

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	20 April 2023

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 Wyre Council committed to planting 25,000 trees by 2025 as part of our pledge to tackle climate change and I am pleased to be able to confirm that over 13,000 trees have already been planted along with the creation of new woodlands and hedgerows. Further planting will be undertaken this winter.
- 2.2 As part of this work staff and volunteers took part in the successful restocking of Littlewood, Fleetwood, with a native tree species mix. The 1840's OS map for the area shows Littlewood as a small rural wood outside of the expanding coastal town which had been absorbed through urbanisation. The work was done in collaboration with Trees for Cities, a UK charity working with local communities to help improve the environment through suitable tree planting in built-up spaces.
- 2.3 The Parks Development team has been joined by an Activity Development Officer to co-ordinate the final phase of the Mount's National Lottery Heritage Fund Activity Plan. They will work alongside the resident artist, scientist and gardeners for the remainder of 2023, to deliver interactive learning activities throughout the year and engage with the community to develop greater understanding around the history and significance of the Mount and its importance in the context of Fleetwood's heritage townscape.
- 2.4 Wyre Council volunteers, supported by the coast and countryside team, have undertaken winter woodland management at several sites including Wyre Estuary Country Park and Pilling Lane Ends, coppicing trees to encourage new growth and allow light into woodlands to encourage wildflowers. They have also been working with Wyre Rivers

Trust to plant trees on farmland around the Wyre Catchment as part of the natural flood management programme.

- 2.5** A special event was held at Rossall Point Tower in March to celebrate the achievements of local volunteers who attended weekly Nature and Wellbeing Sessions coordinated by “The Bay – Blueprint for Recovery” team at Rossall Point, Wyre Estuary Country Park and Towers Community Woodland.
- 2.6** The Chief Executive of Lancashire Wildlife Trust presented John Muir Awards certificates to the proud participants. During their time with the programme participants removed beach litter, planted trees, carried out scrub and invasive species removal, created wildlife habitats, made bird feeders and collected shark egg cases which were, identified and submitted to the Shark Trust’s citizen science monitoring. The participants also benefitted from new friendships, developed their self-confidence and their love of nature.

3. Waste and Recycling

- 3.1** The Council’s Environmental Enforcement Officers have issued a range of warnings and sanctions in the first three months of 2023 for littering, other waste issues and dog related cautions. A total of six fly tipping offences have been successfully investigated, resulting in the issuing of £400 fixed penalty notices per incident (five FPNs in Pharos Ward and one in Mount Ward).
- 3.2** Five of the offenders were found to be residents fly tipping waste items in alleyways; in the other incident a landlord was fined for fly tipping and charged with £500 clearance costs.
- 3.3** Our Enforcement Officers are working with colleagues from neighbouring authorities to gather evidence to enable us to prosecute waste carriers who fly tip waste across the Fylde coast. I will keep members updated on progress regarding this matter.

4. Public Conveniences

- 4.1** I am pleased to be able to advise members that renovations of our public conveniences are ongoing as part of a rolling improvement plan, including painting, new signage and coin boxes, installation of waterless urinals and LED lighting.

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.