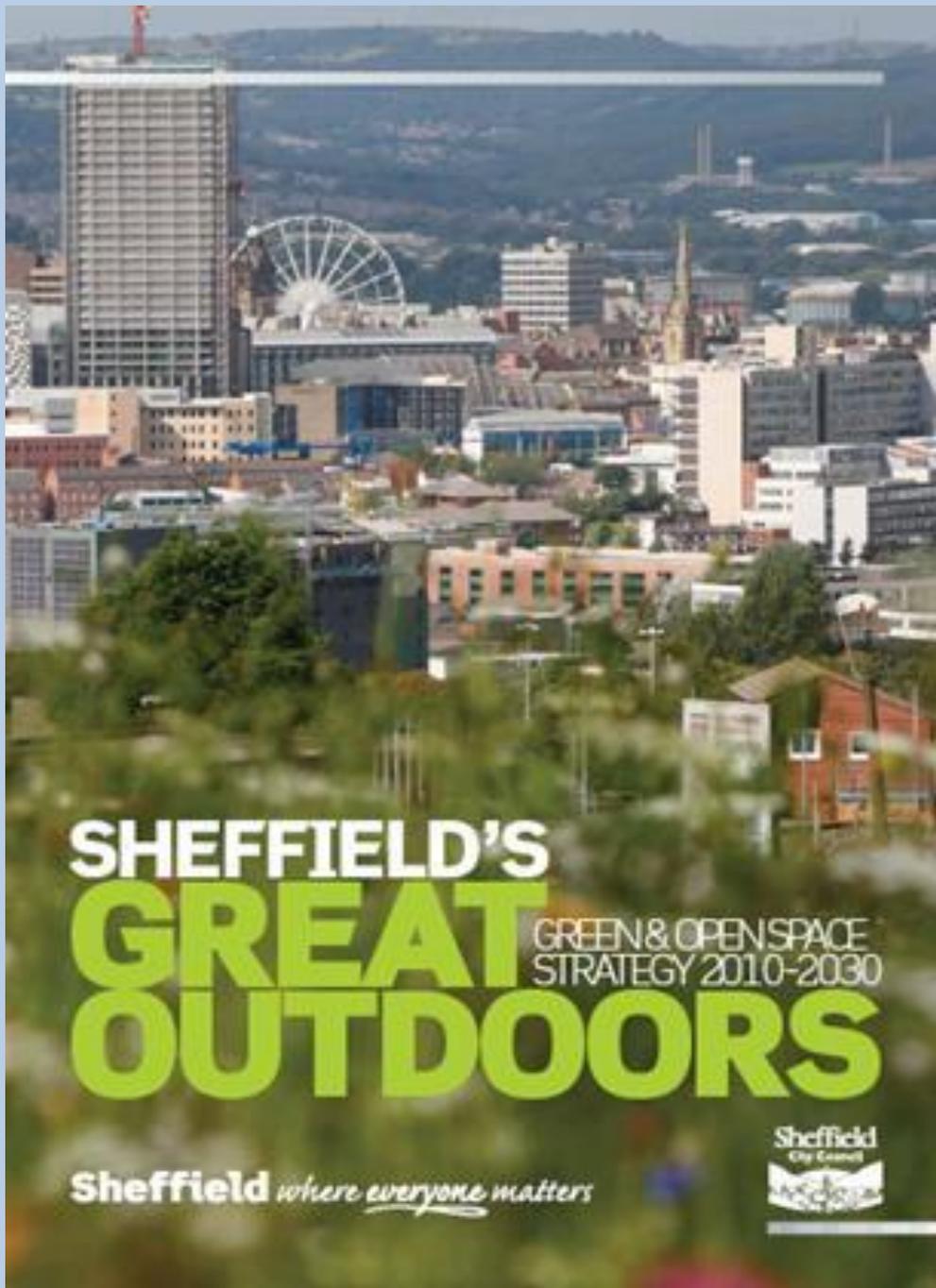


# Hillsborough Park Gathering Ground

- Identifying the problems facing the park
- Unlocking funding through partnership working
- Developing an Action plan
- Outcomes and benefits achieved

