

Meeting Date: 28 April 2015

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **GREEN SPACES**

**Hammond's Pond** – a backlog of tree maintenance work has been completed at Hammond's Pond (Upperby Park) during the last 2 months. The thinning of scrub woodland has opened out the nature reserve area and made it feel much safer for visitors as well as having long-term benefits for wildlife. Diseased and decaying trees along the boundary path have been removed, creating a safer walking environment for our visitors. Once these trees start to re-grow they will provide an effective landscape buffer between the park and the new housing development adjacent.

**Talkin Tarn** – anyone visiting Talkin Tarn Country Park over Easter will have noticed many positive changes that have taken place recently. One of the greatest improvements has been the resurfacing of the lakeshore path for its entire length. Over 500 tonnes of quarry stone has been tipped, spread and rolled into place in order to create a smoother, more resilient surface. Funding for the project was provided by the agri-environmental grants secured by Green Spaces staff.

**Crematorium Chapel** – the Chapel has been re-decorated. With the help of local and specialist contractors we have fitted new floor to ceiling curtains around the catafalque and have painted the building. Work was carried out over successive weekends in April in order to minimise disruption for customers.

**Keenan Park** – the landscape barrier was completed in March, to prevent unauthorised access to the park by vehicles. A row of bollards has been erected as this was deemed to be the most effective solution. The test of its resilience will come in the next month as the annual Appleby Horse Fair approaches.

**Funding** – Since the previous report the Green Spaces team has secured £25,000 in Landfill Tax grant income (for the wheelchair swing project in Bitts Park). £165,500 in previously agreed S106 funds has been paid over by developers in the period.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**Local Environmental Quality Surveys** - have been completed for Dalston, Denton Holme, Morton, Stanwix Rural and Belah. There were no areas below standard on assessment.

**Litter Bins** - 100 litter bins have been replaced so far in the following wards: Belah, Botcherby, Brampton, Castle, Dalston, Currock, Denton Holme, Harraby, Longtown, Morton, Belle Vue, St Aidans, Wetheral and Yewdale. Another 100 are scheduled to be replaced across the district.

**Litter Picking** - 125 miles of grass verge has been litter picked, including:

- CNDR route
- Carlisle to Longtown
- Carlisle to Dalston
- Carlisle to Gretna border
- A595
- Cargo to Rockcliffe
- Brampton to Smithfield
- Adsa to Rockcliffe
- Longtown to Kershopefoot
- Longtown to Gretna border

**Chewing Gum** - Rentokil have been engaged to remove chewing gum from the City Centre. Four smaller chewing gum removal machines have been purchased for each of the street sweepers to use in the areas of Brampton, Longtown and outside local shops.

**Correct use of gull-proof sacks** - Staff are continuing to monitor the correct use of gull-proof sacks in Botchergate East, Denton Holme and the Newtown area and residents are being advised of the correct way to present waste for collection. A marked improvement has been seen in the cleanliness and presentation of waste (a reduction of almost 70% in Botchergate East and almost 60% in Denton Holme/Newtown). Staff will continue to monitor the situation and take remedial action where necessary:

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

**Carlisle's Airport** development has now started and the Environmental Health team are monitoring the air quality around the area. The development will use a lot of concrete and it is pleasing to report that a mobile cement batching plant has been located on site at the airport. This will help reduce traffic movements as no concrete mixer wagons will need to deliver concrete to the site.

The cement batching plant is inspected by Environmental Health. Eight cement batching plants now operate in Carlisle and are inspected by the Environmental Health Service. The airport plant is in good condition and the permit issued to operate it ensures that dust emissions are controlled. The plant and its use will be kept under observation during its time at the airport. This mobile plant is expected to remain on site till the end of the year.

We are now entering the period where gulls return to our District for breeding. Our Environmental Health Service has written to those landowners and building occupiers where it is known that the gulls like to settle. It is important that the gulls are discouraged from nesting and landowners and building occupiers should consult the General Licence issued by Natural England which confirms what action can be taken, suggestions include the use of netting or wires to prevent landing and the use of bird scarers. The Environmental Health Service have had success on Council land with an acoustic bird scarer that plays a distress call for the specific bird species. The birds are unsettled by the sound and if played daily they eventually move.

Starlings have been an issue this year on Portland Square which is managed by the City Council. The Council has increased the cleaning undertaking in the area and will trim the habitat during the summer when the starlings have moved to their summer residence. It is intended that the bird scarer will be used to unsettle the starlings if they return so that they do not roost in Portland Square next winter.

## **CITY CENTRE/CAR PARKS /CITY ENGINEERS**

**First World War – VC Commemeration Slabs** - In order to commemorate the members of the Armed Services who received a Victoria Cross in the First World War a series of commemorative slabs are being provided in memory of each VC recipient. In the Carlisle area 2 slabs are to be installed in memory of Lt Commander Edward Boyle and Lt Joseph Henry Collins.

Commander Boyle received his citation on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1915 while commanding submarine E14 in the Sea of Marmora. It is proposed to place the memorial stone in the Greenmarket, beside the War Memorial. The week preceding 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 is Armed Forces Week and it is proposed to incorporate a ceremony in memory of Commander Boyle into that week. It is hoped a detachment from the Navy will be present.

The second stone will be laid in 2018 to commemorate the citation that was awarded to Lt Collins on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1918.

**Car Park Charges** - The new parking charges were introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The new charges are very competitive and a marketing campaign is ongoing to advise our customers, and potential customers, to the good value that we are now offering in our car parks.

**Network Rail** have been delayed in completing the repairs to the railway bridge at Devonshire Walk. As a consequence they have requested and been granted permission to continue to rent space for a works compound on Devonshire Walk car park. This will result in additional income of £17,000.

**Public Realm Improvements** - A number of Public Realm Improvements are now almost ready to be implemented subject to County Council approval for those works due to take place on the highway. The following schemes are in the final stages:-

Paddy's Market Enhancement  
Milbourne Street Landscape Area  
Rickergate enhancements

**City Centre Pedestrian Area** - Efforts to further improve the area and the income it generates continue. Virgin Media have decided to continue to occupy space in the area until at least the end of July. This will generate £14,000 income to the area to help defray operational costs. A large number of events are planned for the area, some examples are:-  
Hosting Pirelli Rally in May – Vintage cars only this time  
Hosting Pride in June – details to be finalised  
Hosting the International Market in April 6 days over Easter – along with many 'tag ons' including:

- The Fostering Service
- Dumfries Greyhound Rescue
- Maryport Lifeboat
- The Army – Scots Guards
- Community Centre awareness day
- Made in Cumbria
- Hospice @ Home Rainbow Rabbit Ramble @ Bitts Park March