

P&C update of issues in the park for FoMP meeting 18.12.12

Summary

Since the Steering Group Meeting on 20.11.12 ...

The Middleton Park Estate Volunteers got involved with ...

- Cutting back encroaching vegetation on a path through the plantation on the Clearings
- Step maintenance on steps from Clearings to Tramway and Middleton Grove to John Charles Centre for Sport
- Litter collection around the park

Corporate Volunteers

- 22.11.12 Yorkshire Bank brought 14 volunteers to undertake step maintenance – from Clearings to the Tramway

Events in the park

- 24.11.12 Leeds Schools Cross Country Association – 250 competitors
- 2.12.12 Leeds Christmas 10k run – Fairplay Sport
- 9.12.12 Christmas Crafts
- 16.12.12 PECO cross country league race

Things of note for the near future include:

- 26.12.12 Boxing Day Walk 10am – 12pm
- 9.1.13 Cross Country run organised by the Police
- 9.1.13 Middleton Park Project Board meeting at the MPVC.
- 18.1.13 Middleton Park Schools History Project 'Celebration' event in the afternoon.
- 23.1.13 Parks Forum being held at Middleton Park Visitor Centre.

Parks For People Project

- Middleton Park Visitor Centre – practical completion was achieved on 26.10.12 and the building was handed to the council. The contractor continues to undertake snagging work on the building.
- Since 10.12.12 Adult Social Care (ASC) have been operating a café within the centre 5 days of the week (Monday to Friday) between 10.15am and 2.15pm. Toilets in the centre are available to the public at these times.
- FoMP have opened the centre on a couple of Sundays and used it as a base for their events and to provide refreshments for the public and access to the toilets
- Landscape Works – Work as part of the landscape contract is continuing. The Project Manager advised the last project board that the contractor was reporting a 22 day delay. Senior Estates Manager Dave Morgan will be meeting with some of the Trustees this Thursday to provide an update on the progress of the Landscape works.
- A series of meetings have taken place involving FoMP & LCC staff to develop the interpretation strategy at the park. Following comments from FoMP P&C are currently producing a 2nd draft of the graphics for external interpretation.
- FoMP's help has been crucial in determining landscaping work of the audience area around the Bandstand.
- Ongoing Landscape works include: the main Town St entrance, improvements to the footpath around the Fishpond; creating the Lodge footprint and work on the gravel maze in the Rose Garden; landscaping works to the audience area near the bandstand; and installation of the horse gin

sculptor.

Other points the group may be interested about include:

- A part of 2013/14 Council Budget Proposal considered by the Councils Executive Board included a proposal to close Middleton Park Golf Club (and Gotts Park). The wording of the proposal is shown below. The full documents can be found on the Leeds City Council website.

It is proposed to close Middleton Park and Gotts Park golf courses. Both courses run at a loss and the numbers using them continue to decline. There is no evidence that those who use the courses would be unable to access other facilities in the city. The explosion in golf provision has brought down the cost of golf significantly and ensured places to play across the city. Middleton golf course is adjacent to another private course and there are other nearby alternatives to Gotts Parks. Returning the golf courses to parkland will achieve savings and also open up large areas of land to general public usage.

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