Stuart Turner  
Parks & Countryside Service  
Sheffield City Council





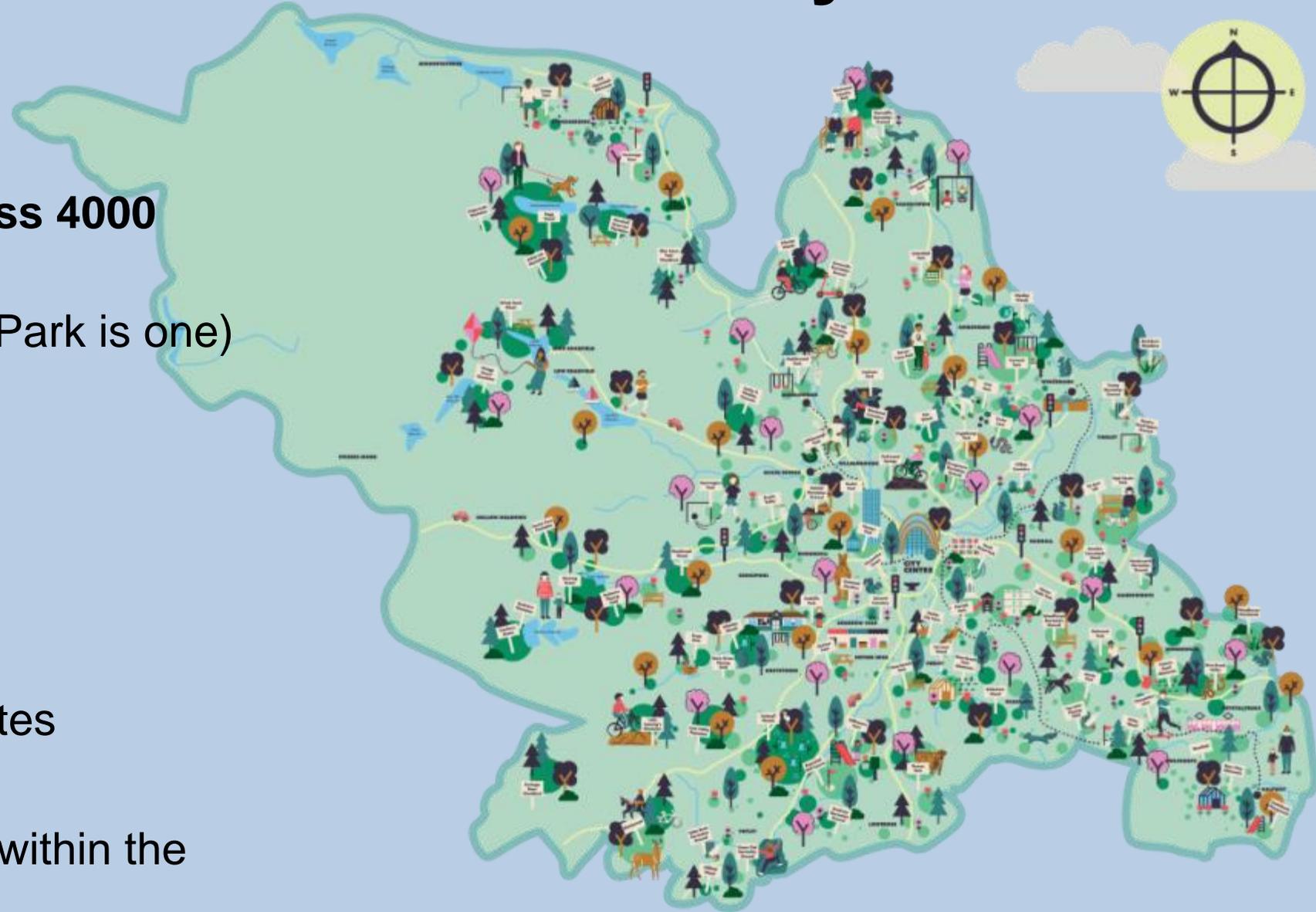
# Vision

**“Our strategy will ensure that every area of the City has green and open spaces of exceptional quality for current and future generations to use and enjoy”**

