

Public Document Pack



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE · AUDENSHAW · DENTON · DROYLSDEN · DUKINFIELD · HYDE · LONGDENDALE · MOSSLEY · STALYBRIDGE

WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Day: Monday
Date: 15 July 2019
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.	MINUTES The Minutes of the proceedings of the previous meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on 18 February 2019 to be approved as a correct record.	1 - 2
4.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR 2018/19 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 2018/19, select the Chair from Tameside MBC and the Deputy Chair from Hyde War Memorial Trust.	
5.	GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT To consider a report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	3 - 8
6.	ANNUAL REPORT 2019 To consider a report of the Greenspace Development Officer.	9 - 22
7.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS To note the date of the next meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee the 22 November 2019.	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Louis Garrick, Democratic Services Officer on 0161 342 3049 or Louis.Garrick@tameside.gov.uk, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 3.

WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

18 February 2019

Commenced: 10:37

Terminated: 12:00

Present: Mr Gradwell (Chair), Mr Ainger, Mrs Evans and Mr Hodgkinson
Councillors Robinson (Deputy Chair), Bell, Bowden, Cooper,
J Fitzpatrick,

In Attendance: Nicola Marshall Greenspace Development Manager
David Cannon Greenspace Development Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Buglass, Councillor Cooper and Mr Galvin

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee held on 19 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

14. UPDATE ON THE REPORTING LINES FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Chair led a conversation on the reporting lines for the Joint Management Committee. Greenspace Development Manager agreed to look at alternative arrangements for future meetings.

RESOLVED

That the Greenspace Development Manager to look at alternative arrangements on reporting for future meetings.

15. GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Greenspace Development Officer submitted a report informing members of the activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 19 November 2018.

The report outlined the following:-

- Maintenance of Sites
- Environmental Stewardship – higher Level Agreement 2010-2020 Update
- Public Events
- Werneth Low Country Park Greenspace Volunteer Service
- The Lower Higham Visitor Centre
- Wildlife Nature Conservation

With regards to maintenance of Sites it was reported that the summer grass cutting programme from 2019 will start at the end of March. The programme includes: the grass cutting of the Lower

Higham Visitor Centre area, car parks, access points, picnic areas and strips along footpaths. The cost of this programme of maintenance is paid by Tameside Council.

The Joint Committee were informed that quotations from contractors in regards to number of footpath repair projects. The projects and costs are as follows

- Resurfacing the footpath from Lower Higham to Hackingknife: Cost: £6,384.
- Resurfacing the footpath from Cenotaph across Hackingknife Meadow: Cost: £3,327.

The Joint Committee agreed to go forward with these repairs with both the Trust and Council contributing to cover 50% of the costs each.

The Greenspace Development Officer reported to the Joint Committee that an audit had been completed on all the footpaths within the Country Park. A number of these paths have not been resurfaced in several years and the condition was such that repairs are required. These amounted to 1,185 meters of footpath. The Greenspace Development Officer estimated based on previous years that the cost would be £10,861. The Joint Committee agreed that the Green Space Development Officer should report back to the committee with quotes.

In the last meeting of the Joint Committee a subgroup to discuss the 1979 agreement comprised of three Tameside MBC representatives and two Hyde War Memorial Trust representatives was established. The Joint Committee wanted to note the apologies from Councillor Bell for being unable to attend the first meeting of this sub group.

The Joint Committee thanked Mike Kelly for the work he has done during the Autumn and Winter Hedge laying in the Country Park.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Joint Committee note the report.**
- (ii) That the Green Space Development Officer report back to the Joint Committee with Quotes on the costs of the resurfacing the footpaths outlined in the report.**

16. INSTALLATION OF CCTV AT THE WERNETH LOW VISITOR CENTRE

David Cannon, Greenspace Development Officer presented a report on the CCTV proposals for CCTV installation at the Werneth Low Visitor Centre.

Following thefts of flagstones from the area outside of the Werneth Low Visitor Centre the Hyde War Memorial Trust sought a quote for the installation of CCTV cameras on the exterior of the building to monitor and protect their assets. The proposal was for there to be 5 cameras on the outside of the building. These cameras would cover the external areas of the building but would not cover inside the building. The monitoring of these cameras would be carried out by Trustees of the Hyde War Memorial Trust, not all Trustees would be able to monitor the cameras and the Hyde War Memorial Trust would name those Trustees who had access.

