

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2023
<b>Report Subject</b>	Wepre Park Management Plan
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wepre Park is one of Flintshire's finest parks and contains some of the most beautiful, culturally rich parkland in the region, important to thousands of visitors each year. This Management Plan sets the strategic direction and associated action plan for the next five years.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet endorse the new five year management plan for Wepre Park.
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## REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE WEPRE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
1.01	The purpose of this Management Plan is to present a management framework and associated actions for the successful collaborative management and development of Wepre Park.
1.02	This revised Management Plan for Wepre Park supersedes the 2016-21 plan and sets the strategic direction for the park in line with current policy and legislation. The new format places the site information and annual maintenance work programmes into appendices.
1.02	The work at Wepre Park is supported by and contributes to a number of National and local plans, policies and strategies which highlight the importance of green space, green infrastructure and recreational areas and seek to both protect and enhance them.
1.03	<b>Community Involvement</b>  The Friends of Wepre Park are an active community group who have been in existence for approx. 10 years. The group are keen to take an active interest in many aspects of the parks management and development. From practical tasks around the park to fundraising the group are a valuable resource
1.04	The site currently provides community groups and individuals an opportunity for volunteering. This is an invaluable resource and has a significant contribution to the sites management and maintenance. Currently contributing to an additional c.240 days per year, equating to £12,000 of benefit
1.05	<b>Consultation</b>  Over the summer of 2021 a public consultation was undertaken to inform the development of the Wepre Park management plan. It showed the importance of the park to local people with over 85% of those responding living within a 5 mile radius. It also clearly demonstrated the contribution the park makes to the health and well-being of the local community through regular outdoor activity with over 50% of people using the park at least once a week.  The survey found that a high proportion of people ranked the current management of the Park as a multifunctional facility which is safe, clean and able to be enjoyed by everyone, with the special wildlife qualities protected, enhanced and maintained and its heritage is protected, conserved and celebrated as excellent or good.
1.06	<b>Vision for the management plan</b>  The Wepre Park management plan will present a park that is welcoming, valued and enjoyed whilst protecting its heritage and allowing the wildlife of

	<p>the site to flourish, whilst contributing towards the county's climate change strategy.</p> <p>The plan will promote activity which enhances peoples understanding of Wepre Park and create a resource which is valued by the local community and attracts people from the communities living and working around the park making a positive contribution to their physical and mental health and wellbeing as well as attracting visitors from across the region.</p>			
1.07	<p><b>Strategic Aims and Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Protect our natural environment</b></p> <p>We aim to ensure the special wildlife qualities are protected, enhanced and maintained and that we balance the needs of the environment with that of the public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards SAC/SSSI favourable status through the Sect.16 Management agreement and deliver woodland management plan in partnership with Natural Resources Wales.</li> <li>• Support Flintshire's Climate change and carbon reduction strategy by becoming net carbon zero by 2030</li> <li>• Contribute to Flintshire's target to achieve biodiversity net gain.</li> </ul>			
1.08	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
	<b>Protect our Natural Environment</b>	<b>Phase 2 extension tree planting</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Mar 2024</b>
		<b>Renew the Management Agreement with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deliver positive improvements to the Special Site of Scientific Interest.</b>	<b>ANEM</b>	<b>April 2023</b>
		<b>Develop and agree new woodland plan with NRW whilst tackling ash dieback</b>	<b>WO</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
		<b>Complete pilot Hydro-Electric project at the dam, test and evaluate</b>	<b>Energy Team</b>	<b>Feb 2023</b>
		<b>Establish maintenance regime for phase 1 extension area and old golf course</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
		<b>Wepre Brook bank stabilisation</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>Sept 2023</b>
1.09	<p><b>Value our heritage</b></p> <p>We aim to protect, conserve and celebrate the rich heritage of Wepre Park</p>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in partnership with Cadw to safeguard Ewloe Castle</li> <li>• Maintain Old Hall Garden improvements</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the unique historic features of the site</li> </ul>			
1.10	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
	<b>Value our heritage</b>	<b>Work in partnership with Cadw to maintain and protect Ewloe Castle</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
		<b>Repair Old Hall Garden wall and path repairs</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>June 2025</b>
		<b>Re-instate the grills for the arches</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
		<b>Establish a working fountain.</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Work with the Friends of Wepre Park to establish a Garden Maintenance Fund.</b>	<b>TL/CR</b>	<b>2024</b>
1.11	<p><b>Supporting recreation and access</b></p> <p>We aim to be a multifunctional facility which is safe, clean and able to be enjoyed by everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Green Flag status</li> <li>• Ensure access is free from obstructions and work towards improving standards across the site</li> <li>• Supporting access for all</li> </ul>			
1.12	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
	<b>Supporting recreation and access</b>	<b>Secure Greenflag award</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>Annual</b>
		<b>Path improvement project/main trail and new golf course path</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2026</b>
		<b>Step replacement project – waterfall and castle steps</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>parkrun waymarking</b>	<b>SL</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Modernise the orienteering course and maps</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2024</b>

