

**Report of: Phil Staniforth – Parks Technical Manager**

**Report to: Outer West Community Committee**

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**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**To note**

## **Parks and Countryside Outer West Community Committee update**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. To provide the Outer West Community Committee with an update on the Parks and Countryside service activities in the Community Committee Area.

### **Main issues**

#### **2. Community Parks**

- Calverley Park
- Farnley Hall Park
- Hainsworth park
- New Farnley Park
- New Wortley Recreation Ground
- Pudsey Park (Green Flag)
- Tyersal Park
- Western Flatts Park
- Westroyd Park

##### **2.1 Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status**

- 2.2 The Parks and Green Space Strategy approved at Executive Board in February 2009 sets out the vision and priorities to 2020. One of the key proposals contained in the strategy is the aspiration for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020. The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria as follows;

- **A welcoming place** - how to create a sense that people are positively welcomed in the park
- **Healthy, safe & secure** - how best to ensure that the park is a safe & healthy environment for all users
- **Clean & well maintained** - what people can expect in terms of cleanliness, facilities & maintenance
- **Sustainability** - how a park can be managed in environmentally sensitive ways
- **Conservation & heritage** - the value of conservation & care of historical heritage
- **Community involvement** - ways of encouraging community participation and acknowledging the community's role in a park's success
- **Marketing** - methods of promoting a park successfully
- **Management** - how to reflect all of the above in a coherent & accessible management plan or strategy and ensure it is implemented.

- 2.3 The Parks and Countryside service reports annual performance against two local indicators based upon the Green Flag Award scheme;
- The percentage of Parks and Countryside sites assessed that meet the Green Flag standard.
  - The percentage of Parks and Countryside community parks which meet the Green Flag standard. Performance against these indicators is illustrated below.
- 2.4 In 2017/18, 72 of the 144 green spaces (50% of the total) achieved Leeds Quality Park standard (exceeding the target of 42% for 2017/18), with 31 out of 57 reaching the standard (54%) in 'Inner' areas compared to 41 out of 87 (47%) in 'Outer' areas. In 2016/17, 67 of the 145 green spaces (46% of the total) achieved Leeds Quality Park standard, with 31 out of 57 reaching the standard (54%) in 'Inner' areas compared to 36 out of 88 (41%) in 'Outer' areas.

The target for future years to 2020/21 is as follows:

| 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 |
|---------|---------|---------|
| 45.4%   | 48.6%   | 51.8%   |

- 2.5 The following table provides a current profile of these assessments for the Outer West Community Committee. **Please note that the results of the latest 2018 LQP assessments are being gathered and will be reported to all Community Committees in the new year.**

| Community Committee | Number of LQP assessed green spaces | Achieved LQP Standard 2017 | Pass rate (%) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| West Outer          | 20                                  | 8                          | 40            |

- 2.6 Community Park LQP Results 2017 – (assessed each year pass mark 48)

| Site                           | Typology       | Score |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Calverley Park (Victoria Park) | Community Park | 55    |
| Farnley Hall Park              | Community Park | 49    |
| Hainsworth Park                | Community Park | 48    |

|                               |                |      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------|
| New Wortley Recreation Ground | Community Park | 42.8 |
| New Farnley Park              | Community Park | 52   |
| Pudsey Park                   | Community Park | GF   |
| Tyersal Park                  | Community Park | 39   |
| Westroyd Park                 | Community Park | 48.2 |
| Western Flatts Cliff Park     | Community Park | 48   |

Hainsworth Park has now attained LQP which increases the number achieved by 1.

## 2.7 Non Community Parks (a number assessed every 3 years)

| Site                             | Typology          | Assessed | Score |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|
| Farnley Cemetery                 | Cemeteries        | 2015     | 43.3  |
| Pudsey Cemetery                  | Cemeteries        | 2015     | 40.1  |
| Upper And Lower Wortley Cemetery | Cemeteries        | 2017     | 43.3  |
| Chatsworth Recreation Ground     | Local Green Space | 2016     | 39.5  |
| Farnley Reservoir                | Local Green Space | 2017     | 38.8  |
| Farsley Recreation Ground        | Local Green Space | 2016     | 46.8  |
| Post Hill                        | Local Green Space | 2017     | 49.3  |
| Woodhall Lake                    | Local Green Space | 2016     | 46.6  |
| Brookfield Recreation Ground     | Recreation Ground | 2014     | 53.2  |
| Farfield Recreation Ground       | Recreation Ground | 2016     | 40.4  |
| Roker Recreation Ground          | Recreation Ground | 2017     | 37.0  |

The figure above remains the same however Woodhall Lake has dropped out but Post Hill has achieved LQP status.

