

Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 30th January 2020

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Subject:

Parks and Green Spaces Annual Report

Summary statement:

The operational management and maintenance of Bradford District's Parks and Green Spaces is a service devolved to Area Committees. The service merged with the Street Cleansing Service in April 2019. This report seeks to review the activity during the past year and the trends and direction options where available for future service delivery.

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Portfolio:

Healthy People and Places

Overview and Scrutiny Area:

Regeneration and Environment

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The operational management and maintenance of Bradford District's Parks and Green Spaces is a service devolved to Area Committees. The service merged with the Street Cleansing Service in April 2019. This report seeks to review the activity during the past year and the trends and direction options where available for future service delivery.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2019 the management structure of Parks and Green Spaces merged with the Street Cleansing Service. This followed the 'lift and shift' of the Parks and Green Spaces operation from Sport and Culture to Neighbourhood and Customer Services in September 2018. There are five Parks and Street Cleansing Managers who report to an Area Coordinator and oversee the operation of both Parks and Street Cleansing services. The individual staff teams have not yet amalgamated to the same operating locations. However, the intention is to do so and work is currently ongoing with Estates.
- 2.2 The Parks and Green Space Development, Technical and Play Officers remain within Sport and Culture; a summary of their work is detailed in section 3.
- 2.3 There are over 188 named parks, playing fields, recreation grounds and pleasure gardens throughout the district. Operation and maintenance of these sites falls to the devolved service via the Area Coordinators and the Parks and Street Cleansing Managers. These sites range from district wide destination parks with a wide range of facilities and large sporting hubs, to parks and open spaces provided for local communities.
- 2.4 Facilities within the parks and green spaces include a wide range of buildings and structures, many of which have 'listed' status. These include operational depots, lodges, changing rooms, pavilions, cafes, statues, bridges, memorials, walls, gates and fences in addition to lakes, paths, signage and seating.
- 2.5 Operation of these sites including the coordination of their use and the direction of development is in collaboration with the 'Friends Of' groups. Other user groups include bowling, football, rugby and cricket teams, and regular users such as Park Run, fitness classes, cycle training, and model engineering clubs.
- 2.6 The service books and facilitates an annual cycle of fun fairs, circuses and band concerts across the district. The service also provides venues within the parks and green spaces for over 200 events each year. These events range from Friends Of events, and events provided by, or aimed at the local communities, to large events with a district wide appeal.
- 2.7 In addition to the operation and maintenance of the Park's sites the service also oversees the highway weed spraying contract and provides a grounds maintenance service to the council's varied estate. This includes the civic spaces in town and city centres, roundabouts and urban highway verges, cemeteries, social residential care facilities, libraries, sports centres, museums, public open space and other grassed open spaces. The combined total area of the grass maintained by the service is in

excess of 7.5 million square metres; the equivalent of 1043 Wembley Stadium pitches. The service also plays a major role in the winter gritting programme.

2.8 The service operates in committee areas with each area retaining its own staffing profile and budget. Some service delivery across boundaries occurs due to geographic practicalities, skill set and service demand. This enhances service efficiency. The service operational staff base is currently 72 gardeners and 21 seasonal workers. Included in the base line are nine vacancies which are currently being covered with additional agency staff and tendered contracts for grass cutting operations this summer. Rationalising the area budgets taking into account previous and future budget savings will enable the service to rebase staffing for next year.

2.9 District wide Parks Depots Budget

Expenditure	2019-20 £'000	Income by Source	2019-20 £'000
Employees	2,810	Other incl.	(594)
Premises	571	(Fees and charges)	
Transport	811		
Supplies and services	244		
Third Party Payments	(933)		
Gross Cost	3,502	Total Income	(594)
Net Council Base Budget			2,908

2.10 Recent budget savings focus on alternative management and maintenance models of sites and facilities. This has and is likely to continue to include community asset transfers, licences, leases and service level agreements. Ward Members are consulted as part of the process.

