



Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	16 September 2021

Executive Report: Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To inform council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio as set out below.

2. Parks and open spaces

- 2.1** Our parks, open spaces and coastal sites continue to attract more visitors and users. Whilst this is welcomed, it is also challenging for the teams and our volunteers managing these sites, as well as for regular users not used to the increase in people and activities. To improve the tolerance of regular users of these sites, the communications team have shared respect and coastal safety messages. The latter has also been shared with Local Authorities across the North West in an effort to raise awareness of the potential dangers of our coastline and how to enjoy our natural environment safely.
- 2.2** The delivery of the activity plan at The Mount will now focus on town planning workshops to local schools. Two high schools and two junior schools will be offered workshops which will focus on four themes:
1. A Pavilion Trail;
 2. Revitalizing the town centre;
 3. Festival at the Mount, and;
 4. Urban Design.
- 2.3** All sessions include team working, model making, presenting, problem-solving, reflecting on the history and heritage of Fleetwood and considering the needs of local people. Students will be challenged to design a series of structures whilst exploring innovative ideas to revitalize their own town centre and activities on the Mount Grounds. To supplement this learning further, web-based material will be created to allow other schools the opportunity to download materials and

worksheets which can then be delivered internally by the schools independently.

- 2.4** In addition, the appointed Artist in Residence, Henry Iddon and Scientist in Residence, Jessica Symons will work alongside each other providing activities for the Science and Discovery Club.
- 2.5** The Civic Society have been working alongside the Activity Development Officer to create interpretation panels for the Pavilion. The boards will show the heritage and history of the Mount and its grounds and are double-sided so they can be viewed through the window when the building is closed.
- 2.6** I was pleased to hear that the feedback received from the North West In Bloom judges and officers supporting the judging was outstanding. The towns, villages, community groups, neighbourhood entries, volunteers and council staff worked tremendously hard to make Wyre look beautiful and I would like to personally thank all those involved.
- 2.7** Work continues on the Rossall Point Tower and Fleetwood interpretation Access project (which stretches along the promenade from Larkholme Grasslands to the boating lakes), with the installation of a new illustrated diorama of the Fleetwood Coast and Morecambe Bay which is now fitted at the top of the Tower. In addition council officers and volunteers have started on the construction of improved boardwalks and a new viewing platform on the dunes.
- 2.8** Wyre Estuary Country Park, has recently been externally assessed by Visit England and I'm pleased to say passed the VAQUAS quality mark assessment. The site attracts over a quarter of a million people each year and will continue to be marketed by Visit England having met their high standards; recognising the commitment of all those supporting the maintenance and operation of the park.

3. Waste and recycling

- 3.1** As I am sure members are all aware, the waste and recycling service suffered from the impacts of staffing shortages over the summer, linked to both Covid-19 and the national shortage of HGV drivers. This is a picture mirrored across the country.
- 3.2** Whilst Veolia are committed to recruiting more drivers, the crews and supervisors have worked tremendously hard to limit the level of disruption where possible. I recognise that not having bins emptied caused concern for some households, but am grateful to the overwhelming majority who were supportive of the crews and their efforts at a difficult time. This support has been appreciated and I am sure members will join with me in thanking all those involved.

4. Street Scene

- 4.1** The Government recently announced a fund to support the development of more Changing Places Toilets Facilities across the UK. The council will be submitting a bid, with support from partner agencies and community groups for two additional facilities in the borough.
- 4.2** The Cleaner Greener Officer continues to undertake engagement activities. Now able to do more face to face engagement she temporarily took a vacant market stall at Fleetwood Market to engage local residents about 'cleaning up their alley' – showcasing some of the fantastic examples residents have achieved already in Wyre.
- 4.3** The environmental enforcement team have been successful in court with a prosecution against a prolific fly-tipper. The individual pleaded guilty and was given a 100 hours unpaid work order, ordered to pay compensation of £2,310 to Wyre Council for the cost of removing the waste and a further £250 was awarded to the victims for the payments they made to him for having the waste removed from their properties. I am grateful not only to the work of our officers but to the members of the public who provided statements to support this conviction. Fly-tipping is a blight on our borough and we must continue to do all we can to prevent, detect and prosecute offenders.

5. Comments and questions

- 5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with procedure rule 11.5.