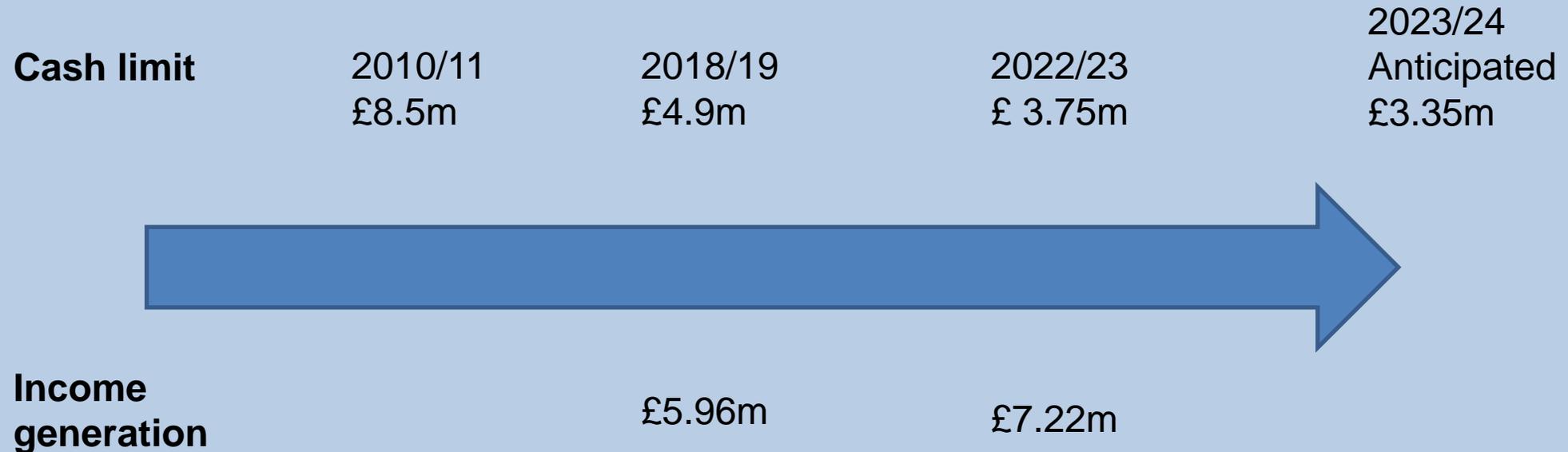
# Sheffield's Parks and Countryside

**Over 800 green spaces across 4000 hectares including...**

- 13 city parks (Hillsborough Park is one)
- 20 district parks
- 50 local parks
- 342 local green spaces
- 181 woodlands
- 81 allotment sites
- 262 Nature Conservation sites
- 150 playgrounds
- Part of Sheffield's region is within the Peak District boundary



# Budget



## How we are managing the budget challenges:

- Public Health funding (2017)
- Better Parks initiative (2018)
- Partnership working!!
- Engaging and enabling communities
- Improving ways of working through technology and mobile applications
- Staff efficiencies





# Better Parks SHEFFIELD

Plus culture change...an acceptance of the need to do things differently (*just couldn't find a pic for that!*)

News > Politics

## New tennis courts, games area and cafe planned for Sheffield's Hillsborough Park

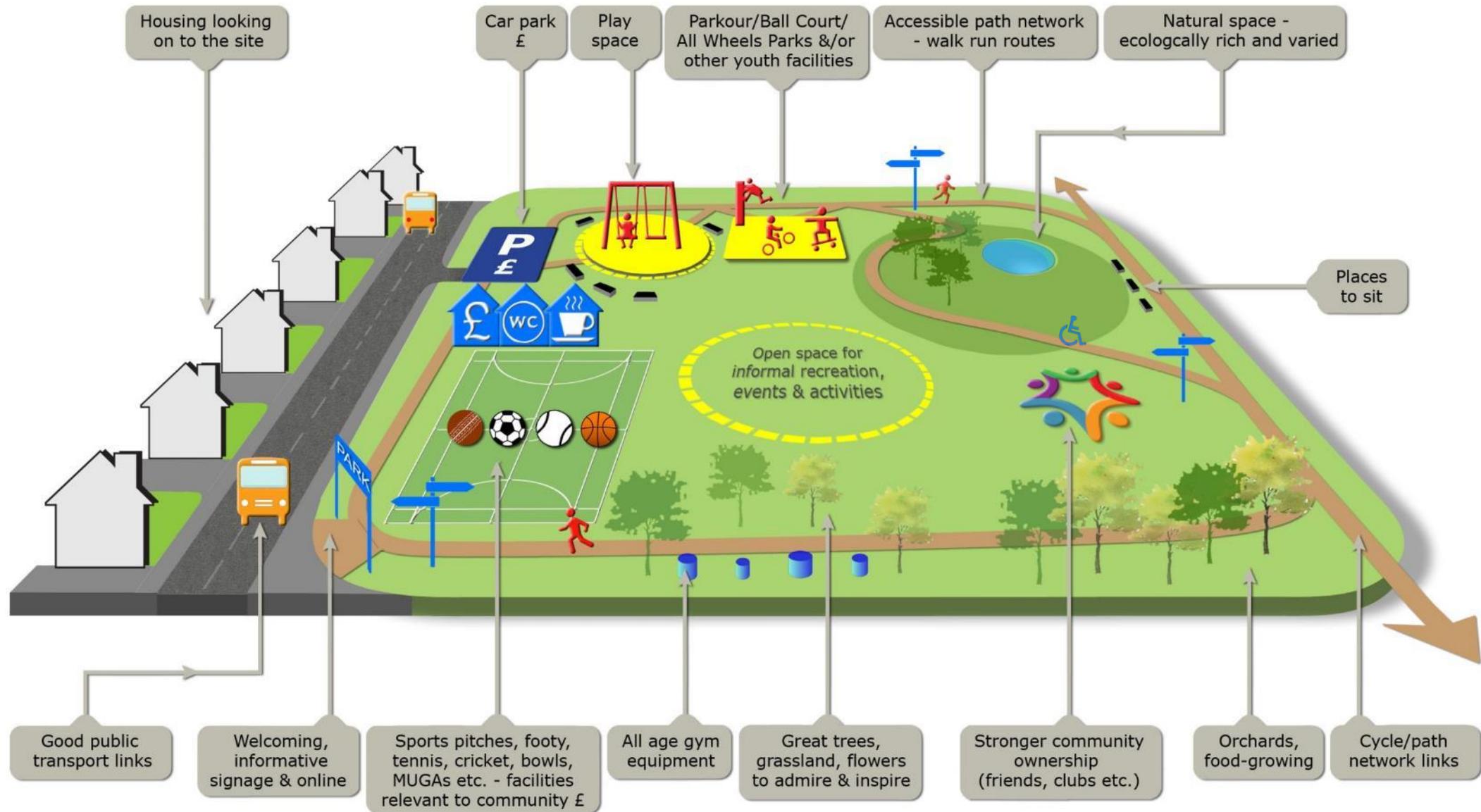
Tired tennis courts and a dilapidated games area in a popular Sheffield park are to be revamped with a new activity hub.

