

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Dear Councillor

The next meeting of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** is at **6.30pm** on **TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2015** in the **TOWN HALL, CHURCH STREET, CLITHEROE.**

I do hope you will be there.

Yours sincerely

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To: Committee Members (Copy for information to all other members of the Council)
Directors
Press

AGENDA

Part I - items of business to be discussed in public

1. Apologies for absence.
- ✓ 2. Minutes of the meetings held on 10 March 2015 - copy enclosed.
3. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests (if any).
4. Public participation (if any).
5. Briefing on the Remit of Community Services Committee:
 - Mark Beveridge – Head of Cultural and Leisure Services.
 - Adrian Harper – Head of Engineering Services.

DECISION ITEMS

- ✓ 6. Appointment of Working Groups. To confirm arrangements/membership of any Working Groups that belong to this Committee:

- a) Car Park Working Group (4 Members)
 - b) Grants Working Group (4 Members)
 - c) Open Space Working Group (4 Members)
 - d) Public Convenience Working Group (4 Members)
- ✓ 7. Grant for Replacement Pitch at Edisford – report of Director of Community Services – copy enclosed.
- ✓ 8. Lease for Skatepark, Castle Grounds - report of Director of Community Services – copy enclosed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- ✓ 9. Clitheroe Castle Live – report of Director of Community Services – copy enclosed.
- ✓ 10. Some Lancashire County Council Contacts and Division of Responsibility of Car Parking – report of Director of Community Services – copy enclosed.
- ✓ 11. Capital Outturn 2014-2015 – report of Director of Resources – copy enclosed.
- ✓ 12. Representative on Outside Bodies 2015-2016 – report of Chief Executive – copy enclosed.
- ✓ 13. General Report – report of Director of Community Services – copy enclosed.
14. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies (if any).

Part II - items of business **not** to be discussed in public

NONE

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: EDISFORD ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCH PROJECT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This committee approved the submission of a bid to Sport England for grant funding to assist the Council refurbish the artificial turf pitch at Edisford. A capital sum of £22,000 was allowed for in the 2015/16 budget to match an anticipated grant from Sport England of £25,000, the overall scheme budget was £47,000.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate Priorities - To encourage economic development throughout the borough, with specific focus on tourism
- Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has, since early 2014, pursued a grant from Sport England for the refurbishment of the ATP at Edisford, which has deteriorated over time, through general wear and tear.

2.2 Following a lengthy process, the Council has been offered a grant by Sport England. The scheme submitted to Sport England was for an overall value of £52,950. The additional estimated sum of £5,950 was for fencing work, which was identified after the internal capital bid had been submitted, and the Council's capital programme had been set. The current grant offer from Sport England is for £26,450, based on this overall sum.

3 PROPOSALS

3.1 The surface of the football area will be changed to a third generation (3G) surface. This means it will have a longer fibre pile and be held in place by the use of rubber crumb pieces, giving a more forgiving surface for football.

3.2 There is also a capital scheme this year (2015/16) for lighting at the facility, which is going to be used to replace the floodlights. The cost of the new lighting technology at this time is such that it does represent value for money to make the investment now. The Value of the lighting capital scheme for Edisford All Weather Pitch is £20,000

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 New quotes for the re-surfacing and fencing work have been received, and they allow for all the work to be accommodated within the original capital budget of £47,000. Sport England has been asked to clarify if their grant offer (£26,450) will stand against the revised lower sum, or if it will be revised downwards to reflect the lower quote. The support currently indicated by Sport England is above the £25,000 allowed for in the capital programme.
- 4.2 Should Sport England revise down their grant offer to £23,500, then a further £1,500 of resources (in addition to the £22,000 already approved) would be needed from the Council to support the capital scheme. The overall capital scheme would remain at £47,000 but the manner in which it is resourced would change.
- 4.3 Should the Council need to add a further £1,500 of resource toward the scheme then this will be able to be found from existing revenue budgets, and will be made as a revenue contribution towards the capital scheme.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