The chair led a conversation on the relevant legislation that would need to be complied with, including GDPR and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act. The Joint Committee discussed the possibility of data requests from members of the public and how to handle in accordance with legislation.


The Greenspace Development Officer who is based at Werneth Low raised concerns about the CCTV as he felt it could infringe on his privacy and expressed concern over who would be monitoring the CCTV.

RESOLVED

That the Joint Committee note the report.

Agenda Item 5.

Report To:	WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	15th July 2019
Reporting Officer:	Assistant Executive Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods 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 (18 th February 2019).
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 Section 151 Officer)	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 2019 has started. The programme includes: the grass cutting of the Lower Higham Visitor Centre area, car parks, access points, picnic areas and strips along footpaths. The cost of this programme of maintenance is paid by Tameside Council.

1.2 We have now received quotations from our contractors in regards to a number of footpath repair projects. The projects and costs are as follows:

Resurfacing the footpath from Lower Higham to the Hackingknife: **Cost: £6,384.**

Resurfacing the footpath from the Cenotaph across Hackingknife Meadow: **Cost: £3,327.**

Access restrictions, due to ground nesting birds, reduce the time period to implement on site projects. To avoid damage to the wildlife nature conservation value of the Park footpath resurfacing needs to be undertaken between July to October.

It has been agreed that the combined costs of the above projects will be funded equally by Tameside Council and the Hyde War Memorial Trust.

1.3 As reported at the previous meeting of this Joint Management Committee, 18th February 2019, the Greenspace Development Officer has audited all the footpaths within the Country Park. Some of these paths have not been resurfaced in several years and the condition is such that it is now time to undertake some repair works. There are 4 sections:

1	Lower Higham to Higher Higham	160 metres
2	Higher Higham to Shepley's Meadow	70 metres
3	Shepley's Meadow along Higham Lane	280 metres
4	Quarry Car Park to New Piece Meadow	675 metres
	TOTAL	1,185 Metres

We have received from one of our contractors the estimate for the resurfacing works at **£11,345.**

1.4 At the Lower Higham Visitor Centre Car Park work will be undertaken this summer to clear vegetation from the car park's wooden barriers and at the same location resurface the parking places. The cost of this project, **£928**, will be funded by Tameside Council.

1.5 The work to replace the stone flags around the Visitor Centre entrance was completed in April. The Hyde War Memorial Trust pursued an insurance claim which was used to fund the **£3,800** costs.

1.6 During May the Volunteers planted a large selection of plants and shrubs around the Lower Higham Visitor Centre gardens. This project was funded by Tameside Council and cost **£230.**

2. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – HIGHER LEVEL AGREEMENT 2010 – 2020 UPDATE

2.1 In May we received **£3,262** of grant income from Natural England in relation to this Agri-environment Scheme. Since the agreement started in January 2010 the Country Park has received in total to date **£46,769** of grant income.

3. PUBLIC EVENTS

- 3.1. The winter/spring 2018 to 2019 programme of events at Werneth Low Country Park has now concluded. The attendance was as follows:

Date	Event	Attendance
2nd December 2018	Christmas Ramble Around Werneth Low	32
27 January 2019	Ramble Around Werneth Low	12
24 March 2019	Roman History of Werneth Low Walk	23
21st April 2019	Easter Egg Hunt	380
28 April 2019	Ramble to Chadkirk Chapel	19
Total		466

- 3.2 The summer 2019 programme of public events is currently underway. The programme includes Flora Walks, a History Walk, and an all-day ramble to Cown Edge. All the events will be included in Tameside's Greenspace publications and social media platforms.
- 3.3 On the 30th of April the 12th Alder School Cross Country Run around Werneth Low Country Park was completed. This annual event raises thousands of pounds for The Christie Hospital in Manchester and is a great link between our local schools and the Country Park.
- 3.4 The Cheshire branch of The Dry Stone Walling Association is holding two training courses in the Country Park during the summer. These events are basic training in this countryside skill and are a good introduction into the theory and practice of wall building. The course dates are Saturday/Sunday 11th /12th May and Saturday/Sunday 14th /15th September. The Hyde War Memorial Trust is funding the costs of these events.
- 3.5 On Sunday the 5th May the Tour d'Manc cycle sportive came over Werneth Low. Once again hundreds of cyclists took part in this gruelling 100 mile tour around Greater Manchester. Country Park Volunteers staffed the Werneth Low drinks stop.
- 3.6 It has just been announced that the final day of this year's Tour of Britain cycle race will be staged in Greater Manchester on Saturday 14th September. The race will arrive in this area from Marple and climb over Werneth Low on its way through Tameside. We are expecting a large number of spectators in the area and the Council are currently developing an event management plan.