By Lucy Ashton  
 Wednesday, 13th April 2022, 3:14 pm  
 Updated: Wednesday, 13th April 2022, 3:19 pm

# Active Parks (Creating sustainable community health hubs)

Good quality, well designed and managed with a brew, a loo and things to do for all abilities





# Would I take my parents?

## Threshold Criteria for a visit:

- Is there a café
  - Big mug of coffee with hot milk & scone
  - Warm & spacious
  - Window views
  - Comfortable seats
- Is there good clean toilets
- Is there a flat-ish circular walk
- Are there any flowers

Overgrown



Eye sore



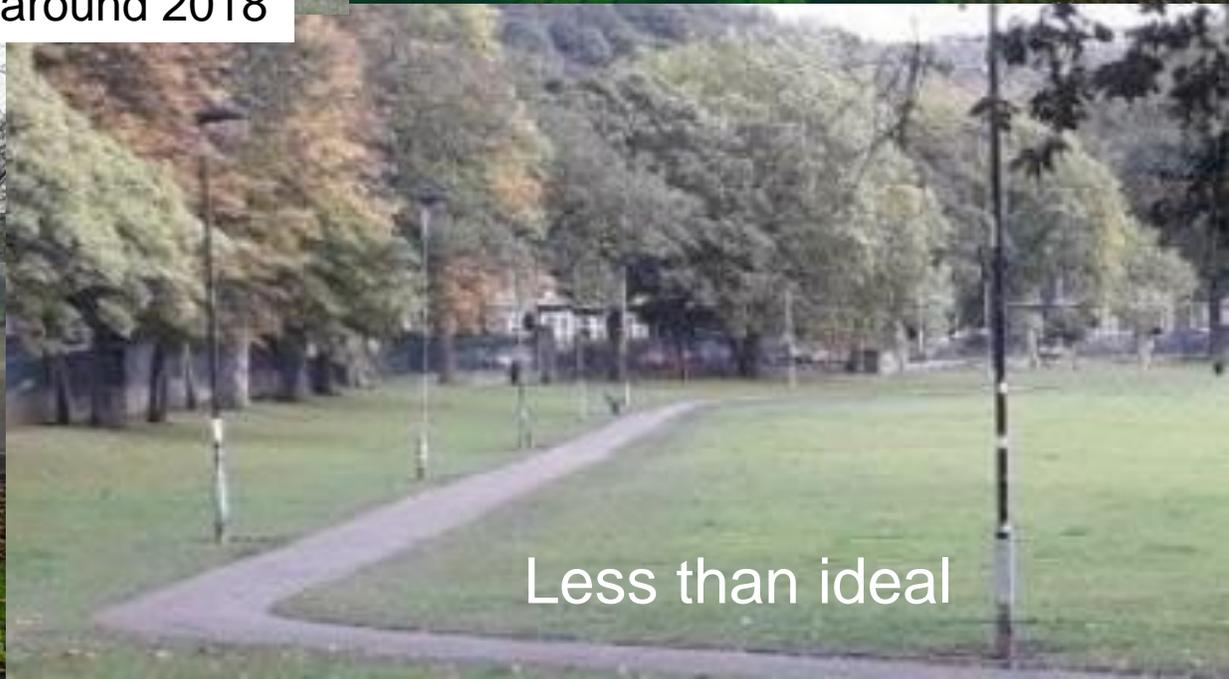
Dated

Hillsborough Park around 2018

Tired



Less than ideal



# Timeline of a Coach House Cafe

House & Coach House built

Library opened in House  
Coach House used for storage

Single story extension built for public toilets

P&C Service unsuccessful  
Heritage bid



AgeUK Sheffield approach SCC with a development proposal



Sold to the Sheffield Corporation (SCC)

House & Coach House Grade ii Listed

Park Master Plan

P&C look to the market for interest and investment

SCC undertake works following collapse of inertia structures

£1m + restoration of the Coach House & Potting Sheds complete. Depot Baker café opened.

