

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 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** Work continues on King George's and Church Road Playing Fields in partnership with Wyre Rivers Trust to improve public access. A section of boardwalk is being constructed over one of the newly created wetlands, adjacent to the improved playing field, with completion anticipated towards the end of November.
- 2.2** The council has hosted a number of Corporate volunteering groups including 60 United Utilities staff from call centres around the North West taking part in a beach clean at Fleetwood and Rossall Point, supported by the local Rossall Point beach care group, Wyre Coast and Countryside Ranger team and the Bay – Blueprint for Recovery Team. The day included a trip to Rossall Point Tower to learn about the protected wildlife and landscape of the Wyre coast and Morecambe Bay.
- 2.3** The Coast and Countryside team have supported the Garstang Soroptimists 50 for 50 celebrations in planting bulbs within open spaces donated by local businesses as they celebrated their 100th anniversary. The team also supported 12 Myerscough College students undertaking work experience at Skippool Picnic Area, clearing back vegetation and opening up the picnic area. The Ranger team continue to support volunteer work parties in managing Wyre Estuary Country Park (WECP) and The Wyre Rivers Trust long term programme of natural flood management along the River Wyre.
- 2.4** The October Wyre Great Outdoor programme included half-term activities, short walks in Garstang, Great Eccleston, Stanah, Carleton

and Pilling and beach cleans with our beach care groups volunteering their time to help keep our coast and estuary clean.

- 2.5** Planning is under way for the 2024 Wyre Great Outdoor Programme, with the Short Walks programme and the Garstang Walking Festival celebrating their 20th Anniversary. Walk leaders, partners, rangers, friends groups and volunteers have been working on a programme of activities and events in support of council objectives to address climate change, health and wellbeing, working together and visitor economy priorities.
- 2.6** The Ranger team have been working with Wyre Rivers Trust in delivering environmental education sessions at WECP highlighting the Saltmarshes of the Wyre Estuary the River Wyre Catchment; most recently hosting Clifton School year 4 class in exploring the ecology around the country park.
- 2.6** Wyre`s in bloom volunteers and community groups have been celebrating great success in the North West Britain in Bloom Awards supported by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). The aim of the awards is to celebrate the RHS three key themes which are: Horticultural excellence, Community involvement and Environmental friendliness. It is non-competitive and aims to support the groups to make positive changes to their local environment through horticultural, environmental and community action. A bumper crop of awards were announced for our Wyre entries at the recent ceremony in Bolton, in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and Britain in Bloom categories:

It's Your Neighbourhood Awards:

- Cancer Help at Croston House, Garstang
- Copp Gardening Community, Great Eccleston
- Demonstration Garden - Memorial Park, Fleetwood
- Garstang Memory Café, Garstang
- Garstang Millennium Green Trust, Garstang
- Great Eccleston Bowling Club, Great Eccleston
- Love the Lane, Catterall
- Stone Cross Gardens Community Garden, Catterall
- The Bungalows, Great Eccleston
- The Woodlands, Oak Road, Garstang
- Thorne Meadows Community Group, Great Eccleston
- Veterans Community Garden, Fleetwood

Discretionary Awards:

- Community Housing Award-The Bungalows, Great Eccleston (Regenda Homes)
- RHS National Discretionary Award - Overcoming Adversity Stone Cross Gardens Community Garden, Catterall

- 2.7** For the Britain in Bloom awards, entries are assessed against the RHS criteria, with constructive feedback and suggestions for future improvements, and classifications of Bronze, Silver and Gold based on size and type of entry:

Britain in Bloom Awards:

