

# Management of Parks and Open Spaces

## Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10 April 2025



**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council



## Presentation Summary

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- Types of Open Space
- Resources
- Volunteer/Volunteer Groups
- Support
- Other Agencies
- Inspections/Health and Safety
- Other Undertakings



# Types of Open Space

- Formal manicured park i.e. South Park
- Other formal parks i.e. North Lodge Park, North Park, The Denes etc.
- Designated Local Nature Reserves i.e. Maidendale, Brankin Moor
- Nature Reserves i.e. Snipe Pond
- Managed Spaces i.e. Friars Field
- Unmanaged Spaces i.e. Mill Lane, Toy Top etc.
- Open Spaces in Council Estates
- Grass Verges etc.



# Resources

- 665 hectares across the Borough (2014 survey)
- 2 x Officers
- 2 x Countryside Rangers
- 3 x Gardeners (South Park)
- 3 x Sheltered Housing Team
- 2 x Garden Tidy Team
- 16 x Grounds Maintenance Operatives
- Budget - £932,988



# Volunteers/Volunteer Groups

- 17 x Friends Groups
- 738 Street Champions
- Darlington Forest Project
- South Park Foundation
- DOVES



# Support

- Attend Friends' Groups meetings
- Provide advice on conservation issues (Countryside Ranger is an Ecologist)
- Organise events on behalf of Friends' Groups etc., and/or help organise events.
- Support projects by procuring contractors
- Provide equipment
- Consult with other departments/organisations (i.e. Groundwork NE&C, Tees Rivers Trust etc.)
- Task volunteers with jobs
- Work with Environment Agency in relation to the filling of ponds with fish.
- PESAG



# Other Agencies

- Darlington Cares
- Other businesses
- Schools
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency
- Northumbrian Water



# Inspections/Health and Safety

- Inspect named parks twice per week (South Park, The Denes and West Park)
- Inspect other parks weekly
- Inspect nature reserves monthly
- Safety at tourist areas i.e. Broken Scar
- River cleanses
- Invasive species i.e. Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed
- Work with Police/Fire Service and other agencies
- Multi-agency exercise





# Other Undertakings

- Wildflowers - 22 meadow areas across the Borough (24405.39m<sup>2</sup>)
  - 'Carbon 4 Grass' trial to be undertaken in 6 areas
- Allotments - 13 self-managed sites -
  - 3 DBC sites (Arnold Road, Honeypot Lane and Parkside)
- Sports pitches - maintenance of
- Bowling greens
- Play areas
- Trees



# Questions

