

THE LAWN PLEASURE GROUND

MANAGEMENT PLAN



January 2015- December 2019

Sutton Lawn

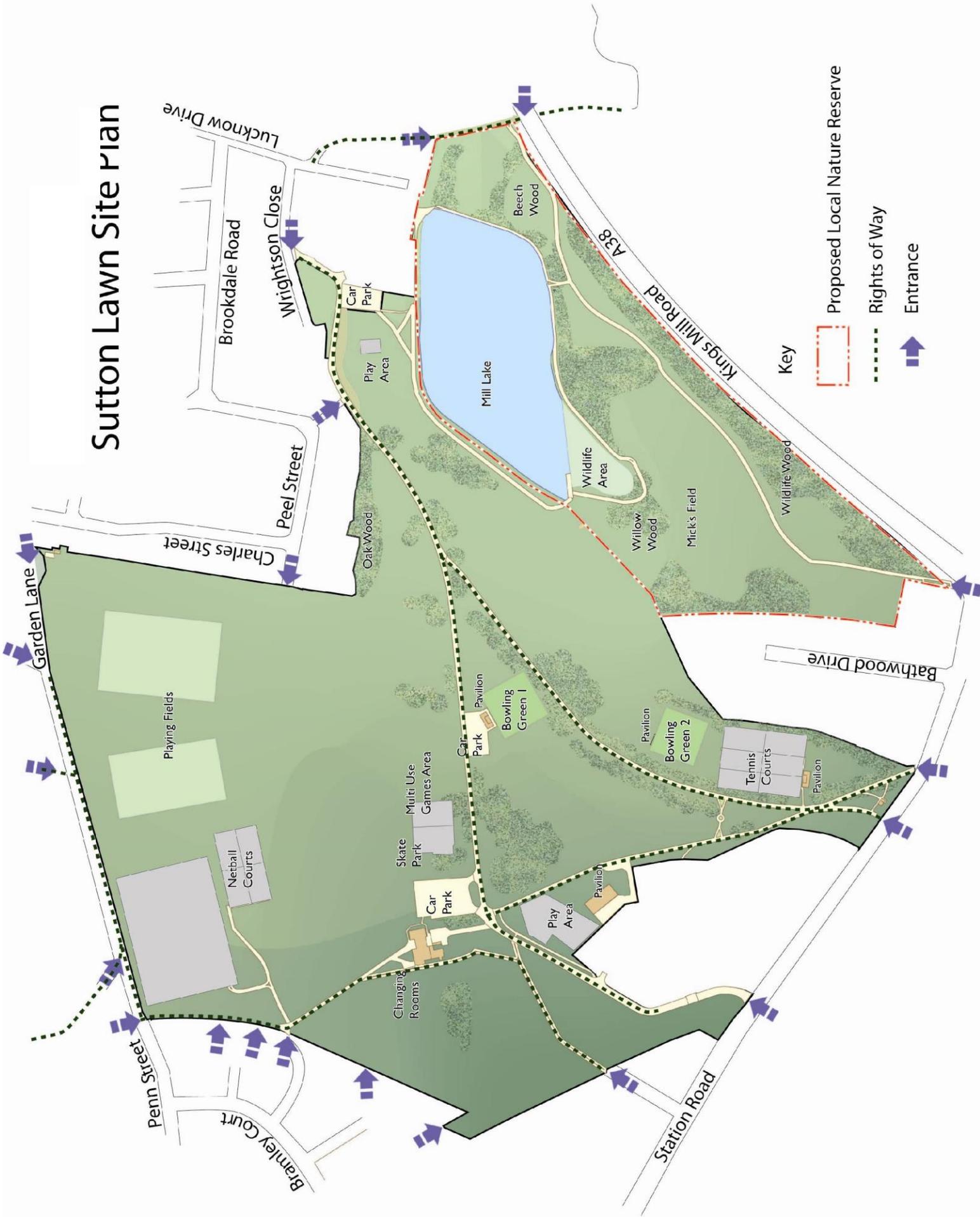
Appendix 2



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Not to Scale

Sutton Lawn Site Plan



Key



Proposed Local Nature Reserve



Rights of Way



Entrance

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OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

This management plan has been developed by Ashfield District Council in partnership with the Friends of Sutton Lawn and Rumbles Catering Ltd. It is intended that the plan will help to improve general maintenance of the site, plan for the future and as part of this process retain the Green Flag Award, which the park has held since 2005. Details of the Council's policies and procedures for green space management are contained within the document: 'Management Plan Overview and Supporting Information.'

