

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT
Overview & Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services)
Tuesday 17 March 2015

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Ian Moncur	Children, School & Families and Leisure	February 2015

LANDSCAPE SERVICES - Head of Service, Rajan Paul

PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Developing Partnership Working

Work is on-going to develop relationships with external partners, to help both these organisations and the Council achieve positive outcomes through volunteer work in parks. Two recent examples include:

- Princes Trust: There have now been three projects within parks in Sefton: North Park, Hesketh Park, and most recently at Meols Cop and Russell Road Playing Fields. This has resulted in completion of work which would have cost several thousands of pounds to procure (and would not have been possible under the current budget). Parks and Greenspace are trying to develop further the relationship with the Princes Trust for the mutual benefit of both parties, and the local community.
- Santander: This large local employer is working with the Council in some of its parks, as part of its 'community responsibility' targets. After a project in Linacre Hub, Bootle, last year, they are now looking at potentially working in further parks, such as Marian Gardens, South Park and Giro Park. Officers are trying to develop an on-going, sustainable relationship with the organisation, and continue to facilitate their volunteering on site.

Improving the Parks

Carrying out targeted improvements to parks and open spaces, to increase user numbers and user satisfaction.

- South Park: Shrub management works have started on site at South Park and King's Gardens, Bootle. This work will include the removal of overgrown plants in order to open up views and make people feel safer in the park. It will also include the replanting of some areas with low growing wildflowers and low growing shrubs that will add interest and not become overgrown in the future. This is the first phase of improvements to the park with further works to follow later in 2015, including a new toddler play area, improved ball courts and community food growing facilities and much more. Parks and Greenspace officers are working in partnership with Merseyside Police to reduce anti-social behaviour, during and after works are completed on site.
- Duke St Park, Formby: Consultation works have begun to develop a new vision plan for Duke St Park Formby. Two drop in sessions have been held and a draft plan has been created. The support from the public to date has been very positive, and it is hoped that the process will lead to the creation of a new Friends Group. The first phase of works will be funded from the S106 allocation for the park, and will be on site later in 2015.

HEALTH & WELLBEING SERVICE – Head of Service, Steve Deakin

SPORTS & LEISURE

Active Lifestyles Team

The Active Lifestyles Team have been working with Southport and Formby CCG on the development of a bid to Macmillan to fund a 'survivorship' physical activity programme for cancer patients in the north of the Borough. Confirmation has been received that this bid has been successful. To allow for the integration with existing physical activity programmes, a decision was made that a 'Physical Activity and Wellness Coordinator' would be recruited and employed within the Recreation and Culture Section. Approximately £45,000 has been ear marked for a bespoke programme for these patients, which will be funded for 3 years.

The Active Lifestyles Team have also received notification that they have all passed the Wright Foundation Cancer Rehabilitation qualification. As a result, agreement has been made with Public Health to allow cancer survivors access to the existing Active Lifestyles Services through the GP Exercise Referral Programme.

The Active Workforce Programme has attracted new investment from St Michael's School Academy.

To the end of December Active Lifestyles had received referrals for 2869 patients across the borough, had 2760 visits to the Relax and Revive sessions and had 621 participants access the MOVE IT family weight management programme.

Active Sports Team

Sefton Satellite Clubs

The Sefton Satellite Club programme is a Sport England funded, Secondary School/Club Links project. It is delivered by established sports club coaches and Sefton casual coaches who bring their expertise and enthusiasm to schools where young people already meet and feel safe. Together they create a 'satellite club' that offers sport in the way that these young people want to receive it with a pathway into clubs if they would like to progress.

There have been;

- 9 clubs delivered
- Sports - Netball, Basketball, Dodgeball
- Funding received to date from Sport England - £16,300
- 2 players from the under 14 section from Winwood Netball Club as part of the satellite club programme selected for the Merseyside County squad.
- A junior coach, supporting Sacred Heart/Winwood Netball Club, has been selected to go to Disneyland Paris as a volunteer coach for the netball tournament.
- As a result Sefton will have its first Dodgeball and Handball Club and the Maghull area will have its first Netball Team.

Everybody Active

- 230 participants engaged in the programme
- 220 users utilising social media (Facebook) - engaging and sharing the project.
- Approximately 14 different activities have been delivered ranging from family yoga to indoor bowls
- Due to their success a number of sessions have been sustained – including Family Yoga and Netball
- Additional 3 sessions currently being delivered in sheltered housing due to additional funding attracted through Adactus Housing.

Be Active

Funding has been provided by Adactus Housing to fund 28 places for Netherton and Southport Be Active Camps. Participants who have not previously attended camps will be targeted.

YES Count Me In

Delivering a pilot 6 week programme for Sefton at Work targeting unemployed young people to increase their motivation, self esteem and develop a Can Do Attitude!

L30 Millions

A project proposal is currently being considered by the L30 millions group to deliver a range of sport and physical activities in Netherton. Early indication has been that the bid has been successful, with just a few tweaks to the development plan needed.

LIBRARIES

Visitor Numbers

The Atkinson recorded over 52,500 visitors during January 2015. The accumulative number from April 2014 to January 2015 is 510,899 visits.

Museum Opening

The final phase of The Atkinson's redevelopment was formally completed on 12th February with the official opening of the new museum spaces. 'Between Land & Sea' tells the story of the 10,000 year evolution of Sefton's communities and landscapes through displays, interactive resources, films and activities. Over 250 specially invited guests attended the launch with guest speakers including Cllr Peter Dowd and Heritage Lottery's Virginia Tandy. The museum collections will be promoted to schools and communities through a Heritage Lottery funded activity plan until 2017.

Volunteers

The Atkinson has now built an active team of over 40 volunteers since its foundation in the summer of 2014. Volunteers are currently delivering exhibition and building tours, community workshops and visitor greeter roles and are now being trained to digitise the extensive museum archive of historic documents and photographs.

'Back to the Future'

Five short films have just been completed in a partnership between The Atkinson, Age Concern and the Crosby based organisation Theatre in the Rough. Members of the Age Concern befriending groups of Bootle and Southport shared their reminiscences with young writers who then developed scripts which referenced The Atkinson's local history

collections. The resulting films were shot throughout The Atkinson's spaces and will be screened in the new museum at a special launch event.

Think Differently Cope Differently

The Atkinson-run Think Differently Cope Differently mental health programme successfully completed a pilot course tailored to support the needs of managers and staff from within child social work teams. The fully subscribed sessions centre on the Five Ways to Wellbeing and evaluation has shown a demonstrable improvement in participant mental health. Subject to final evaluation, this programme would become more widely available to all Sefton MBC employees.

Keep Warm Keep Well

A recent Keep Warm Keep Well event in The Atkinson studio theatre brought together representatives of 15 organisations offering advice and support to older people. Over 200 people attended the half day session.