

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	October 2016

PARKS AND GREENSPACES

Community Resilience

Development of volunteering/community resilience in parks and green spaces.

This continues to play a significant part in keeping parks at an acceptable standard.

Community self-management

The service continues to explore new opportunities to facilitate community, sports and other groups taking on self-management of their facilities and features. In addition to existing arrangements, developing discussions are ongoing with a combination of groups for:

- the old nursery yard at Botanic Gardens,
- for the old museum at Botanic Gardens,
- and other sports users such as Redgate Rovers (for Watchyard Lane Playing Fields, Formby), for Southport Rugby Club (Waterloo Road Rec) and others a formal expression of interest has been submitted by both.

Kings Gardens Community Development

The arts and crafts shelter will be developed as a visitor information centre which will be managed predominately by the friends of Kings Gardens, with a smaller visitors centre element within the tea rooms.

North West Research and an independent access consultant have been commissioned to carry out an evaluation report for the Kings Gardens HLF project. Deadline for the final report is December 2016.

Sefton Parks and greenspaces in conjunction with the Green Machine, pupils from a number of a Southport schools and Pendle Productions have produced a film about Kings Gardens. The pupils produced and directed the film with the support of Pendle Productions and the finished film will be added to the King's Gardens website.

Four outdoor cinemas took place in the summer together with a screening of Coastal Opera.

The friends of King's Gardens continue to look after the community garden, and organise and support community events. The friends group have been successful in applying for charity status.

The funding for community support and the activity schedule ends December 2017.

Duke St Park

Following the approval of a Cabinet Member report to agree the vision for the park, work is currently ongoing on the new Multi Use Games Area.

Outdoor Theatre

A series of 8 Outdoor Theatres took place in Parks this summer. These were run at no cost to the council, but the profit is shared with the private business that arranges them. This has proved popular and will be repeated next summer

Hugh Baird College

In addition to the recent Work Experience Week (outlined in the last report), students continue to volunteer in Derby Park and undertake light gardening tasks.

Santander Community Activity Days

Staff continue to support improvements and developments in Parks and Greenspaces and in 2016 / 2017, staff have supported activities in the following Parks; Victoria Park, Waterloo; Hatton Hill Park, Giro Park and Marian Gardens. Each time they not only contribute their time, but also monies towards the materials necessary for the activity.

Creating and Building Partnerships

In addition to the ongoing partnership that has been established with Santander since 2014, Parks and Greenspaces are building its relationship further with several external partners such as; Access Point and McDonalds. Initially, Access Point came on board to complete a 100 volunteering hour's target with its staff, but have since decided to continue volunteering in Hesketh Park; and McDonalds are due to get involved in quarterly litter-picks in North Sefton.

To expand the partnership element of the Service even further a focused and pro-active marketing initiative will take place in autumn 2016 i.e. Santander with Parks and Greenspaces will devise promotional materials that can be distributed to external organisations and businesses.

Art and Educational Installations

Parks and Greenspaces have worked closely with several local schools, YKids and the Gateway Collective to install educational art-installations and interpretation in North Park.

Garden Volunteers

Garden volunteers are integral to the future of Sefton's Parks and Greenspaces and support and lead activities in many Parks including; Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord Street Gardens, Rotten Row, Duke Street Park, Derby Park, Moorside Park, Coronation Park, Alexandra Park, Victoria Park Community Garden, Seafront Gardens and many more.

Park Volunteers' Week

Volunteers took part in activities across Sefton to support the annual Park Volunteers' Week held in the first week of June. Activities included; litter-picks, gardening, arts and crafts in the Park, Observatory Open Day and much more.

Burbo Bank Extension Fund

The Parks and Greenspaces was successful in securing funding in order to build upon the community growing schemes that are taking place in many of its Parks e.g. Victoria Park, Waterloo and North Park, Bootle. The Project will be developed during Autumn 2106/ Spring 2017 with a range of Friends Groups.

Capital schemes

King's Gardens

Additional works for the gardens have been agreed and tenders have been received. Contractors have been appointed for all works which should all be complete Autumn 2016. The HLF has agreed an extension for all capital spend to be complete by end December 16.

Alexandra Park

The boundary railings to Alexandra Park in Crosby have been up-graded and improvements are imminent to ornamental lamp standards in the park.

South Park Phase 2

Work is now complete on the second phase of improvements to South Park, including major improvements to the multi-use games area, improvements to the play area and increased security including CCTV.

A successful War Memorials Trust grant to refurbish the Bootle War Memorial located adjacent to the park has brought in a further £88k. Work has now been completed and the memorial was rededicated on 3rd September by the Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor in the presence of MP Peter Dowd, local Elected Members and a big turn out from the community.

Phase 3 will begin on site after Christmas, with works to the King Edward VII statue, steps, a community growing project and much more.

Bowersdale Park

A scheme has been developed in consultation with the community to develop the ball court into a multi-use games area –The Cabinet Member report has been approved, tenders have been sought and work is now underway on the new Multi Use Games Area.

Killen Green Skate Park

Further to a successful funding bid to Veolia UK, Killen Green Park has been successful in building a new skate, BMX and scooter facility in Netherton. The scheme was designed in collaboration with the Eden Network and L30s Millions Project, who also matched funded the works. The skatepark is now complete on site and very well received by the community.

Phase 2 will start on site after Christmas with park improvement works to the play area and dog walking area, and more.

Benchmarking/ Awards

Green Flag Award

In terms of Green Flag Award, Parks and Greenspaces submitted a total of 8 applications for 2016/ 2107, which were all successful.

Green Flag Community Award

In 2016 we also assisted community groups in retaining the Green Flag Community Award for example Rotten Row, Southport. St Luke's Church Grounds submits an annual application also and was successful in retaining the Award.

We continue to support applications and two organisations to achieve the Award in 2016/ 2017 were; North Park Community Garden, involving the Gateway Collective and Ykids; and Bridge Inn Community Farm, Formby.

We are assisting the Friends of Ainsdale Village Park with an application for 2017/18.

In Bloom Award

This year's judging took place across July and August and included Southport in the National Britain in Bloom Finals. The applications submitted for this year's North West In Bloom Awards included; Ainsdale in Bloom, Crosby & Waterloo in Bloom, Maghull in Bloom and Southport in Bloom. All entries are supported by both Sefton Council and a Steering Group involving various partners helps prepare and promote the application to the wider area.

Results will be announced at award ceremonies this Autumn.

It's Your Neighbourhood Awards

The number of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Entries has increased steadily and this year there were 32 for the whole of Sefton. Sefton has been commended for its number of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Entries by Northwest in Bloom (NWiB) and Sefton is an example of good practice to other areas in the Country (quoted from Theresa Potter - NWiB and BiB Judge 2016).