

Meeting Date: 3rd November 2020

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Nigel Christian**

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## **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

### **Car Parking and Enforcement**

The new check in check out mobile device system for car parks is now up and running and we have seen an increase in card payments, with 33% using it in comparison to 14% the previous year. 12% of those using the check in check out system. We will continue to monitor this new service as we continue to adapt to the current issues relating to Covi-19.

Additional CCTV has been purchased and will be mobilised in several rural areas where enforcement activity may be required. We are also renewing existing signage and in the process of placing new signs out in hot spot litter and fly-tipping areas.

Although our car parks are still significantly under normal occupancy levels, we are seeing a slight increase in the use of the Civic, West Walls and Viaduct car parks.

### **Waste & Recycling**

The increase in kerbside recycling and refuse is now dropping off with people going back into their workplaces and consuming less in their homes:

#### **Kerbside recycling**

- Apr + 27%
- May + 25%
- Jun + 37%
- July + 18%
- Aug + 5%

#### **Refuse**

- Apr +18%
- May +10%

- Jun + 21%
- July + 19%
- Aug + 3%

New information leaflets for those living in flats have been produce and should be ready to distribute to all flats with shared recycling facilities and sent to new builds via the Sales Offices and available to view on the Council's website shortly. This should hopefully encourage those living in flats to recycle more of their waste.

### **ZERO CARBON CUMBRIA PARTNERSHIP**

Our partner organisation, Cumbria Action for Sustainability is recruiting to the first new posts to be funded by the £2.5million National Lottery funding.

The partnership was successful in obtaining this funding and further details can be viewed via this link: <https://cafs.org.uk/our-projects/zero-carbon-cumbria-programme/>

### **COMMUNITY WARDENS/FLOOD WARDENS**

(Bid to National Lottery for feasibility study)

As reported before Council, we were working with a steering group to prepare a bid to the National Lottery for a study of the recent community response and assess the potential to develop a network of Community Wardens, like the roles in the Keswick Community Emergency Response Partnership.

Unfortunately, this bid was not successful, , the next round of funding will have a focus on Covid-19 recovery and resilience. We will work with the steering group to bid again in this round.

### **REGULATORY SERVICES**

The Environmental Health Service has been active contributors to the Covid track and trace which involves close working with the County Council Public Health, Public Health England and the NHS. The Service takes the lead in contacting community positive cases to ensure that the correct information is given regarding isolation. The agreement with the County Council for securing two posts for this duty has been signed.

The Environmental Health Service is also co-ordinating its Covid regulatory role with colleagues from the Licensing Department and the Police. A number of joint inspections have been undertaken and regulatory actions initiated to ensure businesses comply with their Covid infection control duties. The additional Government four-month funding of £55,848 has been very welcomed in adding capacity to the small regulatory team and recruitment is now well underway.

## **GREEN SPACES**

### **The Swifts “Get Cumbria Buzzing” project**

The Swifts, managed as a driving range and 9-hole par three golf course until 2018, will be transformed into a wildlife haven thanks to £80,000 funding from Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET) and £8,000 from the Environment Agency.

The funding will breathe new life into the site, transforming the green space into wildflower meadows, species-rich wetland and native woodland, helping to boost populations of bees and butterflies.

The site aims to be an oasis for wildlife and people alike, with improved access and signage. The funding has been secured by Cumbria Wildlife Trust working in partnership with Carlisle City Council. The restoration works will be carried out by Carlisle City Council and will fall under the Get Cumbria Buzzing Project, that aims to create and link pollinator habitat across northwest Cumbria.

### **St James’s Park Refurbishment Project**

Plans are in place to add the finishing touches to the refurbishment of St James's Park in Denton Holme following a complete upgrade of the paths and street furniture this summer. Heritage signs have been purchased to welcome park users at the entrances and new trees and shrubs will be ordered soon for planting over winter.

### **Hammonds Pond Refurbishment Project**

Permissions have been gained to reduce the level of the Wire Mire Beck in Hammonds Pond, Upperby. Lowering the level of the beck will allow the water level of the pond to be managed more accurately, helping land drainage in the surrounding park to function. The permit takes the breeding season of native fish species into account and works will therefore not begin until mid-summer 2021. Discussions are currently ongoing to gain consents to replace three existing, end of life, pedestrian bridges over the beck at the same time. Other developments at Hammonds Pond include the recent replacement of the CCTV system in the park, which is operated for the purposes of deterring crime and supporting community safety. The new cameras provide much clearer images than the previous system, particularly when dark.

### **Other Park developments**

Drainage works have recently been completed at Spider Park, Belle Vue and Yewdale Park, Yewdale, with further plans for Hunters Crescent, Garlands. All of these projects deliver improvements to park users and neighbouring property owners by minimising surface overflows and pooling of water during periods of heavy rainfall.

## **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

Summer work is now coming to an end which allows us to get on with our winter programme.

Summer floral displays have been removed and we have started planting nearly 35,000 plants and nearly 10,000 bulbs for our Winter/Spring floral displays. Along with this, there will be around 17,000 bulbs planted around various green spaces, which will include Bluebells, Daffodils, Snowdrops and Crocus.

Our winter work will include final hedge cutting, shrub pruning, mulching, grass edging of paths, rubbish removal, tree and shrub planting and winter gritting as well as regular routine burial services.

We will also be carrying out additional work with Green Spaces to clear allotments with a view to making them available for renting next year.

## **BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**

Government guidance continues to affect the provision of funeral services and we continue to have restrictions in place.

The team's priority remains provision of a meaningful funeral for as many mourners as possible, whilst ensuring the safety of the public and our staff.