, or in close proximity to the development site. New tree and hedgerow provision should be of a species that is both suitable for the location and responds to the character and biodiversity of the site within which it is located. Promotion of the above policies is primarily via the Planning & Environment Committee via its recommendations on planning applications received within the Town. This includes requesting the incorporation of hedgehog holes in fences, bee and bug hotels, and sustainable drainage, as well as the retention/replacement of any trees to be lost in development.

These values are reflected in the Green Community Investment Plan 2024<sup>2</sup> and Sevenoaks Town Council's Parks and Open Spaces Biodiversity Policy<sup>3</sup>.

## **12. Environmental Policy Statement**

The following policy statement explains how Greatness Recreation Ground management is being developed in accordance with sustainable work practices.

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<sup>1</sup> Justification for tree and hedgerow removal may include poor condition of a tree or inappropriate species for its location.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/\\_UserFiles/Files/Policies/STC%20Green%20Community%20Investment%20Plan%202024%20ADOPTED.pdf](https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Policies/STC%20Green%20Community%20Investment%20Plan%202024%20ADOPTED.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/\\_UserFiles/Files/Policies/STC%20Open%20Spaces%20Biodiversity%20Policy.pdf](https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Policies/STC%20Open%20Spaces%20Biodiversity%20Policy.pdf)

## Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan Review 2024

- **Sevenoaks Town Council's No 1 Priority – Climate Change / Carbon Neutral**

Practical aspects for parks including:

- planting of more trees (in 2020 it planted 790).
- promotion of the Refill Scheme.
- Sevenoaks Plastic Free Pledge.
- installation of water fountains where possible – Installed at Greatness Recreation Ground in September 2023.
- initiatives to reduce litter and encourage recycling.
- installation of cycle racks; and
- providing green links to open spaces Public Exhibition for Sevenoaks Quarry - David Lock Associates Website

- **Horticultural Peat**

Every effort will be made not to use horticultural peat within the park.

- **Pesticides / Herbicides**

To maintain the park with minimal use of chemicals for weed and pest control. All paths, shrub beds and borders will be maintained by hand.

- **Water Management**

Watering will be scheduled at optimal times of the day to minimise water evaporation. Additionally, options for rainwater harvesting will be explored.

- **Soil Conservation**

Poor soil conservation methods result in the reduction of soil fertility and poor soil structure. In turn, this leads to plants having reduced flowering vigour and increased propensity to disease. Buying in compost to remedy such a situation would be costly and damaging to the environment.

To prevent this situation arising, the aim is for the Town Council to produce or obtain compost bays from its partners. Where possible, all compostable material produced on site is either to be shredded and put directly onto shrub beds or put into the compost bays. The resulting compost will then be used in shrub and flower beds. This organic matter will rot down and improve and maintain soil structure, aid moisture retention and provide a habitat for micro fauna.

- **Energy Conservation**

Working towards composting on site would provide a sustainable end use, removing the need for transporting materials via road and therefore reducing pollution and the need to use landfill sites.

### 13. **Wildlife Initiatives**

The Town Council intends to develop a Friends Group, which will be encouraged to assist with the development of a planting scheme, as well as initiatives such as the installation of bird, bat and insect nesting boxes in the park to provide additional habitats.

### 14. **Tree Management and Conservation**

Greatness Recreation Ground contains some mature trees. A stock condition will be incorporated into this Management & Improvement Plan. The results of this will be used to provide a tree management strategy, which will include a succession planting programme to provide sustainability over the generations. Any trees which are dead, dying or dangerous will be felled and reused within the park as



park furniture, used as habitat piles and deadwood habitats for decomposers or composted on site and replaced with suitable trees.

## **15. Car Parking**

As the park increases in vitality and attracts more visitors the pressure on available car parking space will also increase.

There are also additional pressures on car parking in the area from the well-attended Hope Church and Sevenoaks Town Football Club.

Initiatives will be of primary importance to encourage alternative uses of transport than the car: walking, cycling (installation of cycle racks) and public transport.

