



Appendix to Item 7(b)

AGENDA ITEM: 5(I)

CABINET: 15 November 2011

Report of: Assistant Director Community Services

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

Relevant portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Fowler

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SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT PLANS – BEACON PARK, CORONATION PARK, AND RICHMOND PARK

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present new management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park, and Richmond Park for Member approval and adoption.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the new management plans for Beacon Park, Coronation Park, and Richmond Park be approved, subject to resource availability.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Management plans for parks and countryside sites are important tools for steering site management and improvement, and co-ordinating visitor service activities. Their importance has been highlighted in recent times by the national Green Flag Award process for quality management of green spaces, which uses the management plan as the basis for all award applications.

3.2 The Council currently has 2 park management plans in place. The plans for Beacon Park and Coronation Park have both been crucial parts of successful Green Flag Awards since 2006 and both plans have now been updated. Richmond Park, which has been the subject of recent investment and improvement, has not previously had a full management plan produced.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 A new management plan for Beacon Country Park has now been produced to follow on from the initial plan and cover the period from 2011 to 2016.
- 4.2 For Coronation Park the plan still covers the original period of 2007-2012 however, the significant changes and improvements made since the start of the plan has warranted a full revision of the plan for its remaining term.
- 4.3 Richmond Park has had a management plan produced for the first time to cover the period 2011 to 2016.
- 4.4 All of these draft plans and revisions would be used in a process of continuous improvement for our main parks and countryside sites, and are put forward here for formal adoption by the Council.
- 4.5 All draft management plans are available on the Councils website (see Background Documents).

5.0 ISSUES

- 5.1 All of the plans follow a similar format to analyse and evaluate the sites, set objectives for improvement, and outline how these will be achieved through an action plan set against a series of themes:-
- Site management inc. safety and security, maintenance, conservation, and landscape.
 - Cultural management inc. recreation, education, visitor services and community involvement.
 - Publicity and promotion.
 - Service management.
 - Monitoring and review.

6.0 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 It is proposed that the draft management plans for Beacon Park and Richmond Park, and the revised management plan for Coronation Park, be formally approved and adopted by the council.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 7.1 Adoption and subsequent direction provided by the management plan will help to produce well managed and sustainable public leisure facilities, providing healthy outdoor recreation for residents of West Lancashire.
- 7.2 The improved surveillance, improved design, promotion of positive use, and effective marketing will improve the safety and security of park users and property so reducing actual and perceived crime and disorder levels.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The production of the management plans has been undertaken by existing staff within the Parks and Countryside Service.
- 8.2 These plans have been produced in a realistic manner, setting objectives that are achievable within existing resources wherever possible, however, some objectives will require additional resources to achieve. Efforts will be made by the Parks and Countryside Service to attract external funds, but some additional internal resources would be required if these plans are to be achieved in their entirety. It is accepted that in the present financial climate some of the objectives may remain as aspirational, for example, new visitor centre at Beacon Park, however, it is still felt that these should be included within the plans.
- 8.3 The existing Parks and Countryside Service will have the remit to implement the management plans under the supervision of the Leisure Operations Manager, and working alongside Street Scene Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing staff.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 In recent times the Council has invested substantial capital and revenue funds to improve all three of the parks referred to here, the guiding principles set out in the management plans would protect this investment and build upon it.

Background Documents

The following background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this Report.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Document</u>
Jan 2011	Beacon Country Park Management Plan
Jan 2011	Coronation Park Management Plan
Jan 2011	Richmond Park Management Plan

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a 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

1. Equality Impact Assessment