



Park Services

Byelaw public consultation report

March 2025

Introduction

In 2021 Gedling Borough district has an estimated population of 117,800. Gedling Borough lies adjacent to the boundary of City of Nottingham and covers 120km². Around 5,000 businesses are based in the Gedling. Gedling Borough Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of over 1,695 hectares of accessible green spaces.

Including:

- 51 local parks
- 4 Green Flags
- 601 allotment plots
- 31 play areas
- 14 ball courts
- 9 Skate Parks
- 3 Cemeteries
- 7 Outdoor gyms
- Sports facilities
- 24,000 volunteers hours on green spaces annually

Enforcement background.

When using our parks and open spaces, it is important that certain rules are followed to ensure they remain safe and clean for everyone to enjoy. We try to make sure everyone can enjoy our publically accessible green spaces safely. To do this we have a number of byelaws, policies and guides in place. We encourage people to enjoy our parks as fully as possible, however there are circumstances where without the correct permissions, you may have to abandon your activity or be prevented from continuing if the activity is already underway.

Gedling Borough Council uses a variety of legislative powers including byelaws to address crime and anti-social behaviour. The authority has a number of warranted officers who have the legal powers to issue fixed penalty notices or take alternative actions under a variety of these powers, please see link for more information.

<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/council/aboutus/Public%20Protection%20Enforcement%20Policy.pdf>

What are byelaws, why do we need them?

Byelaws are local laws made by a local council under an enabling power contained in a public general act or a local act requiring something to be done – or not done – in a specified area. They are accompanied by some sanction or penalty for their non-observance.

If validly made, byelaws have the force of law within the areas to which they apply. Generally byelaws are overseen by the relevant government department or confirming authority who has policy responsibility for the subject matter.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have responsibility for byelaws covering pleasure grounds and open spaces. These relate in the main to the peaceful enjoyment of parks and open spaces and the suppression of nuisances.

Byelaws are enforced by the local authority through the magistrates' court and contravening a byelaw can result in a fine upon successful conviction.

Byelaws are considered measures of last resort after a local council has tried to address the local issue the byelaw applies to through other means. A byelaw cannot be made where alternative legislative measures already exist that could be used to address the problem. Byelaws should always be proportionate and reasonable. Where a byelaw is no longer necessary, it should be revoked.

Gedling Borough Council's use of byelaws relating to pleasure grounds, public walks and open spaces

Gedling Borough Council currently have adopted byelaws for parks and open spaces in place, however they were last updated in 1996. Since 1996 the number of parks and open spaces have increased and the number of visitors have risen dramatically, particularly during and post Covid. In addition, the way in which people utilise parks and open spaces has changed with emerging trends, which has identified new items for consideration. These include,

- Site improvements, developments and name changes made since the last byelaws were introduced.
- New sites created
- Sites removed where byelaws are no longer required.
- Changes in the way the sites are used and the scale of visitors accessing sites and subsequent ASB.
- Identified need for inclusion of updated byelaws that previously weren't available, i.e. Drones and Sky Lanterns.

Byelaw review, adoption and implementation process

There is a clearly defined process for all Local Authorities to follow if they wish to review, make changes, remove or include further byelaws. The below also demonstrates the timeframe that GBC has applied to the completion of each stage.

- 1.1. Review current byelaws, draft updated byelaws – Completed January 2025
- 1.2. Consultation - Completed March 2025
- 1.3. Review feedback and produce consultation report – March 2025
- 1.4. Produce Regulatory Assessment – April 2025
- 1.5. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) – Completed April 2025 following community consultation.
- 1.6. Regulatory Assessment Statement prepared and advertised (expected to be approved and advertised July 2025 following Council approval)
- 1.7. Submit application to MHCLA (expected to be submitted July 2025 following Council approval)
- 1.8. Following response from MHCLA (30 days), advertisement (28 days) and Council decision (no more than 6 months after end of advertisement period – approximately March 2026
- 1.9. Make available copies and notice of byelaws, make new byelaw – approximately April 2026
- 1.10. Byelaws come into force (30 days after the making) and copy made available to the public – approximately June 2026

Consultation Process

Initial consultation was carried with staff from parks managements, community safety public protection staff, neighbourhood wardens and the Police. Following this a draft set of proposed revised byelaws were produced based on public complaints received involving incidents of ASB and Crime.

