

# Glebe Road & Brookhouse Way, Cheadle Management Plan 2024 – 2034



## **1. Foreword**

This management plan seeks to recognise the importance of this park and how improvements at this site could be developed for the benefit of the residents, while considering opportunities for environmental and biodiversity improvements.

We have a commitment to care for the site, for the benefit of all users, by working with communities in identifying priorities and using available resources wisely. This management plan will recognise all the valuable work that has been done to date and focus on the future management and maintenance of the site. Considering sustainability, it will ensure that any developments or refurbishments are completed in a manner which are sensitive to local community needs and the nature of the site in terms of its historical, ecological, and environmental value.

## **2. Introduction**

Glebe Road Green Space sits west of Cheadle. A welcoming green space enjoyed mainly by local residents as it is adjacent to a large housing estate.

This plan will define the current and future management and maintenance of the green space between Glebe Road and Brookhouse Way for a 10-year period from 2024 to 2034, with a review annually. In compiling the plan, we acknowledge the essential and valuable contribution from all key stakeholders, partners, councillors and community groups. Without their contribution, this plan would be severely limited.

## **3. The Purpose of the Management Plan**

It is imperative that this management plan provides clear direction for the future management and maintenance of the green space, ensuring that the area is conserved and enhanced in its entirety whilst balancing the needs of visitors and residents alike.

This management plan seeks to: -

- Take a holistic approach to the future management of the green space, play development and supporting opportunities to be active by assessing professional and community needs and desires.
- To establish a shared vision and objectives for the green space.
- Ensure community involvement within the development and management of the space.
- Establish standards that are effective and accountable to ensure clear management and maintenance objectives are identified and implemented.
- Benchmark the green space and analyse the management regimes and policies against best practice.
- Prioritise resources and action to ensure effective management of the space and the success of any future developments.

## **4. Responsibility for the Plan**

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is responsible for the overall management of all our parks and open spaces.

The Service Commissioning section of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, working in partnership with all stakeholders and the community, has compiled this plan. Implementation of the plan will also be led by the Service Commissioning section with specific project leads as shown in the Action Plan.

Likewise, the monitoring and review of the plan will be led by the Service Commissioning section. It is recognised that regular effective monitoring and review of the plan will ensure that the document evolves to meet changing priorities.

However, all key stakeholders and users of the park together with the wider local community will be engaged to ensure that future revisions reflect a combination of views, needs and aspirations.

## **5. Strategic Context of the Management Plan**

The Green Spaces Strategy is the overarching document that sets out the strategic context which informs the management of all our parks and green spaces. For this strategy to focus on the future effectively, it is important to recognise the key influencing documents and evidence base which frame the provision and development of the green spaces. It is also equally important for people to understand the current context in which green spaces are managed and maintained, as this will play a part in decision making and delivery of future projects which aim to maintain and enhance these areas.

The purpose of our Green Spaces Strategy is to bring these key issues into focus and by doing so:-

- 1) Set the overarching context and direction for the management and development of our green spaces.
- 2) Outline the approach for managing, protecting and developing green spaces, which gives consideration to the council's resources, management and maintenance responsibilities, and the contributions from community and interest groups.
- 3) Highlight a set of principles which will guide future maintenance, investment, community engagement decisions and actions regarding our green spaces.
- 4) Agree a set of priorities which focus effort, resources and decision making, ensuring that our green spaces remain high quality spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- 5) Help secure additional investment and external funding towards enhancing infrastructure, facilities and opportunities for the benefit of the community.

## **6. Site Details**

### **6.1 Site Address and Access**

The site is an informal piece of green space situated off Glebe Road, within the west of Cheadle and runs between Glebe Court and Glebe Gardens. For the benefit of this plan, the site includes the parcel of green space on Brookhouse Way.

**The postal address is as follows:**

Glebe Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 1FN

It should be noted, however, that postal correspondence relating to this space should be directed to:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, C/O Service Commissioning, Moorlands House, Leek, Staffordshire. ST13 6HQ.

A plan of the site is shown below:

Glebe Road



The site has open access along Glebe Road with additional access from The Green. As part of this management plan, the land that extends down Glebe Road and connects with Brookhouse Way is included and considered to form part of the same site.

There is no formal parking available near to the site as its primary intended use is by local residents, to be accessed directly from their homes.

## **6.2 Ownership and Designations**

The site sits within the Cheadle west ward of the Staffordshire Moorlands and is owned and managed by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The town of Cheadle lies within the Staffordshire Moorlands area of Staffordshire with a resident population of approximately 11,619 (2021).

There are no public rights of way across the site. There is a path that runs through the Glebe Road site which improves accessibility through this natural environment, while encouraging physical activity.

