



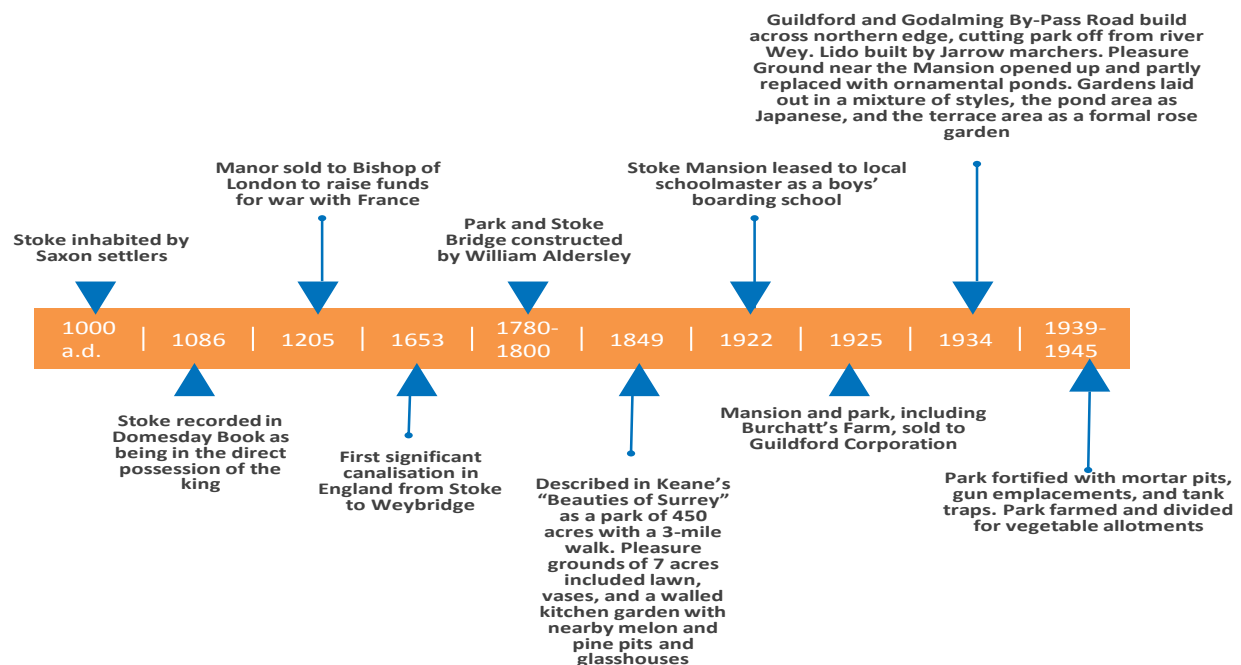
## 2. Introduction and brief history to Stoke Park

Stoke Park is a 52 hectare multi-functional Park bought by the Borough of Guildford from Lord Onslow in 1925 to prevent future building work and "remain for all time a lung of the town". Up to the present, this objective has been achieved. Situated between London Road and Parkway, which are two of the four arterial roads to the A3, Stoke Park is the largest Park within the town of Guildford and one of the largest regional parks in Surrey. It is also an award-winning Green Flag Park, which is the national standard and assessed annually. The remaining park and its woodland have remained largely intact since they were laid out in the 18th-century.

Stoke Park Mansion was demolished in the 1960's to make way for Guildford College. Where the old mansion house once stood and the walls around what was the house's kitchen garden are listed.

A recent survey concluded the park merits inclusion in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. A longer-term history of Stoke Park is set out below

## Stoke Park Time Line



Stoke Park contains a number of recreational facilities, buildings and assets, woodland and sports pitches. Stoke Park is a local and regional community park. It is home to the annual Surrey County Show a number of other events throughout the year, such as Race for Life, and the new Always the Sun music and food festival. It is also the site for the annual

Guildford Lions Firework Fiesta on 5 November every year. A 5 km run against the clock is organised by the group Parkrun most Saturday mornings. Many of the surrounding schools hire the park for their sporting events and lessons.