4. THE LOWER HIGHAM VISITOR CENTRE

- 4.1 Over the last few months a number of projects have been completed in relation to the management of the building. The projects and costs are as follows:

- Annual inspection and testing of fire extinguishers - Cost **£45**
- Annual inspection and testing of gas heaters – Cost **£60**
- Inspection of the building electrical hard wiring – Cost **£522**
- Annual PAT testing of portable electrical equipment – Cost **£64**
- Annual Inspection of garage roller shutter doors - **£225**

Tameside Council funded the above projects.

- 4.2 The gas heater in the main room of the Visitor Centre has not worked for many months and needs replacing. Our gas appliance contractor has quoted **£1,065** for a new Drugasar wall heater. This will need to be installed before the winter.

5. WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK GREENSPACE VOLUNTEER SERVICE

5.1 Volunteer Mike Kelly has completed the 131 metres of hedgelaying at Higher Higham Meadows near to Higham Lane. This project brought the 2018 to 2019 winter/spring programme of works to a successful conclusion. A list of the projects can be found in **Appendix 1.** at the end of this report.

5.2 The Greenspace Volunteers are very busy through the summer on a multitude of projects and none more important than the control of non-native invasive flowers. The main species is Himalayan Balsam which if left unchecked will choke out native wildflowers. We monitor the amount of time site by site and record the data on a spreadsheet. This information is analysed at the end of the year which enables us to decide the most important sites to attack the following year and to give an overall picture of the problem the Country Park faces from these dangerous weeds.

The target spreadsheet for this year can be found in **Appendix 2.** at the end of this report.

6. THE LOWER HIGHAM VISITOR CENTRE

6.1 The number of visitors to Lower Higham, at the date of this report, is as follows:

Month	Lower Higham Visitor Centre
January	95
February	135
March	149
April	950
May	147
June	--
July	--
August	--
September	--
October	--
November	--
December	--
2019 Totals	1,476
Previous Years Total:	3,021

7. WILDLIFE NATURE CONSERVATION

7.1 Lovely to see this summer the return of the Painted Lady butterfly to the Werneth Low area. They migrate to Great Britain every May and June from north Africa flying at a speed of 10mph, skimming over meadows and hedgerows.

APPENDIX 1

WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK GREENSPACE VOLUNTEERS WINTER 2018 - 2019 MAINTENANCE OF SITES PROJECTS

Project Ref	Location	Task	Completion Date
1	Lower Higham Gardens	Plant 200 mixed tulips various areas	October 2018
2	Lower Higham Gardens	Late summer garden restructure planting	October 2018
3	Hackingknife	Tractor cut Rosebay Willowherb	October 2018
4	Lower Higham - Cow Lane	Cut back, prune hedgerow and sweep lane, clean-out grids	November 2018
5	Cenotaph Area	Cut grass/edge off. Clean area ready for Remembrance Day	November 2018
6	Lower Higham Gardens	Clean borders and prune shrubs ready for Remembrance Day	November 2018
7	Lower Higham Cow Lane	Tractor flail hedgerow	November 2018
8	Lower Higham Visitor Centre	Clean all banking and hedgerow around Garage Building	December 2018
9	Hackingknife Woodland	Woodland management thinning out Hazel	December 2018
10	Lower Higham Orchard	Cut back 40 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
11	Flaggy Path Hedgerow	Cut back 124 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
12	QCP Picnic Area	Cut back 54 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
13	Lower Higham Car Park	Cut back 20 metres of Holly hedgerow	March 2019
14	Werneth Low Road	Cut back 356 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
15	Rig Field Meadow	Cut back 300 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
16	Holy Trinity Paddock	Cut back 60 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
17	Riding Track Higham Cotts	Cut back 140 metres of hedgerow	March 2019
18		Total Hedge Cutting metres 1,094	
19	Lower Higham Drive	50 metres of Hedgelaying	March 2019
20	Higher Higham Meadows	131 metres of Hedgelaying	March 2019
21	Lower Higham Orchard	Winter prune fruit trees	March 2019
22	Lower Higham Orchard	Replace 2 Apple trees	March 2019
23	Outdoor Park Seating	Inspect and repaint	March 2019
24	Black Path Baron Fields	Prune Willows by side of path	March 2019
25	All Sites	Outstanding from access audit	March 2018
	Completed Projects		

Agenda Item 6.