2.11 Maintenance standards across the Bradford District reflect the staffing level and previous budget savings. Previous reductions in the service level have included reduction in the maintenance frequency of all grass areas, bowling greens, shrub beds during the mowing season and the reduction of annual floral displays.

2.12 Grass cutting related complaints April to September 2019 district-wide:

Area	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 18/ 19	Change %
East	69	51	48	164	145	191	72	86	70	95	66	-29	-31%
Keighley	58	44	65	93	60	87	71	70	73	31	57	26	84%
Shipley	42	38	64	77	58	69	56	48	24	48	42	-6	-13%
South	83	78	61	349	186	222	97	175	104	256	92	-164	-64%
West	52	36	37	97	53	62	41	37	33	36	36	0	0%
Multiple Areas	16	4	9	43	35	25	13	24	21	27	23	-4	-15%
Unknown	9	21	17	43	30	40	19	29	17	23	9	-14	-61%
Total	329	272	301	866	567	696	369	469	342	516	325	-191	-37%

- 2.13 The table shows even with the significant change in management structure, complaints reduced by 37% overall from 2018 to 2019 with levels in Bradford South reducing by 64%.

Bradford South Overview

- 2.14 Bradford South has a mix of provision from large parks which includes Wibsey and Harold Parks to heavily used smaller sites such as Russell Hall Park.
- 2.15 There is a focus on grass sports pitches in Bradford South with multi-pitch facilities at Horsfall Playing Fields and the new facilities at Sedbergh (Odsal) Playing Fields to single pitch locations including Fifth Street Recreation Ground and Beldon Lane Rugby Pitch.
- 2.16 There are numerous other parks and green spaces across the area including but not limited to:

Albert Road Recreation Ground, Arkwright Street Recreation Ground, Asa Briggs Recreation Ground, Bierley Various, Bierley Lane Recreation Ground, Brackenhill Park, Carr Bottom Road Recreation Ground, Carr Lane Recreation Ground (Low Moor), Cooper Lane Recreation Ground, Dane Hill Drive Recreation Ground, Emsleys Recreation Ground, Farfield Avenue Recreation Ground (Buttershaw Rec), Fenwick Drive Play Area, Foxhill Park, Grouse Moor Lane Play Area, Knowles Lane Recreation Ground, Littlemoor Park, Moor Close Lane Recreation Ground, Odsal Recreation Ground, Parkside Road Recreation Ground, Pit Hill, St. Margaret's Avenue Recreation Ground, Stirling Crescent Open Space, Victoria Park (Oakenshaw), Wesley Place Recreation Ground, Wibsey Fair Site, Woodlands Recreation Ground / Country Park, Wyke Lane Recreation Area, Wyke Recreation Ground, Wyke Village Green

Operational Review

Horticultural and Maintenance review 2019

- 2.17 Service performance can fluctuate due to staff absence and variation in seasonal patterns. However, the mowing operation achieved the targeted 10 cuts this season. Other horticultural seasonal works over the autumn and winter are expected to be completed as per schedule.
- 2.18 Grass cutting related complaints April to September 2019 in Bradford South by ward:

Ward Sort	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South: Across Multiple Wards	13	5	6	71	12	13	9	18	11	43	5
South: Great Horton	9	8	12	35	20	30	11	11	7	10	6
South: Queensbury	9	7	4	26	19	22	14	22	15	15	8
South: Royds	18	24	7	71	30	46	17	40	16	70	18
South: Tong	16	18	14	64	44	41	22	32	25	70	17
South: Wibsey	7	4	10	37	23	19	10	17	13	27	22
South: Wyke	11	12	8	45	38	51	14	35	17	21	16

Litter in Parks and Green Spaces

- 2.19 Bradford South has 198 litter bins across its parks and green spaces. Two gardeners rotate around the area emptying bins and litter picking each site weekly. It is hoped over time when staff move together into area depots that closer working operations will further improve services.
- 2.20 Five solar powered smart bins have been located at Foxhill Park, Woodlands Recreation Ground and Wyke Recreation Ground to help assist with capacity and frequency of visits. These bins hold nine times more litter than standard bins, compacting the litter to increase the amount that can be deposited before they require emptying. Managers are alerted automatically by email when the bins are full.
- 2.21 The control of litter within park sites can be problematic due to peaks in demand during periods of good weather. Where possible, other gardeners assist the dedicated team to control the spike in demand but this removes them from their normal horticultural duties.