The site is governed and managed in accordance with its management plan, which is reviewed regularly as part of maintaining our green flag status.

## Legislation

Stoke Park is 'protected open space'. Under planning policy and the Open Spaces Act, this means that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, cannot be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

This is still relevant as there is a deficiency of amenity open space in the borough in the current and proposed local plans.

Byelaws apply as well the Surrey Act 1985.

## Assets and Facilities

The site has number of assets and facilities, which fall in to the curtilage of the park which are set out below broken into various geographical locations around the park.

<b>Stoke Park Nursery/Nightingale Road</b>
Stoke Park - Nursery Greenhouses
Stoke Park - Home Farm Buildings
Stoke Park - Girl Guides, Nightingale Rd
Stoke Park - Home Farm Cottage
Stoke Park - Scout Hall, Nightingale Rd
Stoke Park Nursery - Office
Stoke Park Nursery Depot
Stoke Park – Nightingale Road Car Park
<b>Stoke Park Gardens</b>
Stoke Park – Boating Pond
Stoke Park - Gardeners Cottage
Stoke Park Gdns Playground
Stoke Park Japanese Shelter
Stoke Park Kiosk (Catering)
Stoke Park Kiosk (Mini Golf)

Stoke Park Ornamental Bridge
Stoke Park Paddling Pool
Stoke Park Paddling Pool Plant Room
Stoke Park Walled Garden Shelter
Stoke Park Tennis Courts
<b>Stoke Park</b>
Stoke Park - Aerial Adventure
Stoke Park - Allotments
Stoke Park - Astolat Bowls Pav
Stoke Park - Biodiversity Ctre (greenark)
Stoke Park - Bowls Mess room
Stoke Park – Guildford Bowls Club Pavilion
Stoke Park – Guildford Lido
Stoke Park - Haha
Stoke Park - Indoor Bowls Club
Stoke Park – Lido Road War Memorial
Stoke Park – Lido Road Car Park
Stoke Park - Skate Park
Stoke Park – sports pitches 4 x Full size adult grass football pitches 2 x 9V9 grass football pitches 1 x 7v7 grass football pitch 3 x Adult full size rugby pitches 2 x Cricket pitches 3 x Lacrosse pitches 6 x Rounders' pitches 2 x Tennis courts 2 x Tennis/netball courts 1 x Grass athletics track
<b>Burchatts Barn Area</b>
Stoke Park - Burchatts Farm - Pavilion
Stoke Park - Burchatts Farm Barn
Stoke Park - Burchatts Farm Barn - Flat 1
Stoke Park - Burchatts Farm Cottages 4
Stoke Park – Burchatts Farm Car Park
Stoke Park – Disability Challengers
Stoke Park - Model Engineering Society
Stoke Park - Old Guildfordians Club House
Stoke Park - Urban Saints

### 3. Stakeholders and Usage

There are a number of key stakeholders in the park

<b>Tenants</b>	<b>Estimated number of users where known/applicable</b>
Urban Saints,	N/A
Guildford Bowling Club,	40
Guildford Allotment Society,	N/A
Guildfordians (rugby),	2000
Old Guildfordians Association Club,	N/A
Disabilities Challengers,	N/A
Guildford Model Engineering Society,	100
Craggy Island (Wildwood),	N/A
Girl Guides and Scouts,	200+
Old Guildfordians (football),	90
Surrey County Agricultural Society	35,000 annually
Wey Valley Indoor Bowling Club	500
First Come First Served Catering	N/A
<b>Regular Hirers</b>	
Lanesborough School	N/A
Sandfields School	N/A
Royal Grammar School	N/A
Guildford Lions	20,000 annually
Cancer Research	6,000 annually
Park Run	400 per week
Junior Park Run	200 per week
Fitness Sessions (c.12 regular groups)	12 regular groups
Guildfordians Rugby Club	2 festivals annually, 8,000 people each
Music/arts festival	5,000-20,000 annually
Historia Normannis	weekly battle re-enactment with annual large-scale battle
Charlotteville Cycling Club	400 weekly
<b>Neighbours</b>	
Guildford College	
Guildford High School	
Guildford Community Church	
Guildford Spectrum	
Residents	Circa 200
<b>Other</b>	
Friends of Stoke Park	
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice	Sponsor of the memory meadow
Baker Tilly	Sponsor of the Stoke Park Walk
Other major events e.g Olympic Torch and Armed Forces Day	Infrequent 40,000

