

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018)

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	August 2018

### **GREEN SEFTON**

**Launch of Green Sefton** - Green Sefton brings together the previous Coast & Countryside, Parks & Greenspaces, Flooding & Coastal Erosion, Risk Management and Grounds Maintenance teams all together to ensure a joined up approach to the vital management, development and oversight of Sefton's coastline, parks and green spaces. The public launch took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June, with a combined event with a litter pick and plastic pollution awareness for World Oceans Day.

A service vision and service plan are being developed which will be shared with all Councillors in the Autumn and will be guided by discussions with Ward Councillors and Friends groups etc.

**Apprenticeships** - A key support for the development of the new service, and to succession plan, is the development of six Apprenticeships across the service. In the population of the structure, two previous apprentices were successful in being appointed as full time employees.

**Community Rangers** – Volunteering (either 'public' or 'partnering') remains key to service delivery. The three Community Rangers are to undertake an audit with all Friends/ community groups in order to establish what support they require and how the service will work with them in the future.

### **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 / Partnerships**

**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. Negotiations have begun for the 'lake group' to take on self management aspects of the lake and floral clock and for them to look to bring back boats for hire on the lake. The contribution of the new Groups is alongside the various existing volunteer groups.

### **Flooding Issues**

Following thunderstorms on 31st May, two houses in Birkdale were affected by flooding - mitigation put in place (flood doors) were effective on one house, and the other was flooded under floorboards, but this did not reach within the actual house.

The previous months have been one of the driest periods on record, however, in June and July have seen 2 incidents of flooding.

The first one was on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, near Waddicar, when a piped watercourse under the Leeds Liverpool canal collapsed allowing canal water to flow out uncontrolled. There was only 1 property internally flooded and we are working with Canal and Rivers Trust on fixing the collapse.

The second one, happened on the 12<sup>th</sup> July when an area of Aintree experienced intense rainfall associated with a thunderstorm. The majority of the flood water was contained within the highway however, a number of residents on Sherwoods Lane had external (garden) flooding, had Merseyside Fire and Rescue not responded there would have been internal flooding.

### **Bank Holiday/ busy days**

On the early May bank holiday, several coast gateway sites (including Ainsdale, Crosby, Formby and Southport) enjoyed unprecedented visitor numbers. (This was actually common across the country with a 'perfect storm' of the bank holiday and fantastic weather). While this was hugely welcome to us all, and it is pleasing that so many people saw Sefton's Coast as a destination on such an occasion, it also presented many challenges so processes have been updated to put in place measures to increase resources on such days in the future. This also includes working with National Trust and other Partners.

### **Capital schemes**

**Buckley Hill Playing fields extension of car parking** - Funding of a car park extension has been allocated by Full Council in order to alleviate severe roadside car park issues experienced last playing season. Works are being procured and the scheme will be complete in the Autumn

**Ovington Drive and Smithy Green Play Areas** - Works are being procured, and will be undertaken in the Autumn.

### **Benchmarking/ Awards**

**Green Flag Award** - The following sites all retained the Award for 2018/19: Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord Street Gardens, King's Gardens, Coronation Park, Hatton Hill Park, Derby Park, North Park and Duke Street Park, Formby.

**Green Flag Community Award** - In 2018/19 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 in 2017), and Edda, also located in Ainsdale.

**Britain in Bloom** - All town and neighbourhood entries have been made, judging took place in July, results will be announced in a ceremony in the Autumn. The BBC have taken an interest in Southport in Bloom, and have begun filming the development of this years entry.

**Bathing Water quality** - The Environment Agency have begun their monitoring of our three bathing waters. We are following requirements for providing public notices etc (e.g. at high tide, or after storms). No issues have been raised to date.