Awards

- 2.22 Harold Park was visited by two Green Flag Award judges this spring and subsequently retained the Green Flag Award. The judges commented “overall Harold Park is really excellent; it is well maintained and managed and is an asset to the local community”.
- 2.23 Friends of Harold Park were awarded a Gold Award in Yorkshire in Bloom’s Yorkshire Rose Parks, Gardens and Cemeteries category. The judge was particularly impressed with the sensory garden.

Events

- 2.24 Events taking place in Parks and Green Spaces in Bradford South this year included fun fairs at Bracken Hill Park, Knowles Park and Wibsey Fair Site.
- 2.25 Friends Of groups organised events in Bracken Hill Park, Harold Park, Littlemoor Park, Wibsey Park and Wyke Recreation Ground. Other community events included Family Fun events at Blackshaw Beck, the Great Get Together at Knowles Park and Oakenshaw Residents Association events in Victoria Park.
- 2.26 Ward Officers supported groups and organisations across Bradford South to organise events and activities throughout the year across a range of parks and green spaces, for further details see Appendix 11.1.

Direction and Trends

- 2.27 The service has a commitment to continue to engage with clubs and community groups to encourage them to take over the management and maintenance of playing pitches and bowling greens. The service remains open to Community Asset Transfers of facilities to Town and Parish Councils.

- 2.28 There is an increased desire within the district and a trend nationally, towards more 'nature friendly' parks. This leads us towards reducing the amount of chemicals used in parks and green spaces and increasing the amount of space managed with nature in mind, providing habitats for plants and animals. Chemicals are currently used to manage weeds on hard surfaces and grass growth around obstacles and vertical edges.
- 2.29 Moving in this direction requires a mind shift in relation to what is considered a well maintained park or green space. Areas of long grass under trees, on bankings and in designated areas, would be considered the norm. Plants previously considered as weeds would be welcomed as diverse flora.
- 2.30 The Friends of Peel Park have been instrumental in assisting officers to test a nature friendly approach this summer. Agreed areas in the park have received differential grass land maintenance this summer. The trial will continue whilst we assess the environmental and social impact.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Parks and Green Spaces Development

Sport Pitches Investment Programme (SPIP)

- 3.1 The Council's Sports Pitches Investment Programme will deliver the District's new 2019 Playing Pitch Strategy to provide a hierarchy of outdoor playing pitch and ancillary facilities, which meets current and future demand. This will seek to address declining playing numbers within the key sports of football, cricket, rugby (both league and union), tennis and athletics.
- 3.2 The capital spend of £15m, approved by the Project Approval Group and the Council Executive will be partnered by other external grant funding from National Governing Bodies and partners. This will deliver three district wide multi-sports hubs, five local multi-sports hubs and a number of single pitch improvements, creating opportunity for everyone to participate in physical activity and sport to improve outcomes across the District relating to health, well-being and community cohesion.
- 3.3 The sites within Bradford South are currently being assessed; however Wyke Community Sports Village has been identified as a District Wide Hub. Investment will be made in a new All-Weather Pitch for football and rugby a 1.7km cycle track and changing facilities with community space.

Play Areas

Maintenance

- 3.4 Officers continue to carry out regular operational inspections of all play areas, multi-use games areas, wheeled sports facilities and other play facilities across the district. An annual independent play inspection was last carried out in July 2019. A team of two playground maintenance operatives carry out emergency and on-going maintenance repairs. They prioritise high-risk safety issues and also undertake a

programme of routine maintenance and repairs as required by the individual site.

