



Equality Assessment

Part 1 - Initial screening

Name of Policy/Function: Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre	X	This is new
		This is a change to an existing policy
		This is an existing policy, Function, not previously assessed
		This is an existing policy/function for review

Date of screening	9 June 2016
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1. Briefly describe its aims & objectives

Brocks Hill Country Park and Centre aims to engage with all sectors of the community in order to improve the health and wellbeing of visitors and to educate and inform, which link to the Council's key Priorities CP3, CP4, CP5, CP7, CP8, CP9.

2. Are there external considerations? (Legislation/government directive etc)

The Centre and Country Park adheres to all Council policies including Safeguarding and protecting children/vulnerable adults. It also adheres to all legislative and government directives in relation to carrying out its business.

3. Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?

Stakeholders include local residents, volunteers, visitors to the area, hirers, event organisers, schools, those who work in the borough, OWBC staff and companies/organisations that have a connection with the Centre or Country Park. In addition to dog walkers, bird watchers, runners and large groups such as the Knitters and Church groups.

Stakeholders have a range of interests e.g. Volunteers - giving their time to assist Brocks Hill in a variety of ways; Visitors - who use the park to exercise their dogs; Families - who come to enjoy the park/centre and children's play equipment.

Other stakeholders include Schools – educational visits, and paying visitors who take part in the many activities/courses (both for adults and children), as well as those who hire the facilities for parties, conferences and events.

4. What outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?

In line with the Council's Corporate Priorities CP3, CP4, CP5, CP7, CP8, CP9; the OWBC Health & Wellbeing Board and Public Health priorities – the outcomes are to provide residents and visitors with an opportunity to improve their Health and Wellbeing; and to educate and inform through hosting many organised learning experiences for children, adults and families.

Brocks Hill aims to meet the diverse needs of the local community.

5. Has any consultation/research been carried out?

Yes/No

If **yes** please provide details and outcomes, if **no** please outline any planned activities

Yes. Brocks Hill regularly carry out evaluation and consultation with a range of individuals and groups. E.g. surveys with visitors to the Park and Centre, feedback on Amphitheatre events, children's activities and parties. School feedback forms are collated and analysed, as are comments following adult courses in order to influence future engagement. Social media is also used, including ensuring a timely response to matters raised.

6. Are there any concerns at this stage which indicate the possibility of Inequalities/negative impacts? (Consider and identify any evidence you have -equality data relating to usage and satisfaction levels, complaints, comments, research, outcomes of review, issues raised at previous consultations, known inequalities) If so please provide details.

No. Equality data is collected regularly and analysed.

Many positive comments are received - however there are some complaints too. Particularly about lack of car parking spaces (*maximising and increasing the number of spaces is currently being investigated*), in addition to the service provided by the Cafe, which is run by SLM, which does not always meet expectations (*new cafe manager recruited*).

Visitor feedback forms provide equality data and comments about visitor's experience, including satisfaction levels.

7. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

(Positive – It could benefit, **Negative** – It could disadvantage, **Neutral** – neither positive nor negative impact or **Not sure?**)

	Type of impact, reason & any evidence
Disability	Positive: The Country Park has a network of 3km hard surface paths which allows low mobility and wheelchair access. Picnic benches with wheelchair access; Pond dipping platform with wheelchair access. The Centre is also fully accessible by wheelchair.
Race (including Gypsy & Traveller)	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all. Whilst there are no specific programmes for this group, the wide promotion of relevant activities, via the Centre, our borough notice boards, newsletters and social media provides communication / information for hard to reach groups.
Age	Positive: The Centre and Country park are open to all age groups.
Gender Reassignment	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all.
Sex	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all.
Sexual Orientation	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all.
Religion/Belief	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all. Children's activities are provided to celebrate other cultures e.g. Chinese New Year; and Diwali. A number of faith groups have utilised the facilities to celebrate their key faith events.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive: The Centre and Country Park are open to all. The Country Park has a network of 3km hard surface paths which allow for buggy access/buggy walks.

8. Could other socio-economic groups be affected e.g. carers, ex-offenders, low incomes, homeless?

No. The Centre and Country Park are open to all. Access to the Centre is free of charge. There is also no charge to individuals visiting the Country Park.

The Country Park provides a range of informal recreational activities free of charge seven days a week. These include: a Human Sun Dial; Environmental Art in the form of Sculptures; children and young peoples' play areas/equipment; a

dedicated den building area, and dog watering points which are adjacent to the Centre.

In addition there is a permanent orienteering course. Course packs provide three routes of increasing difficulty and are available from Brocks Hill Centre at a small charge.

9. Are there any human rights implications?

Yes/No (if yes please explain)

No

10. Is there an opportunity to promote equality and/or good community relations?

Yes/No (if yes how will this be done?)

Yes. This is achieved via the regular Brocks Hill newsletters; Letterbox; posters and leaflets.

Engagement with a range of community groups and volunteers regularly takes place.

11. If you have indicated a negative impact for any group is that impact legal (not discriminatory under anti-discrimination legislation)?

Yes/No (please explain)

N/A

12. Is any part of this policy/service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?

Yes/No

No

13. Is a Part 2 full Equality Assessment required?

Yes/No

No

14. Date by which a Part 2 full Equality Assessment is to be completed with actions.

N/A

Please note that you should proceed to a Part 2, the full Equality Impact Assessment if you have identified actual, or the potential to cause, adverse impact or discrimination against different groups in the community.

We are satisfied that an initial screening has been carried out and a full equality assessment **is / is not required*** (please delete as appropriate).

Completed by.....*Alex Lenny*.....Date *9/6/2016*
(Policy/Function/Report written)

Countersigned by.....*Anne Ecola*.....Date *15/6/16*
(Head of Service)

Screened by:.....Date:.....

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(Community Engagement Officer)

Equality Assessments shall be published on the Council website with the relevant and appropriate document upon which the equality assessment has been undertaken.