This report may have the following implications

- Resources – The Council has allocated a capital budget for this scheme and it can be delivered for that sum. Should Sport England reduce their indicated level of financial support, a potential shortfall of £1,500 could be met from existing revenue budgets as a revenue contribution towards the capital scheme. Should the support from Sport England be above £25,000, then a directly relative lower level of financial resources would be needed from the council.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The new surface will lead to reduced maintenance costs in the short to medium term
- Reputation – The surface has been the subject of many complaints recently as it has slowly deteriorated, the grant offer from Sport England will allow it to be replaced

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approves acceptance of the Sport England grant, to a maximum of £26,450, and delegates the Director of Community Services to accept the quotes for the work to install the new pitch surface, subject to any requirement for formal tendering.
- 6.2 Approves the use of existing revenue budgets up to £1,500 (in addition to the approved council financing of £22,000) to support the overall capital scheme of £47,000, should the level of support from Sport England fall below the budgeted £25,000.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: LEASE FOR CLITHEROE CASTLE SKATE PARK AREA
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update members on the negotiations to renew one lease. This currently provides the skate park area in the grounds of the Castle for the use by The Grand, to offer the opportunity for young people to use the area. The land itself, which RVBC owns, is leased to The Grand.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The original lease was let in November 2005. The Grand invested in the development of the skatepark area; this has extended to include a social space on the ground floor under the bowling green café, as well as the hard standing area alongside the skatepark used for football, basketball etc.

2.2 The Grand works with young people to provide activities in the area, and the skatepark area, including a multi games area, is available for young people from the town, and surrounding areas, to use.

2.3 The Council is obliged to try and obtain the best value for tax payers in respect of the assets it has available. Although in the case of this lease, it is a peppercorn rent to reflect the investment in the original capital works and the ongoing commitment by The Grand to the area and the activities provided to young people there. Originally, members took into account the social benefit gained from the activities this arrangement provides for young people in the area, and there is no reason to change that with the new lease.

3 ISSUES

The Grand has asked that the Council continues to work with them in respect of the general area, such as litter picking and any anti-social behaviour picked up via our own CCTV operation.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – There is no current valuation for the lease, the cost of getting a District Valuer to provide this would be in the order of £1,000, which is not seen as value for money, in this instance.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Lease would be for a period of 10 years.
- Reputation – members need to consider the role of the Trust in the work it does with young people and the facility which is offered, which provides a useful outlet for the creativity of young people in the area.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Delegates the Director of Community Services to complete the negotiation of the lease, and signs it.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479.

Community Services 2.6.15 MB

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: CLITHEROE CASTLE MUSIC EVENT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES, MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 This committee, at the last meeting in March 2015, considered the further details relating to an event approved at the meeting in September 2014 to be staged in the Castle Grounds (Minute 197, No. 2, 2 September 2014). This report provides an update to that report, and seeks approval for the staging of the event in 2016.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate Priorities - To encourage economic development throughout the borough, with specific focus on tourism
- Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Committee approved in principle the staging of a music event on the Castle Field last year. The scale and scope of the event required clarification with the promoter and the Fire Officer in terms information and detail. That was provided in a number of reports both last year and early this. Since the last Committee in March, the promotor has considered the options and determined that the availability of artists for this year does not meet the timescale for organising the event. He has, therefore, decided to look at staging the event next year.

2.2 The promotor engaged a company who had experience of similar large scale music festivals. Correspondence was exchanged between them and the Fire Officer on escape routes, steward numbers, and emergency plans to establish a capacity figure for the field in respect of the music event alone. That work will serve to form the basis of their plan for an event in 2016.

3 PROPOSALS

3.1 The promoter is now looking to stage a music festival for three days as per his original proposal. This would be on a weekend between July and early September 2016, excluding any Bank Holiday weekend. The actual date will be determined by availability of artists. The event would be staged from Friday to Sunday. Gates will open early afternoon each day and the headline act finishing by the 10pm curfew.

3.2 The capacity for the event as agreed with the Fire Officer would be 10,500 including staff working on the event. The area of the Castle Field would be fenced to control access; the event would be all ticket, with a ticket price in line with artists performing.