## **7. Physical Assets**

It is essential to fully understand the physical assets of the green space, including both natural and manmade features. This will assist in determining the strengths and weaknesses in the information base for the site. This in turn will provide a better understanding of the context of the site and inform how we might develop and effectively manage it for the future.

The site provides good opportunities for informal recreation to the local population which it serves. It is regularly used for walks with and without dogs and many residents appreciate the beauty of the natural space and wildlife. It also houses a small community orchard.

Although surrounded by housing, the natural environment of this green space brings benefits to the locality, not only for the residents of the housing estates around it but also in terms of ecological value. Priority species, including bees, have the potential to thrive within the area. We aim to work together with the local community and the Wildlife Trust to ensure that we can mitigate climate change with the help of our natural environments and increase biodiversity within this area.

## **8. Value Assessments**

### **8.1 Educational Value**

The site provides a valuable educational resource for schools/nurseries and other community organisations, such as Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, to encourage outdoor activities and learning experiences.

### **8.2 Recreational and Amenity Value**

The site is a valuable recreational and amenity resource. It is a naturally regenerated green space on the outskirts of the town centre and could easily be linked into walks around the town with access from Glebe Road or The Green, linking to several public footpaths locally for wider walks through fields neighbouring the town. Having a green space near to where we live improves our quality of life and is known to help reduce the risk of physical inactivity.

A path runs through the middle and along the length of the green space, encouraging people to walk through it throughout the year. The path was recently widened and resurfaced in 2024 to encourage the local community to use the green space. Further improvements will be identified in the Action Plan.

### **8.3 Ecological Value**

Having green spaces helps to contribute to a wide range of ecosystem services that improve urban space and enhance the lives of the residents, particularly their health and wellbeing. In addition to the benefits of climate change mitigation, green spaces can improve air quality, with trees in particular serving as natural air filters and helping to reduce the risk of respiratory problems. Providing an opportunity to reconnect with the natural environment can help to reduce stress, lower blood pressure and improve overall mood. Natural environments have also been proven to stimulate the mind and promote relaxation, reducing stress and fatigue.

Good quality and biodiverse green spaces can help act as stepping stones for species moving between habitats and help contribute to nature's recovery. With the current nature crisis including many species threatened with extinction, it has never been more important to improve biodiversity in our local green spaces and help contribute towards 'bigger, better, more, and joined-up' habitats so that wildlife can flourish. Implementing changes in management and maintenance of green spaces will support the recovery of nature across the Staffordshire Moorlands in line with the aims and ambitions of the Council's Plan for Nature.

Most of the site is currently comprised of amenity grassland with low ecological value. There is sporadic tree planting and some non-native cotoneaster shrubs present (ornamental planting).

Cotoneaster (horizontalis) is now considered to be invasive under Schedule 9 of the UK Wildlife & Countryside Act, although it does provide a habitat for birds and bees. Further ecological advice will be sought before deciding whether to remove the shrub and replace with native hedgerow and shrub planting. Notwithstanding its removal, it is proposed to fill in gaps with native species and create a more continuous hedgerow line(s).

Additional tree planting at the site is proposed, with a mixture of native species recommended.

There is also potential for improving the grassland habitat at the site, through changes to mowing regimes and/or sowing of wildflower seeds, to provide greater benefits to invertebrates including pollinators.

Any improvements to the ecological value of the site will be carefully considered in the context of the amenity value of the site, including maintaining access via footpaths.

#### **8.3.1 Biodiversity Net Gain**

As part of a recent planning approval, land off Brookhouse Way has been identified for off-site biodiversity improvements. The approval to increase the size of Vulcan Factory included the need to make ecological improvements to mitigate the loss of good natural habitat which has been lost as part of the development. Some of the ecological improvements were able to take place around the factory site, but some additional improvements required a donor site. The factory is located just a couple of hundred meters away from Brookhouse Way, which is why this site has been selected.

The biodiversity net gain improvements will include the change from amenity grass to more of a meadow grassland, with access pathways mown through to retain easy recreational usage. A number of trees and a new native mixed species hedge will be planted.



## **9. Management Responsibilities**

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council will be responsible for the overall management of the green space. Working with partners, the community, and other interest groups to develop and deliver projects that improve the green space.

Alliance Environmental Services (AES) are the Council's delivery partner and, as such, would be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the site and also hold the budgetary responsibility regarding maintenance. A schedule for the associated standards of maintenance is defined by the contract with AES, and the site has a specific maintenance schedule.

Community and interest groups are a vital and valued support network and play an important role in assisting with maintenance and development projects. These groups can also provide additional capacity, undertake selected maintenance tasks, and could attract additional funding to improve the site.