Report To:	WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	15 July 2019
Reporting Officer:	Ian Saxon –Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods David Cannon – Greenspace Development Officer
Subject:	ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19
Report Summary:	To inform Members of activities undertaken within the Country Park during the period 2018/19.
Recommendations:	That the report be noted.
Corporate Plan:	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 Section 151 Officer)	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

This page is intentionally left blank

Werneth Low **Country Park**

Annual Report
2018/2019



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



CONTENTS:	Page:
1. WERNETH LOW – A HISTORY	3.
2. WERNETH LOW – SITE INFORMATION	4.
3. VISION FOR WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK	5.
4. MANAGING THE COUNTRY PARK	6.
5. INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY	7.
6. CONSERVING HABITATS AND WILDLIFE	8.
7. PROVIDING A QUALITY SERVICE	9.
8. PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2019/2020	9.
9. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?	9.

APPENDICES:

1. List of Staff and Volunteers at Werneth Low Country Park 2018/2019	10.
2. Minor Works Programme 2018/2019	11.

(Front cover: Remembrance Day Service at The Cenotaph – Sunday 11th November 2018)



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 Evelyn 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.



Shepley's Meadow June 2018

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.



All Day Ramble to Chadkirk Chapel – April 2018

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 Joint Management Committee receives reports from its officers concerning the care and maintenance of the Park's fabric and infrastructure ensuring the area is safe and in good condition. The Committee issues instructions to its officers to implement programmes of management, which at times involves outside organisations such as approved contractors.

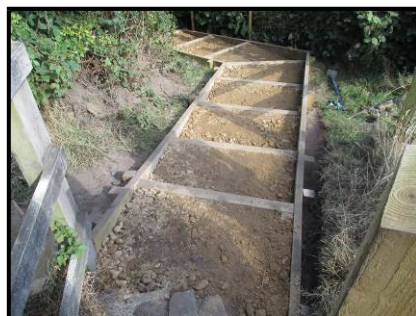
Programmes of management are produced annually, and triggered by the Country Park Business Plan. The funding of projects is a mixture of both joint and individual organisations which include Tameside Council and The Hyde War Memorial Trust.

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

2018/2019 Highlights

- Annual programme of grass cutting footpaths, picnic sites, cenotaph area, car parks and areas around the visitor centre completed during April to October.
- Minor works programme completed by the Operations Maintenance Team and Contractors:
 - At Riding Track near Golf Course reform ditches.
 - At Ash Cottage installed new steps.
 - At Quarry Car Park rebuild 30 metres of drystone wall.
 - At Baron Fields install new drainage.
 - At Higham Lane repair 30 metres of drystone wall.
 - At Cow Lane install new access gate.
 - At Lower Higham Visitor Centre install new Oak bench
 - At Lower Higham Visitor Centre emergency tree works.
 - At Lower Higham Visitor Centre install new water heater.

The cost of this work was paid for by Tameside Council - **£13,033**.



At Ash Cottage Picnic Area new steps installed June 2018

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. Examples of community involvement include: The Country Park Volunteers Service, The Hyde War Memorial Trust, Tenant Farmers, and other tenants of Country Park land such as Werneth Low Golf Club.

The Public Events programme provides an excellent opportunity for people to come together and experience the delights of the outdoors.

2018/2019 Highlights

- We welcomed **3,827** people to the Lower Higham Visitor Centre (Previous year's total: **3,433**).
- The Country Park Greenspace Volunteers completed in total **4,020** work hours (Previous year's total: **4,182** work hours). See Appendix 1. and Appendix 2.
- During the year the Greenspace Development Officer organized **11** events at which **645** people attended (Previous year's total: **11** events at which **558** people attended).
- Alder Community High School cross country run around Werneth Low Country Park raised **£4,100** for The Christie Hospital.



Alder Community High School run around Werneth Low for the Christie Hospital – 17th April 2018



All Day Ramble Werneth Low to Cown Edge – 30th September 2018

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.

