

FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION SUMMARY:

# Walking Tours

NORTH WALLS PARK PLAN

December 2020



# 1\_ Introduction

## 1.1\_Background

This document, the **First Stage Consultation Summary: Walking Tours** sets out the findings of the initial public consultation carried out in developing the North Walls Park Plan.

The consultant team working on the project were supplied with a list of 60 names and organisations by Winchester City Council to be consulted. The list of consultees is provided opposite.

A series of walking tours were organised by Feria Urbanism over three days during September and October 2020. The aim was to engage with local users in the park setting in order to find out first hand any issues facing the park and ideas about its future.

For each of the three days consultees were invited to join a group from one of four one hour slots available. In following Covid-19 social distancing requirements at the time groups were limited to a maximum of 6 people.

The walking tours took place on:

- Tuesday 29 September 2020
- Wednesday 30 September 2020
- Thursday 1 October 2020

One of the key benefits of walking around the park in groups was the opportunity to exchange experiences and share ideas with one another.

## 1.2\_Walking Tours Attendance

Whilst a total of 28 consultees signed up to the walkabouts, only 25 attended the tours (42% turn out of the total list).

The consultees came from a variety of local community groups and organisations.

## Consultee Stakeholder List

### Leaseholders /key on site contacts:

- Hyde Abbey Bowls Club
- Riverside Indoor bowling
- Canoe Club
- Osman tennis
- River Park Leisure Centre
- The Colour Factory

### User groups:

- Winchester Rugby Club
- Park run
- Buggy fit
- Parafit
- Rabble Fitness
- Hyde 900
- Pavilion Project
- Friends of Hyde Abbey Garden

### Events:

- Winchester round table
- Chilli and Cheese Festival
- Winchestival

### Cricket teams:

- St Cross Symondians
- Scrummagers
- RAM
- Pothwar Lions
- Westgate Lambs
- Christchurch Winchester
- The Blades
- Roke Manor
- The Racqueteers
- Willow Tree
- Easton & Martyr Worthy
- Wessex
- Sparsholt
- Oakmount
- RHCH
- St Giles
- Winchester Warriors Junior Cricket
- Compton & Chandlers Ford
- Fullflood
- Hampshire Bowman
- Easton & Martyr Worthy
- Nations

### Stakeholders:

- Winchester University
- St Bedes Primary School
- Wildlife Trust
- Abbotts Barton Community Group
- Bespoke Biking
- WinACC
- SALT
- Winchester football club
- Air cadets
- Scouts
- The Riverside Nursery School (Winchester FC)
- Hatfair
- The Ark after school club
- Henry Beaufort
- Westgate School
- Kings School
- St Bartholomews Church
- Holy Trinity Church
- Hampshire Youth Options
- Winchester Access for All
- Blue Apple Theatre



## 2\_ Consultee Comments

### 2.1 General Comments

The following table sets out the general comments on the park captured from the walking tours. The comments are organised under four main headings and colour coded for ease of referencing.

- **Use**
- **Character**
- **Access**
- **Management**



Large open space and sky are key characteristics of the park



Large open space and sky are key characteristics of the park



Well used but poor quality path surfaces



Better relationship between the river/water and the park



## General Comments for North Walls Park

USE	CHARACTER	ACCESS	MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is not broken so why fix it?</li> <li>• Fields get busy with picnics and similar in summer and organised sports in winter</li> <li>• The skate park is well used</li> <li>• The name of the park as North Walls isn't great. Perhaps it could be renamed as River Park?</li> <li>• Not enough community spirit in Winchester but this park can help</li> <li>• A community garden space would be lovely and somewhere to host an outdoor art show</li> <li>• The new leisure centre being built at the other end of the city has been built on a playing field. This decision has caused more use of North Walls Park</li> <li>• There used to be several lidos that were filled with river water in Winchester. The Penguins swim club started there</li> <li>• There is considerable flood risk across the park. What can be done to mitigate this?</li> <li>• Many people use the park to exercise their dogs</li> <li>• Guide dogs use the park for exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park is a lovely green corridor of activity</li> <li>• It's a unique green corridor into the town</li> <li>• The park has an informal character. Care should be taken not to the spoil this by adding flashy things</li> <li>• Large open space and sky are special qualities and should not be broken up or sub-divided</li> <li>• More seating, wild flowers and somewhere to walk to would be nice</li> <li>• Having such a large informal open space is quite special. This needs to be protected! Many people around do not have large gardens</li> <li>• Better relationship with the river and water</li> <li>• The holly bushes represent the columns of the long gone Hyde Abbey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in this area use the park as a convenient route into the city centre</li> <li>• The park provides a convenient opportunity to exercise for different levels of ability</li> <li>• New introduced paths should not be too steep for manual wheelchair users</li> <li>• Mixing cyclists and pedestrians can be a problem for park users that are blind</li> <li>• The network of paths could be changed to create better circuits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We could really do with a 'park user group' that meets once a quarter and we all share ideas and management responsibilities</li> </ul>

## 2.2\_Specific Comments

A number of specific comments were made about the park. These are mapped on the following plan together with some images taken from key locations.



Park Run is a popular event but it results in worn paths



Wooden posts have rotten leaving hazardous holes in the ground



The Banana Bridge is a popular feature but is too steep for manual wheelchair users



The well used skatepark

## Specific Comments About North Walls Park

- Use
- Character
- Access
- Management

