

Report to:
Council

Agenda
Item

10(b)(iii)

Meeting Date: 9 September 2014

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Elsie Martlew**

War Memorials Project – This work is now complete. 9 memorials in the City Council's care have been restored and assistance given to Parish Councils and Churches to restore a further 20 community memorials. This assistance ranged from arranging contractors and paying for repairs and cleaning work to providing materials for local volunteers to do cleaning themselves. The project has received a lot of positive feedback from the public. It has been extensively reported in the media, both press and TV. Reporting has been very positive and the City Council has received much praise for its commitment to marking the W1 100 year anniversary.

World War 1 Commemoration – Rickerby Park Cenotaph - The evening of Monday, 4th August saw a moving and respectful commemoration event take place at the Cumberland and Westmorland county cenotaph in Rickerby Park. The monument had been cleaned and re-landscaped in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and it provided a magnificent backdrop for the ceremony, which was attended by about 350 people.

GREEN SPACES – The Dale End Field play area replacement project is now complete and the local children have been enjoying the fantastic new swings, slides and roundabouts that have been installed. The new play area, which was highlighted as a priority site in the Play Area Review, was jointly funded through Section 106 money from the redevelopment of Cavaghan & Gray's site and with a grant from Cumbria Waste Management (Landfill Tax).

The new 'green gym' equipment, complete with safety surfacing, is now in place on the Bitts Park riverside trail. The old, wooden frames have been replaced in stainless steel to give years of use by the large number of fitness enthusiasts that use the equipment.

At Hammonds Pond the multi-use games area (MUGA) has been refurbished and repainted. Carlisle Youth Football League now require mid-age group teams to have access to changing facilities on-site, this means that sites such as Clark's Field (Belah) and Willowholme (Castle) are no longer suitable for youth football, the Carlisle Youth Football League are working with the City Council and Cumberland FA to investigate whether Portakabin-type buildings may be a solution at these grounds. A new three-quarter size football pitch has been installed at Hammonds Pond where changing facilities are available.

Staying at Hammonds Pond, a preferred bidder has been selected for the combined catering and watersports franchise. The association with the Can You Experience Company, who have wide experience in the business, promises to bring many exciting new activities to the park including better boating facilities, mini golf etc.

Garden of Memories – Bitts Park

A new garden has been created at Bitts Park by volunteers from the Eden Valley Hospice in partnership with Green Spaces' grounds team. The garden, located in the extension behind the children's play area, is a quiet place for people to come and remember friends or family who spent their final days at the hospice. Regular sessions are held where the volunteers carry out maintenance and weeding and donations from friends and families are used to pay for new plants. The project has already been very well received by bereaved families and friends.

CITY ENGINEERS

Future of Parking Enforcement – The County Council have written seeking to terminate the agreement we have with them for carrying out on-street parking enforcement. This is now the subject of ongoing discussions between officers to establish an equitable way ahead.

Good wishes to Fred Walker on his retirement. The City Centre Manager, retired at the end of July after starting work 46 years earlier with the City Council. Fred has had a variety of jobs with the council from Painter, Contract Manager, Contract Monitoring Officer, Highways Inspector and last as City Centre Manager. Fred has co-ordinated all activities and events in the City Centre and maintained close contact with retailers in the area. Fred plans to spend quality time with his wife Carol, 3 grown up children and 7 grandchildren.

City Centre Historic Quarter - The new restricted zone has now been in operation since the beginning of July and generally is working well. Some drivers are still unsure of the restrictions which now apply despite extensive publicity. The most confusion appears to occur on a Sunday. In order to help clarify the situation, additional temporary signage will be provided in Abbey Street where most confusion appears to occur. Opportunities will be taken to further publicise the changes.

Highway Weed Control - The County Council have just advised us that their contractor has just started to carry out the second weed spray of City highways. Work started on the 11th August and is due to be completed by the end of August.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – The City Council continues its efforts to “Clean Up Carlisle.” The Enforcement and Education Team has been working with Schools and Community Groups to encourage good practices with respect to dog fouling and littering. The City Council is prepared to pursue enforcement action against those failing to comply with their responsibilities, either by issuing fixed penalty tickets or taking Court action. A Carlisle resident seen by our Officers not picking up after her dog had fouled was initially given the chance to pay a fixed penalty notice, she failed to pay the £80 notice and was successfully prosecuted for the offence, receiving a £200 fine. She then unsuccessfully appealed to the Crown Court and has ended up with a total fine in excess of £1,500. A great credit for the success in the case goes to the professionalism and evidence given by our Officers.

We all know that we should eat a healthy diet, drink sensibly, be physically active and not smoke. I believe we have to support people to make healthy choices and we have to ensure the healthy choice is the easy choice. I'm please to report that the City Council is to launch a Local Healthy Options Award. The Award will be given to take-aways, cafes, restaurants and staff canteens that offer and promoted healthy food options. Through its contacts with food businesses the City Council is best placed to deliver these awards which are being run in other local authorities and which can have both public health and economic benefits. We will start publicising and offering the Awards from the middle of September.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Gull sacks - Proper use of the gull sacks continue to be a challenge with a number of residents continuing to present black bags outside the gull sacks or using numerous carrier bags inside the gull sack. The team are working hard to resolve this issue by attending each collection, leaving cards advising how to use the bags properly, door knocking to encourage people to use the gull sacks correctly. We continue to work with the environmental enforcement team to help us with the enforcement side. There has been a transformation in the cleanliness of the areas where the gull sacks are being properly used

Street Cleaning - The deep cleansing of Botchergate is now complete along with all the lanes within the city centre. Some of the lanes that were initially a problem due to the continuous mess made by roosting pigeons have been reduced by the adjacent properties netting the roosting 'hot spots'. We have received a letter of thanks from Casanova but not from the main complainant Marks & Spencer.

More resources were diverted into the City Centre to clean and litter pick due to the increased foot fall over the school holidays to minimise the impact. The City Centre continues to be brought up to a grade 'A' by 8am each morning. Extra resources were provided to cover the Pageant to ensure the City Centre was kept clean during the week.