

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	June 2021

Green Sefton

Overall: Green Sefton

- Visitor Action Plan: actions being taken to address excess visitors already being seen on the coast in 2021, and taking forward the successful pilots from 2020. See here: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/4375/coast-visitor-action-plan-2021.pdf>
- Coast Plan sub strategies development, incl Position Statement production
- Coastal Gateways mapping sessions
- Climate Emergency Action Plan; overall involvement, and particular actions re: offsetting and other aspects specific to Green Sefton
- Our 'place based' strategy development
- Re-looking at time management; to make sure we focus on the right things at the right time
- Internal Working groups continue to develop – (incl income and growth, information and intelligence, systems of working, health and safety etc)

More detail on all of the above, and our prioritised work programme, can be found on Annual Review newsletter, which includes a link to a narrated version of the presentation, see here: [Green Sefton](#). Further, officers are more than happy to discuss any of the issues further as requested.

In summary, key ongoing issues headlines are as follows:

Green Sefton; Development:

- Storm Christoph flooding issues, Section 19 investigations and reports underway.
- Innovation (flood resilience) Bid on behalf of Merseyside was unsuccessful. However, the North West Coastal Group bid looking at coastal ecological buffers has progressed to the next stage and Formby dunes is one of the sites included.
- Crosby major scheme development – delivery of the main scheme has been delayed until 2027 due to funding constraints. Interim and enabling works will take place as required over the next 6years
- The Pool project – surface water flood resilience in Churchtown area associated with the Pool watercourse. Detailed design is underway to assess feasibility of the final scheme.

- Gormley maintenance work – contractor on site replacing the remaining half of the piles.
- Coronation park social finance project - Consultation results to go to panel in July. Further work with Friends Group to embed opportunity.
- Bootle Driving Range – contractors on site with a planned opening of late summer.
- Ainsdale gateway short term improvements – slow progress with design work underway with car park improvements, initial scoping of toilet improvements and surveys for artwork to Toad Hall. Trial of new concessions at Ainsdale likely to take place in July.
- Hesketh Park conservatory; successful 20k funding bid, and works due to be completed in August 2021.
- Binastructure – funding secured to rationise and update bins across sites and adjacent highways. Surveys underway.
- Surface Water Management plan – modelling updated, site assessments made. Option analysis underway for Sites within Formby.

Green Sefton: Community and Resources

- Development of a new Tree Management strategy is still in progress
- Market testing of empty buildings and land opportunities, incl new concessions on the coast for summer 2021 has provided some new opportunities and is continuing despite slow progress during the pandemic
- Golf driving ranges development - Bootle works in progress due to open in the Autumn.
- Allotment strategy working group, leading to new forum to be set up 2021, consultation during July and August – waiting lists increased substantially during the pandemic
- Volunteers and group development strategy in progress
- Natural Alternatives expansion - halted during the pandemic
 - o Numbers or participants starting to get back towards pre-pandemic levels
 - o New hub opened at Botanic Gardens
 - o Consideration of hubs in the south of the borough
- 'User-survey' for parks and greenspaces and coast to be launched.
- Forest School Activity
- Northwest in Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood Judging 2021
- Friends Forum June 2021
- Ranger Team Activities / monitoring at a number of sites:
 - o Bowersdale Park
 - o Derby Park
 - o Orrell Mount
 - o Monthly site-visits
- Educational Strategy Development
 - o School materials including; heritage, beachcombing and trees
 - o Forest and Beach Schools
- Corporate Team Activities supported by Community Rangers
 - o SMBC Insurance

- SMBC Corporate Learning Centre
- National Campaign activities:
 - KBT Dog-fouling
 - KBT Spring Cleans
 - World Ocean's Day
 - World Environment Day
- Partnership Work
 - Merseyside Police
 - MFRS Outreach Team
 - Adult Social Care
- Funding Support
 - Community groups e.g. FoCrosby Beach
 - Natural Alternatives – Sustrans
 - MFRS Community Impact Fund (Southport)
 - Area funding has continued to support infrastructure improvements in parks, esp our public play facilities.

Leases

- Following a successful launch Most Haunted are holding full booked events at Botanic Gardens Museum. They have won a Tourism and Hospitality Award for their work and are now increasing visitor numbers to Southport.
- A number of lease renewals are being completed.

Sport & Recreation

- We are about to allocate sports pitches for the coming 2021/22 season.
- The extension of the playing season owing to the lockdown closure of sport has been well received by teams and has served its purpose, allowing teams to complete lost fixtures.
- Allotment events are being held with involve clean up campaigns.
- Progress is being made with the Allotment Questionnaire, for all tenants and those on the waiting list.

Green Sefton: Land Management

- Capacity challenges day to day have resulted in some issues, especially during recent good weather which has increased visitor numbers (and the litter/ other issues that brings), and increasing grass and weed growth. Also, due to covid, the football playing season has been extended, meaning full time core staff are working on maintaining playing pitches which would not normally be in use at this time of year (taking them away from other programmed works)
- Green Sefton: Enterprise (our steps into the commercial world – bringing additional staffing and resource)
- Changes to beach car park management and visitor engagement – longer hours of operation, and improvements to infrastructure
- Last year of the 10 year HLS project on Ainsdale and Birkdale sandhills, and bid for new funding (incl Countryside Stewardship; Higher Tier)
- Replacement of vehicles, fleet and machinery
- England Coast Path (potential in house project delivery, only Local Authority in the UK!)