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WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Day: Monday
Date: 27 July 2015
Time: 10.30 am
Place: Lower Higham Visitor Centre - Werneth Low Country Park

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Joint Committee.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Joint Committee.	
3.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2015/16 Tameside MBC Councillors Bell, Bowden, Cooper, J Fitzpatrick, R Miah, Peet, Robinson and White. Hyde War Memorial Trust Mrs Eddowes and Messrs Ainger, Errington, Galvin and Gradwell.	
4.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR 2015/16 In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 5 August 1986, the offices of Chair and Deputy Chair are held in rotation by a member of each of the constituent bodies. The Committee should in respect of this Municipal Year 2015/16, select the Chair from Tameside MBC and the Deputy Chair from Hyde War Memorial Trust.	
5.	MINUTES The Minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on 16 March 2015 to be approved as a correct record (copy attached).	1 - 4
6.	GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT To consider the report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	5 - 8
7.	ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15 To consider a report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	9 - 22

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Charlotte Forrest on charlotte.forrest@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2346, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To approve the dates of future meetings of the Joint Management Committee as follows:

Monday 23 November 2015 Lower Higham Visitor Centre

Monday 29 February 2016 Lower Higham Visitor Centre

9. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any additional items the Chair is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

Agenda Item 5

WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

16 March 2015

Commenced: 10.30am

Terminated: 11.50am

Hyde War Memorial Trust: Mrs Eddowes (Chair)

Messrs Ainger and Errington

Tameside MBC:

Councillors Bell, Bowden, Cooper, JM Fitzpatrick, Robinson and Sullivan

In Attendance:

Nicola Marshall (Greenspace Development Manager), David Cannon (Greenspace Development Officer) and Andy Cush (Planning Officer)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Peet

21. TOUR OF THE COUNTRY PARK

Following a short walk to the Orchard the Greenspace Development Officer made reference to the wonderful snow drop display at this location. These had been planted over approximately three years funded by donations from Councillor Robinson and were receiving favourable comments from members of the public visiting the Country Park. In February, 4 new fruit trees had been planted in the Orchard to replace old ones and a Himalayan Silver Birch was now well established against the stone wall.

Two volunteers were currently working on designing and planting a new small garden near the Lower Higham Visitor Centre which would hopefully be completed by the end of May making a valuable addition to the Centre area.

Moving on to Hackingknife Woodland, the Greenspace Development Officer explained that although the Country Park was not known for its woodland, areas where these had been developed, were now proving to be a valuable and important resource, as well as being a pleasure to walk and be active in. Hackingknife Woodland had been planted in 1984/85 and good management ensured that the animals, trees and plants including native daffodils and bluebells, were part of a healthy and vigorous ecosystem in the future. Allowing light into the woodland through periodic coppicing and thinning benefited the trees and wild flowers, improved habitat and maintained species' diversity. The cut timber would be used to make hedge laying posts.

Members of the Joint Committee commented on the Ash dieback disease outbreak a few years ago and asked how this had affected the Country Park. The Greenspace Development Officer responded that it was uncertain how far the disease had travelled and he was continuing to monitor the situation with the Council's Arboriculturalist who had provided advice on prevention and control methods.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted from members of the Joint Management Committee.

23. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 17 November 2014 were approved as a correct record.

In relation to Minute 17 – the Greenspace Development Officer advised that he was pleased with the footpath works at Rye Field Meadow and Radcliffe's Meadow which were now bedding in and the edges were already being softened by vegetation.

24. GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Greenspace Development Officer submitted his report informing the Joint Management Committee of the activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting relating to the following:

- Maintenance of sites;
- Environmental Stewardship – Higher Level Agreement 2010-20 Update;
- Public Events;
- Green Flag Award;
- Visitor Monitoring;
- Volunteer Ranger Service; and
- Wildlife nature conservation.

He made particular reference to the maintenance of sites programme and completed projects were appended to his report for information. He also explained that the footpaths around the Baron Fields woodland area of the Country Park were well used routes. They had been resurfaced in the past and new drainage installed but in recent years vegetation had encroached and in some places the paths had disappeared. Following site inspections with an approved contractor, a resurfacing scheme had been developed including scraping existing surfaces and relaying new wearing courses, excavation of new drainage ditches and installation of new drains and headwalls and extending catchment areas. This project would cost £6,298 and funding had not been secured and it was likely that some external investment would be required.