- 3.5 The Council has an indicative maintenance budget for children's play areas for the whole of the district of £100,200. This budget funds the maintenance operatives who repair the 308 facilities and allows a spend of £39,300 on replacement materials and equipment.
- 3.6 The play team have received and responded to 12 complaints via the Council's contact centre relating to facilities in Bradford South. Six of the cases were passed onto the Police due to criminal damage. The majority of cases were to report damage to which our maintenance team responded. The cases related to Asa Briggs Recreation Ground, Bierley House Avenue, Brackenhill Park, Emsley's Recreation Ground, Harold Park, Russell Hall Park, Scholemoor, Wibsey Park and Woodlands Recreation Ground.

Bradford South Play Assets

27 playgrounds
2 BMX track
3 skate parks
8 multi-use games areas
1 climbing area
4 Five-a-side facilities
6 outdoor gyms
4 trim trails
3 teen shelters
1 natural plan (rocks etc)

Playable Spaces Strategy (PSS)

- 3.7 The PSS is still in development, but will provide a strategic policy document against which new play facility requests can be measured and assessed in an objective manner to ensure a needs proportionate distribution of facilities across all parts of the district. This will deliver a strategic and detailed plan for a network of play facilities that are financially sustainable within existing revenue maintenance budgets.

Development Projects

3.8 Recently Completed Projects

Albert Road Recreation Ground

Improvements to the site entrance including surfacing and dry stone walling.

Russell Hall Park

Development of the old tennis courts into a community garden. Installation of a teen shelter and picnic tables.

(Partnership with schools and Friends of Russell Hall Park)

The Valley

Clean up works and fencing with The Valley Project.

Wibsey Park

Master plan of the site, new outdoor gym and measured mile walking route.
(Friends of Wibsey Park)

3.9 On Going Projects**Albert Rd Community Hub (ARCH)**

Development of the building and of the playing fields.

Brackenhill Park

Master plan with improvements to the tennis courts and Multi use Games Area.
(Friends of Brackenhill Park)

Emsley's Recreation Ground

Improvements to the playing fields.
Works started spring 2019 completion due 2020.

Farfield Recreation Ground

Pump (cycle) track and entrance improvements.
(Friends of Farfield Recreation Ground)

Foxhill Park

Wheeled sports facility (Skatepark).

Littlemoor Park

Future development of footpaths and signage.
(Friends of Littlemoor Park)

Knowles Park

Walking route with outdoor gym equipment.

Russell Hall Park

Installation of outdoor gym equipment.

Osborne Drive

2 sets of goal posts.

Sedbergh Sports Centre

Planting to screen resident's properties.

Wibsey Park

Installation of nature trail with footpath improvements and 3 pieces of timber trim trail equipment.
(Friends of Wibsey Park)

Yateholm Drive Play Area

Installation of a zipwire, wheelchair accessible roundabout and a climbing frame.

4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Bradford South operations has a notional net budget of £221,500. The transport recharges, prudential borrowing costs and district wide services within Bradford South are accounted for separately.
- 4.2 The budget saving for Parks and Green spaces district wide for 2020/21 is £50,000, to be achieved by reducing the number of sports pitches directly managed by the service.
- 4.3 Rationalising the area budgets, taking into account previous and future budget savings will enable the service to rebase staffing for next year.
- 4.4 Staffing base level for the area is 14 gardeners and five seasonal workers.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no serious risk or governance issues associated with this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The contents of this report are in accordance with the decisions of the Executive on 9 October 2012 and 16 April 2013.
- 6.2 The Council has various powers to provide parks, pleasure grounds and other recreational facilities but is under no obligation to do so. The management of such facilities is a matter for the Council, subject to its general duties under Occupiers Liability legislation or Health and Safety.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 7.1.1 None.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 Increased local decision making has the potential to create more sustainable solutions to local issues. 'Nature friendly' parks increase diversity and sustainability of wildlife.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

- 7.3.1 The service provides a pro-active approach in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the local deployment of its maintenance teams. Teams are based in local areas to reduce travelling times, with its fleet/plant resulting in reduced fuel consumption. In addition to this parks and recreation grounds/trees/woodlands etc provide communities with 'green lungs' which can naturally assist with the filtering of polluted air.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