		<b>Review the provision of benches in the park to identify gaps.</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2025</b>
1.13	<p><b>Benefit for people</b></p> <p>Using Wepre Park's natural assets we aim to provide quality leisure, health and well-being and educational experiences for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise public awareness of the important natural and cultural heritage of the site through a rich variety of events, education, and interpretation</li> <li>• Maximise community involvement through working with the Friends and other volunteers and community groups</li> </ul> <p>Contribute to the green health initiative by providing a facility of choice for people to use to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing</p>			
1.14	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
	<b>Benefit for people</b>	<b>Agree fishing lease</b>	<b>V&amp;E/CQ Anglers</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>
		<b>Volunteer development project</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Sept 2023</b>
		<b>Develop a programme of large events through external providers</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Jul 2023</b>
		<b>Changing Places toilet facilities</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>
		<b>Signage review and consolidation</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Apr 2023</b>
		<b>Establish a formal waymarked trail network and tree booklet</b>	<b>CR/Tree Team</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>
		<b>Investigate resources for park app development, to incorporate route maps of varying difficulties.</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>2023</b>
		<b>Install visitor counter across the park</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Apr 2024</b>
		<b>Review education provision in light of the new curriculum</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Sept 2023</b>
		<b>Explore a programme of Nordic walking with Aura</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>2025</b>

		<b>Stakeholder terms of reference</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Apr 2023</b>
		<b>Liaise with the Police, CCTV and other partners to manage anti-social behaviour in the Park</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>Dec 2023</b>
<b>1.15</b>	<b>Resource confidence</b>			
	We aim to provide a stable financial footing to achieve the vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise income over and above Flintshire core budget</li> <li>• Maintain appropriate staffing level to deliver the plan</li> </ul>			
<b>1.16</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
	<b>Resource confidence</b>	<b>Explore street food vendors</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>
		<b>Pilot motorhomes overnight</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>Mar 2023</b>
		<b>Explore the potential for the introduction of car parking charges</b>	<b>ANEM/SS&amp;T</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
		<b>Finalise Café lease</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Dec 2022</b>
		<b>Define additional hire and fee opportunities eg education area and firewood</b>	<b>CAO</b>	<b>Sept 2023</b>
		<b>Explore and implement QR code donation opportunities throughout the park</b>	<b>TL</b>	<b>June 2023</b>
		<b>Run a charitable fun run to support the plan actions</b>	<b>CR</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>Investigate the potential of memorial donations to fund park infrastructure / management</b>	<b>ANEM</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>			
<b>2.01</b>	The ongoing core funded FCC staff and revenue resource to deliver the plan is detailed in Appendix 2, and is expected to remain constant over the term of the plan.			

	Additional funding to progress development projects will be sourced externally.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	Over the summer of 2021 a public consultation was undertaken to inform the development of the Wepre Park management plan. The full responses are detailed in Appendix 3
3.02	A number of workshop style sessions have been held with Local Members, The Friends of Wepre Park and other park stakeholders to inform and shape the plan.
3.03	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee endorsed the plan 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	There is a low risk that the usage of the park increases to such a degree that the current resource levels are inadequate to deliver the vision. The Access & Natural Environment Service does monitor visitor impact on the site and can respond accordingly around re-prioritisation of wider Service actions.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 - Wepre Park Management Plan Appendix 2 – Wepre Park Site Information Appendix 3 – Wepre Park Maintenance programme and resources Appendix 4 – Wepre Park Public consultation survey response.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Officer: Tom Woodall, Access &amp; Natural Environment Manager</b> <b>Telephone: 01352 703902</b> <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tom.woodall@flintshire.gov.uk">tom.woodall@flintshire.gov.uk</a></b>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	None.