The Lawn Pleasure Ground is the original name of the park, although it is also known as The Lawn and Sutton Lawn. The Lawn has a pivotal role in providing facilities for Sutton and is the largest open space in the area, providing a central recreational facility for the community. Many events take place on the park organised by local community groups, Rumbles and the district and county councils which include summer fairs and sporting events.

The park is 7.5 hectares in size and is mainly comprised of grassed areas with woodland, avenues of trees and a lake. The land to the north is owned and managed by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and is principally for sports use for Sutton Community Academy. The remainder of the site is owned by the district council. The management plan refers to land in the ownership of the district council.

1.2 Park facilities

Users

Pavilion	Cafe managed by Rumbles Catering Ltd. Toilet facilities managed by the district council
Lake, angler's hut, fishing platforms x 22 (including 4 disabled pegs)	The 2 hectare lake is classified under the Reservoirs Act due to its size and water capacity. The lake area is managed by Ashfield Anglers
Tennis court x6 and club house	4 courts and clubhouse leased by Sutton in Ashfield Tennis Club
Bowling green and club house x2	Facilities used by 3 local clubs
Multi use games area	Open access
Skate/ BMX park	Floodlit facility with open access
adiZone	Open access
Play area x2	Open access
Car park x3	Open access
3G ('Third Generation') floodlit pitch (NCC land)	The facility is for school use during the day and in the evenings and at weekends is used by community football organisations/ private hire.

1.3 Investment

The site has benefited from over £1.7 million of capital investment since 2002 when a feasibility study was commissioned by the Council and a masterplan developed. The first phase of implementation began in 2003, which included construction of a new pavilion, structural works to the dam wall and lake area, clearance of derelict features, additional seating and litter bins and the installation of railings around the bowling greens. Subsequent works included tree planting, resurfacing of paths and surfacing of desire lines, including a

path around the lake, upgrading of the speed inhibitors along Lawn Lane which runs through the park and installation of directional signage.

A woodland planting and interpretation project was completed in 2005 with the planting of over a thousand trees. Over 350 children from local schools and a children's nursery took part in planting days. Four native woodland areas have been created to complement existing planting and include 22 different species native to the area.

Further works in 2005 included the surfacing of the car park area adjacent to one of the bowling greens and the installation of the Multi Use Games Area and a second phase of footpath works. Several mature trees had to be felled in 2011 due to their condition, replacement planting of lime, beech, ash and wild cherry was carried out in 2012, with the new trees dedicated to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Further works have included installation of an adiZone- a national Olympic legacy project and replacement of the skate/BMX area with a floodlit concrete facility completed in 2014. The main play area was extended and refurbished in 2014.

1.4 Site Heritage/ History

The area has evolved over the past three hundred years, originally shown on maps dating from 1610 as a series of enclosed fields. The park encompasses the grounds of the former Sutton Hall, built as the residence of Samuel Unwin, and the land associated with his nearby Cotton Spinning Mill and Mill Lake. The Mill complex was built around 1770, and the hall and gardens are thought to date from about the same period. The Mill utilised the town's watercourse, locally called the 'River Idle'. Sutton Hall and most of the mill complex no longer exist, but the mill ruins and adjacent lake form a focal feature of the park today.

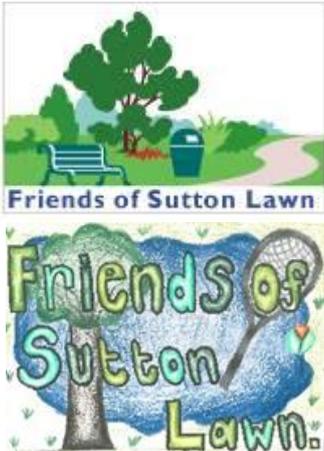


The former mill site has been developed in to residential properties, which are Grade II listed. Parts of the boundary wall still show the larger structures and the location of the mill.

1.5 Community Involvement

Friends of Sutton Lawn

The park is supported by the Friends of Sutton Lawn which works with the council in the development and management of the park. The Friends group was set up in 2000 and meets every two months. The group works with Rumbles to hold events at the park, including Halloween and Christmas events.



Rumbles has run the cafe within the pavilion since 2007 and is a Community Interest Company. Rumbles has been operating a catering social enterprise since 1998 and now runs four cafes in Nottinghamshire. The organisation supports disadvantaged local people gain employment and provides the local community with affordable healthy food. Rumbles also organise community events as well as lunch/ tea time clubs and outside catering.