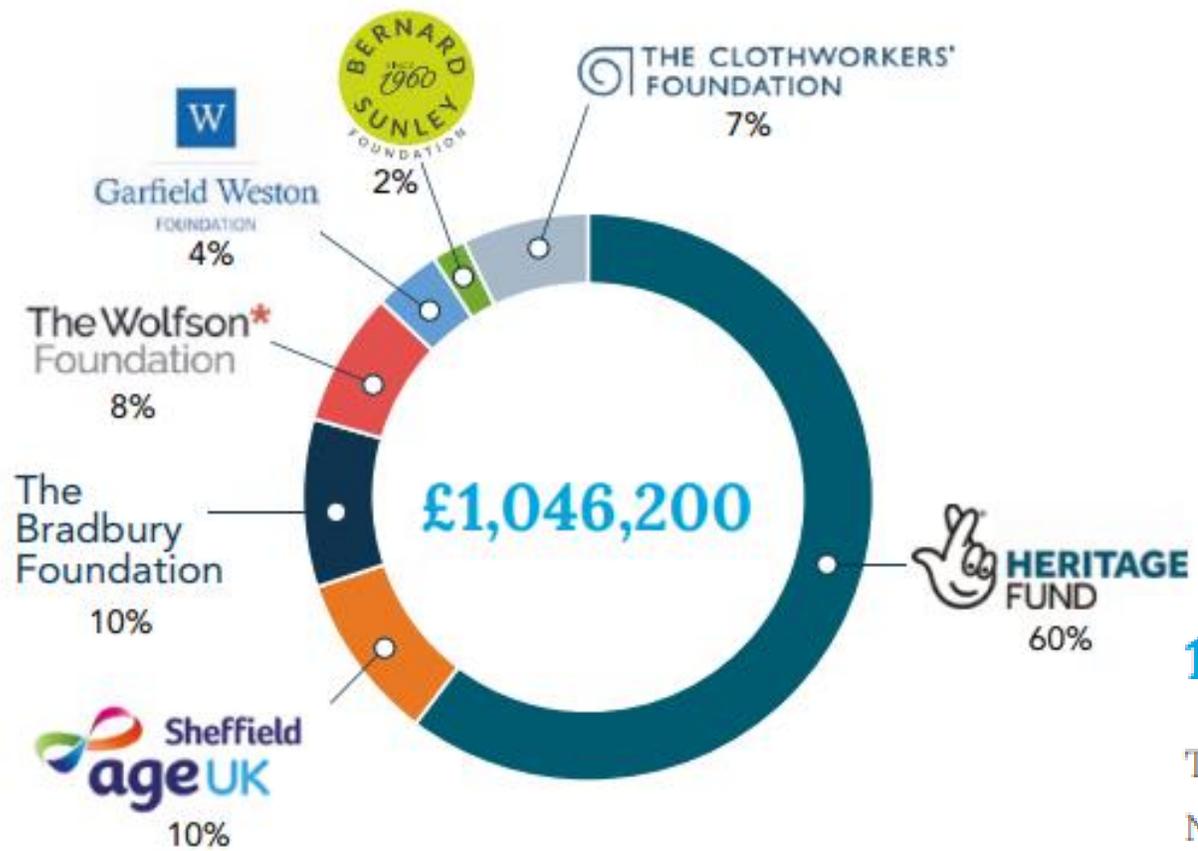


Over a century of deterioration



- Running sessions at a number of parks
- Wanting a stronger presence and more organisational 'resilience' in Sheffield.
- **2016/17** - approach P&C about a dementia café in the coach house
- Who to talk to? P&C, Planning, Property, Legal. Also - Charity Commission & funders
- **2017/18**: Development phase (SCC providing a 'letter of comfort' to enable fundraising)
- **2017/18**: Project Board established
- **2018/19**: Heritage Fund feasibility grant (and Architectural Heritage Fund).
- **2020/21**: Plans and vision evolved – (Friends, Rivelin Co and P&C Service). The Gathering Ground concept emerged. Things stalled a bit at this stage...
  - Development plans now included restoration of the potting shed and Coach House walled garden link.
  - Proposal approved in via Cabinet report – awarding AgeUK Sheffield 125 year lease.
  - Round 2 Heritage Grant Award £631k





# Funding sources

## 1.3 Project Funding

The project was awarded £631,200 of development funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), which was a 60% NLHF grant. The remaining 40% of the funding was secured from the following sources:

- Age UK Sheffield Reserves - £100K
- The Bradbury Foundation - £100K
- Wolfson Foundation - £80k
- Garfield Weston Foundation - £40k
- Bernard Sunley Foundation - £20k
- Clothworkers Foundation £75k

AgeUK  
adding value

# Hillsborough Park possibly in the 70s...



# Hillsborough Park possibly 2018





- 1 Bowling Greens
- 2 Pavilion & Toilets
- 3 Library
- 4 Walled Garden
- 5 Lake
- 6 Playground
- 7 Lodge
- 8 Multi Use Games Area
- 9 Tennis Courts
- 10 Table Tennis Table
- 11 Arena Sports Ground
- 12 Keep Fit Loop
- 13 Climbing/Play Area
- P Parking
- Bike Storage
- Toilets
- Information Point
- Entrance (vehicle & pedestrian)
- Entrance (pedestrian)
- Trees
- Information Board



# Hillsborough Park Improvement ideas – Sept19

# Forward Plan Consultation 2021

The online consultation had 412 responses and identified key themes and local priorities for investment across the site.