The Greenspace Development Manager added that the Service had used Section 106 monies during the current financial year providing significant investment in the resurfacing of the pathways in the Country Park and sought some financial assistance from Hyde War Memorial Trust for the proposed works at Baron Fields as some of the land is in their ownership. The Chair advised that this request would be discussed by the Trust at its forthcoming meeting.

The Greenspace Development Officer also made reference to the Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Agreement 2010-20 – a scheme to support land managers and farmers in England to protect and enhance the environment and wildlife. The schemes primary objectives were to:

- Conserve wildlife (biodiversity);
- Maintain and enhance landscape quality and character;
- Protect the historic environment;
- Protect natural resources (water and soil); and
- Promote public access and understanding of the countryside.

Members of the Joint Management Committee discussed the benefits of the scheme and were pleased to note the result of audits and visits undertaken by Natural England who were delighted with the how the scheme was progressing and being managed in the Country Park.

In conclusion, the Greenspace Development Officer stated that over a six week period from late autumn to early winter visitors to the Country Park had been treated to an exceptional display of migrating Pink-footed Geese.

The Joint Management Committee commented on the recent success of the Country Park in achieving its eleventh Green Flag award and thanks were extended to the Greenspace Development Officer and the Country Park Volunteers for their continuing hard work and commitment. In addition, congratulations were extended to the Operations and Greenspace Team who had recently won an award for efficiency at the recent Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2015.

Councillor Fitzpatrick also extended thanks to the Greenspace Development Officer for a very informative tour prior to the Joint Management Committee providing an excellent opportunity to see the projects / schemes being undertaken in the Country Park as outlined in the update report.

RESOLVED

That the Greenspace Development Officer's report be noted.

26. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Site at Windy Harbour

The Planning Officer advised that there had been no communication from the owner regarding his future intentions for the site.

(b) Planning Applications

The Planning Officer advised on two planning applications which had recently been submitted relating to properties on Werneth Low Road and Furness Field.

RESOLVED

That the update report be noted.

27. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no items for urgent consideration at this meeting.



28. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair advised the Joint Committee that as Councillor Sullivan would not be seeking re-election in the forthcoming local elections this would be his last meeting. Members of the Joint Committee joined the Chair in thanking him for his commitment and support as both a Member of the Joint Management Committee and Hyde War Memorial Trust and wished him well in his future endeavours.

CHAIR

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Agenda Item 6

Report To:	WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	27 July 2015
Reporting Officer:	Ian Saxon - Assistant Executive Director, Environmental Services David Cannon - Greenspace Development Officer
Subject:	GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT
Report Summary:	To inform Members of activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee (16 March 2015).
Recommendations:	That the report be noted.
Links to Community Strategy:	To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.
Policy Implications:	The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The funding for the projects is met by the Operations and Greenspace revenue budget.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	It is important that the Joint Management Committee is kept informed of activities undertaken in the Country Park.
Risk Management:	Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.
Access to Information:	Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer,  phone: 0161-368-6667  e-mail: david.cannon@tameside.gov.uk

1. MAINTENANCE OF SITES

- 1.1 The summer grass cutting programme for 2015 started in April. The programme includes grass cutting of the Lower Higham Visitor Centre area, car parks, access points, picnic areas and strips along footpaths.
- 1.2 The Tameside Operations/Greenspace Maintenance Team have installed 8 metres of new fencing in Lower Higham Car Park. They have also completed the annual weed spraying of the cobbled area around the Visitor Centre.
- 1.3 At the last meeting of the Country Park Joint Management Committee it was reported:

The footpaths around the Baron Fields Woodlands area of the Country Park are well used routes by many people especially school children making their way from the Arnold Road area of Gee Cross to Holy Trinity School on Higham Lane. These footpaths have been resurfaced in the past and new drainage installed but in recent years vegetation has encroached and in some places the path has disappeared underneath a green matt.

Following site inspections with our contractors a resurfacing scheme has been developed which will include scraping existing surfaces and relaying new wearing courses, excavation of new drainage ditches and installation of new drains and headwalls, excavation of existing drainage ditches and extending catchment areas. The work will commence during the summer months due to the difficult hydrology of the area. The project cost is **£6,298**.

