

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Simon Bridge, Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	Council	6 February 2020

## 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 In January families took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at Memorial Park Fleetwood, Hawthorne Park and Wyre Estuary Country Park in Thornton and a winter bird walk at Rossall Point Tower. At the Memorial Park event, children were able to make bird feeders and take part in a bird trail around the site.
- 2.2 Construction work to create a sensory garden at Memorial Park is complete. The facility offers a wider range of sensory stimuli which will be of particular benefit for visitors such as those living with dementia. Planting of the newly created areas will be completed this spring.
- 2.3 I am grateful for the assistance provided by volunteers that have supported the planting of trees at various sites across the borough and helped with essential woodland management work including woodland thinning to:
- Create and enhance areas of biodiversity rich grassland and meadow
  - Remove deceased plant material
  - Improve public access
  - Coppicing to encourage regrowth and enabling light to get into the woodland areas.

### 3. Waste and recycling

- 3.1 The new red-lidded wheeled bin will be distributed to households throughout March and early April in time for the change to the new collection frequency with a full information leaflet and updated calendar delivered in advance. There will be some changes to collection days

and the collection routes; residents will be reminded again to ensure their bins are presented for collection for 07.00 on their collection day.

- 3.2 Officers are holding drop in recycling awareness sessions across the borough using the ibus during February and March, to help increase recycling rates with full details being promoted via the usual channels.
- 3.3 Over the last few months, there has been an increase in contamination in the paper and card from households reported by the re-processors. Officers and Veolia have worked with Lancashire Renewables to identify the rounds and properties where it may have come from and will engage with householders accordingly.

#### **4. Street Scene**

- 4.1 Encouragingly, more volunteers are coming forward wishing to take up routine litter picks in their local area or join with existing groups and we are thankful they are 'doing their bit'. We are supporting them with inductions, training and equipment funded by the income from littering fines.
- 4.2 Officers will be contacting schools and community groups with the offer of free compost bins and water butts being made available through one of the council's key partners.

#### **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.