The following items were almost universally scored as poor:

- Lack of visitor facilities – especially toilet and café,
- Drainage
- Underinvestment in sports facilities
- Condition of the Lake, wildfowl and illegal fishing
- Communication and community engagement
- Signage and notice boards
- Interpretation about the history of the park,
- Lighting (evening safety)
- Derelict buildings / lodge



Consultation Results identified many areas for improvement – key concerns would be addressed through 2022:

- Café and toilet facilities at the Coach House
- Improved drainage and path networks
- Better information and heritage interpretation.
- Pump track investment

Consultation responses highlighted the potential to be a **highly accessible park** and community resource and its importance to visitors' mental and physical well-being.

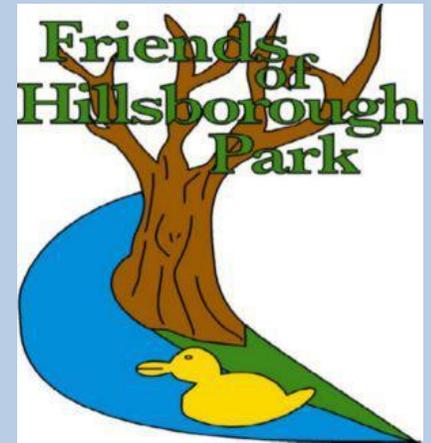
# Coach House & Potting Sheds: Gathering dust...







Gathering Ground is your place in Hillsborough Park. For all ages, all together.



# Outcomes

- Eye sore now a true heritage asset, plus:
  - Income generate
  - Public access facility
  - Heritage Interpretation
  - Wee & and a Tea
- 900 people in Activity Plan related events and activities
- Restoration of the Walled Garden Potting Sheds
  - Public access facility
  - Venue for community activity
- Creation of the Gathering Ground – including the Pavilion management
- Permanent partnership with RivelinCo
  - started as delivering the Activity Plan
- Increased resilience of Age UK Sheffield
- 19 people employed at the Coach House
- A catalyst for Park revitalisation



## Café: Post completion user survey:

- 100% of respondents – this has improved the local area
- 81% said they would spend more time in the park now the café has opened

THE  
BRADBURY  
MAKERS'  
SHED

- 26 x Friends of Hillsborough Park Meetings
- 16 x Breast Feeding Groups
- 1 x Zest Meeting
- 1 x Planning Day
- 4 x Creative Easter Clubs
- 4 x Rivelin Co Events
- 2 x Craft Events
- 2 x Creative Makers Shed Events
- 1 x PhotoShoot
- 4 x Print Making
- 1 x Share & Repair

