



REPORT FROM: Neighbourhood Services Manager

TO: Brierfield & Reedley Committee

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Report Author: Kieron Roberts

Tel. No: (01282) 661587

E-mail: kieron.roberts@pendle.gov.uk

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 endeavour to 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.

Mayoress' Charity – Friends of Parks Groups

The new Mayoress of Pendle, Barbara Whalley, has chosen the Friends of Pendle's Parks as her charity for the current mayoral year (May 2017 – April 2018).

Funds will be raised throughout the mayoral year for improvement projects the individual groups want to undertake.

This is a real coup for our Parks and a recognition of all the great work the Friends Groups and volunteers do to help keep our Parks looking as good as they can be.

A number of events have already taken place where collection buckets have been passed around and donations made to the charity. At the end of the year the total amount raised will be divided equally amongst the eight Parks Friends Groups (with Heyhead Park being one) and the Philip Wright Crown Green Bowling Academy (who are based in Alkincoats Park) for them to make improvements in their respective parks.

In addition, Pendle Movie Makers were asked to produce a short film by the Mayoress highlighting the good work that the Councils Park Keeper Team, their partner organisations, e.g. The Good Life Project, the Friends Groups and volunteers do through our regular volunteer working days. This resulted in a 12 minute film being made that will be shown at any charity events the Mayoress has during the year. The film has also been forwarded to Council Officers and the respective Friends Group for them to watch and use at their discretion.

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 & Reedley.

The PSPO's for sports grounds have been agreed by all Area Committee's and are currently with legal. These should be in place and enforceable before the end of 2017. These include rules around dog control and include relevant sports pitch bye-laws that have been transferred from the old Parks and Recreation bye-laws.

In terms of Brierfield & Reedley sites, John Bradley Playing Fields and Reedley Sports Ground (the former Lucas Sports Ground) will be dogs on leads with no more than two dogs per person.

Work is also ongoing in relation to the development of PSPO's for Parks across the borough. Proposals and options for PSPO's in relation to Heyhead Park were taken to the June 2017 Brierfield & Reedley Committee meeting for discussion.

It is the Council's intention to consult with the general public and relevant organisations/groups that use the Parks via an online survey and detailed correspondence with partners, including the Town and Parish Councils in the coming months.

Green Flag Awards

The Council attained 8 Green Flag Awards in 2017 with one of these being in Brierfield. This is:

- Heyhead Park (The Park has held the award for 10 years)

Applications for next year need to be submitted by the end of January 2018. As Heyhead Park was mystery shopped in 2017, it will be formally judged next year.

Steven Burke Sports Hub - Phase Two

So far, we have been successful in securing approximately £60,000 towards phase 2 of the Steven Burke Sports Hub (the development of a Pump Track and junior training area/car parking).

In the last 6 months we have secured funding from the following sources:

£30,000 – Lancashire Environmental Fund

£10,000 – Newground

The Newground funding is £5,000 capital with £5,000 worth of officer time to help with community engagement in the locality.

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 progress with the development of the pump track first. We have the requisite funding available to complete this element of the project and as such a tender is currently out for the design and build of the track.

Dependent upon the tenders coming back within the budget and the working group being happy with the design, we are aiming to get the track work completed by the end of October 2017. This will tie in with the removal of the temporary pump track that is currently located within the Steven Burke Cycle (as per an agreement we have with British Cycling). The new BMX arm of Cycle Sport Pendle will then transfer its training sessions from the temporary track to the purpose built one.

Heyhead Park

The hedge that borders the top end of the Park adjacent to Park Avenue has been tidied up, thinned out and lowered by approximately 1 metre. This has brought about improved sight lines across the Park for residents living in the houses on Park Avenue.

The large tree that was located in the middle of the senior adventure playground has been taken out due to disease. As this could potentially have caused a health & safety risk, the decision was made to remove the tree. The gap which was left once the tree had been removed was subsequently covered in playground safety surfacing.

As part of 2017's Green Spaces Team's Events Programme, we organised a volunteer working day in the Park in April (we had to cancel the proposed March one due to inclement weather) . This consisted of environmental and conservation tasks such as litter picking, weeding and edging off paths. A further working day will be held in the Park before the end of the year.

There are plans in place 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 a mixture of some soft and hard landscaping improvements.

We also aim to progress the development of the old bothy area in the next 6 months. This work will involve the partial dismantling of the existing fencing and some re-alignment with a view to making the area greener and more aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

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