- 1.4 Following further meetings the Hyde War Memorial Trust agreed to pay half the costs of the Baron Fields footpath refurbishment. Fairways Landscapes Ltd has been given official instructions to undertake the work and we are working together to programme the completion of this project before the end of September. As soon as the works are complete the Council will invoice the Hyde War Memorial Trust.

2. PUBLIC EVENTS

- 2.1 The Country Park's summer 2015 programme of public events is now well underway. Details are published in the Council's events programme, published on the Council's web pages and sometimes advertised through the Council's facebook and twitter accounts. The programme and current attendance is as follows:

Date	Event	Attendance
Sunday 3 rd May	Map and Compass Navigation	8
Tuesday 16 th June	Flora Walk around Werneth Low	11
Tuesday 4 th August	Flora Walk around Werneth Low	--
Sunday 13 th September	History Walk as part of Heritage Weekend	--
Sunday 27 th September	All Day Ramble to Cown Edge	--
Total to Date		19

- 2.2 Two dry stone walling weekends have been arranged for summer 2015. The first weekend event was on the 16/17 of May and the second course will be on 19/20 September. These events are organised in co-operation with the Cheshire branch of the Dry Stone Walling Association. The Hyde War Memorial Trust supports the events by purchasing additional stone. The attendance for the course in May was 15.

3. WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- 3.1 Since the last meeting of the Country Park Joint Management Committee the volunteers have held 4 meetings. The volunteers assist the Greenspace Development Officer with public events, the maintenance and general upkeep of sites, and staffing the visitor centre. There are at present 17 members of the volunteer service.
- 3.2 At the April 2015 meeting of the Country Park Volunteer Service the Volunteers agreed the programme of work targeting the control of non-native species in the Country Park. This work has been undertaken for several years and is necessary to control the spread of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. The full list of sites and an update of the work hours already completed can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 As reported at the last meeting of the Country Park Joint Management Committee two of our Volunteers are at present working on designing and planting a new small garden near the Lower Higham Visitor Centre. John Jones and Anita Allan will be working on this project over the summer months and hope to have the planting completed by the end of July. The garden, near to the Croft Picnic area, will be a valuable addition to the Centre area. It will include plants that are specifically useful to insects, bees and butterflies.

4. VISITORS – MONITORING 2015

4.1 Active monitoring data for 2015:

Month	Lower Higham Visitor Centre	Counter on path from Lower Higham to Cenotaph	Counter on path from Quarry Car Park to Cenotaph
January	245	4,106	4,604
February	193	3,655	3,344
March	239	6,433	5,763
April	1,023	6,028	5,697
May	201	6,478	4,511
June	264	6,215	5,634
July	-	-	-
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
2015 Totals to Date:	2,165	32,915	29,553
Previous Years Totals:	4,114	60,848	52,431

5. WILDLIFE NATURE CONSERVATION

- 5.1 This summer has been an exceptional year for wild flowers in the Country Parks meadows in particular the Common Spotted Orchid, *Orchis fuchsia*. It has been seen in great numbers especially in the meadows above Baron Fields Woodland. Within this area there are some very interesting plant communities associated with wild flowers and grasses which indicate old un-improved meadow land. In July officers from Natural England visited these fields and were thrilled to see the richness and abundance of plant life.

Agenda Item 7

Report To:	WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	27 July 2015
Reporting Officer:	Ian Saxon – Assistant Executive Director, Environmental Services David Cannon – Greenspace Development Officer
Subject:	ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
Report Summary:	To inform Members of activities undertaken within the Country Park during the period 2014/15.
Recommendations:	That the report be noted.
Links to Community Strategy:	To ensure that the Country Park is an attractive and environmentally friendly place to visit.
Policy Implications:	The activities in the Country Park are in accordance with Council policy priorities.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The funding for the projects is met from existing budgets.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	It is important that the Joint Management Committee is kept informed of activities undertaken in the Country Park.
Risk Management:	Activities in the Country Park are kept under review in order to ensure any potential risks are dealt with adequately.
Access to Information:	Background papers and information can be obtained by contacting David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer:  phone: 0161-368-6667  e-mail: david.cannon@tameside.gov.uk

Werneth Low **Country Park**

Annual Report
2014/2015



WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(TAMESIDE COUNCIL AND HYDE WAR MEMORIAL TRUST)



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Front cover photograph: Hackingknife Meadow August 2014



1. Werneth Low – A History

Werneth Low is an area rich in history and interest. The story of this special place begins over 4,000 years in the Bronze Age when the Low was used as an outdoor Cathedral for worship and burials.

