

Note of Visit to Centre Vale Park – 2 March 2022

Present:

Cllr P. Taylor

██████████ – Park Manager

██████████ – Calderdale Volunteer Manager

Susan Miles

Introduction

The meeting was arranged after feedback seen on Tod Chat Facebook Group about the perceived decline in the appearance and facilities at Centre Vale Park. ██████████ has explained that parks over England had changed a great deal over the last 50/60 years partly because of changing funding priorities. He confirmed that the park was in much better condition than most parks in Calderdale and that it was one of the few that have staff based there (7am-3pm). He said that the park was clean and tidy with very little litter. He mentioned that there is an ongoing problem with dog mess.

██████████ explained that Safer, Cleaner, Greener had been reorganised and that now includes Highways. The new title is Green Spaces Street Scene. He said that there had been benefits from this reorganisation as Highways have been making some improvements to the park, such as replacing/repairing walls and edging around flower beds and replacing/resiting the tops of walls.

Planned Changes

He explained that the team is committed to improving the park and are looking to regain the 'green flag' award. To do this they will, in particular, need to improve signage. They would like to install 3 new, large signs (£2,500 x 3) which would cost £7,500. They are researching ways to obtain the funds for this. They are also looking to replace all of the benches (so they are of a uniform quality and have arms) and the bins. They have plans to improve the planting in the flower beds, including a new one near the main entrance and in front of one of the lodges. Many of the rhododendrons in a large bed near the entrance have had to be removed as they were diseased. They have a 5/10 year plan for improving all of the flower beds in the park. Work has gone in to surveying the drainage in the park and some work has been done to alleviate flooding on paths. The two central flower beds have been planted with multi-stemmed Silver Birches and it is planned that edging will be installed around them to prevent soil spilling on to the pavement.

There are plans in place to improve the staff depot. Toilets have been installed and it is planned that a canteen will also be added.

Other planned improvements are the streetlights in the park which do not meet current standards.

The low level fencing near the second lodge is going to be replaced with 'bird's mouth' fencing which will be set at a more appropriate height.

Bins and Recycling

Other than for a specific key accessed recycling bin (near the playground), the policy on recycling bins has been changed because of the difficulty of processing contaminated recycled waste. It is likely that the recycling bins in town will be removed and people are going to be advised to take recycling home to put in their own bins. The initiative is 'Reduce Reuse, Recycle'.

Existing Facilities in the Park

- Chessboard (without chess pieces)
- Table tennis table
- Japanese bridge – they are looking for ways to repair this. The current estimate is £3,300!
- The water feature near the herb garden is going to be repaired
- Outdoor gym
- Fruit and herb garden (maintained by Friends of Centre Vale). They also look after another area at the other side of the park.
- The fountain in the garden of remembrance is going to be repaired
- The courtyard which originally was part of Centre Vale House is going to be used for art activities in the summer.
- John Fielden Statue
- Wetland area

Other Issues

- █████ mentioned that as a result of an accident last year, different approaches will be taken to managing sloped grassy areas.
- █████ explained that the mini golf had been removed a while ago and said that it had been little used.
- █████ explained that the shelters are the responsibility of CAFM. It is possible that volunteers might be able to repaint the accessible areas of the shelters. The bandstand is also the responsibility of CAFM.
- The countryside area behind the park is looked after by a different department. They have planted wildflowers.