

Hello, and welcome to our first Green Sefton newsletter!

Green Sefton provides a one stop shop for all issues associated with our landscape – from design and development, to management and maintenance and user engagement and community development.

The service manages circa 6,500ha of the landscape of the borough (32% of the borough, equivalent to 7,800 football pitches!) – its beautiful coast with protected sites, to a range of parks, greenspaces, outdoor sports and recreational sites, allotments, street trees etc.

This landscape defines Sefton, and is treasured by our communities and visitors alike – as the 2030 vision highlights

The progress of the establishment of the service has been reported to Cabinet Member (Health and Well Being), and Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills):



Some headline stats and facts:

- Working better as an integrated team within a new service culture (eg flexible response to flooding incidents)
- Succession planning with four apprentices into full time roles within the service
- Becoming a centre for innovation with initiatives such as the insourcing of the cemeteries and crematoria grounds maintenance function, and the social investment pilot project at Coronation Park
- Developing 48 income and growth proposals to assist with ongoing budget pressures, an aspiration for the service to become cost neutral to the council by 2030, and to find new ways of funding improvements to the boroughs landscape over time
- All of the above in conjunction with our communities - last year we recorded 44,000 hours of volunteer time (equivalent to 25 full time employee's)

More detail can be found in the full report together with an executive summary presentation: [Green Sefton annual update](#)

We hope you enjoy reading about this months focussed service area: our Development Team, and would be happy to get comments for future editions...

Mark Shaw  
Service Manager – Green Sefton

## THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Development team is made of: the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team (who monitor and manage inland and coastal flooding, coastal defences etc), and the Development team, (who lead on innovation within the service, seeking new funding mechanisms, and developing capital improvement projects):

### September flooding

Prolonged heavy rainfall led to widespread flooding across the borough. Areas affected worst affected were Sefton Lane and Drive, (Maghull), Hall Road East (Crosby) and several roads around Botanic Gardens (Churchtown).

Sefton Council led the coordination of works, at Sefton Lane, with 15t of sandbags delivered to reinforce a bank that was being overtopped. Sefton Council's emergency planning team also sourced alternative accommodation for residents as the flood water threatened their properties. Flooding on Hall Road East and around Botanic Gardens was dealt with by United Utilities.

### Parks Concessions

We are looking for new ideas that will benefit the local community and visitors on our land, and in our empty buildings. Following a call for expression of interest in October for concessions across parks and green spaces in Sefton we received 9 new responses that we are currently exploring.

### Improvements to the Planning Process for flood risk assessments

We have led on the development of a 'sustainable drainage' proforma for developers that sets out all the information required by the Council to undertake its flood risk assessment of major developments; [view here](#). This proforma is now being promoted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for all areas in the north west as best practice.



Sandbags diverting flows away from properties

### Green Sefton supporting the Council's Climate Emergency

The Council declared a climate emergency this summer and has made a commitment to reduce the Council's impact on the climate [View details here](#). The strategy is being developed to address the challenges raised in the motion with staff from Green Sefton on the project team to deliver this.

Sites within the Green Sefton portfolio already play an important role in absorbing carbon, and options are being explored to see if this can be increased along with wider environmental benefits. Sefton's street trees, managed by Green Sefton, also support carbon storage as well as absorbing some pollutants.

### Buckley Hill playing field overflow car park

The overflow car park has experienced significant damage over the last few weeks due to the ground churning up following the prolonged wet weather. Options are being developed to repair the damage.



## Crosby Flood and Coast Protection Scheme

Work continues to progress this major scheme with the main focus being the development of the business case to secure funding. There have been uncertainties in the cost estimates of the construction phase of the scheme, given this we have engaged with a contractor through an Environment Agency framework to undertake a price review, the outputs from this are due in mid December.

The inland flood reduction element will look at separating combined drainage systems and exploring using park and school grounds for temporary flood storage. These elements are still to undergo detailed design, along side this there will be extensive consultation.



Hall Road, Crosby Coastal Park

## The Pool, Crossens

Work continues to progress the scheme with the main focus being the development of the business case to secure funding. Options for deculverting piped watercourses, separating combined systems and attenuation are being investigated.

## Another Place, Crosby Beach

The service facilitated the works to repair the foundation piles of the statues on the valuable, protected coastline. Roughly half of the statues have been repaired with the rest to be completed in the next working window between April and June 2020.



New play equipment in rainbow park

## Rainbow Park

Design work has taken place to update the outline masterplan for the park, including changes requested by community. Jayne Foat, Community Ranger, has subsequently met with the friends group and will report back on developments. Mersey Forest has agreed to include the park within their tree planting programme for next year to allow the creation of a new community woodland within the site.

Works to refurbish the play area by replacing most of the existing equipment along with replacing most of the safer surfacing as phase 1, are almost complete.



Assessing the piles prior to the work





## STAR AWARDS 2019

The Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) awards celebrate council staff's achievements during the year. The staff who attended this year's ceremony on behalf of Green Sefton all said it was a great way to see and hear positive stories from across the wider council, and were delighted to have been nominated.

The nominations for Green Sefton were:

### Apprentice of the Year:

Josh Laidler  
Joe Kennedy

### Locality and Community award:

Andrew Martin and Michelle Barnes (for flooding response at Dovers Brook)

### Mayors award:

Andrew Martin  
Mark Shaw

### New Realities award (as nominated by the public and external partners)

John Dempsey (nominated by Nick Thompson)  
Suzanne McCumiskey (nominated by Friends of Merrilocks Park)  
Green Sefton Team, and Crosby Rangers (nominated by Hightown Beach Clean Group)  
Green Sefton team (nominated by CVS)

The above are a great list of acknowledging some of the amazing work done by all across the year. The nominations from external partners are especially encouraging.



Well done to all for the nominations, but I am delighted to say a particular **congratulations to Andy and Michelle who won the Locality and Community award!** The One Council team had prepared a short film to outline the story behind this nomination. [view the video here.](#)

Mark



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