7.6.1 Trade Unions at all levels are engaged in regular consultations with management.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS AND WARD PLANS

7.7.1 This report concerns all wards in the Bradford South area.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

7.8.1 There are no implications arising from this report

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

7.9.1 There are no privacy impact issues arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 The area committee may wish to confirm its view on trialling or expanding the concept of 'nature friendly' parks within Bradford South; or express a preference for maintaining the traditional concept of parks and green spaces.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Bradford South Area Committee welcomes the content of this report and the smooth merger of the operational management and maintenance of Parks and Green Spaces with the Street Cleansing Service, whilst reducing the number of complaints to the service over the summer.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Events in parks and green spaces supported by the Bradford South Area Co-ordinators office.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 'Parks and Green Spaces Service Annual Report', Document O, Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee, 29 November 2018.
- 12.2 'Parks and Green Spaces Service Annual Report', Document J, Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee, 21 September 2017.

Appendix 1

Details from the Ward Officers of events in parks and green spaces supported by the Bradford South Area Co-ordinators office.

Wibsey and Royds wards

Blackshaw Beck, clean-ups and family fun afternoon.

For the first time in a while, an event was organised in Blackshaw Beck urban park by the ward officer supported by a range of partners. This follows regular clean-ups over almost 18 months and efforts to raise the profile and value of the park locally, also attempting to tackle ASB issues including fires and nuisance bikes.

The event on August 5 was a great success, attracting over 100 people of all ages, and was supported by Youth Service, Sandale Trust, Incommunities, Police and Bradford Park Avenue.



The poster features logos for 'AVENUE IN THE COMMUNITY', 'Bradford Park Avenue Trust', 'West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue', 'WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE', 'Incommunities', and 'City of BRADFORD'. Two yellow starburst graphics with the word 'FREE!' are placed on either side of the main title. The title reads 'Blackshaw Beck family fun afternoon!' followed by the date and time '1.30 - 4pm Monday 5 August'. Below this, it lists activities: '* Football and multi sports * Smoothy bike & free food * Facepainting'. Three small images show people playing football, food on a grill, and a child with face paint. At the bottom, it says 'Blackshaw Beck park entrances on Farfield Ave, Cooper Lane and Edge End Rd.'

The clean up on November 16 was supported by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Partners have agreed this should be a regular event and will also discuss working on something for Easter too.





Wibsey Park Summer of Fun

The Area Co-ordinator's office worked with Friends of Wibsey Park and a wide range of partners to deliver a programme of summer activities in Wibsey Park, following on from a pilot programme last summer.

The Summer of Fun successfully attracted families into the park throughout the six week holidays, with activities provided by organisations that use the park all year including the Community Gardens, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Bradford Model Engineering Society, Walking for Health and Wibsey Warriors Rugby Club, plus sessions from Bradford Park Avenue, Bradford Bikery and Yorkshire Cricket Foundation.

A team from Friends of Wibsey Park joined Council wardens to help at the Bradford Park Avenue sessions, where numbers were high (up to 50 per session).

Flyers were distributed through every primary school in the area, also daily updates on social media, posters taken to local shops and banners at two park entrances and the village car park

**Wibsey Park
Summer
of Fun**

Wibsey Park is hosting a huge range of **FREE** activities this summer with something for everyone, from a gentle stroll to gardening crafts, team sports and cycling!

The summer programme is being run in partnership with the Friends of Wibsey Park and Bradford Council, and aims to get as many people using the park as possible over the summer, from Monday July 22 until the end of August.

For more details and any changes please find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/friendsofwibseypark and www.facebook.com/groups/BradfordSouthNews or call Bradford South Area Co-ordinator's Office on 01274 431155.