Public wider consultation commenced 7th February for a 28 day consultation period, the deadline for responses was 7th March. The consultation and a questionnaire were promoted via Gedling Borough Council website, social media channels and direct communication with park stakeholders and organisations that would be directly affected by the proposed byelaws.

Gedling Borough Council Internal consultees:

Senior Leadership Team
Community Safety Public Protection including Neighbourhood Wardens
Estates & Buildings
Leisure Services
Community Engagement
Legal Services
Communications Team
Parks and Open Spaces Management team
Planning, Ecology officer, Tree Officer, Archaeologist, Nature Conservation Officer

External consultees:

Environment Agency
Nottinghamshire Disabled Action Group
Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group
RNID Royal National Institute for the Deaf

RNIB Royal National Institute for the Blind
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Nottinghamshire Police
Gedling Conservation Trust
Gedling Climate Change Group
The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Buildings, Monuments and Sites Division
Gedling Seniors Council
Gedling Youth Council
Gedling forum of Art Clubs
Greenwood Community Forest
British Model Flying Association
Association of British Riding Schools
National Council for Metal Detecting
Fields In Trust
Natural England
Colwick Parish Council
Newstead Parish Council
Calverton Parish Council
Nottinghamshire Disability Group
Civil Aviation Authority
Skate Nottingham
Cycling UK Charity
Sports clubs who use GBC parks
Age Concern
Arnold Salvation Army
Arnold Methodist Church
Arnold Methodist Church Mental Health Befriending and Support Group

Bag of Blessings
Bestwood Miners Welfare
Bethesda Church Netherfield
Burton Joyce Village Lunch
Calverton Baptist Church
Carlton Foodbank
Carlton Pentecostal Church
Cornwater Evergreens
Churches Together Netherfield
Community Coaching Company
CT4N
Daybrook Baptist Church/Arnold Foodbank
Dice and Balls
Eagles Nest Church
Emmanual Church Hub
Friends for Life Aye Up Mi Duck
Gedling Play Forum
Haywood Road Community Centre
Hope Nottingham
Inspire Culture
Jigsaw Homes
Live Well Practice
Mapperley and Arnold Rotary Club
Morrisons
Newark and Sherwood CVS
Netherfield Foodbank
Netherfield Forum and the Loco Centre
Newstead Macular Society

Nottinghamshire Carers Association
Nottinghamshire County Council
Phenomenal Futures
Positively Empowered Kids
Selfcare World
Shareware
Social Activist
St Pauls Church Daybrook
St Pauls Church Arnold
St Marks Church
St Marys Family Centre
St Wilfrid's Church
Support for Survivors Group
Talk Club Notts
The Ark
The Core Centre
The Good Shepard Church
The Kings Church
The Newstead Centre
The Sacred Heart Church
The Seniors Council
The Warren Hill Action Group
Re-engage
Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
St Judes Church
Woodthorpe Tennis Club
Gedling Parks Community Group
Arnot Hill Park

Warren Action Group
Friends of Onchan Park
Friends of Gedling House Woods
Friends of Bestwood County Park
Friends of Gedling Country Park
Friends of the Hobbucks
Friends of Killisick Park
Haywood Road Community Association
Carlton Hill Action Group
Friends of King George V Standhill Road
Gedling Conservation Trust
Friends of Breck Hill Park
Friends of Arno Vale Rec
Friends of Valley Road Playing Field

Consultation Responses Received

17 responses were received. Please note not all respondents completed all questions. The full list of feedback comments are included at Appendix 1.

What is your gender identity?

Male = 3 (23%)

Female = 9 (69%)

Gender Variant – 1 (8%)

To which of these groups do you consider you belong?