## **10. Health and Safety**

Health and safety is of primary concern to the Council. AES will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and management of the site, and this includes keeping the area safe for the public to use. Regular site inspections, six monthly in-depth surveys and regular tree inspections are all part of the suite of checks and procedures which are in place. These will ensure that all issues, repairs, and replacements are identified quickly and scheduled into the work programmes as necessary.

The park has a site-specific risk assessment which is reviewed and updated annually by the Operations Service Lead (AES). All AES staff are given specific training to ensure they are always operating in a safe manner. Any work on our parks and open spaces which is carried out by external contractors, partners or community groups/volunteers is governed by the Council's health and safety policies, which they must abide by and follow.

## **11. Involving Communities**

It is well recognised that for any park or public open space to be successfully managed it must respond to the needs of the local community and users. Actively engaging and encouraging community participation and involvement is essential in the continued development of the site.

The establishment of a community group in this area would help to achieve the following:

- Provide a community focus for the site
- Take practical action to improve the area
- Raise the profile of the space
- Help to raise funds to improve the site
- Sustain and enhance the flora and fauna of the green space and its habitats.
- Preserve public access into and throughout the space in perpetuity.

## 12. Marketing and Communications

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is responsible for managing Glebe Road open space and has a variety of communication mechanisms that can be utilised to give feedback on the performance and continued relevance of this Management Plan. As the Council is committed to reducing the need for paperwork, there is an increased reliance on the use of relevant sections of the Staffordshire Moorland District Council website and social media platforms.

The Council has both a Facebook page and an X account:

- Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/staffsMoorlands>
- X (Formerly Twitter) - <https://x.com/StaffMoorlandDC>

For anything specific to Glebe Road open space, the link below gives several options for how you might get in touch

- <https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/article/8215/Glebe-Road---Brookhouse-Way-Open-Space>

The Council can also be contacted by writing to:

**Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, c/o Service Commissioning, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6HQ.**

## 13. Action Plan

The Green Spaces Strategy provides the guiding principles and headline priorities for the management and development of our green spaces and following on from this, we can develop specific site action plans. These plans identify our priorities, linked to the Strategy, and ensure they are appropriate, relevant, resourced and provide a flexible and realistic approach to realising the aims of the Management Plan.

### Green Spaces Strategy Objectives

We will:

1. Review maintenance regimes to ensure that our green spaces are maintained to a high standard, in an affordable and sustainable way, and make improvements to increase and enhance biodiversity. (Addresses priorities 1,2,3,4 & 5)
2. Ensure that infrastructure and heritage features are protected and well maintained, in accordance with the resources available to the council. (Addresses priorities 1 & 2)
3. Encourage and enable positive physical and mental well-being by developing strong partnerships with community groups, sports clubs and other stakeholder groups. Ensuring that our green spaces fulfil their potential for enabling healthy lifestyles for all ages, encouraging all residents to move more. (Addresses priorities 1, 2, 4 & 5)



4. Plant more trees within our green spaces to help combat climate change (carbon storage) and increase canopy cover, providing future new habitats for wildlife and additional shade for our communities in periods of extreme heat. (Addresses priorities 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
5. Ensure our green spaces are safe, welcoming, and accessible places for all of our communities and that the highest possible standards of health and safety are maintained by our service providers, event organisers and when engaging the community in projects. (Addresses priorities 2, 4 & 5)
6. Actively encourage community engagement and involvement in the protection, maintenance, development and positive environmental impacts of our green spaces. (Addresses priorities 1,2,3,4 and 5)
7. Effectively manage internal budgets and attract external funding wherever possible towards the ongoing maintenance and the future development of our green spaces. (Addresses priorities 1,2,3,4 and 5)
8. Review management plans and their associated action plans annually to ensure these objectives are being delivered effectively. (Addresses priorities 1,2,3,4 and 5)
9. Create a green spaces development fund to make improvements to our green spaces. (Addresses priorities 1,2,3,4, and 5)

## Action Plan 2024/25 & 2025/26

**Objective 1: To protect and enhance biodiversity, address the effects of climate change and ensure the park is sustained for the future**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Identify opportunities to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the site.	Summer 2024	N/A	SMDC	Existing budget / External Funds	SMDC / AES / Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  Other industry recognised professional bodies	Signage on site / PR / social media	Complete
Explore opportunities for creating naturalised areas across the site.	Summer 2024	N/A	SMDC	Existing budget / External funds	SMDC / AES / Staffordshire Wildlife Trust / community groups	Signage on site / PR / social media	In – progress
Review current maintenance regimes to identify best practice that reflects emerging principles which address climate change.	Summer 2024	N/A	SMDC	Existing budget / External funds	SMDC / AES / Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  Recognised industry professionals in this field	Signage on site / PR / social media	In - progress
Implement mowing regime changes.	April 2025	Unknown	SMDC / AES	Existing budget (whole project may require extra capital funding)	SMDC / AES	Signage on site / PR / social media	In - progress
Implement the Biodiversity Net Gain (Brookhouse Way)	Winter 2024 / 2025	Unknown	SMDC	External contribution from BNG / Existing	Planning team / Biodiversity Officer / external ecologist	Signage on site / PR / social media	In-progress