The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print. Please call 01274 431155

City of **BRADFORD**
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Description	Activity provider	Dates	Time and Place	Contact
Gardening arts and crafts, age 5 – 11 years BOOKING ESSENTIAL Adult volunteering	Wibsey Community Garden	Mondays July 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12 Thursdays July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15	10.30 – 3.30 Community Garden	jenwhite@bradrepaint.co.uk 07909 224609
Walks from and around the park	Walking for Health	Every Monday Morning	11am Meet at Beacon Road entrance	
Football and multi sports for all ages	Bradford Park Avenue FC	Tuesday afternoons July 23,30 August, 6,13, 20, 27	2 – 4.30pm Park sports field	jayne.spencer@bpaafc.com 07807 011948
Rugby – Wibsey Warriors age 2 – 5 Mixed girls and boys training age 6-10. Boys and Girls teams under 12s to under 18s	Wibsey Warriors Rugby Club	Tues and Thurs evenings – July 23/25, 30/1 August 6/8, 13/15, 20/22, 27/29	6-7pm and 7-8pm Park sports fields	Steph 07547 392853 Chris 07775 761789 wibseywarriorsecretary@gmail.com
Cycling skills course, bikes to borrow, free bike health check	Big Bike Revival, Bradford Bikery	Wednesday 24 July	1.30 – 4 pm Park sports fields	07541 093650 bradfordbikery@gmail.com
Pop up Cricket	Yorkshire Cricket Foundation	Wednesdays July 31, Aug 7, Aug 14, Aug 21	2 – 3 pm park sports field	Contact Shannon at tarandj@gmail.com
Nature play sessions for under 13's (under 6's must be accompanied by an adult)	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Thursday August 6, 22, 29	12 – 4 pm, meet at the gate to Wibsey Community Garden	Sarah.goldsmith@ywt.org.uk 07557 001271 or 01484 663185
Model boating	Bradford Model Engineering Club	Every Sunday Morning	10.30am Park Lake	

Feedback from public: Quotes from parents who attended sessions:

“It’s definitely worth doing this again – I found out about it through the community garden and our grandson came to two of the football sessions.”

“The boys have loved it, it’s been nice that it’s local so we can walk, it keeps them active. When the boys know it’s Tuesday, they say “Can we go to the park this afternoon ?”, and Harry has started to show a real interest in playing at home now.”

“My kids (age 3 and 5 yrs) have absolutely loved all of it – we’ve been to a couple of football sessions and the nature play. The volunteers have been fantastic”

“My son’s not really played football before, but now he’s just wanting to kick a ball about.”

“Next year we’d absolutely be here again – anything outdoors and free, with nice community spirit, we won’t miss it !”

Wyke Ward & Tong Ward wards

Wyke Recreation Ground

The friends of Wyke Recreation Ground continue to meet regularly at the Veterans’ Pavilion, supported by the Ward Officer, the three Wyke Ward Councillors and other partners. They work with other users of the recreation area (Wyke Veterans’ Bowling Club, Wyke Rugby Club, the Youth Service, the Community Health Partnership) and support activities that take place here. They also work with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Neighbourhood Wardens to promote the recently established Wyke Contact Point held in the Veterans’ Pavilion.

Community Litter Pick

On May 7, the Friends of Wyke Recreation Ground carried out a litter pick with young people from the area, supported by the Youth Service and Ward Officer. It was a great way to meet other users of the space, such as dog walkers, and young people using the

play area with parents. Most comments were positive and it was evident that the space continues to be well used by all ages.



The Great Get Together

This event, held on June 22 was held at the Recreation Ground in partnership with Sunnybank Medical Centre, Wyke Rugby Club and the local allotments. The day comprised of several stalls in the park and also guided tours of the allotments to encourage people to take more physical activity. The lads from the Rugby Club loved pedalling the bike to see how much juice they could make. The event was well attended and certainly raised the profile of the green space and the allotments.

Victoria Park (Oakenshaw)

Oakenshaw Residents' Association have had a busy calendar of events in the park this past year, with support from the Ward officer and Neighbourhood Warden. The Police and Community Contact Point is now open once a week, on Mondays and is always busy with local people calling to report issues and sometimes for a friendly chat and a cup of tea. 'Lambs in the park' at Easter time was a popular event, particularly enjoyed by the younger residents in Oakenshaw.

