



Welcome

Update on the new ten-year vision for
Manchester's Parks

Background and context



Over the last 15 years...

It's been 15 years since we looked at Manchester's parks in a big picture way. In that time we've seen a mixed picture of both highs and lows:

- Manchester's population grew by over 97,000 people
- The hard work of over 50 Friends groups and other committed residents
- Design and implementation of Heaton Hall and Park Strategic Framework
- £14m of Clean City money to make the City greener and cleaner
- Fire at Wythenshawe Hall – unexpected, unwelcome yet an opportunity
- New 'models' HLF project for Alexandra Park
- Reduction in budgets from Central Government – reduction and reshaping of resources for our Parks, Parks' staffing merge and reduce and demerge



‘Our Manchester’ vision for 2025

“Our Manchester should be a parklife city. Everyone needs green spaces where we’re safe to exercise and socialise”

Taken from “Our Manchester” – thousands of Mancunians saying how the city should be by 2025.



It’s time for a re-think of parks: What we all want; and how to get it.

Comments about Manchester Parks

“The heart and lungs of Manchester where communities can be enriched”

“A great place to chill out”

“There's not enough greenery with facilities around”

“Beautiful childhood memories are made in our parks”

“There are not enough small 'pocket parks' in the city centre.”

“A little bit of the countryside on my doorstep.”

“Green space in a sprawling city means everything”

“Poorly equipped and under utilised facilities”

“Thanks for the effort in keeping them clean and safe.”

“Give people back some green please then there will be more memories for new people”

Did you know?

The statue of Oliver Cromwell in Wythenshawe Park was originally in Manchester City Centre and was very controversial in Victorian times. Queen Victoria refused to come to the City to open the newly completed Town Hall unless the statue was removed.

The City refused and so she didn't come!



What the workshops were about

1. Develop the conversation about Manchester's Parks
2. Get as many of Key Stakeholders' ideas as possible about the next ten years for Manchester's Parks
3. Get a shared understanding for what we could do together
4. Understand how to make things happen



What do we all want? (Vision)



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Parks and open spaces consultation

What do we all want? (Vision)

“Maintaining and creating high quality green spaces to meet, relax and play in.”

*Proposed Vision from the draft
Manchester Parks Strategy*

Together we want Manchester Parks to be:

Safe

Accessible to everyone

High quality

Fit for purpose

Within easy reach

Parks as places for people to relax, learn and get active in

Parks as places to meet people and get involved with the local community

Do you agree with this vision?

What is *your* vision for Manchester parks?



How to get there (Strategy)



How to get there (Strategy)

We need a strategy to deliver this vision. We think this should have **four** major areas of focus:

- 1. Parks at the heart of neighbourhoods**
(what have we got and where?)
- 2. Vibrant parks, vibrant communities**
(what should happen in our parks?)
- 3. A quality standard for Manchester Parks**
(looking after our parks)
- 4. Productive parks in partnership**
(what resources do we need to make 1-3 happen to an agreed standard?)

Although we have done a lot of thinking, we want to get your thoughts and ideas.



1) Parks at the Heart of Neighbourhoods



Theme 1) Parks at the heart of neighbourhoods

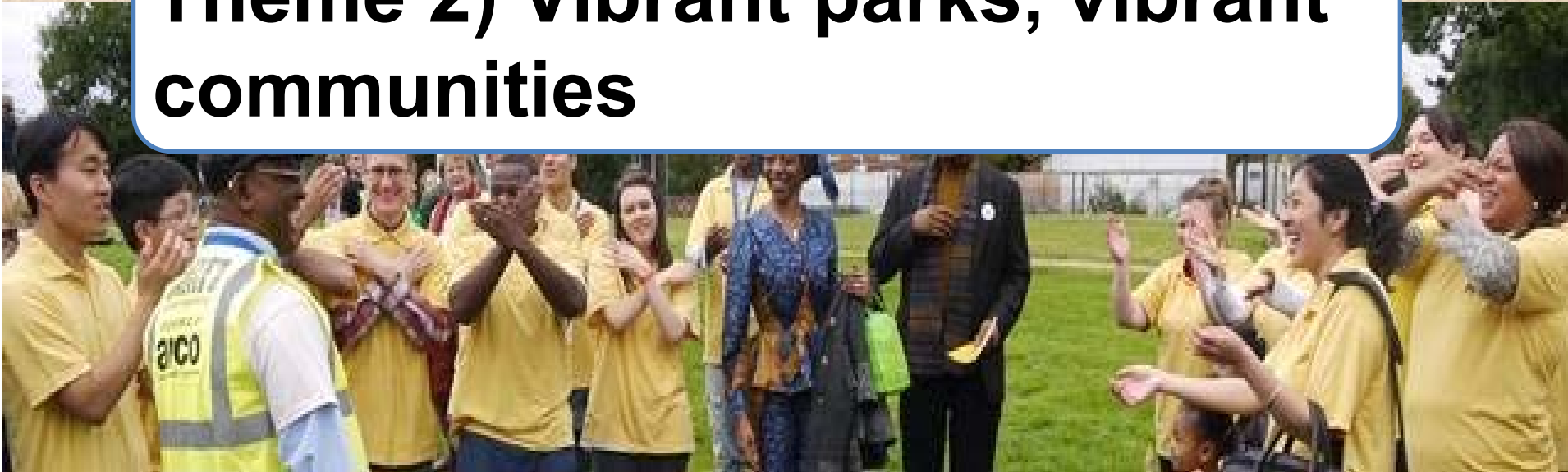
This is about: Understanding what we've currently got and where it is

