

Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2014

Worden Park Vision Plan



Lead Member: Councillor Mullineaux

Lead Officer: Mark Gaffney/Andrew Richardson

1.0 Summary

The attached Worden Park Vision Plan is a high level plan which sets out the long term vision for the park and its buildings.

Producing a Worden Park Vision Plan is a corporate plan action. Scrutiny also carried out a review of Worden Park with many of the recommendations being in line with the Corporate Plan. These included producing a Worden Park Vision Plan.

2.0 Background

Worden Park is reputed to be one of the most visited parks in the North West Region with over 250,000 visitors per year.

The park also holds the record of being the only park north of London to have been awarded the Green Flag Award, the national standard for parks and open spaces, from the first round of awards in 1997 and to have retained it every year since.

Although works are carried out year on year to maintain and improve the park, a number of elements require capital investment to conserve them for the future and provide high quality infrastructure and facilities able to cater for the number of visits the park now receives. The plan outlines the priorities to conserve and develop the park's built infrastructure, landscape and facilities aiming to maintain the site as one of the principal public parks in the North West Region.

The plan also seeks to build upon the parks success and develop the potential to increase visitor numbers even further, which will bring about wider economic benefits for the wider area.

3.0 Aspirations, Funding and Expectations

Many of the proposals are aspirational in nature with the aim of guiding expenditure at such time as and if funding becomes available. As a result, the timescale for the plan is envisaged as being over a period of twenty years with updates every five years or so to reflect progress made and/or any changes to the climate which affects the plan.

The borough is entering exciting times with many potential opportunities such as the City Deal and the resultant growth in the borough. It is therefore important to put the plan in place so that should potential funding opportunities become available in the future, the Council is in a position to respond in a planned and prioritised way.

Some elements of the improvements are achievable within existing resources; however, with much of the plan being largely unfunded and also aspirational, it will be important to manage expectations at a realistic level. Communications and promotion are therefore an essential element of the plan.

4.0 Consultation

Consultation has included local ward members and tenant and friend groups. It is planned to attend the December Leyland My Neighbourhood Forum to promote the plan and seek further feedback.

5.0 Recent Works

Despite the difficult funding conditions, significant progress has been made in providing improvements on the park. These include:

Completed Works

- Pedestrian bridge,
- Parkgate Drive: - installation of bridge and re-profiling and landscaping of Cricketers Brook.
- Toptrec footpath: - from Parkgate Drive to playground.
- Tarmac footpath: - from playground to North Lodge.
- Tarmac footpath: - resurfacing of footpath network on formal gardens.
- Courtyards surfacing: - resurfacing of courtyards to include re-landscaping and replanting.
- Turning circle: - restoration of original turning circle and re-landscaping of area, including installation of a drainage scheme.

In Progress

- Overflow car park: - creation of all-weather overflow car park for 160 plus vehicles.
- Resurfacing of driveway: - tarmac of driveway from coffee shop to walled garden.
- Surface dressing: - application of resin bonded gravel to courtyards, formal garden footpaths and turning circle.
- Cumberland Avenue: - installation of drainage scheme to alleviate flooding issues.

6.0 Conclusion

It is considered that good progress has been achieved in the delivery of the vision plan, with further works planned to ensure progress is maintained.