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| Briefing Paper  to  Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Place)  on  14th June 2022 |
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| **PARKS AND STREET CLEANSING UPDATE** | |

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 This briefing paper gives Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Place) an update on the Council’s Parks and Street Cleansing services during Quarter 4 2021/22.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The service updates in this paper are for the key Parks and Street Cleansing activities which have taken since the last committee meeting on 1st February 2022

**3. Overview**

3.1 Parks have been working hard to deliver quality services alongside project work and events over the last few months.

**4. Parks**

4.1 Staffing Update

The Council’s Tree Officer left the authority at the end of March. The Arboreal Service is currently being reviewed to determine the best model of delivery. In the meantime we are using contractors to support our work in this area.

5 agency staff are supporting the Area Teams with the grass cutting rounds which has replaced the traditional seasonal recruitment which has significantly freed up officer time and streamlined the process for ensuring suitable temporary operatives are in post.

Approval has been given for a new part time Park’s attendant post to run the kiosk at King George V Park at weekends. Duties will include taking payments for the new Foot and Disc golf course which is due to open this summer. The post will be covered by an existing vacancy in the establishment.

From 23rd March 2022, Andy Chambers (Parks Development Officer) and Steph Garner (Supervisor) will be covering some interim Parks Manager duties whilst the Neighbourhood Services restructure is finalised.

4.2 Grounds Maintenance Update

The winter season came to an end 25th March 2022. The summer season (42 hour week) is now in full swing with the mowing schedule well underway and the weed-spraying programme in place.

4.3 Other Service Updates

4.3.1 Destination Parks

We have reached the stage of final drafts of the Full Business Case for Berry Hill Park and sending it to our Place Board and to external assurance partner for review before signing off fully.

4.3.2 Green Flag Awards

Applications for the Councils 7 existing Green Flag parks for the 2022/23 awards were submitted in January. Judging commenced in person for the first time in 2 years in May with the results due to announced in September.

Green Flag, managed by Keep Britain Tidy, remains the only industry recognised standard for high quality, well maintained parks nationally and internationally.

4.3.3 Weed Control

Dobsons (contractors) are nearing completion of the first round of weed control district-wide with the results being exceptionally good. The second application is scheduled to take place in July by Dobsons.

4.3.4 Urban Greening

Sherwood Forest Trust – tree planting project plans and locations have been agreed district wide, the locations are Forest Road Park, Fisher Lane Park, Oak Tree OS, Warsop Vale OS, The Carrs, Leeming Lane South OS, Peafield Park, Maun Valley LNR and Ravensdale OS. The land on Vale Road/Common Lane in Mansfield Woodhouse is earmarked for substantial tree planting with this location being over 5 hectares alone.

Walkden Street Pocket Park. Plans and planting designs have been prepared and plant species agreed to tie into the larger planting schemes throughout Mansfield Town Centre. We are anticipating planting with take place in late October early November this year.

Quaker Way. Plans and planting designs have been prepared and plant species agreed to tie into the larger planting schemes throughout Mansfield Town Centre. We are anticipating planting with take place in late October early November this year.

4.3.5 Foot / Disc Golf. Disc Golf and Foot Golf equipment to compliment the golf at

King George V Park is on order and expected to be installed and operating by late June, early July. Charges for foot and disc golf will be the same as golf. It is anticipated that the additional footfall and income from fees and charges for all three activities will increase income substantially.

**5.       COMMENTS OF HEAD OF SERVICE**

5.1      I am very grateful to Andy Chambers and Steph Garner for stepping in to assist with managing the Parks team over the coming months to provide stability and leadership to the team. There have already been some large scale events on our parks this year, which have been very well attended and popular with our residents, but do require additional input from Parks, who have risen to the challenge admirably. The new additions to our facilities will further enhance our offer for residents and visitors.

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**Appendix 1**

Breakdown of Fly-tipping Incidents & Costs

October - December 2021



Breakdown of Actions & Costs Relating to Fly-Tipping Incidents

(Qtr 3 Data supplied by Neighbourhood Wardens)

