

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	15 September 2022

## **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** The Bay team, Wyre Rangers and the Dynamic Dunescapes Engagement Officer have hosted a number of engagement activities on the coast. World Sand Dunes Day was celebrated with a series of walks and activities in Rossall Point Tower and along the promenade and beach. Activities included a discover moths survey, a sea watch from the tower, eggcase hunt and den building. Visitors and locals enjoyed these popular events and found out about Fleetwood's marine and dune wildlife and also about the conservation management taking place along the coast.
- 2.2** A specially carved Storytelling Chair was installed at Rossall Point Tower – this was hand carved with images of Wyre's coastal wildlife and was funded through the Lancashire Living Seas Programme. The chair can be used both in and outdoors in the storytelling area next to the Tower.
- 2.3** Dynamic Dunescapes have embarked on a programme of management of the invasive plant Japanese Rose. Contractors are onsite to apply a specific herbicide to reduce its damaging impact upon the dune's natural wildlife. This work will be on-going over the summertime and will be carefully monitored.
- 2.4** Vicarage Park, Poulton hosted a Theatre in the Park event which was well supported by local families despite the wet conditions. The actors sang songs from the musical Frozen and other popular tunes, encouraging audience participation, with the children in particular having a wonderful time.

- 2.5** Hawthorne Park in Thornton hosted a Music in the Park afternoon in wonderful sunny conditions and many people enjoyed picnicking while listening to music from a local brass band.
- 2.6** Five of Wyre's parks have again achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award. Poulton's Vicarage Park, Hawthorne Park and Wyre Estuary Country Park in Thornton, and Fleetwood's Memorial Park and The Mount were all successful. The scheme, managed by Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management. The awards are testament to the hard work and dedication of the teams at Wyre Council, working in partnership with community groups and volunteers to make Wyre's green spaces great spaces that everyone can enjoy.
- 2.7** Wyre Council have worked with the Friends of Preesall Park to provide a footpath around the perimeter of the site to improve accessibility. The works were undertaken in May and have been jointly funded by Wyre Council, Lancashire Environment Fund, Tesco Bags for Help and the Friends of Preesall Park.

### **3. Waste and Recycling**

- 3.1** The Green Waste subscription service for 2022 went live from 1 July. Uptake has been steady with the majority of previous customers signing up before the deadline. Social Media messages and targeted communications have been directed to those customers late in subscribing. Non-scheme bins presented for collection are being left by Veolia and explanatory stickers encouraging sign-up applied to the bins. Green waste income received exceeds the budgeted income for 2022-23.

### **4. Public Conveniences**

- 4.1** Working with Danfo we continue to improve our public conveniences with internal renovation including the conversion to waterless urinals completed at Marine Hall, Memorial Park and Preston Street.
- 4.2** The switch over to LED lights at all units is almost complete and the provision of a cashless payment system is now available on one unit per facility, with some initial connectivity problems being investigated in rural locations. Additionally units now have a push button door locking system preventing the doors being locked in the open position, bypassing the payment mechanism.
- 4.2** Final plans are being agreed for the Changing Places facility to be located adjacent to the Fleetwood Beach Wheelchair charity base in Central Car Park. Adaptation works will start on the building late autumn and the new facility will be available to service users at the start of April 2023.

## **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.