## 2.8 All community parks have been assessed in 2017, with a selection of non-community parks assessed in line with the three year cycle of judging. Assessments have taken place in 2018 and the results will be available shortly. Improvements to parks and green spaces in the Outer West Community Committee Area which took place during 2017 are as follows:

- Western Flatts Cliff Park – Signage, Tree works, Access Improvements, Painting of Tennis Courts.
- New Wortley Recreation Ground – Tree Planting, access improvements and additional signage including wall and step repairs.
- Cabbage Hill – Improvements to entrances and footpaths, including view point and interpretation board.

## 2.9 Planned and proposed improvements for the next 12 months;

### • Farnley and Wortley

- Cabbage Hill – works are underway at Cabbage hill off Benson Gardens to refurbish land recently acquired from the crown. Works include; site clearance and access improvements.
- Western Flatts Park - Path improvements have been undertaken including tennis court cleaning and painting. Additional signage will be installed shortly.

- New Wortley Recreation Ground - Access improvements to entrance with additional signage to be installed shortly.

- **Pudsey**

- Pudsey Park - Section 106 funds released to carry out a feasibility study for a new kiosk/café facilities to incorporate play area refurbishment.
- Queens Park – Section 106 funds have been released to carry out a feasibility study for improved sport changing facilities.
- Tawny Beck – Kissing gate to be installed over beck.

- **Calverley and Farsley**

- Wood Hall Playing Fields – Site has been chosen as Park Life proposal.
- Farsley Orchard – Wildflower meadow created with the help of Farsley Orchard friends.

2.10 Community Committee funding for additional site based gardeners. Outer West Community Committee provide additional funding for gardeners to increase site based presence at parks in the area. For 2018 this funding totalled £12,490.89 for site based presence at Tyersal Park and New Farnley Park.

2.11 Since the introduction of site based gardeners, analysis shows that complaints to both Ward Councillors and the Parks and Countryside Service have declined on sites with increased daily presence. In addition, the service has observed an increase in the number of residents using parks and open spaces.

2.12 The site based gardeners increase working relationships with users, local residents and community groups. These site based staff further increase users satisfaction and support the aspiration to increase volunteer groups working within parks.

### 3. Sports Pitches

3.1. Parks and Countryside provide annual pitch hire for sports teams. The table below shows the number of teams with current bookings playing on pitches in the area: (note this excludes clubs who have a long term lease in place)

| Age Group | No of Teams |
|-----------|-------------|
| Open Age  | 13          |
| Juniors   | 60          |

3.2 Bowls Clubs

| Club                |
|---------------------|
| Calverley Park      |
| New Farnley         |
| New Wortley Rec     |
| Pudsey Park         |
| Western Flatts Park |
| Westroyd Park       |

### 3.3 Commercial Operators

| Site            | Group                   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Calverley Park  | Absolute Fitness        |
| Calverley Park  | Chapel Allerton Pilates |
| Calverley Park  | Absolute Fitness        |
| Calverley Park  | Absolute Fitness        |
| Calverley Park  | Absolute Fitness        |
| Calverley Park  | Absolute Fitness        |
| Hainsworth Park | UK Outdoor Fitness      |
| Hainsworth Park | UK Outdoor Fitness      |
| Hainsworth Park | UK Outdoor Fitness      |
| Queens Park     | Rebellion Fitness       |
| Queens Park     | Rebellion Fitness       |
| Queens Park     | Trailblazer Bootcamps   |
| Western Flatts  |                         |
| Westroyd Park   | UK Outdoor Fitness      |
| Westroyd Park   | UK Outdoor Fitness      |
| Westroyd Park   | UK Outdoor Fitness      |

## 4. Volunteering in the Parks and Countryside Service

4.1 The service continues to focus on increasing the number of volunteers and groups working in the area to achieve the following, **all figures are for 2017 and will be updated and available in the new year:**

- To increase corporate volunteering working in partnership with Business in the Community and Leeds Ahead
- Continue to improve involvement with the many “in bloom” groups in Leeds.
- It is an ambition to have a volunteer group for every community park where there is a site based gardener.
- It is estimated that volunteers across all groups contribute 1175 days of voluntary work in the Outer West area over a 12 month period. The tables below provide details of volunteering in the area in 2016:

4.2 Voluntary work supervised by Parks and Countryside staff, figures are :

| Site              | Organisation              | Task                        | Volunteer Days |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Post Hill, Pudsey | Leeds Wildlife Volunteers | Scrub clearance             | 9              |
| Nan Whin's Wood   | Leeds Wildlife Volunteers | Bench and step installation | 3              |
| <b>Total</b>      |                           |                             | <b>12</b>      |

4.3 Local business volunteers supervised by Parks and Countryside staff:

| Site                   | Organisation         | Task                                                 | Volunteers |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Pudsey Disused Railway | Lloyds Banking Group | Cutting back vegetation on footpath                  | 15         |
| Pudsey Cemetery        | Lloyds Banking Group | Removal of saplings from graves and path maintenance | 35         |
| Pudsey Cemetery        | YBS                  | Removal of saplings from graves and path maintenance | 8          |
| Wortley Park           | Telerealtrillium     | Painting playground                                  | 15         |
| <b>Total</b>           |                      |                                                      | <b>73</b>  |

4.4 Volunteer groups working independently in the Outer West area:

| Group Name                   | Number of Volunteers | Estimated Volunteer Days |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Farsley Community initiative | 10                   | 20                       |
| <b>Total</b>                 |                      | <b>20</b>                |

## 5. In Bloom Groups

5.1 In bloom groups, volunteer numbers are based on 2017 figures an update will be available early next year:

| In Bloom Group | Number of Volunteers | Award Won | Estimated Volunteer Days |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Calverley      | 12                   | Gold      | 576                      |
| New Farnley    | 5                    |           | 110                      |
| Pudsey         | 8                    |           | 384                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>25</b>            |           | <b>1070</b>              |

## 6. Events

| Location                      | Month    | Event                                            | Total     |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cliff Park ( Western Flatts ) | June     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
| Farnley Hall Park             | June     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | July     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | July     | Mini Breeze                                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Bark in the Park                                 | 1         |
| Hainsworth Park               | June     | Farsley Festival                                 | 1         |
|                               | August   | Mini Breeze                                      | 1         |
| New Farnley Rec               | May      | LCC Youth Service football sessions to 4th Oct   | 1         |
|                               | July     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | October  | LCC Youth Service football sessions from 3rd May | 1         |
| New Wortley Rec               | June     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | July     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
| Pudsey Park                   | April    | Ruff Mudder                                      | 1         |
|                               | May      | Girl Guides walk                                 | 1         |
|                               | June     | Summer Band                                      | 2         |
|                               | June     | Pudsey Pacers                                    | 1         |
|                               | July     | Summer Band                                      | 2         |
|                               | August   | P'Fest                                           | 1         |
|                               | August   | Christmas Lights Fundraiser                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Summer Band                                      | 2         |
| Queens Park                   | May      | (15th - 21st) Funfair (Eddy)                     | 1         |
|                               | May      | Pudsey Carnival                                  | 1         |
|                               | July     | Puppy in the Park                                | 1         |
|                               | August   | Mini Breeze                                      | 1         |
| Rodley Sports Field           | July     | Rodley Cricket Club Open Day                     | 1         |
| Victoria Calverley Park       | June     | Calverley Festival                               | 1         |
|                               | June     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | July     | Calverley Parkside Gala                          | 1         |
|                               | July     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | December | Calverley Light Switch on                        | 1         |
| Westroyd Park                 | July     | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
|                               | August   | Summer Band                                      | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                  |          |                                                  | <b>38</b> |

## 7. Grounds Maintenance and Weedspraying – Housing and Highways

- 7.1 The grounds maintenance contract for Leeds delivers horticultural maintenance for grass and planted areas alongside the highway and within housing estates. The work is undertaken by external contractors Continental landscapes Ltd who are managed by Parks and Countryside. The weather this year has impacted on the service with challenging conditions in April and May seeing high levels of grass growth that then significantly reduced during the prolonged dry spell during the summer. This reduce the amount of grass cutting required on some areas and the contractors were tasked to undertake others works across the city instead. For this community committee area works were undertaken at:

| Ownership | Site/Location      | Ward                                                             | Description of works                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Housing   | Various            | Armley, Alwoodley, Farnley and Wortley, Killingbeck and Seacroft | Multiple crown lifting works to trees across various sites.                                                                                       |
| Housing   | Water Lane         | Calverley and Farsley                                            | To create a channel around a shrub bed at the site in order to allow for it to be maintained.                                                     |
| Housing   | Andrew Square      | Calverley and Farsley                                            | To cut 3 grass plots and vegetation ready for the Lord Mayor visit. Remove arising's and waste from site.                                         |
| Housing   | Andrew Square      | Calverley and Farsley                                            | To include spraying of the verges and the plugging of the self-sets on site                                                                       |
| Housing   | Thorn Hill Court   | Farnley and Wortley                                              | To cut back the overgrown vegetation outside 2 Thorn Hill Court and any other sections where bramble overgrowth was present surrounding the site. |
| Housing   | Butterbowl Garth   | Farnley and Wortley                                              | Amenity Grass - To be cut before 21st August 2018.                                                                                                |
| Housing   | 7 Gamble Hill Walk | Farnley and Wortley                                              | 7 Gamble Hill Walk - To cut back and remove or treat a group of vegetation/self-set elders                                                        |
| Housing   | 67 - 85 Bawn Drive | Farnley and Wortley                                              | 67-86 Bawn Drive - To cut areas as highlighted, remove arisings, remove litter and clear arisings                                                 |
| Housing   | Crawshaw Road      | Pudsey                                                           | Crawshaw Road - To cut areas as requested and bring into contract spec, strim out, clear arisings and litter and seed                             |

- 7.2 In addition the weed spraying of Highway and Housing footpaths is currently delivering its second application of the year. This information is shared with housing and CNT colleagues to inform follow up sweeping works that can take place around 6 weeks after application. Wards and zones are completed in the most efficient route not in any specific order.

| Weed Spraying as at 24/10/2018 |        |            |            |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| <b>Calverley and Farsley</b>   | Zone 1 | 19/10/2018 | 22/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 2 | 23/10/2018 | 24/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 3 | 24/10/2018 |            |
| <b>Farnley and Wortley</b>     | Zone 1 | 16/10/2018 | 16/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 2 | 17/10/2018 | 18/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 3 | 19/10/2018 | 22/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 4 | 18/10/2018 | 18/10/2018 |
| <b>Pudsey</b>                  | Zone 1 |            |            |
|                                | Zone 2 |            |            |
|                                | Zone 3 | 23/10/2018 | 23/10/2018 |
|                                | Zone 4 | 24/10/2018 |            |
|                                | Zone 5 |            |            |
|                                | Zone 6 |            |            |
|                                | Zone 7 |            |            |
|                                | Zone 8 | 24/10/2018 |            |

## 8. Rethinking Parks

8.1 P&C have been awarded funding of £171k for a 2-year project to investigate the potential of charitable giving to parks.

8.2 The funding comes from HLF and the Big Lottery through a scheme called 'Rethinking Parks' which is managed by innovation charity Nesta. Leeds are one of only 8 projects from across the UK to have been allocated the funding.

In 2017 we launched the Leeds Parks Fund to allow people to make charitable donations to public green space in Leeds and the Rethinking Parks project will allow us to invest time and expertise in fundraising and marketing to see if we can make it work to raise an income for the benefit of parks in the city.

Leeds City Council were one of only 8 successful applicants for the high-profile fund.

8.3 The funding is for:

- Research by the University of Leeds into what local people and businesses think about the idea of charitable giving to public parks
- The recruitment of a fundraising manager, and assistant, to develop and deliver a fundraising plan for Leeds Parks Fund
- The production and implementation of a marketing plan to promote the benefit of parks, and the Leeds Parks Fund.
- Trialling new ways to take charitable donations for parks e.g. text donations, site installations.
- Using funds raised to make a difference on the ground



## **9. Conclusion**

- 9.1 Community green space contributes in many ways to the delivery of the Corporate Priority Plan. They provide places for relaxation, escape, exercise and recreation. They bring communities together and make a positive contribution to the local economy, education, improve public health and well-being, and generally make a better place to live, work and visit.
- 9.2 Improvements to community parks, fixed play and playing pitches remain a priority, and there already has been investment made to deliver improvements along with further schemes identified. Issues are being addressed through the Parks and Green Space Strategy along with implementation of the Fixed Play Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 9.3 Community engagement remains a key activity for the service with regular correspondence, attendance at meetings and briefings, along with more localised consultation where required.
- 9.4 The scheduled Parks & Countryside annual report will be provided to all of the Community Committees in the new year.