- Poulton in Bloom BIB Core Large Town **Gold**
- Garstang in Bloom BIB Core Small Town **Gold**
- Catterall in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Gold**
- Great Eccleston in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Silver Gilt**
- Hambleton in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Gold**
- Pilling in Bloom BIB Core Large Village **Silver Gilt**
- Inskip in Bloom BIB Core Village **Silver Gilt**
- Nateby in Bloom BIB Core Village **Silver**
- Churchtown in Bloom BIB Core Small Village **Gold**
- Care for Cleveleys BIB Core Urban Community **Silver Gilt**
- The Mount Park & Gardens, Fleetwood BIB Core Large Park (LA) **Silver Gilt**
- Wyre Estuary Country Park BIB Core Large Park (LA) **Gold**
- Kepple Lane Park (Garstang) BIB Core Small Park (LA) **Silver**
- Fold House Park Limited, Pilling BIB Regional Caravan Park **Gold**
- Poulton Cemetery, Poulton BIB Regional Small Retail/Commercial/Industrial Park **Gold**
- Myerscough College Plant World and Gardens BIB Regional Small Tourist Attraction/Visitor Centre **Gold**

Discretionary Awards:

- Best Large Village Catterall in Bloom
- Best Caravan Park Fold House Park Limited, Pilling
- Health and Wellbeing Award Wyre Estuary Country Park
- Outstanding Contribution to North West In Bloom Tim Hoyles, Catterall
- Plus, a special award of 5 years of outstanding achievement to Hawthorne Park

2.8 I would also like to congratulate Sandra Byrne, our Cleaner Greener Projects Officer, who has been recognised in the Britain in Bloom Discretionary Awards category for her **Outstanding Contribution to North West In Bloom**, in coordinating and supporting the Wyre entrants in the Britain in Bloom competition over the past few years.

2.9 These awards recognise the great work and achievements of all our volunteers, supported by local businesses, communities and Wyre Council staff, in contributing to environmental improvements and benefits across the whole of Wyre.

2.10 The Activity Development Officer has supported a number of activities at the Mount Pavilion including:

- RNLI Fleetwood session which educated children on the hazards of play by the seaside and looked at how boats navigate the water using buoys
- remembrance poppy workshop with Fleetwood town council

- World War 2 workshop about the dig for victory campaign and Fleetwood's wartime maritime history with Chaucer primary
- tree nursery workshop with Larkholme primary
- gardening demonstration and community gardening events with schools and other groups

2.11 Cottam Hall Community Garden

The ground works and infrastructure to the Community Garden are now complete, which included site clearance and installation of a new polytunnel and raised beds. Unfortunately the site was subject to a serious vandalism attack over the weekend of the 28/29 October, with extensive damage to the pavilion and to the community gardens.

2.12 Cottam Hall UKSPF Masterplan Consultation Stage

Wyre Council has commissioned local consultants to develop a Masterplan of the site. The first stage of the process included a consultation of site users to understand the needs and aspirations and identify priorities. Over 350 consultation responses were received, and key themes highlighted were the condition of the existing pavilion, need for improved sports facilities, poor accessibility, lack of car parking, antisocial behaviour problems, new path creation, as well as improvements to the environment and increased biodiversity.

2.13 Meetings have been held with key stakeholders, user groups, local primary school and Ward Members, and a community event and litter pick were also well attended on site.

2.14 The next stage is to build upon the current community uses and promote key themes in terms of sport and activity, health and well-being, environment and biodiversity, accessibility and security, and broad community benefit to draw up a site master plan for further consultation.

3. Waste and Recycling

3.1 Recycle Now is one of WRAP's (The Waste and Resources Action Programme) high profile brands which aims to motivate more people to recycle more. The annual Recycle Week is their largest national annual recycling campaign. This year, the event celebrated its 20th anniversary with the theme The Big Recycling Hunt (16 – 22 October 2023) focussing on 'missed capture': the items that can be recycled but are commonly missed in the home.

3.2 Local Authorities, including Wyre Council, were encouraged to share this central message which aligns with the corporate objective of a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment. The aims of the recycling campaign were to motivate more people to recycle more and highlighted 'missed capture' items and to drive resident participation in the Big Recycle Hunt.

3.3 The Wyre Communications team supported the campaign through news stories, e-news, social media with a live Q&A session with our Cleaner,

Greener Projects Officer throughout the week. This generated some great engagement and was an opportunity to answer some of our Frequently Asked Questions on Waste and Recycling. Social media communications generated a total combined reach of 8,054 posts throughout the week.

4. Comments and questions

- 4.1** 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.