

# Full Council Meeting – 15 December 2020

## Report of Councillor Richard Lees – Parks and Leisure

At the time of writing this report, we are still in the Lockdown, but hopefully it won't be for too long.

### Service: Commercial Services

#### Parks and Open Spaces

- Green Flag Awards
  - Taunton's Vivary, Victoria and French Weir Parks have retained their Green Flags along with Swains Lane Nature Reserve in Wellington, which is managed by the Swains Lane Community Group. Wellington Park has retained a Green Flag Heritage Award (one of only two in the West Country). Comeytrove Park managed by the Friends of Comeytrove Park also retained a Community Green Flag Award.
  - Minehead's Blenheim Garden has also received a Green Flag. This is the first Green Flag Award in West Somerset.
- Sports Pitches
  - We look forward to welcoming team sports back onto our playing fields once lockdown ends in December.

#### Leisure (Everyone Active)

- Reopening of Centres
  - In line with Government guidelines, Everyone Active reopened its leisure centres, swimming pools, but due to lockdown 2, all leisure facilities were closed again during November. All centres will have reopened from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December with large amounts of communications planned to ensure our customers know.
  - When the facilities were open, Blackbrook, Wellington and Wellsprings offered the use of its gyms and classes, whilst the pools offered lane swimming and lessons; all proved extremely popular. Each gym session was for a 50 minute period, allowing a 10 minute period for staff to clean equipment before the next session.
- Annual Report
  - Everyone Active gave a presentation at the All Members' Briefing in November, which updated all Councillors on the partnerships progress since the commencement of the leisure contract in 2019 and how they have managed leisure during Covid. The presentation was extremely well received and prompted lots of good questions and discussions. Further community ideas were raised, which Everyone Active now contacts details and are liaising with them.

Roundabouts:

I was informed that the visibility at Cross Keys Roundabout in Taunton was causing problems for cars and people crossing the road nearby due to the trees etc. blocking visibility. This has now been rectified.

By the time you get this report, we should now be out of the lockdown, and are approaching Christmas. May I hope that you all have as good a Christmas as possible, but remember, "Stay Safe"