

issues and aspirations

During consultation in October 2006 we have established the key problems and constraints to be addressed as follows:

issues

- Lack of **planning** and **vision** guiding change within the Park
- Loss, vandalism or lack of awareness of **historic features** – Statue of Sappho, Memorials and Pix Brook the valley on which the open space is based.
- Subdivision of the Park and **unsafe crossing** at Hillshot Junction
- Poor condition of **Public Conveniences** and **Paddling Pool**
- Loss of **facilities, activity** and **community events** in the Park
- Lack of **management staff** – no point of contact, or visible presence
- Personal **safety** and Park **security/surveillance**
- **Accessibility** – signage, paths, slopes
- Potential loss of **Park character/habitats** (mature features trees/wooded areas) through lack of appropriate management and maintenance
- The need to **reinvigorate** the life and economy of the town centre



aspirations

- **Rediscover** the **original (Parker and Unwin) Concept** – as an important facility for Letchworth, setting for housing, arrival at the town centre and green link
- **Conserve, protect** and **interpret** historic features
- **Reclaim** sections of the **Park** lost to other uses – Car parks
- Improve the **quality** of **Public Conveniences**
- Improve **physical, cultural, community connections** with the Park and the buildings that stand within it – Mrs. Howard Hall, Social Centre and Bowls Club
- Support **volunteer** involvement and **training** within the Park
- Provide **facilities** to attract park users of all ages from Letchworth and the surrounding area
- Apply a **comprehensive management** and **maintenance** regime and improve links between management and community
- Address problems related to **anti-social behaviour** (vandalism, park security, personal safety)
- **Improve access for all**
- **Conserve** and **protect** the **individual and different character** of Howard Park and Gardens, to retain the diversity of experience and opportunity
- **Enhance biodiversity** throughout the Park
- Support the **regeneration** of Letchworth Town Centre