- 3.3 The footpaths around the area would be kept open, wherever possible, although there will be times during load-in and load-out when relevant access gates and paths will be unavailable for health and safety reasons.
- 3.4 A full Resident & Community Impact Management Plan as part of the planning process would be put together. Measures used elsewhere have included: information about the event sent both direct; published in local papers, and put up as notices prior to the event going ahead.
- 3.5 It would be expected that an independent and mobile noise monitoring person would be provided, who can visit residents during the event to ensure noise levels are not going beyond license conditions.
- 3.6 The promoter has asked that the Council provide him with a letter of approval for the event, and not permit any similar large scale music event on the area during the same period, to avoid conflict with his event.

4 ISSUES

- 4.1 Events, by their very nature, cause a degree of disturbance and interfere with the normal day to day activities of the people in the surrounding area. However, they also are enjoyed by large numbers of people. They bring a positive economic impact to the area, and the promotor is planning to discuss accommodation options with local camp sites and other providers.
- 4.2 The proposals submitted by the promoter to-date have provided a sensible step towards minimising the impact the event in the Castle would have on local people. By the very nature of the event, it is not possible to remove all impacts; however the promoter is working with a professional event company, which has extensive experience of staging major music events.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

This report may have the following implications

- Resources – The event discussed would not be underwritten by the Council, nor promoted as such, it would be on Council land, if required the Council would charge for any services required. In addition, the Council will receive a commercial fee for the use of the space to stage the event.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Events, by their nature, have some impact, this event would need to be considered by RVSAG during the development stage
- Reputation – Tourism is an integral part of the Borough's offer, and events that are well run and of high quality will help to promote the Borough and the businesses based within it.

6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Approves the staging of the music festival next year, 2016, subject to the normal licence approvals and confirmation by the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group of the promoters' arrangements.

- 6.2 Delegates the Director of Community Services to write to the promoter with confirmation of the Committee's decision.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

Agenda Item 8, Community Services Committee 10 March 2015

For further information please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: SOME LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONTACTS,
AND DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY OF CAR PARKING
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER, HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

To provide contacts for some services offered by Lancashire County Council about which enquiries or complaints may be received, and to explain the division of responsibilities for car parking enforcement.

2 BACKGROUND

Due to the transfer of work from Ribble Valley Borough Council to Lancashire County Council, there are a variety of issues that are still reported to RVBC that should be directed at LCC:

(a) Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Responsibility for Public Rights of Way transferred to LCC over twelve months ago. RVBC had previously carried out some maintenance work to PROW in an arrangement with LCC, but now has no duties or budget to do so. All Public Rights of Way enquiries are redirected to LCC.

(b) Highways

Adopted highways are the responsibility of LCC. Unadopted highways are generally the responsibility of the landowner or the property owner/s adjacent to them. We handle basic enquiries and can find out if a road is adopted, but issues with adopted highways are directed towards LCC Highways section on 0300 1236780 or highways@lancashire.gov.uk. Gritting and major cleaning issues affecting safety on the adopted highway would also be LCC responsibility.

RVBC has a responsibility for smaller cleansing issues on the highway, and employs a road sweeping vehicle for such an eventuality.

(c) Flooding and Land Drainage

LCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the Ribble Valley area. Any flooding incidents should be reported to them so that they can log them and investigate if they deem it necessary (They have investigatory and enforcement powers with regards to flooding). They are also responsible for consenting works on ordinary watercourses. RVBC has a responsibility to inform LCC of any flooding incidents that are reported to us, but members of the public can report incidents directly to LCC's Flood Risk Management Team if they wish. Our contact is Chris Dunderdale, chris.dunderdale@lancashire.gov.uk or 01772 534593, and he is happy to be contacted directly.

(d) Bus Shelters

We have a list of shelters headed "Quality Bus Route" that are the responsibility of LCC to maintain. Generally, the other shelters in the borough are maintained by RVBC, but there are also several owned by the Parish Councils. RVBC has records of ownership for all shelters, and handle or redirect enquiries accordingly.

(e) **On- street Parking**
All on-street parking is dealt with by LCC.

(f) **Off-street Parking**
Off-street parking falls under RVBC.

Off-street parking is not a statutory service, but the Council has a Parking Policy to provide off-street parking.

There are currently 9 car parks in Clitheroe – 3 short stay (220 spaces) and 6 long stay (260 spaces).

