

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	6 July 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** Improvements have been made to the Garstang Riverside Path adjacent to the picnic area. This path is part of the Wyre Way long distance recreational route and provides a gateway to the Garstang Millennium Green and the network of paths that take walkers into Bowland. The works were carried out by Lancashire County Council Public Rights of Way team on a section of muddy path at the request of Wyre Council and it has improved the accessibility of the area for visitors.
- 2.2** Britain in Bloom is a nationwide gardening competition, bringing communities together to tackle local issues. It inspires community groups to make positive changes to their local environment through horticultural, environmental and community action. This year's North West in Bloom regional competition sees a number of our local towns and villages taking part, with regulars, returning and new entries taking a chance in the different categories of competition, which include It's Your Neighbourhood; Parks; Tourist and Business classifications with judging taking place during July.
- 2.3** Sustainable planting has been the focus of the Royal Horticultural Society for a number of years now and Wyre in Bloom groups have embraced this theme across the borough. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and give a special mention to Churchtown, nominated for national judging; the group received much welcomed support from the Garstang and Poulton groups who stepped in to help their fellow Bloomers.

- 2.4** I'm pleased to advise members that Wyre Estuary Country Park has been entered for the first time in the parks category. Volunteers supported by the Coast and Countryside team carried out seed sowing, planting out and grassland management, as well as creating a new Willow Tunnel feature at Wyre Estuary Country Park in support of the entry.

3. Waste and Recycling

- 3.1** Subscriptions are now being taken for the 2023/24 Garden Waste Service which runs from July 23 to June 24. Existing customers have been contacted via text, email and letter to encourage them to sign up before the 30 June deadline. As an incentive to encourage early sign up, all subscriptions (existing and new customers) made prior to 16 June were entered into a lucky prize draw to have their subscription fee refunded as part of the Great Big Green Week initiative to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gases through composting.

4. Environmental Enforcement

- 4.1** Since April, specialist enforcement services have been undertaken on behalf of Wyre Council by Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement Ltd ('WISE'), to address environmental crimes such as dog fouling, littering and other dog control measures under the Public Space Protection Orders.
- 4.2** WISE are providing a seven day service (including bank holidays), from 7am – 7pm for patrolling purposes during summer months (reduced in winter) with four enforcement officers operating a shift pattern in two teams, supported by a full-time team leader and back-office support.
- 4.3** Patrols are undertaken in all areas of the borough, guided by intelligence from council officers to address areas of known concern (hotspots), complaints from customers and areas of heavy footfall and the deployment strategy will be reviewed and updated monthly.
- 4.4** During April and May, WISE have been successful in issuing 408 Fixed Penalty Notices as part of reactive patrols in response to information about known 'hotspots' for litter and dog fouling and proactive patrolling in areas with PSPOs such as the beach exclusion zone, as follows:

Offence Type	Offence Numbers
Littering	366
PSPO-Dogs Exclusion Zones	35
Dog Fouling*	7
Total:	408

* Issued in: Garstang, Calder, Pilling, Great Eccleston and Breck

Area	Patrols in Hours (April and May 2023)	Number of FPN's
Cleveleys (Victoria & Norcross, Jubilee and Cleveleys Park)	901	168
Fleetwood (Park, Mount, Rossall, Pharos and Warren)	290	208
Thornton (Pheasants Wood, Marsh Mill, Stanah and Bourne)	259	4
Poulton-le-Fylde (Hardhorn with Highcross, Carleton, Breck and Tithebarn)	1465	22
Rural East (Brock with Catterall, Garstang, Calder and Wyresdale)	55	4
Rural West (Hambleton & Stalmine, Great Eccleston, Preesall and Pilling)	112	2

4.5 Wyre's own Environmental Enforcement Officers have issued a range of warnings and sanctions since the beginning of April for littering, other waste issues and dog related cautions. This includes the issuing of 12 FPNs as follows:

- Litter x 2 (Bourne and Mount)
- Fly Tipping x 3 (Brock and Pharos x 2)
- Dogs related x 7 (Cleveleys Park, Jubilee, Bilsborrow, Mount x 2 and Bourne x 2)

4.6 Several Community Protection Warnings and Notices have also been issued along with verbal warnings in Mount and Pharos wards.

4.7 A local Waste Carrier is under investigation regarding five fly tipping offences. A total of seven additional cases are being progressed along the Single Justice Process. These include waste carriers offences, fly tipping offences and dog related offences where penalty payment is outstanding.

5. Public Conveniences

- 5.1** Renovations are progressing across all twenty locations that we provide public conveniences; Garstang High Street is now complete and was officially 'reopened' by the hosts of Radio Lancashire Breakfast at an event on 6 June, with fans of the show from across Lancashire in attendance. The works to the remaining facilities will be scheduled in over the summer months.
- 5.2** Works are now complete on the Changing Places facility located adjacent to the Fleetwood Beach Wheelchair charity base in Central Car Park. The works involved the refurbishment of the existing changing rooms to a Changing Places facility under permitted development to meet the agreed specifications of Muscular Dystrophy UK. This includes 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 will enable dignity, independence and safety for those with complex disabilities, and their carers. The facility is now available to service users following registration on the MDUK website and can be accessed via a coded keypad to prevent anti-social behaviour and abuse of the facility. The official opening ceremony will take place later this month and planning approval is now being sought for the Changing Places facility at Wyre Estuary Country Park.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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.