**Objective 2: Ensure that infrastructure and heritage features are protected and well maintained**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Ensure the infrastructure of the site is maintained. All infrastructure to be monitored on regular site checks.	Ongoing	Individual repair and maintenance issues covered by AES	AES	Existing	SMDC / AES	PR / social media if appropriate	Ongoing

**Objective 3: Ensuring that our green spaces fulfil their potential for enabling healthy lifestyles for all ages, encouraging all residents to move more**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to promote and maximise the opportunities for physical activity within the space.	Ongoing	Unknown	SMDC	SMDC / Together Active / Public Health	Public Health / Together Active / Move More Partnership / MyActive	Signage on site / PR / social media	Ongoing
Install bench seats for resting and enjoyment.	2025	N/A	SMDC / AES	Existing	AES / Community groups	PR / social media if appropriate	Not started

**Objective 4: Plant more trees within our green spaces to help combat climate change (carbon storage) and increase canopy cover, providing future new habitats for wildlife and additional shade for our communities**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Plant trees in identified areas (BNG & Non-BNG).	Winter 2024/25 & 2025/26	£500	SMDC / AES	Existing budget	AES / Community groups	Signage on site / PR / social media	In-progress
Plant new hedge (BNG).	Winter 2024/25 & 2025/26	Unknown	SMDC / AES	Existing budget	AES / Community groups	Signage on site / PR / social media	Not started
Gap up existing hedge.	Winter 2024/25 & 2025/26	Unknown	SMDC / AES	Existing budget	AES / Community groups	Social media	Not started

**Objective 5: To ensure our parks are safe, welcoming and accessible for the communities they serve**

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Improve the footpath which provides access through the Glebe Road site to improve accessibility.	Autumn / Winter 2024	£15K	SMDC	UKSPF	SMDC	PR / social media	Started  Completed  Nov 24
Review entrance points for barriers to accessibility.	Winter 2024/25	N/A	SMDC		AES		Not started
Investigate the waterlogged area and source of water.	Spring 2025	Unknown	SMDC / AES	Existing	AES	PR / social media if appropriate	Not started

New entrance signage to include 'welcoming' message and important contact details.	Spring 2025	Unknown	SMDC	Existing budget	AES	PR / social media	Not started
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### Objective 6: Actively encourage community engagement and involvement

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Invest time to encourage better community links and potential for a 'Friends of the Green Space' group to be established.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC	Unknown	AES / Cheadle Town Council / other organisations	PR / social media	Not started
Continue to engage with key stakeholders in the site.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC	Unknown	AES / Cheadle Town Council / other organisations		Ongoing
Explore opportunities to increase educational activities at the site.	Ongoing	Unknown	SMDC	Unknown	Local schools / children and youth services		Not started

### Objective 7: To ensure effective financial management of resources

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Ensure that the existing budgets are used to gain best value and maximise opportunities.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC / AES		AES		Ongoing
Review and investigate opportunities to apply for external funding, where appropriate.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC		Community groups / Cheadle Town Council		Ongoing

Work in partnership with both internal and external colleagues to expand the impact of relevant projects.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC		AES / Staffordshire Wildlife Trust / Public Health / Move More Partners / Cheadle Town Council / Community groups		Ongoing
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### Objective 8: Review and Monitoring

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Annual condition review of infrastructure including seating, bins, paths and built structures.	Annual (April)	N/A	SMDC / AES	SMDC / AES	AES		Ongoing
Annual review of action plan for the green space.	Annual (January)	N/A	SMDC	Existing	AES / Community groups / Cheadle Town Council / wider community		Ongoing
Ensure that all health & safety aspects are annually reviewed.	Annual (April)	N/A	SMDC / AES	Existing	AES		Ongoing

### Objective 9: Green Spaces Development Fund (GSDF)

Action	When	Estimated Cost	Responsibility	Resources	Partners	Comms	Status
Continue to look at opportunities where the GSDF could be used to improve the site.	Ongoing	N/A	SMDC	SMDC	All stakeholders		Ongoing