



Service Delivery

13 October 2015

**Matter for
information**

Title: **Achievements at Brocks Hill and Operations since July 2015**

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1. Introduction

This report covers progress and developments at Brocks Hill (BH) and Operations as requested by the Chair of Service Delivery Committee setting out achievements and work in progress since July 2015, when activity was last reported.

2. Recommendations

That members note the progress made.

3. Brocks Hill Update

Brocks Hill Country Park and Habitat Management

- Green Flag secured for 2015/16.
- All meadows are cut and bailed.
- Routine management has included tackling ad hoc graffiti that has occurred over the summer, increased litter picking and responding to ASB issues such as drugs and legal highs. New upgraded CCTV has allowed closer working with local beat police.

Country Park Facilities

- Jubilee Amphitheatre/outdoor performance space utilised for four theatre performances in August. Event was supported with 12 volunteers from the Friends of Brocks Hill and Conservation Volunteers. Over 750 visited for these performances, with people travelling from as far afield as Whitby.
- Volunteers have maintained fencing, wood chip and brash supplies around the den building and play areas and fencing around the memorial mound that tend to be damaged by children playing, particularly in the summer holidays.
- With the wet early summer emergency drainage and maintenance work was undertaken by the rangers around the natural play area slides to ensure health and safety standards are maintained.

Community Engagement

- The door counters recorded the Summer holidays as 25,171 visitors.
- The Friends of Brocks Hill have continued to fundraise for the Volunteer Development Project with successful applications to the Wigston and Oadby Residents Forum and Florence Turner and Oadby Village Hall Trust. A resubmission will be made November to the South Wigston Forum. The Friends event programme has continued with success, with over 50 people attending the Leicestershire Archaeology Festival talk. The group continue with bi-monthly talks and are planning an October food fayre.

- Holiday events had strong bookings. Events included up to three sessions a day. Many events were sold out in advance. Feedback forms data has been analysed. Both qualitative and quantitative evidence of where people come from; outcomes from activities etc.
- Leicester De Montfort Rotary Club has continued to photograph Brocks Hill as one of their 2015-16 environmental projects. A guided walk was run for 14 members to assist with fixed point and seasonal photography in August. The group will be purchasing an additional digital picture frame for the Centre to display their images. All images will have meta-data attached for archive purposes.
- Borough wide Archaeology Field Work Group continues to meet at BH.
- Site attended Sonic Boom with display and volunteering information.
- Worked with groups using site such as local "Doggie Day" and for future Young at Heart Day.
- Events for October-March Adult Discoveries programme scheduled.
- WI sponsored a new bench for the memorial mound area for their centenary celebrations. This was installed by Conservation Volunteers working with the Ranger in September.
- Working with colleagues in Leisure Development for Brocks Hill to host the 2016 Sports Relief mile in March.

Centre and Building Work

- Interim arrangement SLM for café delivery and catering for events continue.
- Emergency works undertaken to prevent climbing on lower store roofs. Signage, anti-climb paint and spikes added under guidance from health and safety and building colleagues, working alongside the police.
- Planning application submitted for roofing the conservatory and porch extension.
- Water leak issue found following latest water bill (covering October to May). This has been shown to be somewhere between the metre on Oadby Road and the Centre. Non-invasive ground penetrating radar studies being undertaken to locate and fix.
- Volunteer gardeners continue working on site. Regular plant donations including one visitor who travels from Market Harborough most weeks with plants.
- Health and Safety and Resilience: Full Fire Risk Assessment (appropriate to the nature of the site); Extreme Weather, Monthly Health and Safety log and also Emergency Response Plans completed. A full Business Continuity Plan is in progress. All of these are part of the business change process for Brocks Hill and working towards improving business at the site with regard to being cost neutral and meeting all legal requirements.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Capital projects 2015-16:

- Ervins Lock footbridge – despite best efforts to liaise with Canals and Rivers Trust (CaRT) there has been a lack of genuine engagement on their part. It is proposed that we continue with the project and obtain design and structural calculations in order to submit a planning application for which CaRT would then be a statutory consultee.

