

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	18 April 2024

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 next phase of the King Georges and Church Road Playing Fields project with Wyre Rivers Trust (WRT) has been completed. A section of boardwalk has been constructed over the newly created wetlands and adjacent to the improved playing field. The work has been undertaken by volunteers working closely with Wyre and WRT staff and a local contractor. The damaged section of the football pitch with minimal grass covering will be reinstated once the ground has dried out sufficiently.
- 2.2** The Cleveleys, Knott End, Rossall and Estuary beach clean events continue to grow in popularity and great work is carried out by volunteers and community groups coordinating beach cleans. Corporate volunteering has been taking place with small groups of United Utilities staff undertaking employee volunteer days at Fleetwood and Rossall Point beaches.
- 2.3** Wyre`s team are working closely with local landowners, Lancashire County Council and Wyre Rivers Trust to undertake emergency tree and river restoration works following flood damage to Brock Picnic Area. The Brock Valley is a special site for wildlife and landscape and the picnic area is a very popular spot for local visitors and tourists. The riverbank had become dangerous and unstable due to undercutting, causing several large trees to fall into the river. Specialists works using sustainable flood management techniques have been undertaken. The next stage will involve work to reinstate the public footpath and picnic area and to fence and protect the embankment to allow it to grow back; the public will be kept informed with notices on natural flood management in rivers.

- 2.4** 5,500 trees have been planted on council land by council staff, partners, volunteers and community groups, members of the public and school groups during the 2023/24 tree planting season as part of our commitment to addressing climate change. This brings the current accumulative total of trees planted to 19,192.
- 2.5** February was a busy month at The Mount, bringing the Heritage Lottery Funding programme of improvements and activities to a close. All 20 of the standard trees purchased through the Forestry Commission Urban Tree Challenge Fund for The Mount were planted. A variety of other trees including Hazel, Rowan, Field Maple, Holly, and Hawthorn whips and, Elm and Pine standards were also planted, bringing the total to 120 planted over the month. Three community gardening events were delivered: school groups were involved in building bird and bat boxes and dead hedges to help boost the biodiversity on site; a flower arranging workshop with a local health and wellbeing group; and a scavenger hunt style event following clues themed on the site's history. The programme culminated in a successful celebration event with diverse activities involving the public, volunteers, and partners during the February half term.
- 2.6** The Memorial Park gardening club continues to meet weekly in preparation for new growing season, while Friends of Memorial Park work closely with Fleetwood Town football club to deliver community event at the park.

3. Waste and Enforcement

- 3.1** Between October 2023 – March 2024, WISE issued 880 Fixed Penalty Notices as part of reactive patrols in response to information relating to known 'hotspots' or community intelligence of litter and dog fouling, and proactive patrolling in areas with PSPO restrictions in place, as follows:

Offence Type	Offence Numbers
Littering	868
PSPO-Dogs Exclusion Zones	1
Dog Fouling*	11
Total:	880

* Jubilee (5), Rossall, Stanah, Tithebarn, Mount, Pharos, and Park

3.2

Area	Patrol Hours (October to March 2024)	Number of FPN's **
Cleveleys (Victoria & Norcross, Jubilee, and Cleveleys Park)	623	307
Fleetwood (Park, Mount, Rossall, Pharos and Warren)	562	443
Thornton (Pheasants Wood, Marsh Mill, Stanah and Bourne)	103	8
Poulton-le-Fylde (Hardhorn with Highcross, Carleton, Breck and Tithebarn)	423	110
Rural East (Brock with Catterall, Garstang, Calder and Wyresdale)	17	9
Rural West (Hambleton & Stalmine, Great Eccleston, Preesall and Pilling)	15	1

** In addition, 2 FPNs were issued in areas where no GPS data was captured and cannot be allocated to specific wards.

3.3 WISE Enforcement Officers has also engaged with 98 dog walkers to determine if they were carrying dog foul bags and observed 300 dog walkers being compliant by removing faeces after the dog had fouled.

3.4 The Wyre inhouse enforcement team issued 6 Fixed Penalty Notices over the same period as follows:

- Litter x 2 (Mount Ward)
- Fly Tipping x 2 (Rossall and Jubilee Wards)
- Dogs PSPO x 1 (Pharos Ward)
- Dog Fouling x 1 (Pharos Ward)

3.5 In February, Wyre hosted a Fylde Coast Dangerous Dogs training event following the Government ban on XL Bullies. The training covered safe handling techniques and warning signals to recognise traits when dangerous/banned dogs may be out of control. Joint procurement of safety equipment to administer sedatives to dangerous dogs is being explored between the three councils (Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre) and kennel provider.

3.6 Lead Enforcement Officers from the three councils will be meeting regularly in a new initiative to share intelligence on the cross-boundary movements of suspected fly tippers and rogue traders to assist with vehicle tracking and identification of suspects; this will also be a forum

to share experience and best practice.

- 3.7** A joint mobile patrol involving Wyre Enforcement Officers and the police was carried out in March to stop and search suspected rogue traders and identify breaches of waste carriers' responsibilities. No illegal operations were identified on this occasion however it was a valuable exercise and plans are in motion to make this a regular occurrence.
- 3.8** The council is supporting a Lancashire County Council campaign to warn of the dangers of incorrect battery disposal and encourage people to recycle them safely. Batteries contain chemicals hazardous to the environment which can cause fires in bins, collection vehicles and at processing facilities. The 16 Wyre refuse collection vehicles have been updated with campaign artwork to highlight the hidden batteries inside vapes, electric equipment and children's toys that cannot be disposed of in domestic bins.

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.