



Report of the Chief Recreation Officer

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 14th September 2007

Subject: WEST LEEDS COUNTRY PARK AND GREEN GATEWAYS

Electoral Wards Affected:

Farnley and Wortley
Pudsey
Calverley and Farsley

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report outlines the progress made with the West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project since the last WLCP Forum meeting on the 11th June 2007, and also intended future progress.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

This report is intended to update the Outer West Area Committee on progress made with the West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways since the last WLCP Forum on the 11th June, with emphasis on activities in the Pudsey, Calverley and Farsley and Farnley and Wortley Wards.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The last WLCP Forum saw the distribution of the final two compartments of the draft management plan, and the full suite of draft Action Plans, with a request that Forum members provide feed back where appropriate by the 17th July.

The distribution of a list of proposed short term objectives for the period 2007 – 2008 to cover the whole of the project area.

An update on interpretation / waymarking for the WLCP Green Gateways Trail.

A proposal for a photography competition and 2008 WLCP calendar, which will include the 12 best photos sent in from the competition.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Management Plan

Following the close of the second phase of consultation for the draft management plan on the 17th July, all received comments have been considered, and most incorporated into the plan.

At the next WLCP Forum on the 17th September, the entire revised draft document will be distributed for the final consultation, and once this is complete, it is intended that this will then become a working document.

3.2 Interpretation

The second and third parts of the WLCP Green Gateways Trail leaflet, covering a stretch of the Trail from Pollard Lane to Calverley, and down from Calverley to Woodhall, have been consulted on, revised and the artwork delivered to Robrook Press in Morley. 5 000 copies of each have been ordered, and are expected to be available for distribution at the next Forum meeting (17th September).

The research for part four of the WLCP Green Gateways Trail leaflet is underway, and it is hoped that the Pudsey Civic Society will also have some input into this, and this will help to maintain our partnership working local groups. It is envisaged that this part of the series of leaflets will be available by early November.

The interpretive boards for parts two and three of the Trail, including the stretch of the WLCP Green Gateways Trail along the canal from Pollard Lane to Calverley, and down from Calverley to Woodhall have been designed and ordered from Shelley Signs, and are awaiting construction.

3.3 Pudsey Park Visitor Centre.

We are currently working with LCC's Building Services and the animal keeper teams from Pudsey and Roundhay Parks to replace the Pets Area at Pudsey Park, and developing an additional visitor centre, which will be aimed at promoting the WLCP and providing information about it's wildlife. Ideas for interactive displays are being researched and developed, including features such as CCTV in nestboxes in Pudsey Park, with a link to the centre allowing visitors to view the comings and goings. The displays will provide information on woodland, meadow and freshwater habitats in the WLCP, the wildlife these places support and how we manage them. Sponsorship from local businesses, such as Yorkshire Water, Biffa etc. which have an environmental interest will also be sought.

3.4 Pudsey Loop.

As part of the new Short Term Objective to develop Community Green Gateways around the WLCP, we are working with the Pudsey Link group to develop the Pudsey Loop, which will provide three circular routes around Calverley and Pudsey / Fulneck aimed at providing access for walkers and horse and cycle riders. The routes have been walked with David Badger from Pudsey Link and it is intended that a leaflet with route map and information will be designed and the routes waymarked to facilitate their use.

3.5 Working with groups.

A number of groups have been offered support at practical level, including the New Farnley Vision Group, with whom we are exploring rights of way in the Farnley / New Farnley area for other potential Community Green Gateways and have also supported them at a recent community event and their village fete by manning a WLCP display.

Friends of Calverley Woods, a guided walk, developing a tree nursery, litter pick and regular attendance of committee meetings.

Friends of Woodhall Lake, regular attendance of committee meetings and helping to facilitate a programme of guided walks led by the Ranger Service.

The Post Hill Consultative Group, regular attendance of committee meetings and organized a community litter pick on Post Hill.

We are working with the Leeds Involvement Project to assess suitable circular routes with wheelchair access as Community Green Gateways and attending meetings on a regular basis.

Offering advice to other groups include Pudsey Link, Friends of Farnley Fishpond, Friends of Farnley Reservoir.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 The West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project takes an holistic approach to managing the parks and greenspaces within its boundary, in order to offer recreational opportunities for local communities and encouraging them to use the greenspaces on their doorsteps, whilst also ensuring that any management also benefits the wildlife and its supporting habitats, which contribute so much to the enjoyment of the WLCP by the public.
- This approach helps to meet the main aims of the Vision for Leeds by providing attractive greenspaces for people throughout West Leeds, which are in close proximity to where they live and work, thus improving their sense of wellbeing. The provision of defined walking routes for all abilities, as well as cycling and riding routes helps to improve health. Collectively these contribute to our Going up a League as a city by helping to improve quality of life, as well as narrowing the gap by making sure provision is made for a broad spectrum of citizens to enable and encourage them to enjoy these places.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 Improvements outlined in the management plan and associated action plans have financial implications, although these are offset to a greater extent by funding currently invested by Parks and Countryside to manage and maintain areas of parks and greenspace.
- In addition a sum of £210 000 has been secured to help develop recreational facilities within the WLCP and to conserve and enhance the wildlife habitats it supports.
- The Pudsey Park complex has a secured £190 000, which will fund the replacement of the current Pets Area. The further development of this facility offers opportunities for external funding in the form of business sponsorship and additional sources of grant aid, such as Lottery funding and Green Leeds, which will enable Parks and Countryside to develop and update the displays overtime.
- On top of this, a further £49 919 has also been secured from Green Leeds to fund the current and ongoing interpretive projects.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project continues to develop, and increasingly is reaching out to the community and user groups who make use of and value it, in order to offer support and to seek their views and aspirations, and to involve and consult as widely as possible.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Outer West Area Committee is requested to note that developments are currently being made with the West Leeds Country Park and Green Gateways project, in terms of progress of the management plan and its broad objectives; ongoing provision of interpretive material; development of Community Green Gateways and the general liaison with and support of community and user groups.