Tribal Britons were defeated in a great battle fought on Werneth Low as the Roman occupation of Britain spread north. A Romano-British fort was built which included a system of ditches and earthworks.

Werneth is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Warnet* where it is described as waste, containing woodland three leagues long and two leagues wide and was assessed at 1 Virgate. It was held before 1066, by a free man as a manor, and probably formed part of the Anglo-Saxon Lordship of Longdendale. By 1086 it was held directly by the Earl of Chester.

The manor of Werneth is first recorded as belonging to the Higham family as early as 1330. This family were referred to as freeholders in Werneth by 1445 when a John Higham was listed amongst the knights, gentleman and freeholders of Cheshire.

For the Medieval period the survival of extensive ridge and furrow earthworks, coupled with early field boundaries and farm sites, make the Werneth Low landscape one of the best surviving medieval areas in Greater Manchester.

The best known landmark on Werneth Low is the stone Cenotaph commemorating the 710 lives lost in the Great War 1914 to 1919. The majority of those killed were in the Cheshire Regiment in the years 1916 and 1917. The loss of so many from such a small town as Hyde was devastation.

At a council meeting in the Mayor's Parlour at Hyde Town Hall on 3rd March 1920 it was decided to remember those fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen from Hyde by purchasing by public subscription the Lower Higham Farm Estate. The land to be kept open and free for the ***“health and recreation of the people of Hyde”***.

The Hyde War Memorial Committee reported to the townspeople of Hyde ***“Those who lived through the war will not forget but those who come after us should be reminded of the sacrifices which have been made”***

The appeal for public subscriptions raised by the end of May 1920, £14,013 14s. 8d. The Lower Higham farm and land was purchased for £4,000 and the memorial cenotaph was erected at a cost of £2,000.

The Cenotaph was unveiled on the 25th June 1921 by Mrs Stanley Welch, built of Grey Cornish Granite the total weight is 34 tons. It was designed by Messrs J. Whitehead & Sons of London.



Unveiling of the Cenotaph 25th June 1921

2. Werneth Low – Site Information

Location and Size

Werneth Low Country Park is located 15km (9½ miles) east of the city centre of Manchester on the edge of the Pennines. All the land in the Country Park is in the Borough of Tameside. The town of Hyde, along with the villages of Gee Cross and Newton, are just 2.5km (1½ miles) away to the west.

The Country Park consists of approximately 81 hectares (200 acres) of hilltop and hillside.

Ownership

60 hectares (150 acres) belong to the Hyde War Memorial Trust, including the visitor centre building. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council owns the remaining 21 hectares (50 acres) of land in the park.

Creation of the Country Park

The Country Park was officially established in 1980 when the Hyde War Memorial Trust and Tameside MBC and the Greater Manchester Council entered into a formal agreement relating to the management of the park. Responsibilities relating to the Greater Manchester County Council were passed on to Tameside MBC in 1986 when the County Council was abolished.



View towards the Cenotaph from Higham Meadows July 2014

3. Vision for Werneth Low Country Park

The Vision for Werneth Low Country Park is of a place where landscape and nature conservation and informal countryside recreation are in balance. It is a place where natural beauty is enhanced, where wildlife will thrive, and where visitors, regardless of their ability or background, can spend an enjoyable and fulfilling time. It is a place that is cared for and looked after, not just for now but for future generations.

Country Park Overall Aims:

1. To manage the Country Park in a way that sustains and improves the quality and variety of its wildlife and landscape, and where recreation activity is in harmony with this.
2. To facilitate access for all, irrespective of ability or background.
3. To manage the Country Park for its cultural and historic importance.
4. To engender an understanding of the various aspects of the Country Park through programmes of lifelong learning.
5. To provide a high quality service to visitors, involving them in decision making about how the Country Park is run.
6. To maintain a safe and health environment, befitting the Country Park.

These general management aims are supported by the Tameside Greenspace Service Priorities:

1. Improving the quality of Greenspace for residents.
2. Building capacity amongst Friends Groups and Volunteers.
3. Conserving the natural environment and increasing biodiversity.
4. Maximising opportunities to improve the health of all residents.
5. Developing opportunities to bring in external funding.



