



FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

Felixstowe Town Council Allenby Park Management plan **Draft**

Foreword

This Management Plan outlines Felixstowe Town Council's commitment to the sustained maintenance, enhancement, and promotion of Allenby Park. Its core purpose is to guide operations and deliver three key outcomes:

1. Long-term, sustainable maintenance to prevent decline.
2. Improvement of ecological value and biodiversity
3. Increased community engagement and public use of the park.

Timeframe: This five-year action plan covers 2026 to 2031.

Site Map



Allenby Park: Established in 1923 and named after the late Edmund Henry Allenby, Allenby Park is the only gated park in Felixstowe, accessible from Constable Road and open all year from 7:30 am. The site features a small all-weather football pitch, a children's play area (renovated in 2017), well-established trees, shrub beds, and a tarmac pathway.

Background: In September 2022, Felixstowe Town Council assumed ownership of two local parks, Allenby Park and Gosford Way. This document focuses exclusively on **Allenby Park**.

Initial Maintenance: Upon transfer, the park required significant attention, including maintenance to overgrown shrub beds, worn grassed areas, trees, and play equipment. An initial maintenance program was successfully completed in 2023, including re-laying heavily worn paths and addressing initial grounds maintenance needs.

Ongoing Operations: Routine maintenance, including greenspace management and play equipment inspection, is carried out by Felixstowe Town Council's Grounds and Maintenance team, supplemented by sub-contractors for specialised tasks like bin collection and arboriculturist where required.

Park Security: Allenby Park is the only gated park in Felixstowe and is secured each evening by Felixstowe Town Council staff. This approach ensures public safety, deters anti-social behaviour, and protects the Council's assets. The park is unlocked daily at 7:30 am, with locking times adjusted seasonally to align with dusk and sunset. This schedule maximises public access during daylight hours while ensuring the site is secured during periods of low visibility. The current locking schedule is prominently displayed at the park entrance and published on Felixstowe Town Council's website.

The locking of the park is primarily intended to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour and vandalism, and to maintain a peaceful environment for the surrounding community.

Out-of-Hours and Non-Approved Entry: Felixstowe Town Council operates a zero-tolerance policy regarding non-approved access to Allenby Park outside the designated opening hours.

Once locked, access is strictly prohibited. The park must not be entered until it has been officially reopened the following morning.

Some properties adjoin the park via rear boundaries; however, any private gates or rear entrances are not authorised for general park access. Unauthorised entry via adjacent residents' back gardens or boundary fences is prohibited and considered trespassing. These private entrances may only be used by residents for essential boundary or fence maintenance, following prior approval from the Town Council, and never for general or out-of-hours entry. The Council will periodically inspect the park perimeter to discourage non-approved access.

Vision For Allenby Park

The Town Councils Vision is for Allenby Park to be a highly valued, sustainable, and accessible greenspace where biodiversity flourishes and the local community is inspired to engage, relax, and enjoy the outdoors in a safe, well-maintained environment.

Aim 1: To improve the health and safety of visitors of the park

Proposed Objectives

Grounds Maintenance: Establish a scheduled mowing, aeration, and restoration program to improve the overall condition of grassed areas, eliminating heavily worn patches.

Safety: Ensure play equipment receives monthly operational checks and annual independent inspections, with necessary maintenance completed as soon as possible.

Tree Health: Execute all scheduled tree maintenance, planting, and health checks as set out in Felixstowe Town Council Tree Management Plan.

Aim 2: To encourage more diverse use of the park

Proposed Objectives

Publicity: Develop and implement an annual communications plan (utilising social media, local press, and on-site signage) to promote park features, events, and usage guidelines.

Tidiness: Ensure the park is maintained to a high standard of tidiness through regular litter collection and grounds maintenance, making it continuously inviting for visitors.

Facilities: Investigate, secure funding for, and install new user facilities such as modern picnic benches and additional seating areas.

Community Engagement: Actively market the park's suitability for organised groups (e.g., fitness classes, youth groups) and create a simple booking or permit system to facilitate their use.

Accessibility: Ensure all entry points and pathways meet current accessibility standards where feasible.

Aim 3: To Improve biodiversity of the park

Proposed Objectives

Ecology: Implement all actions outlined in the Tree Management Plan that specifically relate to ecological and habitat improvements.

Planting: Annually review and implement a diverse planting schedule for shrub beds and borders, focusing on native species that attract pollinators and enhance habitat.

Habitat Creation: Identify and designate specific, non-mown areas within the park for "controlled rewilding" to create new habitats and increase insect and small mammal diversity.

Policy Approved: Assets & Services Committee

Review Body: Assets & Services Committee

Review Period: Every five years, or sooner as may be required

Next Review: Assets & Services (February 2031)

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