

Meeting Date: 6th March 2018

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Chris Southward**

GREEN SPACES & BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Green Spaces have been busy working on a new project in Bitts Park. The disused bowling green has been remodelled and will soon be the site of a modern outdoor gym. Aimed at keeping people active, the new equipment will include instructions on how to use it to keep fit and active. It will be located close to the children's play area and we hope it will encourage families to visit the park and have fun together.

In Dalston, money from a Section 106 planning agreement has been used to replace the dilapidated play area at Summerfields. Once complete the new play area will be handed over to Dalston Parish Council to maintain.

Allotment occupancy continues to rise as we bring derelict plots back into use, with the figure now standing at 86%. We have also had more applications for self-managed allotments, with Nicholson Street being the latest site to make the move.

The team has also started preparations for the 2018 Fireshow which will be on the theme of the Centenary of Women's Emancipation.

Talkin Tarn – A local vet showed his compassionate side and his professional skill in rescuing a young swan that had become entangled in discarded fishing tackle. Having coaxed it from the tarn he took it to the surgery for a lengthy operation to remove the hooks and line from the bird's gizzard before delivering it to Knox Wood Wildlife Rescue Centre for a few days of care until it could be released safely back to the rest of its family at Talkin Tarn.

Bereavement Services It is 25 years since Carlisle became the very first place in the world to offer 'woodland burial' as an option for those who prefer a natural funeral. Instead of a headstone, a tree is planted over the grave and becomes the living

memorial to the deceased person. Since the first woodland burials took place in 1993, hundreds of people have chosen this option. As a result, new woodlands are maturing in the cemetery made up of native trees and creating new habitats for wildlife. Former Bereavement Services manager Ken West, now retired, was the driving force behind this world-first for Carlisle.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health Services provide both regulatory and advice services to support local businesses. It is pleasing to note that in surveys of businesses contacted following inspections over **90%** of those who responded either agree or strongly agree that the Environmental Health visits are both helpful and fair.

CAR PARKING

Avid readers of these reports will recall that last time we agreed to gate some car parks after consultation with the Police to inhibit anti-social behaviour. Castle, Caldew Riverside and West Walls car parks were gated from 8.00pm. After receiving several reasoned arguments, the City Council has now made arrangement that West Walls will closed from 11pm.

We are very pleased to have received thanks from residents on Abbey Street and Milbourne Court for their first few peaceful nights in a considerable period.

New charges will be introduced on the 3rd April including a new early bird tariff. Vehicles parking in The Sands, The Viaduct and West Walls car parks before 9.30am can do so at a discounted rate.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Christmas Refuse and Recycling Collections - This report provides an opportunity to register appreciation for the efforts of the Neighbourhood Services staff that worked across weekends over Christmas and New Year to catch up on refuse collections at this busy time of year.

Christmas Tree Collections For Charity - I would also like to register my thanks to all the volunteers and supporters as well as the Council staff for their efforts in collecting over 500 Christmas trees across Carlisle and Penrith, raising over £4,000 in donations for Hospice at Home (Carlisle and North Lakeland). This scheme was expanded to

different post-code areas in Carlisle this year following a successful trial in Christmas 2016. Hopefully, we can work with this organisation again to support further collections and raise more money for this important charity.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public consultation on the proposed PSPO for Carlisle ran from December 2017 to January 2018. The Council received 93 responses with comments overall very positive in support of the controls proposed to be included in the new order. Scrutiny considered the PSPO at its meeting in February with Executive due to review at its meeting in March. If agreed, the PSPO will run for three years and will be a clear and visible demonstration that the City Council is serious in tackling the problem of anti-social and nuisance behaviour working with our partners.