White British = 11 (85%)

White Other = 1 (8%)

Asian or Asian British, Indian = 1 (8%)

Respondents Age indicators

Option	Total	Percent
15-24	0	
25-34	1	7%
35-44	1	7%
45-54	4	27%
55-64	5	33%
65-74	4	27%
75 and over	0	

Respondents Religion indicators

Option	Total	Percent
No Religion	7	54%
Christian (inc Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	5	38%
Buddhist	0	
Hindu	1	8%
Jewish	0	
Muslim	0	
Sikh	0	

Respondents Disability indicators

Option	Total	Percent
Do you have a disability (Yes)	2	14%
Do you have a disability (No)	12	86%

Analysis of consultation comments received

Specific Byelaw or subject of feedback	Positive (In Support of proposal)	Negative (Against)	Rationale to remain, revision or alternative suggestion	Total comments
Part 4, byelaws 18 and 19 skateboarding	Feedback relates to allowing skate boarding in King George V Standill Park		Skateboarding is permitted at this site, there are no prohibitions within these proposed byelaws	1
Part 2 byelaws 4 (1) and (2) protection trees and hedges	Feedback relates to supporting the protection of trees and hedges		The concerns are addressed with this proposed byelaw	1
Dog Control (5 comments)		2 comments about the introduction of dog zones. 1 comment ensuring dog owners prohibit their dogs from destroying newly planted trees and stakes. 1 comment all dogs on the Council's parks should be kept on a lead.	Introduction of dog-free zones. This suggestion is not within the remit of the proposed byelaws. Dog owners are responsible for their dog's behaviour, this is not within the remit of the proposed byelaws Dogs on leads are not within the remit of proposed byelaws There is no remit within the proposed byelaws specifically relating to dogs	5

		1 comment asking why there is no mention of dogs and why		
Smoke free zones		2 comments received about parks being smoke free zones	The proposal is not within the remit of the proposed byelaws	2
Prohibit use of fireworks in parks		1 comment received requesting prohibition of fireworks in parks	The specific proposal about fireworks is not within the remit of the proposed byelaws. However, under Byelaw 10 (1) this could be interpreted as 'fire'	1
Prohibit planting in parks		1 comment received requesting prohibition of planting things in parks	The proposal is not within the remit of the proposed byelaws	1
Bridleways Routes		4 comments received about proposed bridleways at a specific location in Bestwood	There are no Bridleway routes included within the proposed byelaws	4
Part 4 byelaws 16 and 17		1 objection to age restriction of older children	Byelaw to remain – the play areas are designed for children up to 14 years, this includes safety of users and the weight limit of some of the equipment in	1

		permitted in play areas	addition, previous complaints received of groups of older teenagers intimidating younger children and causing ASB and criminal damage.	
Part 4, byelaws 18 and 19 skateboarding		1 objection about prohibition of skateboards	These proposed byelaws <u>only</u> propose to prohibit Skateboarding in the paved area next to the lake and café kiosk in Arnot Hill Park. This is to ensure the safety of the general public using the paved area. Skateboarding is permitted on the skatepark in Arnot Hill Park and on all other skateparks in the Council's parks.	1
Part 6, byelaw 34 Model Aircraft General prohibition, in particular drone use		1 objection about prohibition of Drones	This proposed byelaw will remain to protect the environment and wildlife, minimise risks of accidents, ensure public safety and public privacy.	1
Part 4 byelaws 20-23 – prevent ball games		1 request to prevent football games on the Cricket Square at Lambley Lane	There is no requirement to include this request within the proposed byelaws prohibiting ball games on this site. Recommendation to monitor this activity reported.	1
Part 3 byelaw 13 – prevent cycling		1 request to prevent cycling on the cricket square at Lambley Lane	There is no requirement to include this request within the proposed byelaws prohibiting cycling on this site. Recommendation to monitor this activity reported.	1
Part 7 byelaw 36 (1) and (2) relating to noise	1 comment received highlighting an admin error		Reviewed and admin error corrected.	1
Restriction of ball games at Onchan Park	1 comment suggesting Onchan Park		This is not required as there are no ball games restrictions on any of the site.	1

	should be included in parts of the Schedule			
Part 1 byelaw 3 (1) opening times for Onchan Park	1 comment stating the park is not locked and unlocked at dusk		Byelaw reviewed and removed.	1
Conway Park Bowling Greens	Several comments and specific concerns raised by the Bowling Club		Direct communication with the bowling club has been initiated and ongoing	1
Request to update listed parks relating to skateboarding and ball games within the appendix			All byelaws and schedules have been reviewed and remain relevant	3
Thackerays Lane Pavilion specific comment about the condition of the pavilion building			Comments noted but they are not relevant to the proposed byelaws.	