## **16. Security Matters**

Sevenoaks Town Council will continue to work with Police Community Support Officers, Community Safety Unit, Kenward Trust and other organisations to increase security for the users of Greatness Recreation Ground.

It is inherently difficult to provide CCTV at recreation grounds. The Town Council and the football club have provided CCTV cameras and are looking to improve the provision longer term.

The essence of the 'eyes on the street' approach to planning and design is to increase the opportunities for informal surveillance and reduce the number of isolated places where crime can take place unseen. This practice has been put in place both for the children's play area and car park.

Since Sevenoaks Town Council took over the recreation ground in 2007 it has seen a decrease in anti-social behaviour.

## **17. Management Statement**

The day-to-day management of Greatness Recreation Ground will continue to be carried out by full time Sevenoaks Town Council open spaces staff. The play areas will continue to be inspected regularly by open spaces staff and independently twice a year.

The football pitches and pavilion are managed under a lease by the Sevenoaks Town Football Club.

## **18. Conclusion**

Sevenoaks Town Council believes that the active involvement of the community, allied to the enthusiastic and accomplished work of the open spaces staff, with the full support of Sevenoaks Town Council, will deliver improvements to the Greatness Recreation Ground every year.

The most critical aspect of the Greatness Recreation Ground Management & Improvement Plan is to ensure that a methodology exists that will enable all stakeholders involved in the development of the park to assess the effectiveness of the management and the extent of the progress made. A 5-year action plan is attached to this document.

Sevenoaks Town Council intends to ensure continuous improvement, development and assessment of the management of Greatness Recreation Ground. This will enable those organisations involved in the management and development of the park to ensure that it is safe, pleasant and a sustainable green space now and for the future.



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**CURRENT MATTERS**

**NB: Updates shown in red**

	Minute No.	Item	Status	Latest Update
1	6 25.04.24          57 26.06.24	<b>Play Area</b>	Ongoing	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To investigate feasibility of moving the play area to the current ‘futsal’ area.</li> <li>• A new plan to be created.</li> <li>• Cllr Shea to liaise with nearby residents to include different play area and ‘mini’ football pitches.</li> <li>• Consider the opportunity to also install some ‘trial’ equipment elsewhere on the site.</li> <li>• Noted that the open space does cater for older children at the skateboard park.</li> <li>• Introduce ‘Make Space for Girls’ principles where possible.</li> </ul> <p>RESOLVED: To design a survey to residents regarding the suggestion to move the current play area.</p> <p>See Agenda Item 6 - Relocation of the play area survey.</p>
2	8 25.04.24	<b>Items for Future Agendas</b>	Ongoing	<p>The following topics were brought forward as topics for future discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CCTV and Security at park</u> New CCTV in collaboration with the Football Club to be installed on the existing poles at the site as a deterrent for Anti-social behaviour at the site.</li> <li>• <u>Flooding</u> Noted that Sevenoaks District Council had met with Thames Water regarding flooding in the Northern Ward, the councillors mentioned that storm water runoff from buildings has been going into the sewage system. It was noted that they are looking into ways to</li> </ul>

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	59 26.06.24			<p>prevent this at the planning stages moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Events at park</u> Consideration to be given to status of the recreational ground and whether it should be moved to a park status where events could be held in the future. Noted Premises License would be required for the site. <b>See Agenda Item 8</b></li> <li>• <u>Artwork</u> Noted that more future art installations with cultural ties similar to the infinity project would be of interest to the area</li> <li>• <u>Railings at Cemetery</u> <b>RESOLVED:</b> To arrange for signs to be created, explaining that the gates in railings are designated for maintenance access.</li> </ul> <p>Updates provided on items as shown in green above.</p>
3	58 26.06.24	<b>Recreation Ground &amp; Dog Use</b>		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To invite Sevenoaks District Council's Animal Welfare Officer to the next meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group on Monday 19th of August.</p>
4	<b>59</b> <b>26.06.24</b>	<b>Friends of Greatness Recreational Ground-</b>		<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To promote and try to establish this Friends Group.</p> <p><b>See Agenda Item 5</b></p>