

| <b>Report of:</b>  | <b>To:</b> | <b>Date</b>     |
|--|------------|-----------------|
| Councillor Simon Bridge,<br>Street Scene, Parks and<br>Open Spaces Portfolio<br>Holder | Council    | 26 October 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** The High Sherriff of Lancashire and Mayor of Wyre recently visited Rossall Point Tower to celebrate the work of the National Coastwatch (NCI) and handed out long service awards to dedicated volunteers from Fleetwood. The volunteers have a daily presence at their base on the second floor of the Tower, watching out for the safety of ships and recreational users of the seas and our coast. They link with the Coastguard on safety incidents and with Wyre Council to raise awareness of water safety issues. The Tower is open to visitors (Thursday to Sunday) and our countryside volunteers run tours to the top of the Tower for spectacular views of the Morecambe Bay and Fleetwood`s coastline.
- 2.2** The Wyre Rivers Trust have been undertaking a programme of work on the Royles Brook Restoration Project at King Georges playing field, Thornton in partnership with Wyre Council. The project includes the creation of ponds and wetland areas to capture drainage water from the playing pitches and surrounding areas. The channel restoration will restore wildlife and habitat and support the natural flow of the watercourse.
- 2.3** Volunteers have helped in the construction of pathways connecting King Georges playing field to the adjacent Church Road playing field via the footbridge across the main watercourse, improving access for all. Future works will include the construction of a boardwalk, planting of wetland plants and trees and the installation of interpretation panels. This project has received funding from United Utilities, Lancashire Environmental Fund, and Wyre Council and has been supported in kind by Sapphire Ltd, Wyre Coast and Countryside volunteers and Wyre Rivers Trust volunteers.

- 2.4** Conservation students from Myerscough College have undertaken practical study days, supporting projects around Wyre Estuary Country Park.
- 2.5** The autumn Wyre Great Outdoor programme has commenced with a wide variety of activities including bat walks and moth survey sessions with local naturalists at Hawthorne Park, Wyre Estuary Country Park, and Rossall Point Tower and at Scorton Picnic Site with the Wyre Rivers Trust.
- 2.6** The annual Heritage Open Days were well supported with sessions at The Mount, Fleetwood Lower Lighthouse and Rossall Point Tower and heritage walks at Fleetwood Cemetery, Wyre Estuary Country Park, Garstang, Knott End and Fleetwood.
- 2.7** On 19 October I had the pleasure of attending an event to celebrate the installation of a new rope swing on Memorial Park, I would like to thank the Friends of Memorial Park who helped to secure the grant funding to purchase the equipment.
- 2.8** Work to regenerate Cottam Hall community gardens is progressing well - the ground has been stripped back and a new polytunnel installed; work is due to commence on raised growing beds to achieve an accessible community growing area. Funding has been secured from 'together we make a difference' and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The Poulton in Bloom group have been working with the Active Lifestyle team to facilitate community cohesion, engaging local volunteers in the project.
- 2.9** The Activity Development Officer has been running regular community gardening events at The Mount involving members of the public, local schools and The Bay, nature and wellbeing group. Activities have included the planting of new bulbs around The Mount to improve the gardens and attract wildlife. Monthly seasonal demonstration workshops are still running, together with the final HLF artist and scientist in residence sessions. Books showcasing highlights from their residency events, artworks and local information have been on display throughout October.

### **3. Environmental Enforcement**

- 3.1** Between the start of July and 19 September, WISE have successfully issued 835 Fixed Penalty Notices during their patrols as follows:

| <b>Offence Type</b>       | <b>Offence Numbers</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Littering                 | 787                    |
| PSPO-Dogs Exclusion Zones | 30                     |
| PSPO-Dog bags             | 3                      |
| Dog Fouling*              | 15                     |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>835</b>             |

\* Issued in: Cleveleys (5), Thornton (2), Fleetwood (4), Garstang (1), Preesall (1) and Poulton-le-Fylde (2)

**3.2** A new performance measure has been introduced to capture examples of positive dog ownership and officers have recorded the following positive behaviours:

- Number of dog handlers observed removing dog fouling 312
- Number of dog handlers producing dog bags on request 527

**3.3** The table below shows the amount of time spent within each area and any resulting enforcement action.

| <b>Area</b>   | <b>Patrol Hours<br/>(July to September 2023)</b> | <b>Number of<br/>FPN's</b> |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Cleveleys</b><br>(Victoria & Norcross,<br>Jubilee and Cleveleys<br>Park)                 | 696  | 429                        |
| <b>Fleetwood</b><br>(Park, Mount, Rossall,<br>Pharos and Warren)                            | 311  | 316                        |
| <b>Thornton</b><br>(Pheasants Wood,<br>Marsh Mill, Stanah<br>and Bourne)                    | 30   | 3                          |
| <b>Poulton-le-Fylde</b><br>(Hardhorn with<br>Highcross, Carleton,<br>Breck and Tithebarn)   | 176  | 85                         |
| <b>Rural East</b><br>(Brock with Catterall,<br>Garstang, Calder and<br>Wyresdale)           | 4  | 1                          |
| <b>Rural West</b><br>(Hambleton &<br>Stalmine, Great<br>Eccleston, Preesall<br>and Pilling) | 3  | 1                          |

**3.4** Wyre's in-house Environmental Enforcement Officers have issued a range of warnings and sanctions for littering, other waste offences and dog related issues. This includes the issuing of 12 FPNs as follows:

- Litter 2 FPN's (Bourne and Mount wards)
- Fly-Tipping 3 FPN's (Brock with Catterall and Pharos wards 2)
- Off Lead 2 FPN's (Mount/Brock with Catterall/Jubilee)
- Dog Exclusion Zone 3 FPN's (Mount and Bourne wards 2)
- Dog Fouling 2 FPN's (Cleveleys Park/Hardhorn)

**3.5** Community Protection Warnings/Notices and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's associated with Dog PSPOs) have been issued in the areas highlighted below, as well as verbal warnings issued in Mount and Pharos wards:

- 4 ABC in Fleetwood/Cleveleys/Preesall/Pilling
- 1 CPW in Fleetwood
- 1 CPN in Fleetwood

**3.6** In addition, a local Waste Carrier is under investigation in relation to multiple fly-tipping offences and a resident of Breck Ward is being prosecuted under the Single Justice Process for a fly-tipping offence.

#### **4. Public Conveniences**

**4.1** Planning permission has been received to commence works on the Changing Places facility at Wyre Estuary Country Park. This will be a new, modular unit, assembled off site and dropped in place, adjacent to the existing public conveniences on site.

**4.2** The facility has been made possible through grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in partnership with Muscular Dystrophy UK, with capital funding in support of the provision from Wyre Council. Danfo will be supplying the new facility, with cleansing and maintenance provided as part of the existing contract. This new Changing Places facility will enable dignity, independence and safety for residents and visitors with disabilities of a complex nature, 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.