

REPORT FROM: Neighbourhood Services Manager

TO: Brierfield & Reedley Committee

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For information

Parks, Recreation and Green Spaces Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of current Parks, Recreation and Green Spaces work and upcoming plans/developments for Brierfield & Reedley.

ISSUE

To keep members up to date on what is going on in terms of Parks, Outdoor Recreation and Green Spaces, we provide six monthly reports to all Area Committee's detailing current work in addition to outlining future plans and proposed developments.

The Green Spaces section of Neighbourhood Services provides strategic, outreach and developmental work in relation to Parks, Playing Fields, Local Nature Reserves, Play Facilities, Countryside Access and Open Spaces. We continue to work closely with Environmental Services, in particular the Landscape Maintenance section to ensure that the above sites/areas are managed and maintained proactively and in line with strategic aims and objectives in general.

The report provides detail on generic Parks, Recreation and Green Spaces related work that impacts all area committees across Pendle in addition to Brierfield & Reedley specific developments/issues. This list is not exhaustive of all work ongoing but highlights the most significant ones at this present time.

Japanese Knotweed

The treatment and monitoring of Japanese Knotweed (JK) is undertaken by the Environmental Action Group (EAG).

In 2013, the EAG in conjunction with Ribble Rivers Trust started to compile a list of all sites throughout Pendle that had Japanese Knotweed. During the past 3 years we have identified and

treated 163 sites throughout Pendle including some sites in Burnley where the watercourse crosses the Burnley and Pendle border.

Of those 163 sites:

- 26 are clear of JK
- 29 have produced 5 or less shoots
- 57 have produced 10 or less shoots
- 51 have more than 10 shoots

Overall, the original list of sites is now showing 90-95% reduction in JK.

A comprehensive list of knotweed treatments for 2017 has been produced with associated costs. The treatment of all existing sites (including the monitoring of clear sites – these have to be monitored for 3 years once they are classified as clear!) will start in earnest in May and will continue through to October.

The EAG are doing an excellent job of keeping this invasive weed at bay and year on year the annual budget set aside to deal with JK reduces.

Pennine Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

The PPS is now complete and was approved at the Council's 25th August 2016 Executive Committee meeting. The PPS will provide a strategic framework for maintaining and improving outdoor sports pitches and their associated facilities across Pendle over the next 10 years.

The full 'Supply and demand assessment of Pendle Council pitches' under the guise of the **Assessment Report** and the **Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan** are now on the Council's website. You can access both from the following weblink:

www.pendle.gov.uk/pps

Transfer of Services to Parish/Town Councils

Work is ongoing in terms of the transferring of services and facilities to Town and Parish Councils. Thus far, the 5 Borough of Pendle play facilities within Brierfield have not been transferred to Brierfield Town Council although a service and maintenance agreement whereby Pendle Council maintains and inspects all 5 of the play facilities over the next 2 years is now in place.

A meeting will be sought in the near future with Brierfield Town Council regarding the transfer/funding of the play facilities and Heyhead Park.

Neighbourhood Services Officers are involved in the Member/Officer Working Group.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)

PSPO's are now in place and enforceable around dog control and smoking at the 5 play facilities in Brierfield.

Consultation is now ongoing regarding PSPO's for sports grounds that are due to come in to force from April 2017. These include rules around dog control and include relevant sports pitch bye-laws that will be transferred from the old Parks and Recreation bye-laws.

Green Flag Awards

The Council attained 8 Green Flag Awards in 2016 with one of these being in Brierfield. This is:

- Heyhead Park (The Park has held the award for 9 years)

Applications for this year will be submitted by the end of January 2017. As Heyhead Park was formally judged in 2016, it will be mystery shopped this year.

Steven Burke Sports Hub - Phase Two

Since May 2016, we have been successful in securing approximately £20,000 towards phase 2 of the Steven Burke Sports Hub (the development of a Pump Track and junior training area/car parking). In addition to Barrowford and Nelson Committee's Capital Programme contributions of £2,000 each, £10,000 has been provisionally allocated from Bradley Big Local. The remaining £6,000 is made up of PBC and Cycle Sport Pendle (CSP) contributions.

The total cost of the project is circa £130,000 but we have broken the larger scheme down in to smaller chunks to enable us to apply for funding for smaller amounts. We are concentrating on securing funding for the Pump Track element first with a couple of funding applications for different amounts submitted recently to:

- Lancashire Environmental Fund (£30,000)
- Newground (£10,000)

CSP have recently been successful in securing £9,595 from East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group's Prescription for Well-being programme. Although this will not fund the building of the Pump Track, it enables CSP to run a BMX section and hold regular sessions on the hub. The funding has been used to make a small BMX track loop within the velodrome area of the hub, the purchase of a stock of BMX bikes (approximately 10) and will pay for coaching recruitment and training of new and old club volunteers.

We intend to submit a further funding application to Sport England's Community Asset Fund in early 2017.

The Hub has been recognised as a 'Centre of Excellence' in the joint bid to the Department of Transport's Access Fund between LCC and Blackburn with Darwen for East Lancashire. Pendle is a partner local authority within this bid which potentially could bring significant active and public transport investment in to East Lancashire.

Heyhead Park

The Park Drive/Park Lane road surface improvement scheme on the periphery of the Park finally came to fruition in May 2016. This had been a long term aim for Parks Officers, Councillor's and residents as access to the park was poor due to the uneven and pot-holed road surface along Park Lane and Park Drive from Heyhead Street.

The scheme was financed through a combination of Parks budgets (Capital and Revenue), Brierfield & Reedley Committee and local residents. The scheme has significantly improved access to and from the Park as well as nearby properties.

As part of 2017's Green Spaces Team's Events Programme, we will be running two working days in the Park. These will be in April and December and will consist of environmental and

conservation tasks such as litter picking, shrub work and cleaning of parks furniture. Both these working days will be organised in co-ordination with the Bowling Club and will be advertised to volunteers from other organisations and the general public via email, social media and posters.

There are also plans in place to increase the amount of, and improve existing, entrance signage throughout the Park. We also want to make further improvements to the bowling green area and its surroundings. This work will incorporate some additional thinning out of the shrubs, bushes and trees around the perimeter of the green as well as some hard landscaping.

John Bradley Playing Fields

A new bench has been installed at John Bradley Playing Fields. The bench is located on the grass above the top pitch as a result of a request from some parents for them to have somewhere to sit when games are taking place.

This has been funded through a combination of Brierfield Celtic, Pendle Borough Council, Brierfield & Reedley Action Group and Lancashire County Councillor Christian Wakeford and was done in co-ordination with Councillor Pauline McCormick.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None

Financial: None

Legal: None

Risk Management: None

Health and Safety: None

Sustainability: None

Community Safety: None

Equality and Diversity: None

APPENDICES - None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - None