

Scrutiny Committee

26 January 2016

Worden Park Vision Plan

Progress Report



Lead Member: Councillor Mullineaux

Lead Officer: Mark Gaffney

Waste Park Vision Plan Progress Report

1. Background

This report provides members of the Scrutiny Committee with an update of the progress against the Worden Park Vision Plan.

2. Progress

a) Overall Position

The Worden Park Vision plan represents a vision for the park to be delivered over a 20 year period. The plan has been in place for 2 years and it is considered that good progress has been made to date.

b) Areas of Significant Progress/Achievement

- Provision of a new overflow car park.
- Construction of a new main entrance and resurfacing of car park.
- 100% occupancy of smaller units and buildings.
- Fish pond undergoing refurbishment.
- New signage and guide.

c) Areas for Further Action

- Outcome from Strategic Review of Property and Assets.

3.0 Progress against Key Actions/Projects

The Vision Plan includes five key objectives. These are listed below with progress identified against each one.

3.1 Maintaining and Restoring the Park's Historical Features and Infrastructure

- Works have already been carried out to reconstruct a number of sections of pathways and driveways.
- The hall courtyards have been resurfaced and refurbished.
- Gates have been refurbished.
- North Lodge has been restored and re-landscaped.
- The historic boundary wall is being refurbished in sections on a rolling programme.

3.2 Conserve and Enhance the Ecological Value of the Park

- The Fish Pond had become heavily silted which caused it to dry out during long periods of dry weather during the summer. This has been de-silted with the creation of deeper water towards the centre of the pond with works carried out to reconstruct and re-vegetate the eroded pond and island banks. A retaining wall has been constructed and a series of dipping platforms and boardwalks will be constructed during 2016.

- Work has begun on the refurbishment of the Arboretum which includes the removal of existing non desirable trees and replanting with desirable species next winter.
- Work is progressing to remove invasive species such as Rhododendrons and Himalayan Balsam from the woodlands in the park.

3.3 Meet Visitor Expectations and Improve Facilities on Offer to Visitors

- An all-weather overflow car park has been created to the south of the main car park. The car park is constructed from a paving system which forms a grass parking area which can be used throughout the year for both parking and a hard surface for events. An additional 165 parking bays have been created.
- A new main entrance has been created off Worden Lane. The previous entrance was constructed in the 1950s and was no-longer fit for purpose. The new entrance has been moved further south down Worden Lane so that it is opposite Vicarsfield Road. Vehicle and pedestrian access have been segregated with new pillars and gates. The boundary walls have been realigned to the northern side of the entrance improving visibility and sightlines for vehicles exiting the park. This project was promoted through the Leyland My Neighbourhood Forum.
- The main car park has been resurfaced with a separate designated footpath route created to provide safe access through the car park for pedestrians. The car park has been lined out which ensures the parking of vehicles is more effective and regulated in the future.
- Traffic flow has been improved as part of the introduction of the above improvements. All vehicles now access and exit the park via the main car park with the Langdale Road entrance now restricted to access for park residents and commercial vehicles.
- A large number of events are held on the park. Examples of some of the key events include Leyland Festival, Bonfire and St. Georges Day Parade.
- Educational events and activities are held to support local young people. During 2015 over 1000 participants took part including programmes for a number of schools and Runshaw College.

3.4 Develop the Park's Central Core including the Hall Complex and Associated Buildings and Provide an Attractive Offer to Residents and Visitors

- A Strategic Review of Property and Assets has been commissioned and is currently underway. One of the early priorities for the review is to consider the future options for Worden Hall. Early outcomes from the review are expected in April.
- Occupancy of the other Worden Park tenancies is currently at 100%. Current tenants/tenancies include:
 - Leyland Stained Glass, 1st Floor Brew House.

- Worden Workshop, woodwork, benches etc. Ground Floor Brew House.
- Jewellery, Unit 2.
- Wild Things on the Park, wood work, Units 3 & 4.
- Bookbinder, Unit 5.
- Clow Art, Fine Art, Unit 6.
- Artist, Unit 7.
- Artist, Unit 8.
- Chocolotty, Coffee Shop.
- Refreshment Kiosk.
- Red Frog Photography, Gardeners Cottage.
- Bothy & Walled Garden, Brothers of Charity.
- Model Railway, Leyland Society of Model Engineers.
- Crazy Golf.

3.5 Communications

- 2 new large noticeboards have been installed on the main carpark and at the hall. The boards are divided into 2 sections with half of the board available for use by the park's tenants to publicise their events and activities. New signage has also been installed.
- A pocket size guide has been produced which includes details of key features, a map and a series of graded walks around the park.

4.0 Conclusion

It is considered that good progress has been achieved. Future direction for the use of Worden Hall from the Strategic Review of Property and Assets will be welcome.