Brookdale Park is a local park making a local impact. A large expanse of grass was given over to wild flower meadows. The space is now a haven for bees, butterflies and other wildlife which not only has a positive impact on the local environment but also provides a place of beauty and variety for local people and visitors to enjoy.

1. What is your local park?
2. What would you be prepared to change in your local park?
3. To what extent would you like to see other people involved in your local park?



Theme 2) Vibrant parks, vibrant communities



Theme 2) Vibrant parks, vibrant communities

This is about: bringing our parks to life by making use of them day to day

Alexandra Park is an example where the partnership between the Friends group, community groups and Manchester City Council has helped to create a vibrant park. The newly restored Park Lodge, a community café and cricket ground all help to create a park that attracts different interests, helping communities to grow and flourish.



1. What attracts you to your favourite park?
2. What's missing from your local park?
3. Could we use parks differently?



Theme 3) A quality standard for Manchester Parks



Theme 3) A quality standard for Manchester Parks

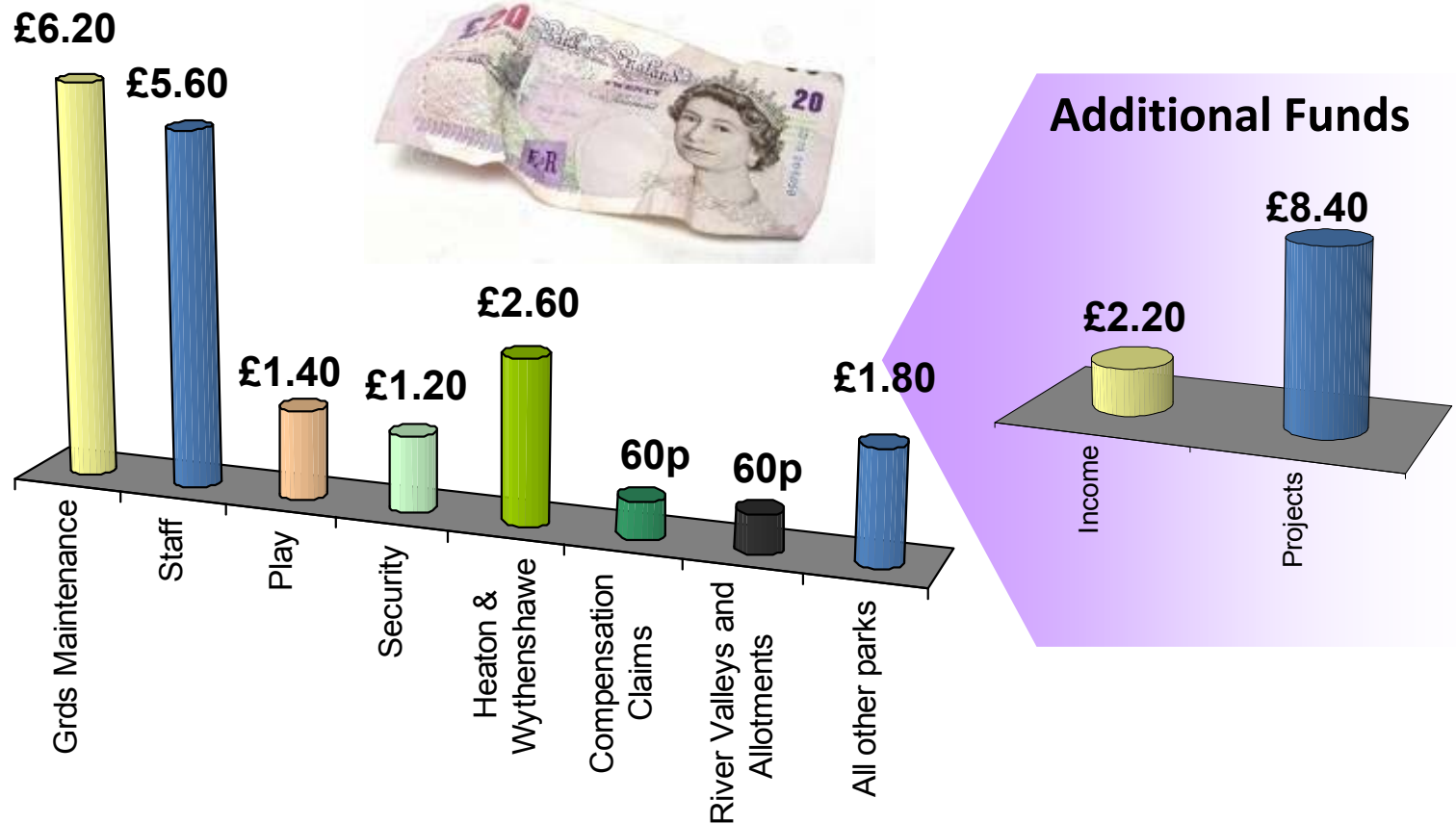
This is about: how best to look after our parks

