

Report of:	To:	Date
Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	1 December

**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 Northwest in Bloom held their first awards ceremony post-COVID at a new venue in Bolton with many of the groups in Wyre once again receiving recognition for all their hard work and details of the successful entrants have already been promoted. Once again I would like to thank and congratulate the wonderful work of our volunteers that support the council's work to improve our communities.
- 2.2 The commissioning of the final year of the 'Artist and Scientist in Residence' project at the Mount Pavilion in Fleetwood has been undertaken. This will see a series of exciting workshops and events delivered from the venue over the next 12 months as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund grant awarded in 2018. This project will continue the revival of the Mount Pavilion and Gardens, giving the community an understanding of the history and significance of the site and its importance in the context of Fleetwood's heritage townscape.
- 2.3 The Parks and Open Spaces Team will be kick starting our tree planting campaign during National Tree Week (26 November to 5 December), moving us closer towards our target of 25,000 trees planted in 5 years as part of the council's commitment to tackling Climate Change.
- 2.4 A new youth shelter has now been installed in Memorial Park Fleetwood. With increased instances of Anti-Social Behaviour in Fleetwood mainly targeting Memorial Park, Marine Hall Gardens and The Mount, a multi-agency team are continuing to try to address this issue. The Installation of the shelter is the latest project to provide youngsters with somewhere legitimate to congregate minimising the disruption to residents. It is also planned to undertake youth

engagement activities in the Park as part of the on-going Community Alcohol Partnership project.

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

- 3.1** Lancashire County Council have highlighted contamination levels as a concern at the Thornton Waste Treatment Plant which, if left unaddressed, will adversely impact Wyre's recycling rate. Bins in alleyways compound the problem as they are subject to abuse from other people looking to dispose of excess general waste and this also hinders the street cleansing operation.
- 3.2** The Environmental Enforcement Officers (EEOs) routinely engage with residents in areas of high contamination to raise awareness of the red bin recycling scheme and promote responsible bin management. Heavily contaminated bins are rejected by the collection crews and stickered to highlight why the bins were not emptied; this information is captured on the Bartec In Cab system and assists the EEOs in identifying properties that require additional support.
- 3.3** Support may be through the provision of educational literature, in person discussions and physical bin audits to identify contamination. Enforcement action will be taken where there is evidence of excess waste being illegally dumped on the highway. Areas with higher contamination levels have been identified across the borough and the Enforcement Team will be stepping up efforts to address this over the coming weeks.
- 3.4** Other enforcement activities include the issuing of two Fly Tipping Fixed Penalties (£400 each); recovery of waste removal costs for breach of Duty of Care; two fly tipping cases submitted for Legal consideration of summons to court for non-payment. Additionally duty of care checks have been carried out at local business premises to inspect trade waste disposal arrangements, with one Fixed Penalty issued for failure to supply documentation.
- 3.5** The Pumpkin Rescue Roadshow took place around the borough during Halloween week to highlight the challenge of food waste (over 22.2 million pumpkins are consigned to rubbish dumps at this time of the year) and educate residents about tasty alternative uses for the discarded flesh from hollowed out pumpkins. Approximately 300 visitors attended these events to sample pumpkin pie and toasted pumpkin seeds and took away a free pumpkin with recipe cards featuring pumpkin risotto and warming winter soup.

### **4. Public Conveniences**

- 4.1** Danfo are scheduled to commence works on the Changing Places facility to be located adjacent to the Fleetwood Beach Wheelchair charity base in Central Car Park. The works involve the refurbishment of the existing changing rooms to a Changing Places facility as permitted development to meet the agreed specifications of Muscular Dystrophy UK. The facility will include a wash down facility and adult sized changing bench, overhead hoist system and adapted toilet with

increased floor dimensions to improve manoeuvrability for wheelchair users. The new unit should be available to service users in April 2023 and will enable dignity, independence and safety for those with complex disabilities, and their carers.

## **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.