## Visitor numbers

The visitor numbers to Stoke Park Gardens only over the last three municipal years are:

2013/14	499,630
2014/15	492,137
2015/16	459,522

The number of sports bookings numbers last three municipal years are:

2013/14	805
2014/14	661
2015/16	635

These bookings covers number of sports but is primarily used for football, rugby, lacrosse and tennis.

## 4. Funding overview

To follow

## Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

The following demonstrates incidents in Stoke Park from the data publicly available from Surrey Police:

Reported Incidents in Stoke Park for one year – 83 incidents recorded

a. November 2015 to April 2016 (winter)

36 incidents:

- 5 criminal damage and arson
- 5 public order
- 9 theft (mainly bicycles)
- 5 violence and sexual offence
- and 12 anti-social behaviour

b. May 2015 to October 2015 (summer)

47 incidents:

- 8 criminal damage and arson
- 3 public order
- 7 theft and burglary
- 19 violence and sexual offence
- 10 anti-social behaviour

## **5. Infrastructure Review**

The Stoke Park Infrastructure Review was completed in 2014 for the Corporate Plan to identify key issues. A number of conclusions were reached:

1. Stoke Park is Guildford's only regional multi-purpose open space, and is one of the most significant regional parks in Surrey.
2. Stoke Park needs a vision and a master plan to make it fit the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to sustain its current success and to meet future need.
3. A number of key areas are identified as in need of improvement. These are:
  - access
  - the built infrastructure (buildings and other structures including listed walling)
  - facilities (the need to improve catering, play and other attractions, including a vibrant events and activities programme)
  - green infrastructure (trees and landscape of the park)
  - interpretation, promotion and marketing.
4. External funding sources may be available.
5. A restored and vibrant park will attract additional primary income (e.g. through attracting higher spend on individual facilities, catering, etc.); and on secondary savings which may be realised through other agencies (e.g. by lowering NHS spending on physical and mental illnesses).

## **6. What can Stoke Park achieve?**

1. Increase adaptation to environmental pressures acting as Guildford's lung as per its original intention from Lord Onslow. These are many and varied, climate change, air quality, biodiversity all of which support public health.
2. Attract investment and save costs for business by making Guildford a better place to live and work
3. Lower the local tax burden by increasing income
4. Give people a "sense of place" about the unique area in which they live
5. Improve physical and mental health to provide equality for health in the borough. It should support the health and wellbeing agenda.
6. Greatly increase community interaction, and involve more people in events and activities

## **7. Best Practice in Successful Parks**

Common themes arising from best practice sites such as Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Reigate Priory Park, Tilgate Park, Lower Leas Coastal Park and numerous examples abroad and arguably Stoke Park are:

- Engaged local communities
- Excellent play facilities
- Diverse sports events and activities programmes
- Attractive landscape and supporting biodiversity
- Good quality food offering
- Well maintained and used assets

**Questions for the EAB:**

1. What form should a stakeholder and wide public consultation take to inform a masterplan?
2. What are the views on the current and future usage for events, activities and sports, i.e. what should the output of the park be?
3. What are the views on the need for investment in the parks infrastructure and assets?
4. What should the scope of the masterplan cover?
5. What are the views on the promotion of the park and engaging use in the site?
6. How do we sustain the current highly successful output from the park?
7. What are the EAB's perceptions about community needs for the park?
8. Comments on the project structure for developing the masterplan.