Over the last 6 months there has been a rolling programme of intensive **grounds maintenance works** across all sites to raise standards with **£800,000** invested.

There are over 100 **play areas** located in Parks across the City. Many of these have fallen into disrepair in recent years. Over **£600,000** has been secured to upgrade 78 play areas. Work is due to complete by the end of the Summer 2016.



Theme 3) A quality standard for Manchester Parks



Theme 4) Productive parks in partnership



Theme 4) Productive parks in partnership

This is about: what resources do we need to make Themes 1-3 happen to an agreed standard?

The 'Friends of Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens' illustrate the difference that local people make.

The once derelict Alpine House is now one of the best examples in the north; there are new safety rails, signposts, noticeboards, as well as plants and trees of many varieties.

A Local Nature Reserve with a Nature Trail in Stenner Woods and Millgate Fields have also been established.

1. What would you be prepared to pay for in a park?
2. What do you think people *should* pay for in a park?
3. What would motivate you to get involved in looking after your park?



Extra ideas



Extra ideas



“mighty oaks from
little acorns grow”

Four Themes:

1. Parks at the heart of neighbourhoods (what have we got?)
2. Vibrant parks, vibrant communities (what should happen in our parks?)
3. A quality standard for Manchester Parks (looking after our parks)
4. Productive parks in partnership (funding the future)

1. Anything missing?
2. Is the focus in the right place?
3. Anything else?



Responses to Consultation

Social media high level data

The general and targeted campaigns on Facebook have attracted :-

- 179,827 hits converting to 4,629 clicks through to the online consultation.
- MCC Twitter followers 74, 146
- MCC facebook page likes 58,288
- MCC Instagram followers 4221
- Further analysis is being to be done on this information.



PLANT A SEED
for MANCHESTER'S
PARKS

Parks and open spaces consultation

Responses to Consultation

Emerging Themes

- Work in progress to collate all the content from the consultation activities, letters and emails received from friends groups and other stakeholders.
- They reflect the wealth of feeling, knowledge and ideas which our residents have given us and which will inform the development of the Park Strategy and its implementation.
- We have already highlighted what are emerging as priority themes for respondents in the 'Vision' section.
- We have a list of 'Quick Wins' which we are taking action on.



PLANT A SEED
for MANCHESTER'S
PARKS

Parks and open spaces consultation

What's next?

Last workshop and end of Consultation 31st May

Over 4,500 'conversations' so far about our strategy

Final strategy produced based on information gathered and feedback received

Reading through the strategy with interested groups to check readability

Final Strategy signed off in September

Strategy link out to all our contacts

Making the strategy happen...



parks@manchester.gov.uk

#MCRParks

