

# PARKS UPDATE REPORT

## AGENDA ITEM No. 9

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**MEETING: RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**REPORT BY: WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER**

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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring Members up to date with items relating to the parks.

### **2.0 Current Situation**

#### **2.1 Fun in the Parks**

The Works Section has helped to facilitate a number of public events this summer including two Fun in the Park events in the Town Park and one each at Moore Lane, Simpasture, Moore Lane, Aycliffe Village, St Oswald's and Horndale Parks.

#### **2.2 St Oswald's Park**

The park has been maintained to a high standard with general vegetation management including regular weeding of flower beds, hanging basket watering and hedge cutting.

Initial conversations have taken place with a local Croquet Club with a view that the park may be an ideal venue for the sport. The Club are looking at a number of venues in the County and so if they feel this may be their preferred location a formal request will be sought and officers will investigate the feasibility of the request further ahead of bringing a report to a future Recreation Committee.

#### **2.2 Moore Lane Park**

Significant football pitch renovations, including pitch reseeding and verti-draining were completed prior to establishing the three football pitches ahead of the start of the new football season.

#### **2.3 Simpasture Park**

Significant pitch renovations, including pitch reseeding and verti-draining were completed prior to establishing of the football pitch ahead of the start of the football season.

#### **2.4 West Park**

The repairs to the footbridge over the lake and weir have been completed over the summer, and more information is included in a separate report regarding this subject on this Recreation Committee Agenda.

## 2.5 **Town Park**

The Town Park has played host to a number of events including two fun in the parks and the Big Brass Bash.

Several of the trees planted as part of the Urban Tree Challenge have been removed as they failed to establish and died. Discussions will need to take place with Durham County Council as they committed to replacing any trees which died as part of the initiative.

The timber cladding to the park building has been treated with natural teak oils to preserve the structure.

## 2.6 **Horndale Park**

Scrub cutting back has taken place to facilitate the access and egress of the attractions for Fun in the Park event.

## 2.7 **Woodham Park**

Significant cutting back of vegetation bordering the paths which access the park from the residential estates has been completed along with the paths that run through the site.

## 2.8 **Aycliffe Village Park**

A willow tree limb which fell around the periphery of the site has been cleared.

## 2.9 **Byerley Park**

No significant works other than day to day litter collections and inspections of equipment.

## 2.10 **Other Play Areas**

The suppliers of the play equipment at Scott Place were contacted to investigate a problem relating to the degrading of moulded joint coverings on the main climbing frame. A separate report is included within this Recreation Committee Agenda regarding this issue.

## 3.0 **Recommendations**

### 3.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- i) Receive the report for information.

**Contact Officer: Steve Cooper**  
**Works and Environment Manager**