

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – July 2017)

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	July 2017

### **PARKS AND GREENSPACES**

#### **Community Resilience**

##### **Community self-management/Market testing of empty buildings**

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 and a market test exercise is to be undertaken to hopefully find suitable users for empty buildings (which may include commercial lettings).

##### **ASB Initiatives**

In response to issues of antisocial behaviour related to bicycles in and around the areas of Victoria and Coronation Parks, the Community Parks Team are working with Neighbourhoods and Active Travel/Cycling UK Development Officer to put together an initiative to address these issues that are of particular concern to the community as they are also leading to theft of bicycles (sometimes by force).

##### **Creating and Building Partnerships**

In addition to the ongoing partnership that has been established with Santander since 2014, Parks and Greenspaces are building relationships 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 2017.

##### **Community Hubs**

Botanic Gardens Community Hub: The Hub has now entered its operational phase with most of its partners now established on-site. As the partners become more established they will seek to channel their efforts into providing positive projects and activities in Botanic Gardens. Current

partners include The Community Parks Officers, the Botanic Gardens Community Association, Sefton New Directions, Macmillan Cancer Care, Arden College and The Botanic Gardens Café.

Further works are being developed for new Community Hub concepts throughout the borough including Orrell Mount Park, Hesketh Park, and others.

## **Capital schemes**

### **Hesketh Park Observatory**

Refurbishment works have been completed on site to the dome and mechanism of the Observatory. A celebration and commemorative event is being planned in conjunction with the community groups involved.

### **King's Gardens**

The last of the capital works is almost complete; this sees a new balustrade wall on the lower promenade from the play area to the end of the mini golf and will see the last of the lighting installed. All seventeen sets of steps repaired and made more accessible to those with disabilities, and a hand rail added to the Venetian bridge.

An innovative art project has been completed with Southport College under the Venetian bridge in Kings Gardens. This has seen an area previously suffering from graffiti now decorated by young people. This has been taken as good practice and a further project is now planned for under the Marine Way Bridge.

## **Benchmarking/ Awards**

### **Green Flag Award**

In 2017/18 in addition to the 8 existing Green flag Award applications (Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord Street Gardens, King's Gardens, Coronation Park, Hatton Hill Park, Derby Park and North Park) two further applications were judged in May for Killen Green Park, Netherton and Duke Street Park, Formby.

### **Green Flag Community Award**

In 2017 we are also assisting community groups in retaining the Green Flag Community Award i.e. Rotten Row, Southport, St Luke's Church Grounds, 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 a new application for 2017/18; EDDA are also submitting a 2017/18 application for the first time.

### **In Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood Awards**

The 2017 NWiB Entries are underway and Groups are being encouraged to submit entries it is anticipated that the same number of entries will be made as last year.

### **The Open Golf 2017**

Preparations continue for the Open Golf which takes place 16th-23rd July. Bedford Park, Waterloo Road Rec, Carr Lane and (possibly) Sandbrook Road Rec will all be used for visitor park and ride.