There are also Council car parks at Longridge, Chipping, Dunsop Bridge, Ribchester, Sabden, Chipping, Slaidburn, and Bolton by Bowland.

The policy of charging on short stay car parks was adopted originally because it frees up spaces for shoppers and visitors which, without the charging, would potentially be full of workers' or residents' cars for the day.

The Council takes payment of off-street car parking from the motorist either through an annual contract (payable in advance), or through a cash payment to the on-site pay and display parking machines. These machines (23 in total on the Council's 19 chargeable sites) accept payment by cash only.

There is presently a scheme in the Capital Programme 2017/2018 to change the paying machines to allow for the introduction of the new pound coin and also to investigate and provide a cashless payment option eg debit/credit card, and by transfer of funds initiated from the motorists' "smart phone" as there is an expectation on the Council that such a process be available.

Chipside provide a back office service for processing parking penalties to the Chipside Lancashire Group (Ribble Valley, Preston, Pendle, West Lancashire, Fylde, Hyndburn, Chorley, and Burnley).

Car park charges income for 2014/15 was £288,428 and the forecast for 2015/16 is £297,790.

The payment taken is used solely for the maintenance of the car parks.

There is presently a demand for additional car park spaces in Clitheroe, and Whalley, and this Committee's Car Park Working Group meets on a regular basis in order to address this, and other car parking issues throughout the borough.

3 **CONCLUSION**

That the purpose of this report has been achieved by providing contacts at LCC, and by clarifying the division of responsibilities for car parking enforcement.

ADRIAN HARPER
HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information, please contact for Adrian Harper 01200 414523.

COMMUNITY SERVICES/2 JUNE 15/AH/CMS

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No 11

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
 title: CAPITAL OUTTURN 2014/15
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
 principal author: ANDREW COOK

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to review the final outturn of the capital programme for 2014/15 for this committee.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – none identified.
- Corporate Priorities - to continue to be a well-managed council providing efficient services based on identified customer need.
- Other Considerations – none identified.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Capital Programme for the Community Committee consisted of five schemes. These were a combination of:

- New schemes approved as part of the capital programme in March 2014.
- Schemes with slippage from 2013/14.
- Additional approvals in 2014/15.

2.2 During the financial year the committee has received reports monitoring the progress of schemes within the programme.

2.3 As part of the closure of our accounts process, scheme expenditure has been capitalised and added to our balance sheet or charged to revenue where appropriate.

3 CAPITAL SCHEMES PERFORMANCE

3.1 The table below summarises the overall financial position on the capital schemes for this committee. It shows budget approvals, approved slippage from 2013/14 and actual expenditure in-year.

Original Estimate 2014/15	Slippage from 2013/14	Additional Approvals in 2014/15	Total Approved Budget 2014/15	Revised Estimate 2014/15	Budget moved to 2015/16	Actual Expenditure 2014/15
£	£	£	£	£	£	£
110,000	11,710	15,450	137,160	90,160	47,000	88,671

3.2 Four of the five schemes in the capital programme were completed in-year and within budget.

- 3.3 The budget for the other scheme, the Installation of 3G Artificial Pitch scheme, £47,000, has been moved to 2015/16. This was approved at revised budget stage because the scheme will not start until external funding is confirmed. Officers are currently awaiting the outcome of the updated bid to Sport England to secure funding for 2015/16. A report elsewhere on the agenda makes reference to this scheme and the latest position relating to the external funding.
- 3.4 Overall, £88,671 has been spent, which is 98% of the revised estimate. No requests for slippage into 2015/16 are required.
- 3.5 Annex 1 shows the full capital programme by scheme, along with the budget and expenditure for the year.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The risks associated with this report are set down below:

- Resources – There are no additional financing requirements needed for this committee's 2014/15 capital programme.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – Sound financial planning for known capital commitments safeguards the reputation of the Council.
- Equality and Diversity – Equality and diversity issues are examined as part of the capital bid appraisal process.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Four of the five schemes have been completed in-year and within budget. Actual expenditure was £88,671, which is 98% of the revised estimate.
- 5.2 The budget for one scheme, Installation of 3G Artificial Pitch, has been moved into 2015/16.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

CM7-15/AC/AC
22 May 2015

For further information please ask for Andrew Cook.