View towards the Cenotaph from Ash Cottage, Higham Lane January 2015

4. Managing the Country Park

The Country Park is formally managed by the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee. The Committee is made up of Trustees of the Hyde War Memorial Trust and elected members of Tameside MBC. The Committee meets three times a year and the Greenspace Development Manager, and Greenspace Development Officer, report directly to the Joint Committee.

The Werneth Low Country Park Management Plan guides the work of the Joint Committee in safeguarding and protecting all land in the Park. The document covers the years 2011 to 2016. It includes an annual programme of management prescriptions which filter down to action undertaken by the Greenspace Development Officer, Greenspace Volunteers, contractors working on behalf of the Joint Management Committee and other partners with an interest or connection with the Country Park.

All the maintenance of sites programmes are linked directly to conserving and maintaining local distinctiveness and spirit of place.

2014/2015 Highlights

- Annual programme of grass cutting footpaths, picnic sites, cenotaph area, car parks and areas around the visitor centre completed during April to October.
- At Rye Field Meadow installed 95 metres of stone path pitching and resurfaced 208 metres of rolled stone path. Cost: **£9,274.**
- At Radcliffe Meadow installed 80 metres of stone path pitching. Cost **£6,695.**
- On the Country Park's riding track network installed new drainage and resurfaced 293 metres of track surface. Cost **£15,156.**
- The Hyde War Memorial Trust funded the purchase of new stone for 2 dry stone walling training weekends where 30 metres of new wall was built. Cost: **£650.**
- Completed Minor Works Programme of replacing gates, stiles and bench seating.
- Revised and updated Werneth Low Country Park Management Plan 2011 – 2016.



Stone Path Pitching Rye Field Meadow September 2015

5. Involving the Community

Involving the community plays a crucial part in securing the wellbeing of the Country Park. It is an objective that is at the very heart of our management philosophy. To have the collective support and understanding of our local community is a major asset.

We work with and assist a wide range of community partners: Trustees of the Hyde War Memorial Trust, Tenant Farmers, other tenants of Country Park land such as Werneth Low Golf Club, schools and colleges, organisations such as Cub and Scout groups, residents of the area and local businesses. Working and engaging directly with these groups forges understanding and partnerships that have positive and rewarding outcomes.

Mention must also be made of our public events programmes which provide excellent opportunities for people to meet each other and learn about the place where they live.

2014/2015 Highlights

- We welcomed **4,010** people to the Lower Higham Visitor Centre (Previous year's total: **3,281**).
- The Country Park Greenspace Volunteers completed in total **4,908** work hours (Previous year's total: **4,100** work hours). See Appendix 1. and Appendix 2.
- Using an electronic counter on the footpath from Lower Higham to the Cenotaph the total number of visitors recorded from April 2014 to March 2015 was **61,870** (Previous year's total: **62,835**). On the footpath near Quarry Car Park the total number recorded for the same period was **55,684** (Previous year's total (**49,070**). For more information see Appendix 3.
- During the year the Greenspace Development Officer organized **12** events at which **871** people attended (Previous year's total: **11** events at which **347** people attended).



The 26th Cown Edge Ramble September 2014

6. Conserving Habitats and Wildlife

In January 2010 Werneth Low Country Park, in partnership with Natural England, began a new management agreement for wildlife nature conservation. This new Environmental Stewardship agreement covers the years 2010 to 2020 and it has five primary objectives:

- Wildlife conservation
- Maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- Natural resource protection
- Protection of the historic environment; and
- Promotion of public access and understanding of the countryside

Environmental Stewardship – Higher Level agreements are only suitable for land that is of “*significant environmental interest*” so to receive this agreement is confirmation that past management of Country Park land has been correct. The agreement is implemented through a programme of annual works and during the period of this report we have been fully compliant.

Informal countryside recreation and wildlife nature conservation on the surface seem to be incompatible elements. Promoting access while at the same time working to conserve wildlife is a constant challenge. Engaging with and informing visitors about a wide range of conservation matters helps resolve conflicts of interests. We install information signs around the Country Park in spring asking people not to wander through farmed meadows thus reducing disturbance to ground nesting birds. Such simple yet effective actions as these have a positive and beneficial impact.

2014/2015 Highlights

- Environmental Stewardship agreement 5th year compliant securing **£3,648** of grant income.
- Environmental Stewardship grant income to date since commencement of agreement in January 2010 **£28,827**.
- Implemented all wildlife nature conservation items from the Werneth Low Country Park Management Plan 2011 – 2016.
- Maintained all Sites of Biological importance and undertook removal of non-native invasive weeds from adjoining areas.



