

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr David Henderson, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	19 January 2017	8(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. Street cleansing

- 2.1** We continue to see an overall reduction in reports of dog fouling for the year to date. Although there can be a seasonal increase in reports in the winter months last November saw the lowest number of reports for the last four years. I recognise that the majority of dog owners are responsible but would encourage reports of dog fouling online at wyre.gov.uk/reportdogfouling, providing as much information as possible.
- 2.2** The street cleansing team supported various public events leading up to Christmas through the provision of additional cleansing visits and received complimentary comments regarding the service provided.

3 Waste and recycling

- 3.1** We received the excellent news during December that we had won the Best performer Award at the recent National Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards ceremony held in Blackpool.
- 3.2** The subscription service for year two of the garden waste collection scheme is now live online and many customers have already taken the opportunity to renew in advance of the 1 May renewal date to ensure continuous service.

4. Public conveniences

4.1 Once again the authorities' public toilets have achieved recognition in the annual Loo of the Year Awards held in early December. In conjunction with our partners Danfo we have retained our status as fourth in the country in the Premier league of public facilities. To have 20 facilities that have reached Gold or Platinum standard is a remarkable achievement when many authorities have or are looking to close public facilities.

5. Parks and open spaces

5.1 I was delighted to receive the excellent news that we had been awarded a development grant for The Mount Grounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant is to enable us to develop the project in preparation for a second round submission likely to be in March 2018. To prepare the application we will undertake further community consultation as we develop plans for the restoration work and programme of activities, events and volunteering.

5.2 The Council has received £51,685 section 106 funding to improve open space in the vicinity of the former Ashdell Nurseries site. I attended a public consultation workshop on 15 December with local groups and residents to "shape the space" and gather people views of the land at King George's and Church Road Playing Fields and how they can be improved and developed.

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.