1.6 Landscape and Ecology

Mill Lake is a prominent feature of the Lawn, covering a little more than two hectares. It was created by the construction of Mill Dam at the eastern end and is fed by a culverted stream. The southern tip of the lake is fenced off and forms a small nature reserve where angling is not permitted. Naturally occurring marginal plants include reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*). The lake holds fish, and this attracts breeding birds such as great-crested grebe. Other birds include heron, kingfisher, mute swan, moorhen and mallard, while Daubenton's bat has been seen foraging above the water's surface.

Within the marginal strip adjacent to the water, the natural vegetation has been considerably augmented by planting of shrubs and trees, many of which are ornamental or other non-native species. These include dogwood, Indian bean tree, Chinese lantern, grey alder, alder and hornbeam. The lower vegetation in this strip is a mixture of wetland species and others typical of disturbed ground.

Semi-Improved Grassland

Grassland occupies at least 3 hectares of the site with Mick's Field near the lake the largest area and of most interest ecologically. Sandy soil at the surface supports species such as sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) and common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). The area is managed as a meadow with one cut per year.

Scrub and woodland

Occupying approximately 2 hectares, trees and shrubs occur in three principal areas:

- A long strip adjacent to the A38 boundary- this is the result of relatively recent planting, associated with the construction of the A38 and is planted with native species, but includes hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and holly (*Ilex aquilinum*) in a stretch of ancient hedgerow.
- A central wood- this follows most of the southern shore of the lake and includes an old hawthorn hedge (*Crataegus monogyna*) that extends south almost as far as the planting next to the A38. Various willow species occur close to the lake, including goat willow (*Salix caprea*), sallow (*S. cinerea*), osier (*S. viminalis*), crack willow (*S. fragilis*) and a large weeping willow.
- At the western end- tall planted poplars (*Populus* sp.), as well as a small area of naturally-developed diverse vegetation in a damp hollow behind a stone wall.

Non-statutory Designations

The site is within the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area.

Biodiversity

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group, 1998) lists species and habitats of conservation concern in the county, based on national and local criteria. The habitat action plans which apply to the Lawn are *Eutrophic and Mesotrophic Waters* and *Improved Grassland*, the species action plan for *Bats* also applies.

1.7 Green Flag criteria

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK. In order to achieve the award green spaces need to meet eight key criteria. The table below shows how the park meets the criteria.



1. A welcoming place	
Good and safe access	There are 17 formal accesses to the Lawn
Good signage to and in the park/green space	Brown signs at the main entrance off Station Road, entrance signs and directional signage within the park
Equal access for all members of the community	There are a number of level accesses into the park and access around the park is generally good on tarmaced paths, although access down to the lake needs to be improved. The small car park next to the pavilion is specifically for disabled users and staff and disabled bays are provided within all three main car parks. The pavilion is fully accessible with a disabled toilet.
2. Healthy, safe and secure	
Equipment and facilities must be safe to use	Comprehensive inspection regime- detailed in the Management Overview
It must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse	Lighting is provided along Lawn Lane and the path from Station Road to the visitor centre which is a well used shortcut through the park. The park has a full time park keeper and is visited by the Council's Community Protection Officers during the evenings. During the summer, Rumbles is open until 7pm.
Dog fouling must be adequately addressed	Policy information is within the Management Overview
Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has up to date policies which are regularly reviewed, further information is within the Management Overview
Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. life belts by water) should be available in or near the park/green space, and be clearly signposted	Toilets are provided within the pavilion, there is a phone for emergency use.

3. Clean and well maintained	
Litter and other waste management	Green waste is composted on the site, further policy information is within the Management Plan Overview
The maintenance of grounds, buildings, equipment and other features	Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview
A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed	Policy information on asset management is provided within the Management Plan Overview
4. Sustainability	
An environmental policy or charter and management strategy in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has a policy in place (within the Management Plan Overview)
Minimise and justify pesticide use	Pesticides are used infrequently
Eliminate horticultural peat use	Horticultural peat is not used on the park
Recycle waste plant material	There is a green waste facility in the works compound within the park
Demonstrate high horticultural and arboricultural standards	The park is maintained to the Council's standards, details are provided within the Management Plan Overview
Have energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures	The pavilion has a number of energy conservation features, for example use of recycled rainwater system to flush toilets and urinals. Recycled slate tiles made from 80% Welsh slates, no gas fired equipment, aluminium clad timber windows with high insulation value, sheep's wool insulation in the roof space. Further details are within the Management Plan Overview
5. Conservation and heritage	
Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of: Natural features, wildlife and fauna	Bird boxes have been provided around the park, an area around the lake is fence off as it is a popular breeding area for swans
Landscapes	The main heritage feature of the park in landscape terms are the avenues of trees which line the main paths, these are gradually being restored where possible. Unfortunately no records of the original park planting design have been found
Buildings and structural features	The only historical structural feature within the park itself is the stone boundary wall near Mick's Field, restoration of this wall is included within the action plan

