



**ARTICLE NO: 2B**

**CORPORATE  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2012/13  
ISSUE: 1**

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**Article of: Assistant Director Community Services**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor A. Fowler**

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**SUBJECT: Green Flag Results Coronation Park and Beacon Country Park**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE**

1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the applications for Green Flag status for Coronation Park, Ormskirk and Beacon Country Park for 2011/2012

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Green Flag Award, co-ordinated by Keep Britain Tidy, is a quality management recognition scheme which is being widely adopted as a national performance indicator in relation to green public open spaces.

2.3 Assessment is undertaken by professional park and open space managers appointed by Keep Britain Tidy utilising two main assessment methods. A Desk Assessment, which represents scrutiny of the management plan and links to corporate strategies and policies, and a Field Assessment, which is based upon site visits, both accompanied and unaccompanied.

2.4 To achieve Green Flag Award status applicants must score a minimum of 50% on the desk assessment ( minimum 15 out of 30 ) and 60% on the field evaluation ( minimum 42 out of 70 ), with a combined total of 66 or above.

2.5 In 2010/11 it was decided that all applicants which were successful with a score of 70 and above would only be subject to a full inspection and judging every two

years, although they could be subject to “mystery shopper” inspections which could result in the award being lost if standards were not maintained.

- 2.6 In 2010/11 Beacon Country Park achieved a score in the band 75-79 which put it into the higher category which would only be fully judged every two years.

### **3.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The 2011/2012 Awards were judged between February and June 2011, and details of the results were announced in August.

- 3.2 **Beacon Country Park** retained its status and score achieved in 2010/2011 without further judging

Desk assessment – a band score of 20 -24

Field Assessment – a band score of 55 – 59

Total score – a band score of 75 – 79

#### **3.2.1 Beacon Country Park Mystery Shopper Feedback**

A Mystery Shopper visit to Beacon Country Park was undertaken in October 2011 and feedback from the visit was provided to the Council. Aspects assessed included access and welcome, safety and security, cleanliness and maintenance, facilities and staffing.

In all aspects Beacon Country Park received very favourable responses with comments including :-

“I was very pleased to see a good country site well managed and staffed with people who feel dedicated to their responsibilities. West Lancashire Borough Council should be proud of the work they are doing. The public were pleased with the site and felt part of it as well.”

“Very pleased with this site and it should be used as how a country park should look and be managed.”

- 3.3 **Coronation Park** has been successful in achieving the award in 2011/2012 and a summary of the main points of the Judges Report follows.

Desk assessment – a band score of 20 -29

Field Assessment – a band score of 50 – 53

Total score – a band score of 70 – 74

#### **3.3.1 Coronation Park Desk Assessment**

The band score indicates a very high rating desk assessment (maximum score being 30).

Strengths included :-

Good cross departmental and multi agency working

Identification of main management issues

Good service standards and inspection regimes

Good community consultation and engagement with excellent events programme

Clear management responsibilities

Recommendations included:-  
Producing “smarter” targets that would be easier to measure  
More positive targets  
Further details on inspection regimes  
Further financial information  
Develop community involvement

### **3.3.2 Coronation Park Field Assessment**

Strengths included :-  
Impressive new entrance feature  
Welcoming and safe feel to the park  
Excellent play area and fitness equipment  
Clean and well maintained, especially in formal area  
Good wildflower area and wildlife conservation  
Friends group  
Staff, users, and members value the site as a flagship  
Park ranger

Recommendations included:-  
Woodland area and woodland edges need improvement  
Formal shrub beds need improving  
Path markings need attention  
Improve bin locations  
Develop role of friends group  
More co-ordinated publicity

## **4.0 ISSUES**

- 4.1 The score achieved by Coronation Park puts it in the same high category as Beacon Country Park where formal judging and inspections will only be required every two years. Feedback has been generally very good, and areas of improvement identified will be focussed upon in work programmes and in the new management plan, due for production in 2012.
- 4.2 Beacon Country Park has been able to maintain its high standards with additional very positive comments from a “mystery shopper” visit.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 5.1 Achievement of the Green Flag Award recognises good practice in sustainability and quality leisure and environmental provision, contributing towards the objectives of protecting our environment and improving leisure provision.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The standards of management achieved at these two main parks has been achieved utilising capital funding made available by the Council in previous years, and from existing revenue provision within Community Services and Street Scene. Maintaining these standards requires this level of revenue funding to be maintained, and added to wherever possible from external sources.

## **7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The attainment of a Green Flag Award for a site is a recognised indicator of quality management, a future loss of this status would reflect negatively on the Council.

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### **Background Documents**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Document</u>
July 2010	Beacon Country Park : Green Flag Award Judges Report 2010/11
October 2011	Beacon Country Park : Mystery Shopper – Interim Quality Assessment
July 2011	Coronation Park : Green Flag Award Judges Report 2011/12

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

There is a significant direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and /or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Assessment

Green Flag Awards : Beacon Country Park and Coronation Park  
Date of EIA 22nd February 2012 Completed By S. Kent

**Question 1**

Using information that you have gathered from service monitoring, surveys, consultation, and other sources such as anecdotal information fed back by members of staff, in your opinion, could your service/policy/strategy/decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) disadvantage, or have a potentially disproportionately negative effect on, any of the following groups of people:

- People of different ages – including young and older people
- People with a disability
- People of different races/ethnicities/nationalities
- Men
- Women
- People of different religions/beliefs
- People of different sexual orientations
- People who are or have identified as transgender
- People who are married or in a civil partnership
- Women who are pregnant or on maternity leave or men whose partners are pregnant or on maternity leave
- People living in areas of deprivation or who are financially disadvantaged

**Q1 response**

Feedback from Green Flag Awards will be used to inform and influence current and future management of the parks involved, including the production and amendment to management plans which will take into consideration the needs of all sectors of the community therefore NO the achievement of these awards will not disadvantage or have a disproportionately negative effect on the above groups of people

**Question 2**

What sources of information have you used to come to this decision?

**Q2 response**

Green Flag Awards have been developed nationally, following extensive consultation with the environmental sector to represent indicators of good management of green open space.

**Question 3**

How have you tried to involve people/groups in developing your service/policy/strategy or in making your decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy)?

Direct consultation with the local community plus liaison with specialist groups e.g. Tidy

Britain Group and Green Flag management staff.

Assessments are undertaken by sector professionals and include consultation with the general public and user groups.

#### **Question 4**

Could your service/policy/strategy or decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) help or hamper our ability to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010? Duties are to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity (removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of people)
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it

#### **Q 4 response**

Achievement of a Green Flag Award indicates that consideration of the needs of all the community have been considered as part of the management planning and operational process, which helps our ability to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

#### **Question 5**

What actions will you take to address any issues raised in your answers above?

#### **Q5 response**

All feedback from Green Flag judging will be used to influence management plans and site operations. Any equality impacts issues that may arise will be considered and measures taken to mitigate any negative impacts.