

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Appendix B

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health – January 2018)

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

PARKS AND GREENSPACES

World Parks Congress

The service presented at the World Parks Congress in the Wirral during October. This presentation delivered information on the innovation in service delivery (especially in encouraging volunteering) shown in recent years. Delegates were also offered a half day visit to the borough – especially to see Hesketh Park (because of the links to Joseph Paxton, the designer of both Hesketh Park, and Birkenhead Park- the first public park opened 150yrs ago). A number of delegates visited the site and were taken on a multi-language tour of the Park.

CPOs continue to support volunteering and Friends Groups up and down the Borough.

In the south of the Borough there has been a Friends of Friends group developing where we have brought different friends groups together to talk to each other and explore ways of helping each other to become stronger and share resources.

A spike in ASB over the summer period in Coronation Park was proactively tackled through partnership working with the police and other partners. This is something we aim to continue and grow in the coming year. This combined with events such as Sporting Lights add to the picture.

Sporting Lights

The annual event for ‘mischief night’ is part of the local plan for the Halloween/bonfire period in conjunction with Merseyside Police and Fire & Rescue (MSFR). The night saw engagement with over 200 families Reports back from MSFR have indicated that over this period Sefton saw a reduction in fire incidents, statistics are being collated.

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).

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 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.

Benchmarking/ Awards

Green Flag Award

The following sites all retained the Award for 2017/18: Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord Street Gardens, King's Gardens, Coronation Park, Hatton Hill Park, Derby Park and North Park. Duke Street Park, Formby achieved the Award for the first time. The 2018/2019 applications will involve the above, a reapplication for Killen Green Park and a new entry for Bowersdale Park.

Green Flag Community Award

In 2017/2018 the service assisted several community groups in retaining the Green Flag Community Award: Rotten Row, Southport, St Luke's Church Grounds, North Park Community Garden (involving the Gateway Collective and Ykids), Bridge Inn Community Farm, Formby, Friends of Ainsdale Village Park (who achieved the award for the first time this year), and Edda, also located in Ainsdale.

Britain in Bloom

This year there were town entries for; Ainsdale, Crosby and Waterloo, Maghull, Melling and Southport. The number of 'It's Your Neighbourhood' (IYN) Entries (the community led In Bloom system) continues to increase steadily. All 37 IYN entries were awarded at the Northwest in Bloom Awards Ceremony. St Luke's church Grounds received a Discretionary Award and St Michaels High School received an Environmental Award for Schools.

Regionally, Southport in Bloom received a Gold Medal and was once again crowned Overall Winner in the Large Coastal Resort category. There was Silver Gilt success for Ainsdale and Crosby & Waterloo and a Silver Medal for Melling in Bloom.

In addition, a '5 Year Award Certificate' was awarded to; Maghull Station Volunteers, Friends of Rotten Row and Ainsdale Village Church Community Garden, which have all received Level 5 Outstanding for the previous five years.

Community / Partnerships

Santander - during October / November 2017, three Santander Teams worked in partnership with Parks and Greenspaces in Derby Park, Bootle and Bowersdale Park, Seaforth. The volunteers carried out a variety of tasks; including, staining benches, edging paths, litter-picking, sweeping paths, clearing leaves and pruning shrubs.

Pinfold Woodland - a regular litter-pick and tidy-up has been taking place since August 2017. There have been x6 volunteers, contributing x12 hour, whilst collecting 47 bin bags of waste.

Killen Green Park - a 'candidate Green Flag Award Park', has also seen an increase in the number of monthly activities including, regular volunteer litter-picking and tidy-ups.

Hesketh Park – two new volunteer groups i.e. Hesketh Centre volunteers and the 'Lake Group' have recently started to volunteer in the Park and are making a huge contribution. The contribution of the new Groups is alongside the various existing volunteer groups.