Mike Kelly, Volunteer, hedgelaying at Baron Fields Meadow March 2015

7. Providing a Quality Service

During the period of this report, for an eleventh consecutive year, we achieved a prestigious Green Flag Award. This confirms the high standards of service the public can expect at the Country Park.

We work in close partnership with visitors, the local community, groups and organisations and we listen very carefully to their comments, suggestions and ideas. Continual improvement philosophy underpins our approach in a myriad of matters. Documents such as the Country Park Management Plan 2011 – 2016 will guide management direction.

Planned Developments 2015/2016

- Submit application for Green Flag Award subject to review.
- Implement year 5 of the Werneth Low Country Park Management Plan 2011/2016.
- Complete Year 6 of the Environmental Stewardship Agreement.
- Complete the 2015/2016 Maintenance of Sites Programme.
- Complete the 2015/2016 Wildlife Nature Conservation Programme.
- Complete programme of repairs to footpaths and riding track network.

How Much Does it Cost

During the period of this report the costs of looking after Werneth Low Country Park was provided from the Greenspace Development Budget of Tameside Council with contributions from the Hyde War Memorial Trust. Based on past expenditure and this year's financial accounts it has cost around **£83,000** to run the Country Park during 2014 to 2015. This works out at about **40p** a year for each person over the age of 18 who live in Tameside. The costs are for:

- Maintaining the Country Park.
- Delivering educational programmes.
- Organising public event programmes.
- Promoting the Country Park locally and regionally.
- Delivering visitor services including the Visitor Centre.
- Staff Salaries.



Dry Stone Walling Weekend at Hackingknife Meadow May 2014

Appendices

Appendix 1.

List of Staff and Volunteers at Werneth Low Country Park 2014 -2015:

Nicola Marshall – Tameside Greenspace Development Manager

David Cannon – Tameside Greenspace Development Officer

Greenspace Volunteers:

Anita Allen

Alan Bamforth

Norman Bamforth

Mark Bruniges

Colin Bates

Dorothy Hollingworth

John Jones

Mike Kelly

Raymond Knowles

Linda Mellor

Denis Middleton

Rob Nicholls

Ross Pape

Hazel Shepherdson

Sam Simpson

Maurice Smith



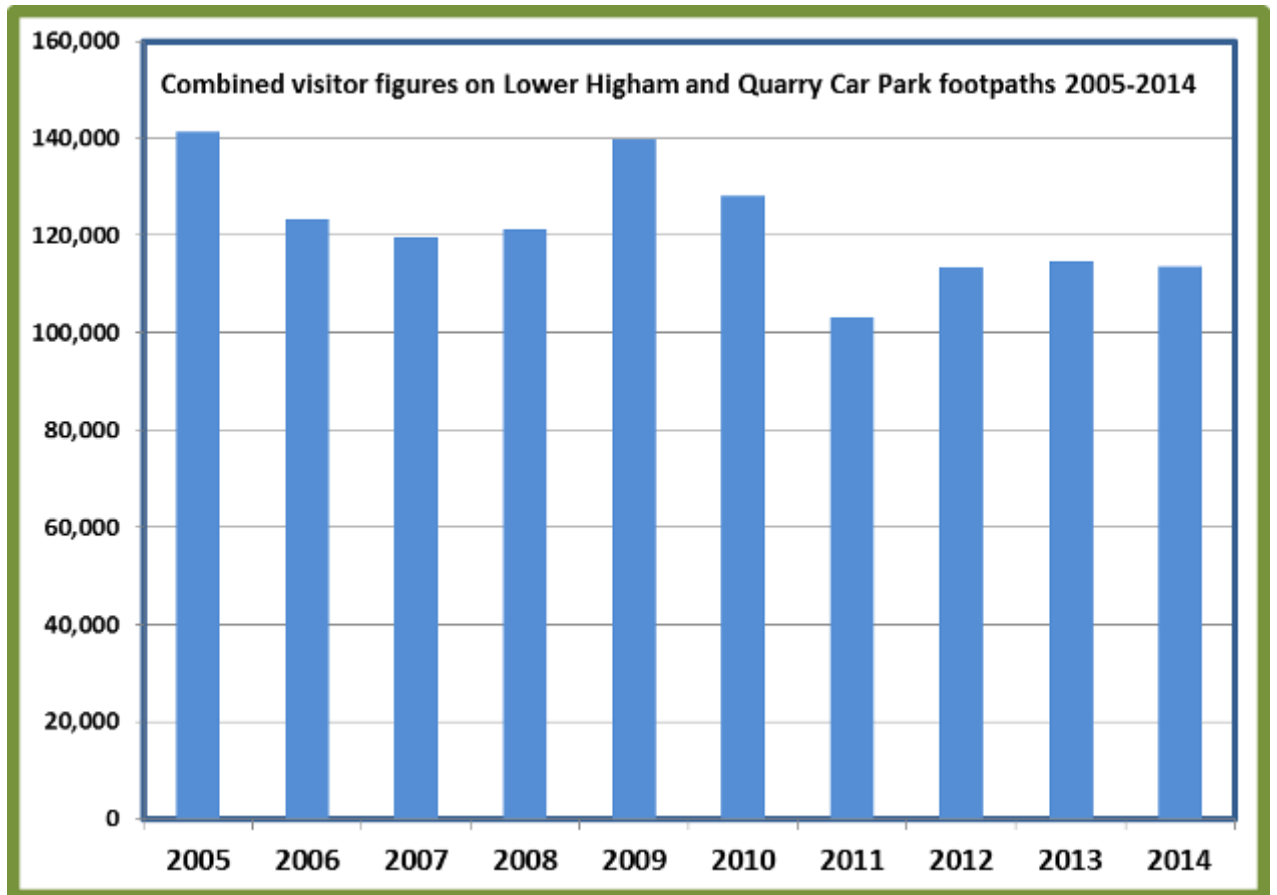
Appendix 2.

