

Report Purpose:

To update members on leisure and outdoor activity projects

Author:

Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk

7.1 Parks and Play Areas

Work has completed on Sandwich Drive play area and work began work on Holcombe Drive early last week, though poor weather caused delays; to maintain momentum, equipment has been assembled under cover in West Park, and installation on-site has now resumed.

In South Park, four submissions have been received for the new play equipment and will be reviewed before a recommendation is made, with all proposals shared for consideration. Storm damage resulted in several fallen trees in South Park—now made safe—including a large one near the pavilion.

West Park showstopper planning is West Park showstopper planning permission is on the portal reference: 25/3155/FUL

7.2 South Park Pavilion

Design team and QS are working on reducing the price of the pavilion design, and the hospitality consultant is engaged to review for an operational point of view. There will be a report on Full Council detailing next steps. A draft of a lease has been received by CEC, however it needs further work before it can be agreed.

7.3 Playing Out

No update – will resume promotions in the Spring

7.4 Allotments

We have a tree on the Birtles Road site which is protected by a TPO. We have been given permission to dead wood the tree and have applied for planning permission to reduce the crown of the tree on the advice of the CEC Arboricultural Officer.

During storm Claudia, one of our oak trees at Knowsley Road allotments lost 3 large limbs. They completely blocked the footpath and some fell into Moss Lane allotments. This tree had a survey carried out and remedial work 4 months ago. We worked as quickly as possible to engage a tree surgeon and clear the footpath at the earliest opportunity. We also managed to get the tree inspected again 2 days after the storm. The inspection concluded that there were still some loose branches and that the tree needed pollarding to a height of 6m. This work has been booked in for

the 21st November. Until that time, we have taken the decision to close that section of footpath for people's safety. CEC have been informed.

7.5 Street sports

From 27th October, the sessions moved to their winter format of twice a week, both sessions at Lifestyle Fitness Centre on the pitch at the back of the building. This worked well last year, being well lit and the potential option of indoor sessions if the weather is really bad and the hall isn't in use.

Attendance figures are below.

Date (Week commencing)	Mon – West Park	Tue – Jasmine Park	Wed – Banbury Park	Thurs – Lifestyle fitness
29 th September	4	8	8	39
6 th October	4	12	9	41
13 th October	2	11	11	36
20 th October	4	13	8	40

Change to winter locations

Date (week commencing)	Tuesday Lifestyle Fitness	Thursday Lifestyle Fitness
27 th October	5	33
3 rd November	5	37
10 th November	3	31

7.6 Park Fit

Currently paused

The Assistant Town Clerk and Comms Officer have reviewed the feedback and have established a timeline for recruiting a new PT for Park Fit, with a view to it re-starting in South Park after Easter.

7.7 'Fitness for the Future

Attendance figures are below.

Week Beginning	Monday Walking football	Pan Disability Tues	Supported Housing Weds
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29 Sep	12	8	12
6 Oct	14	8	12
13 Oct	14	10	12
20 Oct	16	8	13
27 Oct	16	6	11
3 Nov	16	8	11
10 Nov	12	9	12

Feedback is below:

'I have been coming to the walking football sessions with the CST now for over 6 months and absolutely love the session.'

'Not only has it allowed me to continue to play football in a fun way now I'm a bit older, now that the CST have entered the group into an FA competition i still get to play competitive football on a monthly basis.

Many thanks to the team, the session is great and the friends that i have made over this time are now some of the closest I have'

Disability Sessions : Case Study

Nathan has been coming to our weekly sessions since the start in 2024.

Not only is he a keen footballer who shows great learning skills in the sessions that we deliver, but we have also been working with Nathan with an external volunteering organisation to create new opportunities for him and others.

We have created a volunteering scheme that will help Nathan develop new skills and opportunities in his development and also give him an external qualification that he will be able to use in the future when he is in employment.

Nathan has developed so much over the last year, and his confidence has grown to believe in his ability not only to play and be involved in the team group but to also develop himself externally in a field that he is passionate about.

'Matty and Alex have helped me and the other players a lot. Not only by putting on a fun weekly session, but by also being there to help us all in any way they can'

Supported Housing Feedback

The sessions that we have at the Mayfield Centre are of massive benefit to the people that we support.

Communication skills

They really look forward to the interactions when the lads visit, which builds on their communication skills, as often this will mean having a chat but also listening skills and following instructions for the games or activities. This is also true for the people that we support that aren't able communicate verbally, as the interactions are using eye contact and body language to engage them with the activities,

Mobility

Some of the people that we support are mobile, whilst others need support. One of reasons why these sessions are so important is that although a couple of our customers would potentially be able to access sports and exercise-based sessions in the community, most of our customers would struggle to access anything like this. With the sessions being at the service it opens up opportunities a lot of the people that we support would miss out on otherwise.

Exercise and wellbeing

The active sessions provide opportunities to engage in sports and movement for our customers. This is very important as the benefits of this also help to promote good mental health. The sessions require both physical and mental activity and the customers gain a sense of pride and achievement from their participation. The main benefit is that they have a lot of fun, there is always a lot of laughter which naturally helps with wellbeing and a sense of real enjoyment for people that we support.

END OF REPORT