Consultation feedback provided and the impact on proposed byelaws

- Byelaw 3 (1) schedule Part 1 referring to opening times at Onchan Park has been removed.
- The admin error has been amended

Notwithstanding the above, following consultation there are no changes required to the proposed byelaws and there are no overwhelming objections or identification of needs identified. None of the comments received identify the proposed byelaws would impact on consultees because of their protected characteristic(s) and there are no service access barriers identified that could or would affect consultees from accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs.

Appendix I

Byelaws Consultation - Feedback Received

What are your comments about the revised park byelaws?

"In addition to ASB parks needs to address introduction of dog-free zones and smoke-free zones. Have dedicated domestic dog parks away from children, disabled and elderly! Not everyone wants to be around domestic animals nor inhale passive smoke. We want clean environments that can be enjoyed without fear, intimidation, nuisances and health hazards".

"Happy with them in general. Please prohibit the use of fireworks in the parks".

"Please ask dog owners to stop their dogs destroying newly planted trees and tree stakes".

"There is a section about not removing plants, shrubs etc. I feel there should be a section about not planting things too".

"Add "all dogs on gbc parks etc. are to be kept on a lead".

"Doesn't seem to be any mention of dogs, why not?"

"In schedule 2 Skateboarding should be allowed in the skatepark in king George v park on standhill Road in Carlton".

"I have comments with relate to trees and hedges whereby they can be used to protect them, especially those of significant size or ecological value. Protection of Trees and hedges: Restrict or prohibit activities like cutting down, lopping, topping, pruning, damaging, or removing trees and hedges without permission from the local authority. Specific Examples: Ashdown Forest: The Ashdown Forest has byelaws that protect trees and other vegetation, prohibiting unauthorized cutting, felling, or damage. Epping Forest: Epping Forest has byelaws that include provisions for protecting trees and preventing damage to them. Greenham and Crookham Commons: The byelaws for these commons prohibit cutting, felling, or injuring any trees or shrubs without lawful authority. Please see these as considerations during this review".

"I appreciate efforts to improve access to public spaces; however, the revised byelaws must carefully consider the impact on residential properties and safety. The proposed bridleway route at Bestwood Lodge Drive raises significant concerns, particularly regarding its proximity to The Old Lodge, a Grade II listed property. The potential increase in noise, loss of privacy, and risk of structural impact on a heritage site should be carefully reviewed. Additionally, there are safety concerns at the sharp bend where Woodchurch Road meets the green. The increased pedestrian and equestrian traffic at this dangerous crossing could lead to serious accidents due to limited visibility. I strongly recommend that the byelaws ensure paths are planned with pedestrian safety in mind. Furthermore, anti-social behaviour in the area has already been reported to the police. Placing the bridleway directly alongside residential properties could worsen existing security issues. The byelaws should include safeguards to protect residents from increased disturbances".

"As a resident of Woodchurch Road, I fully support the need to improve bridleways, but I have serious concerns about the proposed route and its impact on road safety and residents. The bend where Woodchurch Road meets Bestwood Lodge Drive is already a known hazard due to poor visibility, making it extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross. Adding a bridleway that increases foot and horse traffic at this location would significantly raise the risk of accidents. The byelaws should ensure that any new paths are planned with public safety in mind and avoid high-risk areas like this bend. There are also ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour in the area, which have been reported to the police. Locating a bridleway close to residential properties could worsen these problems, potentially leading to increased disturbances, trespassing, and property damage. The byelaws should take this

into account and include measures to protect local residents”.

