

HCP Management Plan 2025 – 2029
Public Consultation feedback and responses

General comments about the plan and layout

Comment	Proposed Response
There is a lot of really great stuff in there but, including the appendices, it is very long and some of it isn't very accessible.	Noted, however, the plan needs to demonstrate that the park meets several objectives including those from the various awards and is a working document used to manage the park. Most Green Flag Award parks have plans of equal detail. An executive summary has been provided.
Full of really good stuff and it is great to see the commitment that goes in to maintaining this fantastic asset for the town/borough.	Noted
Rather long.	See comment further above.
Perhaps a 10-page abridged version of the document would be useful as I think people are more likely to read it.	See comment further above.
A very well written, comprehensive but well set out plan	Noted
A lot of padding detracting from the actual plan. Interesting, but mostly irrelevant and expensive to compile.	See comment further above.
Clearly written but a lot of detailed information to take in.	See comment further above.
Masterplan is difficult to read as it is on its side and the text is very small.	You can magnify text on computers.

Path along Brook Street

<p>P67-98 Item 61 Footpath Lower Haysden Road. You have marked this as lower priority 3, but your whole presentation lauds the footpath access into the park but negates to develop a SAFE walking route into the park from Lower Haysden Road. At present this narrow lane hosts walkers, runners and cyclists. God forbid that you would allow your child to cycle down this road to the park as it is NOT SAFE. This falls outside of the boundary of the Park but the pull of the Park cannot be ignored. I note that you log H&S issues in the Park. You should add pedestrian/cyclist/automobile incidents to this to log the number to encourage other Agencies, such as KCC Highways to take notice. There is of course half a footpath areas in existence running to Judd's playing field, but this is kept locked because the School wish to safeguard their pupils (understandably) but inly during school hours. All the tax payers and their children who fund KCC schools are expected to walk down a road. The addition of many houses now immediately adjacent to Judd playing field will increase foot traffic down Haysden Lane, and TMBC failed to insist on a pavement out to Haysden Park as an easement - despite to long term closure of Lower Haysden Lane during early house construction to resculpt Lower Haysden Lane. What a</p>	<p>Kent County Council are the Highway Authority and are responsible for implementation of new roads and footpaths.</p> <p>A new footpath will soon be constructed adjacent to Lower Haysden Lane as a planning condition of the new housing development. This will provide a safe route for pedestrians to access the park.</p>
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missed opportunity. Installing or agreeing access to the existing footpath with Judd) should be a very high priority for TMBC to safeguard access the fabulous Park.	
I am really pleased about the proposed footpath/cycle path from Brook street. I think people should be dissuaded from driving to the park. There could be footpath signage from the station and Racecourse park and castle. There could be signage and encouragement to use the bus from Alders Meadow bus stop. A sign from Barden Lake at that end.	<p>Brook Street path comments are above.</p> <p>Finger posts are present in the town, including at the locations that you refer to.</p> <p>Alternative methods of travel to the park are included in the plan and are listed on the Council website.</p>

Comments about projects

I am not keen on a visitors centre. A covered area (roof but no walls) beside the cafe maybe. The charm of the place is that it is in nature. A visitor centre would also be costly.	This is not a project in current plan.
I love living near this country park in Barden area.	Noted.
Dogs should be kept on leads beside the lake when there are young ducklings and goslings	Council Officers already use the current PSPO to apply a seasonal rule in the Spring to protect the young ducks and geese by asking owners to keep dogs on leads around the lake.
We are really impressed with the vision for development and maintenance of Haysden Country Park which is an invaluable resource for the local community and especially for our Flyball Club. We currently use Tile Barn Field for our Flyball training all year round on a Sunday. Without this our very popular club would cease to exist. We have always said that we have planned dates every year where we are competing nationally, and we are committed to work with the council for Tile Barn Field to perhaps be utilised on these specific dates for other events to be held, creating additional income but not disrupting our year round weekly lease - a win win for everyone! Many of these dates are in the summer months, so ideal for a one off day event on a Sunday. Communication is key here, because it is essential that our training is not to be disrupted prior to a competition. There is an opportunity here for us to work effectively together and increase income for the park while maintaining the valuable opportunity for dogs to learn and develop flyball training skills. As an increasingly popular sport this is so important, especially as we model and champion responsible dog ownership and behaviour at all times.	Noted
P 67 You are a member of multiple certification/accreditations. 1 Green Park & 54 Country Park Accreditation. Choose one and save the cost of membership of the other! You have even spent goodness know what on flag poles which add no value. In the Haysden entrance of the Park there is a Green Park flag but no Union flag flying? Could you imagine that in Scotland?	<p>The Green Flag Award is national accreditation scheme and the only one that the Council pay for. This is considered good value for money</p> <p>Applying for the Country Park Accreditation is free and entails very little work as most of the criteria are the same as the Green Flag Award and this information is already included within the management plan.</p> <p>It is important for the Council to achieve accreditation as we want to provide the best services to users. Accreditation is a benchmark in quality and is a source of independent professional feedback that can be used to improve the park.</p>