Maintenance of Sites Programme, Greenspace Volunteers, October 2014 – March 2015 Projects in order of completion:

Project	Location	Task
1	Lower Higham Gardens	Re-design Wildflower Garden
2	Lower Higham - Cow Lane	Cut back, prune hedgerow and sweep lane, clean-out grids
3	Cenotaph Area	Cut grass/edge off. Clean area ready for Remembrance Day
4	Lower Higham Gardens	Clean borders and prune shrubs ready for Remembrance Day
5	Flaggy Path	Edge -off and clean 134 metres of flaggy stones
6	Hackingknife Woodland	Selective thinning
7	Holy Trinity Paddock	Grub out ivy growing along hedgerow 60 metres
8	Flaggy Path Hedgerow	Cut back 124 metres of hedgerow
9	QCP Picnic Area	Cut back 54 metres of hedgerow
10	Lower Higham Drive	Cut back 30 metres of hedgerow
11	Ash Cottage Picnic Area	Cut back 46 metres of hedgerow
12	Holy Trinity Paddock	Cut back 60 metres of hedgerow
13	Riding Track	Cut back 140 metres of hedgerow
14	Earl of Warrington Meadow	Grub out 128 metres of new laid hedgerow
15	Werneth Low Road	Hedgelaying: Werneth Bungalow to Metal Gate 70 metres
16	Werneth Low Road	Hedgelaying: Metal Gate to Lofty Top 135 metres
17	Werneth Low Road	Hedgelaying: Lofty Top to QCP Picnic Area 148 metres
18	Flaggy Path Hedgerow	L 36 ES Post laying trim 124 metres
19	Baron Fields Woodlands	Selective thinning especially along rights of way
20	Lower Higham Compost Bins	Dismantle and rebuild using galvanised wire fencing
21	Baron Fields Woodlands	Clear drains on Baron Road to Aspland Road footpath
22	Baron Fields Woodlands	Clear out Brambles from beneath Oak trees
23	Lower Higham Gardens	Cut and reduce height of hedgerow bottom of Cow Lane
24	Higham Lane	298 metres of hedge cutting layed hedgerow
25	Lower Higham Orchard	Plant 4 replacement fruit trees
26	Baron Fields Woodlands	Relay 90 metres of existing hedgerow

Appendix 3.

Bar Chart of combined visitor numbers on footpaths at Lower Higham and Quarry Car Park January to December 2005 to 2014.





Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph 9th November 2014.

**David Cannon
Tameside Greenspace Development Officer
(April 2015).**

(All the photographs in this report were taken April 2014 to March 2015).