Spring Clean Day

The Annual Village/Park Spring clean took place on March 23 this year and attracted 12 new people from Oakenshaw - some were litter picking in the park and others were bulb planting.



Painting the Gate

The newly painted decorative fence was installed and painted by volunteers from the residents' group, making a welcome entrance to the car park, to what used to be rather overgrown access and uninviting.



Remembrance

Remembrance commemorations were held on 10 and 11 November, at the war memorial in the park. This year, horse riders from the local riding school, (Bridgefield Stables) attended, carrying purple colours to remember animals lost in the wars. A bugler led a two minute silence to remember the 46 men who gave their lives in two worlds. Children from Woodlands Primary school attended and laid a wreath here.

Knowles Park

Great Get Together June 2020

The friends of Holme Wood organised a picnic in the park with parents and youth children from Holme Wood. The children were encouraged to play, walk and have fun in the park. They all enjoyed using the new play equipment. Similarly, Healthy Lifestyle held a picnic in the park for an elderly group of residents from the local area where they were encouraged and shown the benefits of taking a short stroll in the park.

Summer Activities Programme.

The Friends of Holme Wood organised an active programme of events for parents and young children during the summer holidays - this included regular trips to Knowles Park, encouraging families to use the facilities. They conducted mini walks with young children and mums with prams.



Great Horton and Queensbury wards

Friends of Brackenhill Park

The Friends of Brackenhill Park Committee Group with the support from the Ward Officer secured funding of £1,000 from Asset Based Community Development Fund to undertake a community consultation about the facilities in the Park. This was carried out by Your Back Yard, a social enterprise during Spring 2019. A report and action plan has now been produced that will be used to apply for funding to improve the facilities and activities in the park to encourage children and families to use this local and natural resource.

In partnership with Your Back Yard and Brackenhill Primary School we organised activities for Father's Day on Thursday 13th June 2019 in the park. This included fathers and children undertaking activities together and also giving their views on facilities at the park and improvements they would like to see.

The Annual Party in the Park event was held on Saturday 6th July 2019. Thanks to funding from Great Get Together and Community Chest from Bradford South Area Co-

ordinator's Office which enabled us to provide a whole range of activities such as information stalls, climbing tower, face painting, mehndi, football coaching, yoga and lots of activities for families and children. This was another successful community event.



Friends of Russell Hall Park

The Friends of Russell Hall Park have been working with the Council to undertake improvements at the Park. The Community Garden project was funded from the Section 106 monies and consists of a performance space with linking paths, a sculptural curved seating wall with provision for planting, regrading and seeding works of grassed areas and landforms and a pop –up electrical point for events

In summer 2019, the teen shelter and 4 steel picnic benches (including one for wheel chair access) were installed in the park. These were funded from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan and cost approx. £16.000.



Friends of Littlemoor Park

The Friends of Littlemoor Park has developed a 5 year plan that has been approved by the Council. This park used by a large no of people as a place for quiet contemplation of nature and of course the large dog walking community.

The Bradford South Area Co-ordinator's Office has supported the Group with the provision hi viz jackets, littlepickers, gloves and bags for community littepickers and also the Neighbourhood Wardens have installed signs to prevent dog fouling.

Regular Working Party events -Depending on what needs to doing but includes planting trees/ hedgerows/bulbs etc, clearing and maintaining pathways and overgrown areas (copice), eliminating himalayan balsam, surveying and litterpicks. Also reporting any issues to council which they need to be aware of

Yoga in the Park.was held on 4th June, 21st June, 22nd June and 6th August.

Creating Bog Garden - In partnership with National Citizen Service this project was held in July and involved young people working with the Group to design and create a Bog Garden

Picnic in the Park - As part of the Great Together Events across the district, Picnic in the Park was held on 18th August from 11am – 2pm. As well homemade cakes, there was a guided nature trails, face painting and games.

Several local organisations use the Park on an ad lib/ad hoc basis for 'gatherings' ie running club, walking club, Brownies, Scouts etc.