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2014/15**

ANNEX 1

Cost Centre	Schemes	Original Estimate 2014/15	Slippage from 2013/14	Additional Approvals in 2014/15	Total Approved Budget 2014/15	Revised Estimate 2014/15	Budget moved to 2015/16	Actual Expenditure 2014/15	Requested Slippage into 2015/16
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
CFTOI	Castlefield Toilets Refurbishment	33,000	0	0	33,000	33,000	0	32,954	0
PLAYN	Play Area Improvements 2013/14	0	11,710	0	11,710	11,710	0	10,780	0
PLAYO	Play Area Improvements 2014/15	30,000	0	0	30,000	30,000	0	29,492	0
TGAPS	Installation of 3G Artificial Pitch	47,000	0	0	47,000	0	47,000	0	0
RGRNT	Grant to Roefield – Activity Room	0	0	15,450	15,450	15,450	0	15,445	0
Total Community Committee		110,000	11,710	15,450	137,160	90,160	47,000	88,671	0

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 June 2015
 title: REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16
 submitted by: Chief Executive
 principal author: Olwen Heap

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members of the outside bodies that come under the remit of the Community Services committee and their membership.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – to be a well managed council providing effective services.
- Corporate Priorities - to protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area; to help make people's lives healthier and safer.
- Other Considerations – to work in partnership with other bodies in pursuit of the Council's aims and objectives.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the annual meeting each year the Council makes nominations to various outside bodies.

2.2 Members attend meetings of the outside body and report back to the relevant parent committee.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The following outside bodies come under the remit of the Community Services committee. The membership of these outside bodies was decided at the annual meeting of the council on 19 May 2015.

Children's Trust	Cllr Stella Brunskill
Lancashire Tourism Forum	Cllr Joyce Holgate
Lancashire Waste Partnership	Cllr Ian Sayers
Langho Football Club	Cllr Alison Brown
Longridge Social Enterprise Company Ltd	Cllr Ken Hind
RV Sport & Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA)	Cllr Jim White
RV Sports & Recreation Association (Roefield Leisure Centre)	Cllr Robert Thompson Cllr Stella Brunskill
Salesbury & Copster Green Commons Management Committee	Cllrs Peter Ainsworth, Sue Bibby and Stuart Hirst

3.2 There is a standard item on all agendas for members on outside bodies to report back to the parent committee.

3.3 Representatives are encouraged to provide reports back giving committee an update on the work of the body and drawing attention to any current issues.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – the costs associated with members attending meetings of outside bodies is included in the budget for 2015/16.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – no significant risks identified
- Political - no significant risks identified
- Reputation – no significant risks identified
- Equality & Diversity - no significant risks identified

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Members note the outside bodies under the remit of this committee and their membership.

Marshal Scott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Olwen Heap
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report on Representatives on Outside Bodies – Annual Council 19.5.15

REF: CE/OMH/COM/2.6.15

For further information please ask for Olwen Heap, extension 4408

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 2 JUNE 2015
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER, HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES
COLIN WINTERBOTTOM,
COMMUNITY LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1 PURPOSE

To update on waste management payments, on events and activities being organised over the summer by the Community Leisure and Sports Development Section, and to inform on the creation of a wild flower meadow at the cemetery.

2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Following protracted discussions with Lancashire County Council since being given notice last year that payment of Recycling Credits would cease from 1 April 2015, agreement has now been reached for a replacement payment formula.

Whilst this does not mirror the property-based payment mechanism enjoyed by the rest of the Lancashire districts, it is felt to be the best option available to the Council, under the circumstances.

The agreement, which is to be signed soon, will expire in March 2018, when LCC have determined that existing arrangements with all other districts will come to an end.

In the meantime, outstanding invoices issued to LCC in respect of disputed levels of payments due as Recycling Credits are to be cancelled. The value of invoices to be cancelled is of the order of £82,390.

3 CEMETERY REGIME

The creation of a managed wild flower meadow in the oldest part of the cemetery, which will enhance the biodiversity of the area, is an objective over the coming years.

This means that 2 different mowing regimes will be tried this year to determine which work best for our cemetery. These have been determined after speaking with other authorities, and consideration of best practice elsewhere.

