

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr David Henderson Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	6 April 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 Scene

- 2.1** The annual highway weed spraying programme is due to commence in Fleetwood during this month, then continue across the rest of the borough over a period of 3-4 weeks (weather permitting).
- 2.2** Area Officers are engaging with local communities to try and tackle issues relating to waste, dog fouling and littering within alleyways. The early support from residents regarding a cohesive approach has been encouraging and I will report further on progress with this initiative at a later date.
- 2.3** Blackpool Council has recently been successful with two prosecutions of offenders known to be responsible for fly tipping within both boroughs. The pair received a custodial sentence along with a fine and a Criminal Behaviour Order. This punishment will hopefully send out a message to others who may dump waste illegally.
- 2.4** Officers have a number of on-going investigations into other fly tipping incidents within the borough and some joint cases are being progressed with Fylde, Lancaster and Blackpool councils.
- 2.5** The Lancashire Fly Tipping working group is finalising the joint fly tipping strategy including a communication strategy with the support of the Environment Agency. This is to ensure consistent hard hitting messages regarding this issue are delivered across all Lancashire Authorities. Key messages will be aimed at households and businesses regarding the need to undertake the correct checks before paying someone to take away waste, and to be cautious of sourcing people via social media such as Facebook.

3 Waste and Recycling

- 3.1** Subscriptions are now live online for this year's garden waste service and to ensure a continuous service, customers must re-subscribe by mid April. The garden waste is now being processed and delivered direct to a facility at Out Rawcliffe as directed by Lancashire County Council. The green waste is being turned into compost using open windrow methods.
- 3.2** Officers have been asked to undertake a range of presentations to external stakeholders based on the authority's success in winning the best performer for Waste and Recycling Services.

4 Parks and Open Spaces

- 4.1** I had pleasure in welcoming volunteers and partners to a celebratory event held in January regarding the award of a development grant for the Mount Grounds project. Following this a start-up meeting was held with the Heritage Lottery Fund on the 8 February and the work to procure a design team and consultants to assist with consultation and activity planning is underway.
- 4.2** The consultation to gather resident's views of land at King George's and Church Road Playing Fields in Thornton was launched at Marsh Mill on 20 January at an event featured by Radio Lancashire. Over 100 residents returned surveys at this event, online and at the display shown at Thornton YMCA and Wyre Estuary Country Park. Proposals are now being developed in preparation for further consultation this spring.
- 4.3** The Friends of Jean Stansfield/Vicarage Park, Poulton have been successful with a bid for funding from Tesco's 'Bags of help' fund, the grant will be put together with other funds the group have, to install additional play equipment on the park.

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.