**62 sessions**

**938 participants**

THE  
PAVILION

- 32 x Dementia Wellbeing Centre
- 16 x Falls Prevention Events
- 16 x JuJitsu
- 16 x Art Groups
- 1 x Table Top Sale
- 4 x Birthday Party
- 13 x Dancing Workshop
- 8 x Singing Workshop
- 1 x Creating Together
- 3 x Cinema Club
- 8 x Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy
- 3 x Yoga
- 1 x Picnic
- 1 x Young Carers event

**123 sessions**

**2418 participants**



**3 months in...  
A step change  
in public  
engagement  
services**

Catalyst for wider park renewal...  
...and ambition

**Some play improvements delivered, and further ambitions – focusing on inclusivity**



**Path network – major upgrade, Spring 2022**



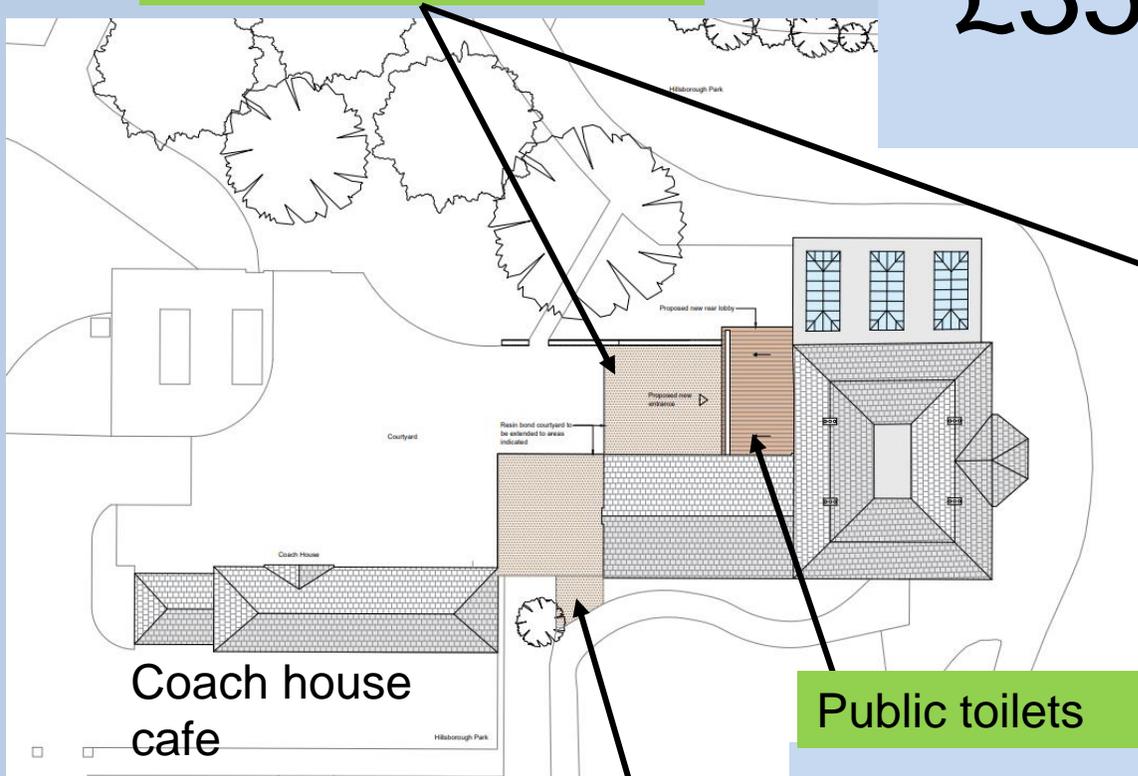
**Pump Track – opened summer 2022**

**Pavilion Changing Places Facility & Library access improvement project, summer 2023**



New Library entrance –  
spilling out into the café  
court yard & park

# £350k Library Improvements



Courtyard  
extension

Public toilets

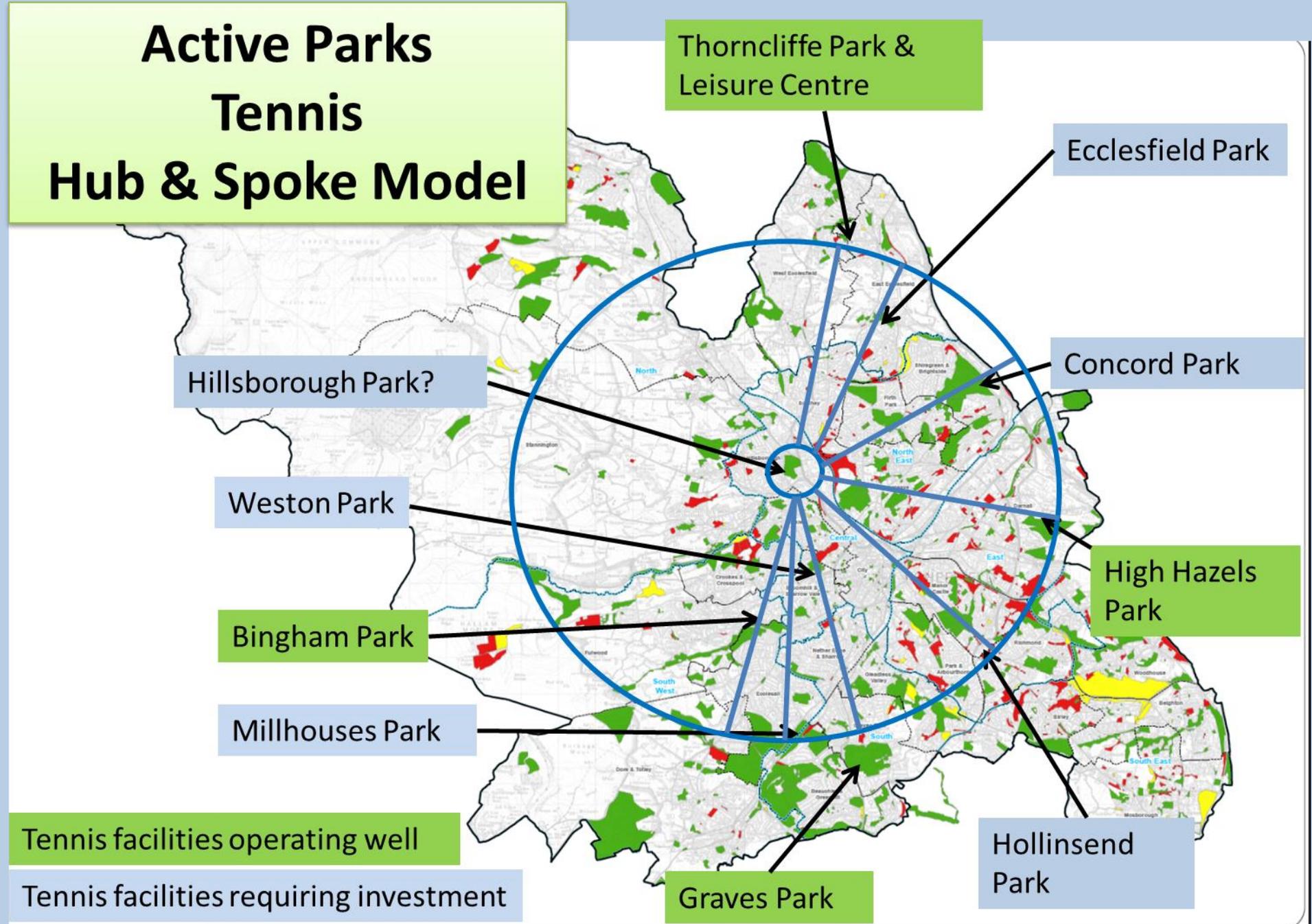
New through  
pedestrian  
route



# Proposed £1.3m Multi-Activity Hub: Gathering Ground for sports & recreation



# Active Parks Tennis Hub & Spoke Model



Tennis facilities operating well

Tennis facilities requiring investment

**Green Flag Award**

- 1 Bowling Greens
- 2 Pavilion & Toilets
- 3 Library
- 4 Walled Garden
- 5 Lake
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**CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE** Sheffield City Council



**Hillsborough Park Improvement planning – Feb23**

- Site partners**
- Friends Group
  - Bowls Club
  - Park Run
  - HASA
  - RivelinCo
  - AgeUK Sheffield
  - Cycling 4 All
  - Courtside
  - Hillsborough Library
  - Tramlines
  - Access Sport
  - British Cycling & more...

# Learning

- Working with strategic partners can add significant value – where there are overlap ‘needs’ or common ground
- Plans and ambitions change during development – and this is a good thing
- Tenacity to keep going as change does not come easy – and takes so long!
- Individuals matter (Steve Chu)
- An ‘anchor project’ can be the catalyst for so much more
- Community ‘good will’ and enthusiasm is much easier for heritage renewal – costs & funding are the tricky bit.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=5180326238691431>



Thank You

