

Report of:	To:	Date	Item no.
Cllr. Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	19 July 2018	7(c)

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** This year a partnership formed by Wyre Council, the Royal Society of Biology, the River Wyre Trust and the Wyre Waters Catchment Partnership came together to organise the Wyre Estuary Bioblitz on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 June. It was deemed to be a great success with wonderful feedback from customers and volunteers. Some of the volunteers came from as far afield as Wales and Bristol to help out and be involved.
- 2.2** A Bioblitz is a 24 hour wildlife challenge which aims to involve anyone from experts to complete beginners in the goal of finding as many different species of plants and animals in a defined area as possible.
- 2.3** During the event over 90 bug hotels were constructed by school children and local residents with an estimated 300 species found and over 50 volunteers took part in helping with the environmental education activities and the wildlife surveys. In total an estimated 1,000 people attended, taking part in the various wildlife activities.
- 2.4** The more serious side to the Bioblitz is the really useful information that comes in from the volunteers telling the managers of the Wyre Estuary Country Park where the wildlife is and what it might need to survive.
- 2.5** I'd like to thank the volunteers for their support and the support given by Thornton Practice who promoted healthy heroes and healthy living and the RNLI and Coastguard who helped out with the coastal and estuary surveys.

- 2.6** I recently visited King George's Playing Field in Thornton to witness the commencement of the first phase of improvements to the playing field. Work began on the 25 June and it is anticipated that construction will be completed by late summer. This work includes construction of the first section of the trail alongside Royles Brook, which includes areas for play and gym equipment, seating and planting.
- 2.7** Our parks continue to host a range of community and council led activities and events. At the start of this month there was The Big Gig at Vicarage Park, the annual Memorial Park Fun Day and events during Love Parks Week such as The Big Friendly Giant outdoor theatre.

3. Waste and recycling

- 3.1** The provisional recycling and composting rate for 2017/18 is 43%. This is a slight reduction on last year, in line with the national trends for recycling rates which are plateauing. Inspections of the residual waste are still showing lots of recyclable materials, so there is scope for improvement and this will be pushed further by making use of national resources from the Recycle Now campaign and the continuation of the Bin Amnesty Project.

4. Street scene

- 4.1** The second application of herbicide to highway areas across the borough is imminent. As always the application is dependent on the prevailing weather conditions; officers will monitor the effects of the weed killer and arrange additional work as required.
- 4.2** The Parks, Street Cleansing and Area Officer Teams are busy preparing for and supporting the various community events and galas taking place at this time of year, including North West in Bloom, which is taking place this week. This support continues to range from advance sweeping, and the provision and collection of bins and sacks for litter, to the loan of vehicles for the gala queen parades.
- 4.3** An application has been submitted for the Wyre Estuary Country Park to work with the Dogs Trust and Keep Britain Tidy in a pilot research project "Walk this Way" to address dog fouling issues in public open spaces. I will keep members informed of this opportunity.
- 4.4** Officers have secured campaign resources from the award winning Hertfordshire Waste Partnership to help tackle fly-tipping. The campaign S.C.R.A.P. (Suspect / Check / Refuse / Ask / Paperwork) has been hard hitting and raised the profile of fly-tipping across their county. They have kindly supplied copies of the artwork which can be adapted locally and we will be seeking to use these across the borough.

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.

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