The area, known as Old Right, will be allowed to grow until July, after which time it will be cut short into the autumn. This ought to reduce the growth of coarse grasses, and all flowers, such cowslips, selfheal, and bugle, to prosper.

In the area known as New Right, mowing will continue until the end of June, when it will be left to flower until late autumn, thereby allowing wildflowers, such as knapweed, and lady's bedstraw, to seed.

For both areas, the initial arisings will be left in situ for a few days to allow the seeds to drop to the ground; thereafter the arisings will be lifted to reduce soil fertility.

In both areas, if any family requests access to a specific grave, we will cut a pathway into it, as we normally do, as well as to the war graves that are located in both areas.

This approach to maintenance will help us determine which is the most appropriate going forward to help establish a managed wild meadow area. It will take some years for the wild flowers to become established. However, many people are appreciative of the tranquil setting that exists there now. Improving the biodiversity will also enhance this, as well as encouraging the habitat for wildlife.

4 COMMUNITY LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

4.1 RIBBLESDALE POOL

- Swimtag

A new initiative is to be introduced which allows swimmers to monitor their sessions and track how many lengths they are doing, how many calories they have used, and which strokes they are doing at different times during their session. It is aimed to increase participation and retention levels at a time when swimming visits by adults and juniors are declining nationally.

There are 5 Swimtag bands available from reception, and they are kept at the docking station on reception counter when not in use. It is proposed that they are available on request at no charge for the initial taster period, which will run up until Sunday 30 August 2015. To obtain a tag, the swimmer must have a membership card, and this will help track the tag to the individual if it is not returned to reception after use.

Once the swimmer has returned the tag back to the docking station, all the information collected is available online through the Swimtag website. As soon as the user logs on, the information is displayed on progress, new personal bests, competition updates, training plan progression, and any messages from the Pool. There is also a profile page, where each swimmer is presented with a unique view of their swim, and which aims to make the experience more sociable, interactive, and fun.

- School Swimming

A pilot scheme initiated by the Amateur Swimming Association, involving ourselves and Hyndburn Borough Council, aims to raise the quality of school swimming lessons. The key objective is to raise the overall level of swimming amongst primary school children, and increase the achievement levels with regards to Key Stage 2 standard, by the end of Year 6.

It is now a requirement within OFSTED inspections that schools demonstrate records of pupil performance with regards to swimming, and the introduction of a more structured approach to achieving swimming skills is to be presented to school heads, with a view to implementation from September this year. There will be a particular focus on supporting weaker swimmers, and on the delivery of a progressive pathway for children as they complete 6 awards.

4.2 CYCLEFEST

The inaugural Ribble Valley 'Cyclefest' event will take place between 5-14 June 2015, and comprises various activities, including: a bike-powered music night in the castle grounds; a closed road cycle for families and those with limited experience of cycling; a mini pop-up velodrome; the Ribble Valley Ride Sportive, a focus on the world of cycling at The Grand; and a number of different led rides will be taking place throughout the week, to provide opportunities for recreational cycling.

4.3 PLATFORM GALLERY/VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

- Open Exhibition

The annual Open Exhibition is currently taking place in the Platform Gallery. This exhibition includes the work of 27 craft makers both locally, and from across the northwest.

The exhibition features textiles, jewellery, glass, ceramics, and mixed media. This year we are fortunate to have the internationally acclaimed Letter Carver and Typographer, Wayne Hart, exhibiting with us.

Alongside this year's main open showcase of contemporary craft in the northwest, the winner of the Selectors' Prize for Innovation 2014, Pat Fisher, was invited to exhibit her award-winning textiles. The exhibition runs until Saturday 4 July 2015.

- Sunday Opening

The facility is now open on Sundays between 11am-4.00pm on a trial basis, for the period up until the end of August 2015.

5 CONCLUSION

The current position of waste management repayments is clarified, the plan for wild flowers in the cemetery is outlined, and the main events and activities organised for the next few months by the Community Leisure and Sports Development Section is summarised.

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HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

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COMMUNITY LEISURE & SPORTS
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Community Services 2.6.15/AH/MB/CW/IW