6. Community involvement	
The park/green space management should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community who represent as many park/green space user groups as possible. The following should be demonstrated:	The park has an active Friends group and many local groups use the park. Rumbles supports community use of the site
Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use	A user survey is carried out every two years which informs the action plan for the park
Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved	The Friends group and Rumbles are involved in the review of the management plan which takes place every two years
Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community	There are a wide range of facilities within the park, the pavilion, sports facilities; bowls, skate/ BMX, adiZone, walking routes, angling, tennis, play etc
7. Marketing	
A marketing strategy should be in place, which is in practice and regularly reviewed	The Council has a parks and green spaces marketing strategy (Management Plan Overview)
There should be good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved	Information is available on the Council's website
The park/green space should be promoted as a community resource	Information is available on the Council's website
8. Management	
A management plan or strategy should be in place	The management plan is reviewed every two years
The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed	The management plan is reviewed every two years
A financially sound management of the park/green space must also be demonstrated	The park is managed as part of the Council's green space assets and does not have separate budgets

2.1 The Lawn Action Plan

KEY:

LCE: Locality and Community Empowerment Team

WE: Environment Team

AS: Asset Management

FoSL: Friends of Sutton Lawn

Completed

TBI: To be identified

S106: Developer contributions

In progress

To be completed

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
		15	16	17	18	19		
Community Involvement								
Play provision	Replace pieces of equipment within main play area				•		S106 - conf./ LIS applied for	LCE
	Review provision in lower play area; secure funding and implement scheme- refocus on more natural play environment					•	S106 tbc/ grant funding	LCE
Sports provision	Identify works and secure funding for tennis facilities: court surface and pavilion improvements				•	•	40k grant funding / S106	LCE
Conservation and Heritage								
Maintain and enhance lake and associated flora and fauna	Remove non-native plants around the lake margin	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue Budget	WE
	Cut and remove areas of woody and other vegetation to ensure that much of the lake margin is maintained in an open and sunny state	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue Budget	WE
Maintain and enhance grassland habitat and other habitats and associated flora and fauna	Improve the botanical interest of grassland by modifying existing management- identify areas where grass beneath groups of trees can be left unmown- plant bluebells	•	•	•	•	•	Revenue Budget/ S106	WE
	Improve botanical interest of Mick's Field meadow through spreading of arisings from nearby sites or other methods			•	•	•	Revenue Budget	WE
	Investigate opportunity to remove some of the trees and excavate a pond within area behind stone wall to the north west of Mick's Field. To provide attractive area for newts, combining breeding habitat in the pond and hibernation sites in the surroundings					•	S106	LCE

Objectives	Action	Delivery					Resources	Lead
		15	16	17	18	19		
Maintain and enhance woodland and scrub habitat and associated flora and fauna	Implement woodland management - explore opportunities with Stobart Forestry				•	•	Revenue Budget	LCE/WE
Maintain and enhance the character of the woodland areas and avenues	Replacement of trees along avenues where necessary	•		•		•	S106	WE
Maintain and conserve built features.	Carry out works to restore stone walls at Mick's Field					•	S106 / seek external funding	WE / LCE
	Carry out works to restore stone walls at the dam				•	•	Revenue Budget	W/E
Signage and interpretation	Rationalise signage and introduce heritage and nature trail interpretation at the site.				•	•	External funding	LCE
	Establish heritage interpretation / displays at rumbles visitors centre.				•	•	External funding	LCE
Healthy, Safe and Secure								
	Investigate options to separate pedestrians and vehicles along the main access road, eg, via signage, white lines, pedestrian footways			•	•		Revenue Budget / S106	WE/LCE
	Review vehicle restriction along Lawn Lane, develop consistent approach, replace existing bollards/ fence			•	•	•	S106	LCE/WE
	Maintain / improve pedestrian crossing and access at upper car park / play area				•	•	S106 / external funding	LCE

3 MONITORING/ REVIEW

3.1 Monitoring and Review

The management plan will be reviewed every two years with a review of the action plan carried out annually to monitor progress. This process will be carried out in September to feed into the Council's business plan cycle. The results of the process will give the opportunity to assess the overall success of the management plan and whether additional funding and resources are required. A site inspection will be carried out during August/ September to check whether any additional works are required, which will then be added to the work programme/ Action plan, as appropriate.

