

FAQs: Expression of Interest (EOI): Temporary Use of Beach House Park

1. What is this Expression of Interest (EOI) about?

Worthing Borough Council is inviting proposals from local individuals, community groups, and organisations to use the **indoor Pavilion rooms** and adjacent **open spaces** at Beach House Park under a **trial licence** between **September 2025 and September 2026**.

This is a **temporary initiative** to explore gentle, community-led uses of underused spaces that align with the park's peaceful and historic character.

2. How does this build on the previous consultation for Beach House Park?

In 2019, Worthing Borough Council carried out a public consultation that identified key themes for the future of Beach House Park: **Wellness, Rest, Play, Leisure, and Community**.

As part of that process, the unused bowling greens were highlighted for potential transformation into a series of welcoming spaces aimed at different audiences, offering family-friendly activities and community-led initiatives. These ideas were envisioned to complement the ongoing role of Palm Court Pavilion.

The consultation also emphasised that any new use of the space should reflect the park's unique character and its strong connection to the seafront, particularly Beach House Grounds and East Beach.

3. What is the purpose of the trial period? Will any changes be permanent?

No. This is a **time-limited, twelve month trial only**. The purpose is to test low-impact community uses of vacant areas—such as the pavilion rooms and former bowls greens while protecting the park's conservation status and tranquil nature.

No permanent alterations will be made, and all proposals will be assessed to ensure they:

- **Respect the park's heritage and natural setting**
- **Maintain its value as a quiet space for wellbeing**
- **Avoid noise, disruption, or overuse**

Feedback gathered during and after the trial will help shape any long-term plans, but **no commitments will be made without wider consultation**.

4. Which areas are available for use?

- **Main Pavilion Room (Pic A1, A2 & A3)** - suitable for workshops, exhibitions, and small community events
 - **Former Bowls Green (Pic B)** —intended for light-impact wellbeing activities only
 - **Adjacent Hard Standing (Pic C)** - possible site for seasonal events or installations
 - **Beach House Park map and zones (pic D)** - areas within the parks to reflect their current and future use
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4. What types of activities are being considered?

Activities should be:

- Temporary and **community-focused**
- Respectful of the park's **peaceful, historic setting**
- Supportive of **mental and physical wellbeing**

Examples include:

- Mindfulness or yoga sessions
- Art, culture, or nature-themed workshops
- Intergenerational or social connection projects
- Small-scale markets or performances that are quiet and elegant in design
- Community garden with educational, sensorial and/or horticultural values

The zoning of the park helps inform future use of the park to further ensure that suitable and sympathetic activities are taking place within this Heritage park within the Steyne Gardens



Community



Wellbeing & Leisure



Ornamental & Heritage

Steyne Gardens Conservation Area



6. Will the former bowls greens withstand increased footfall?

This is a valid concern. The former bowls greens have delicate ground structures, and their condition varies. Therefore, only **low-impact, non-intrusive activities** will be allowed such as wellbeing classes, small fetes, workshops or wellbeing sessions. Proposals requiring heavy use or equipment will not be approved for this space.

We will also monitor how the ground copes during the trial period to guide any future decisions.

7. Will noisy events be allowed?

No. All submissions must be **low-noise, elegant, and understated**, in keeping with the park's tone and conservation guidance.

The park is a designated Community Asset valued for its quiet atmosphere, so amplified or high-volume activities are unlikely to be approved.

For example, an outdoor cinema could only be considered with appropriate mitigation such as the use of headphones.

8. Have stakeholder groups been consulted on these ideas?

Yes. Early engagement has taken place with:

The **Bowls Club**, The **Pavilion Café**, **Creative Waves**, **Local councillors**, **former allies** and **Conservation groups**.

These conversations have shaped the decision to approach this as a **trial first**, with no fixed programme. Key stakeholders are invited to a briefing to provide feedback on the seasonal licence proposal before any decisions are made.

9. Will there be a formal public consultation after the trial?

Yes. The Council will organise a **consultation following the trial period** to:

- Evaluate how spaces were used: the community benefits, suitability of the space and potential for continuation.
 - Listen to community feedback
 - Explore sustainable options based on shared priorities
- Any long-term plans will require a **full, transparent public process** with opportunities to comment and co-design.

A proposed evaluation panel to review the trial will comprise council officers, cabinet & ward members as well as some community advisors such local residents & club, youth, disability and heritage representatives.

10. Is there a communications plan in place?

Yes. A communications and engagement plan will include:

- On-site signage and online updates
- Regular stakeholder communications
- Drop-in opportunities to speak with council staff
- A simple questionnaire for feedback

The aim is to ensure transparency and active two-way communication throughout the process.

11. Who can apply?

We welcome proposals from:

- Local residents and creatives
 - Community or voluntary organisations
 - Health and wellbeing practitioners
 - Collaborative teams focused on inclusion and social value
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12. What should be included in an application?

Please include:

- A brief overview of your group or organisation
 - Your proposed use of indoor and/or outdoor spaces
 - Preferred dates, times, and frequency
 - Equipment or setup requirements
 - How your idea supports the values of the Leisure & Community Zones
 - Contact details
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13. What are the key terms and restrictions?

- All activities must be **temporary, safe, and inclusive**
 - Food and drink concessions will **not** be considered
 - No amplified sound or disruptive activity permitted
 - All equipment and structures must be **elegant, traditional**, and in keeping with the park's design
 - Activities must **enhance the visual and cultural heritage** of Beach House Park
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14. How and when do I apply?



Deadline: 31st July 2025



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