P67 Item 74. Green Flag celebration. By all means send an email around to celebrate the achievement, but it sounds like you are planning spend money on a party to celebrate an initiative somebody else took 20 years ago. Perhaps there is s a loyalty discount for membership this year?	It is important to recognise and celebrate achievements for everyone involved, many of whom have been volunteering and working at the park for over 20 years.
Page 67-69 Item 27 Control of pest species Parakeets and Cats... . PARAKEETS compete against and kill native bird species and are non indigenous, so should be specifically identified as a pest. They could be tracked by drones and eradicated from the park more easily than the Mink. You will also shortly have lot of CATS in the park when people move into the new houses being built. A No Cat covenant could be considered as a condition of planning permission as it can be in New Zealand. Personally I like cats, but they are really bad for wildlife, so why invite them to a Nature reserve?	There are only certain species as a landowner that the Council has a legal duty to control.
P67-69 Item 53 CCTV Item 80 ANPR. There is far too much CCTV and ANPR in our lives. Just stop! Whenever you ned CCTV to identify who hit your car, the operator will just cite "GDPR" and refuse to help. This just puts money in the pockets of multi national services companies who offshore their profits to avoid tax. This is an opportunity to just stop all this insidious mass monitoring of the population.	The Council considers decisions like this carefully and through a democratic process but do need to explore options in order establish if it can provide services more efficiently and at less cost for example.
P188 Smart Parks. There is nothing in this World that is labelled "Smart" that is better than analogue. Not so Smart Motorways are labelled dangerous by the High Court and now all coned off. Generation 1 Not so Smart Electric meters are all having to be replaced! Why can't we just come to the Park any enjoy it for what it is?	It is important to innovate and explore these options with an open mind.
P188 MP3 iPod, QR Codes, Augmented Reality? MP3/iPod - Who in 2025 uses these terms? Who still owns a functioning iPod? QR Codes are a great way to get hacked when fake QR Codes are stuck over genuine ones. NEVER scan these with you phone! Augmented Reality? Really? Can you not just put your tech down and enjoy the outdoors? Otherwise just play Pokemon!	The Council is trying to appeal to wide audience and bring appeal to everyone.
There are also a lot of positive things in your suggestions. Try to stick to sensible ideas and avoid the pitfalls of electronic items in this natural environment. Display boards have been challenged as expensive, but a TV screen needs power, an electrician to install, and a secure housing which will be way more expensive than a notice board. There are plenty of (local) printers if the current one is expensive. They may discount if they can add their name to the board.	There are no plans to install TV screens at the park. Your concerns are noted, however technologies like smart devices are a way that young people in particular like to access activities and the park needs to be accessible and inclusive to all.
The Cafe is great. Improvements should be driven from investment from the concession holder. Do not do a "Leybourne Lakes" and s**** the concession holder!	The Council is happy to explore investment from any of its concessions, should opportunities arise, and has done so in the past.
All TMBC car park machine should have a cash and card payment option. NEVER only an APP. I STILL object to car park payment.	The Council will continue to explore alternative payment options but may be limited by connections and phone signal. Car parking charges were agreed by the Council and help to offset the Councils expenditure from running

	the park. They also mean that people visiting the park from outside the borough also contribute to the running costs.
Regarding accessibility, although this may not be within TMBC's remit, as a regular walker along the Medway tow path between Lucifer and Friendship bridges (as part of a circular walk crossing the river and walking back through the park), the condition of the footpath in this area is dangerously slippery and on occasions impassible in the winter, especially to people like myself who have some mobility/balance issues. Would it be possible to fill in some of the deep depressions to create a more even surface, as has been done recently on each side of the Friendship Bridge?	<p>The land in question is private and not owned by the Council.</p> <p>The Council does not have a dedicated budget for paths and funding would always be prioritised to land that it owns.</p>
Again regarding accessibility, please continue to work with the Environment Agency regarding access across the flood barrier bund as a matter of priority, to make this a safer area to walk in the winter months.	Officers will continue a dialogue with the Environment Agency but as the Council does not own this land and there are only two official crossing points over the grass bund they are unlikely to be receptive any changes.

Access Audit Appendix

Access to the disabled toilet could also be improved. The toilet is locked, but many visitors would benefit from access, e.g. elderly visitors. This is also the only location of baby changing facilities. Asking for the key at the café will deter some people, especially those with hidden disabilities. Consideration should be made to unlocking the toilet when staff are present.	While it is recognised that some elderly and other users may like to use the Accessible toilet facilities in the park, removal of the lock would however infringe on RADAR key users. Delete the references in the Audit to the removal of the RADAR lock on the disabled toilet door. RADAR keys are readily available to those who need them. (A spare is also available at the café in case parents with infants need to use the baby changing table.)
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