3.2 Contacts

Sutton Lawn

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Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 5FU

Email: environment@ashfield-dc.gov.uk
0800 183 8484 / 01623 457 857

www.ashfield-dc.gov.uk

Café- Rumbles Catering Project Limited

Telephone: 01623 556657 (preferred method of contact is by telephone)
Email: goodfood@rumbles.org.uk
www.rumbles.org.uk/suttonlawn

Friends of Sutton Lawn

For information about the Friends of Sutton Lawn, please contact the council on 01623 457451.

Clubs

Tennis

Sutton Lawn Tennis Club

<http://suttontennisclub.webs.com>

Angling

Ashfield Angling Association

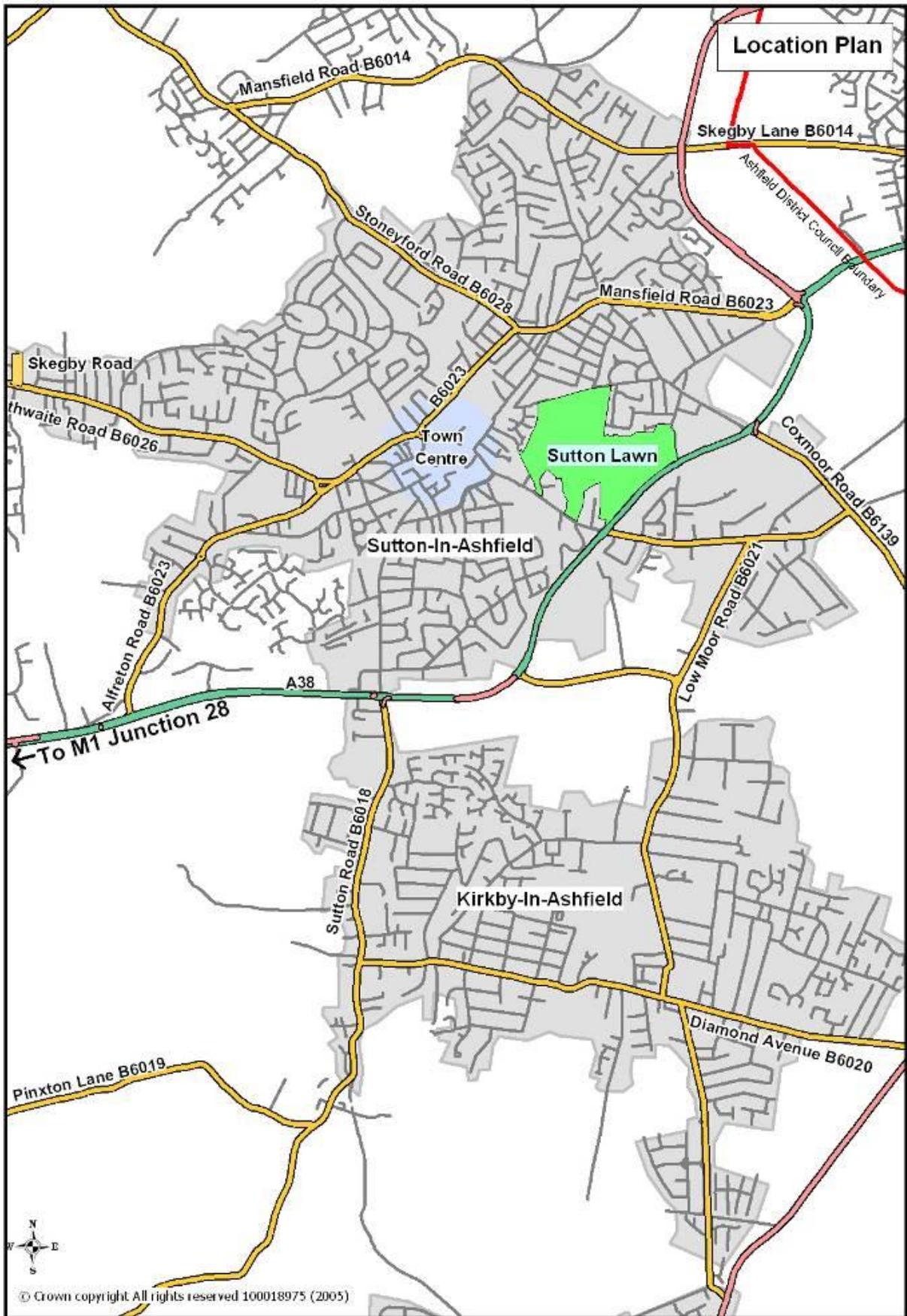
Alan Pilmore, Chairman
0791 2315308

www.ashfieldangling.piczo.com

Bowls

Portland Bowls Club

Tel: 01623 553822



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