The Country Park benefits immensely from the hard work of its tenant farmers. During the period of this report the Park’s tenant farmers were: Mark Cheetham (Low End Farm), Peter Mansfield (Ash Tree Farm) and Carl Hazelhurst (Godley Stud Farm).

2018/2019 Highlights

- Environmental Stewardship agreement 9th year compliant securing **£1,087** of grant income.
- Environmental Stewardship grant income to date since commencement of agreement in January 2010 **£43,507**.
- Maintained field boundary habitats, both hedgerows and dry stone walls.
- Maintained all Sites of Biological importance and undertook removal of non-native invasive weeds from adjoining areas.



**Higher Higham Meadows 131 metres of Hedgelaying
Completed by Volunteer Mike Kelly – November 2018 to March 2019**

7. Providing a Quality Service

We work in close partnership with visitors, the local community, groups and organisations and we listen very carefully to their comments, suggestions and ideas. The Lower Higham Visitor Centre, staffed by volunteers, has continued to be open every week throughout the period of this report. The Centre remains the main focal point for visitors for information and assistance.

Planned Developments 2019/2020

- Complete Year 10 of the Environmental Stewardship Agreement.
- Complete the 2019/2020 Maintenance of Sites Programme.
- Complete the 2019/2020 Wildlife Nature Conservation Programme.
- Complete programme of repairs to footpaths and riding track network.
- Redraft the Country Park Management Plan.

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 **£46,100** to run the Country Park during 2018 to 2019. This works out at about **21p** a year for each person over the age of 18 who live in Tameside. The costs are for:

- Maintaining the Country Park.
- 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 Rye Field Meadow September 2018

Appendices

Appendix 1.

List of Staff and Volunteers at Werneth Low Country Park 2018 -2019:

Nicola Marshall – Tameside Greenspace Development Manager

David Cannon – Tameside Greenspace Development Officer

Greenspace Volunteers:

Anita Allan

Alan Bamforth

Norman Bamforth

Colin Bates

Dorothy Hollingworth

John Jones

Mike Kelly

Raymond Knowles

Suzanne Mckeever

Linda Mellor

Denis Middleton

Ross Pape

Hazel Shepherdson

Sam Simpson

Martin Stapleton



Appendix 2.

Maintenance of Sites Programme, Greenspace Volunteers, October 2018 – March 2019

Project	Location	Task
1	Lower Higham Gardens	Plant 200 mixed Tulips
2	Lower Higham Drive	Cut back 30 metres of hedgerow
3	Hackingknife	Tractor cut Rosebay Willowherb
4	Lower Higham - Cow Lane	Cut back, prune hedgerow and sweep lane, clean-out grids
5	Cenotaph Area	Cut grass/edge off. Clean area ready for Remembrance Day
6	Lower Higham Gardens	Clean borders and prune shrubs ready for Remembrance Day
7	Orchard Hedgerow	Reduce height along all length to aid summer cutting
8	Lower Higham Cow Lane	Tractor flail hedgerow
9	Lower Higham Visitor Centre	Clean all banking and hedgerow around Garage Building
10	Lower Higham Orchard	Winter prune fruit trees
11	Lower Higham Orchard	Plant 2 new Apple trees
12	Lower Higham Orchard	Cut back 40 metres of hedgerow
13	Flaggy Path Hedgerow	Cut back 124 metres of hedgerow
14	QCP Picnic Area	Cut back 54 metres of hedgerow
15	Lower Higham Car Park	Cut back 20 metres of Holly hedgerow
16	Werneth Low Road	Cut back 356 metres of hedgerow
17	Rig Field Meadow	Cut back 300 metres of hedgerow
18	Holy Trinity Paddock	Cut back 60 metres of hedgerow
19	Riding Track Higham Cottages	Cut back 140 metres of hedgerow
		Total Hedge Cutting metres 1,094
20	Lower Higham Drive	50 metres of hedgelaying
21	Higher Higham Meadows	131 metres of hedgelaying
22	Black path Baron Fields	Prune Willow trees
23	New Piece Meadow	Remove/cut back encroaching Blackthorn
24	All Sites	Outstanding from access audit





Higher Higham Meadows, June 2018.

**David Cannon
Tameside Greenspace Development Officer
(July 2019).**

(All the photographs in this report were taken April 2018 to March 2019).