- Memorial Safety – project on-going; Quotes from a stonemason have been received for work to five large memorial stones (2 at Wigston and 3 at Oadby) Start date awaited.
- Wigston Cemetery Boundary Wall repairs –further quotes being obtained.
- Car Park re-surfacing – (year 1 of 5) re-surfacing work to Borough car parks on a rolling programme over the next 5 years.
- Refurbishment of bus shelters – see below

Forum projects:

- Burton's Corner, Oadby - Three benches and a litter bin have been installed funded by Oadby Civic Society
- Ellis Park Drinking Fountain – agreed by Oadby Forum to clean the fountain but not to bring it back into operational use. Start date awaited from contractor.
- Bus shelters – see below

Street furniture:

Since the last report street name plates have been installed / replaced at:

- Willow Place, Wigston,
- Trent Close, Copse Close, Hamble Road, Southmeads Close, Fenwick Road Oadby
- Waverley Road, Ivanhoe Road, South Wigston.

A dog bin has been replaced at Granville Avenue, Oadby

Bus shelters:

At Services Committee in March 2015 and July 2015 Members considered the possibility of entering into a contract with an advertising company who would provide, install and maintain shelters in prime locations free of charge in return for being given the right to display advertising material on the shelters they install.

Further research has been carried out which shows that there are insufficient prime locations within the Borough to make a contract with an advertising company viable. It is therefore proposed to continue with the programme of re-furbishment of existing shelters allowed for within the current capital programme. The current price for rubbing down and re-painting one green and cream shelter is around £550 depending on the amount of work required. There is a limited annual revenue budget (£3,000) for repairs and maintenance and a capital allocation of £26,000 (2015-16) for re-furbishment to include as many shelters as possible.

A new shelter is to be installed in Paddock Street, Wigston (at the request of Wigston Forum) to replace the existing shelter that has a damaged roof.

The cost of a new shelters to the existing bespoke design (inclusive of installation and licence from Leicestershire County Council) is approximately £3,200.

Requests have been received via the town centre forums to install shelters at the following new locations:

- Howdon Road, Oadby
- Horsewell Lane, Wigston
- The Firs, Oadby Road, Wigston

Dog Bins/bags:

- Dog waste is no longer dealt with as a separate waste stream meaning that it can be placed into litter bins. The majority of litter bins in the borough now have notices displayed saying 'Dog waste accepted in this bin'.
- Information on the costs of purchase and supply of dog waste bags and dispensers has been sought. It has been difficult to obtain a quote as many suppliers no longer produce them due to local authorities ceasing to offer bags to residents. A verbal update will be given at the meeting on 13 October

East Midlands in Bloom

- A Gold Award has been achieved again through the joint working of the Clean and Green Team and the Pride of the Borough Group.

Other work:

- Fire and intruder alarm servicing, emergency light testing, portable appliance testing and fire extinguisher inspections have been undertaken at The Depot, pavilions and community centres and any repairs required have been completed.
- Coombe Park, Oadby – pedestrian footbridge repairs completed
- Peace Memorial Park - bench repairs carried out
- Wigston Cemetery – pedestrian gate repaired, path levelled and compound gates repaired.
- Oadby Cemetery – new car parks signs received and ready to install. Barrier wall being sourced to improve visual impact of excess soil area
- Freer Centre – low level walls in main hall re-painted
- New air heater installed in vehicle workshop, Oadby Depot
- Lamp columns in The Lanes, Wigston have been re-painted by Community Payback which was organised by Communities Section.
- Quarterly liaison meetings held with 3 allotment sites and 2 bowls clubs
- Crow Mills – quotes received and start date awaited for re-placement roof covering on picnic area
- Sheila Mitchell Pavilion – quote awaited for repairs to canopy roof.
- Two Steeples Square – 'No ball games' signs ordered and installed
- Events on council land – risk assessments, insurances and other paperwork checked for events at Blaby Road Park (Supersonic Boom and 2 events for South Leicestershire College), Peace Memorial Park (Love Wigston), Sandhurst Street Car Park (Summer Sizzler 3), town centre car parks (VistaBlind)

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Implications	
Financial	The above schemes can be met within budgetary provision
Risk	All projects will be risk assessed; CR1 : Decreasing Financial Resources CR8: Organisational Change
Equalities	No significant implications
Legal	No significant implications