“Whilst I agree with some of the point’s I think others are overstepping authority and there simply because some whiny person has complained about something in the past. Whilst in general I agree adults should not be hanging around parks, I think the 14 age limit is stupid since I would rather teenagers hung around in a park than shifted to roam aimlessly. Also, no skate boards or propelled vehicles is stupid, there are entire sports around these things and they should be embraced. Finally, I’m not sure it is or should be within your power to tell people when they can or cannot fly drones”.

“4. (2) is it possible to include 'cricket squares' to this section? Lambley Lane regularly has kids on bikes or playing football on the square”.

“36(2) should refer to 36(1) not 34(1) Burton road jubilee park has a skateboard area and should be listed in schedule 2 part 2 Onchan park should be listed in schedule 2 part 4 as ball games are allowed in designated areas such as the Tennis court, table tennis area and multi use games area As far as I know there are no opening times for Onchan park displayed or enforced- schedule 2 part 1 Otherwise, they look fine and seem sensible”.

“The changes made have not been highlighted. However the document is detailed and very Comprehensive”.

“This reply is made by Porchester Bowling club which plays at Conway Road recreation ground. From our experience we think the byelaws cover most of our concerns. Our problem is that they do not appear to be enforced by the council. Although a new CCTV camera and signs were installed in the last few years this has largely failed to deter cycling, football and dog-walking on the greens. The abuse of the greens takes place during both daytimes and evenings and if we say anything we are met with hostility. On one occasion it was so bad we were forced to call the police. Is the CCTV monitored in the day and in the evening? We calculate that the bowling green is used by home and visiting bowlers in matches, competitions and casual bowling for around 3000 hours during the season of about 22 weeks. The bowling greens surface is well maintained by the ground staff and the clubs using the pavilion ensure that the interior is kept clean and tidy. The outside of the pavilion has however been allowed to deteriorate. There is missing and broken guttering which will in due course cause a lot of damage to the building resulting in expensive and extensive repairs. This is a good

facility and early intervention will save a lot of money and reverse any deterioration of this fine building. We would be more than happy to have a face-to-face meeting to discuss our concerns”.

“Small parks should be dog and smoke free zones. Larger parks should have dedicated dog park areas away from rest of public”.

“See above re skateboarding in king George v park”.

“I believe the proposed bridleway should not run adjacent to The Old Lodge but should instead follow a safer and more natural route. I strongly recommend that the bridleway start from the visitors’ car park rather than at the hazardous bend near Woodchurch Road. This would provide a safer entry point and prevent unnecessary risks to pedestrians and riders. An alternative and more suitable route would be opposite The Old Lodge, following the natural line towards the Japanese Gardens. This adjustment would maintain accessibility while reducing the impact on residential properties and minimising security concerns. The revised byelaws should also address crime prevention measures in areas where bridleways are planned near homes, ensuring that adequate security considerations are in place to protect residents from potential anti-social behaviour.

Yes, I strongly believe the bridleway should not be routed along residential properties on Woodchurch Road. Instead, it should start from the visitors’ car park, where there is a safe space for people to park and access the bridleway without having to navigate a dangerous road crossing. A better alternative would be for the path to follow the natural line towards the Japanese Gardens, away from residential homes. This would ensure that the bridleway remains accessible while minimising disruption to those living nearby and reducing safety risks for all users. The byelaws should also consider the potential impact of bridleways on crime and anti-social behaviour. Any new routes should be carefully planned to prevent them from becoming gathering points for groups engaging in disruptive activities”.

“The parks with skateboard/rolled user areas needs updating in the appendix Parks with ball games courts list in the appendix needs updating Otherwise, it seems fine”.

“Onchan Park should be included in the listing for: PART 4 BALL GAMES PERMITTED ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS (BYELAW 21)”.

“Onchan Park should be included in: PART 4 BALL GAMES PERMITTED ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS (BYELAW 21)”.

“It should and it seems to cover all the park areas in Gedling. Just a comment .The toilet buildings in Thackery's Lane Recreation ground, by the car park are wasted and an eyesore . They need some attention in my opinion”.