

Design Ideas for Park Entrances for Lowestoft Town Council

By A. Taylor, May, 2021

The task is to give a rough design for entrances to the main parks in Lowestoft. The purpose of the entrances is to -

- Replace historic entrances that were taken down or scrapped during WW2
- To create a sense of place and ownership for town citizens
- To signpost and name the parks for visitors

These are idea sketches. The actual curve of the arch and height will need to be determined later when an engineer looks over the work to meet street width and height requirements.

The parks each have their own personality and purpose in the town, so the problem is to design an entrance that fits in with the park's personality yet still give a sense of design continuity throughout the town. In other words, Normanston Park, with its emphasis on activity and a more modern outlook is not the same in purpose and outlook as Kensington Gardens, which is a traditional Edwardian park used for relaxation. It is better for continuity throughout the town that the same basic entrance design be used in all parks.

Overall Style- To solve the continuity vs individualization problem I decided on an Art Deco style of pillar. Art Deco is a transitional style between Victorian and the modern era and is recognised by straight lines and simple decoration. While the details in Art Deco are simple, the detail is not so stripped away that it comes across as modern or Brutalist. The curved arc of the archway softens the straight lines and is repeated in the arch of the sun.

Placemaking- The rising sun was chosen as a reference to Lowestoft's premier location as the most easterly town in the UK and will be echoed throughout the town as part of its branding and place making.

LTC Logo- The Lowestoft Town Council logo will be etched on circular metal plaques and placed on both the front and the back of the pillars, about waist high.

Construction Materials- The metal used will be marine grade steel finished in black. It's important that the metal used be sturdy and able to stand up to wind and salt.

Typestyle- When the names of the parks are very short, a circle (repeating the sun and plaque shapes) will be used in the arch to increase stability and strength (see the Fen Park example).

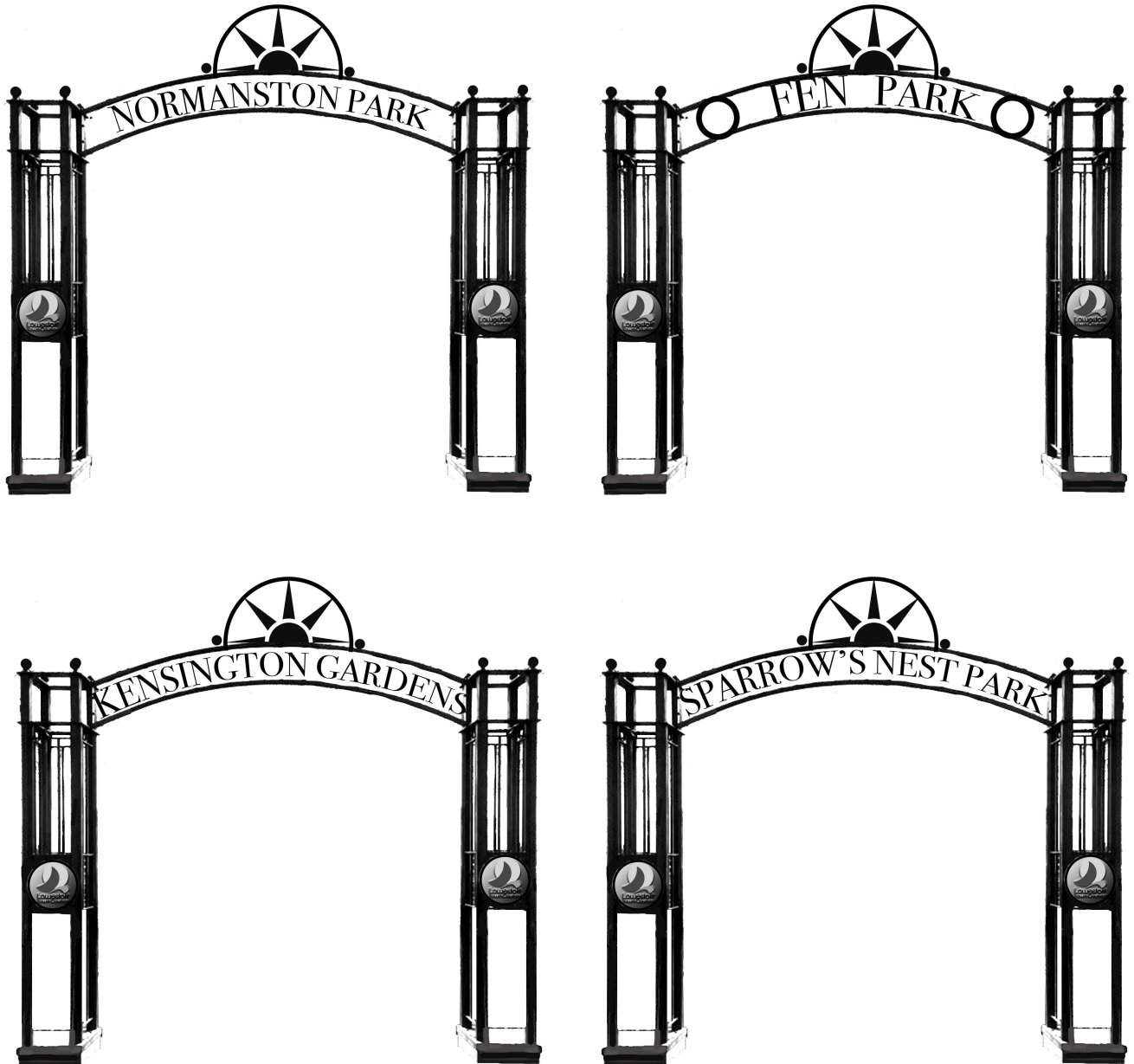
The typestyle should be a Roman (Bodoni is used in the sketches), bold, all caps, centred. It will be distracting and difficult to have caps/lower case with the sprues needed to hold the letters in place.

Possible variations-

Use of brushed steel instead of cast iron for more modern-image parks.

Instead of a sun, each park could have its own "logo" on the apex of the arch plasma cut out of steel and framed in a half circle. For instance, Fen park could have a swan, Kensington a sun, Ness a herring.

Instead of cut out letters in the park's names, the arch can be solid with the letters cut out in reverse. This would be a heavier and more sturdy choice, but the letters would be harder to read in low light levels.



If lighting is desired, I recommend that the gates be lit by uplights from ground level and not be electrified themselves.