

## **Agenda Item 7**

### **Parks Meeting With Pendle Borough Council 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016**

Pendle was represented by Cllr. M. Iqbal, Cllr. N. Ahmed and Mr. P. Mousdale; Barrowford was represented by Cllr. R. Oliver, Cllr. S. Nike and Mr. I. Lord.

Mr. Mousdale reported that Parish & Town Council response was lukewarm with Colne not wanting to take part and Nelson not showing any interest, Barnoldswick, Barrowford, Earby and Trawden had shown some interest and exploratory talks would take place.

Cllr. Iqbal stated that Pendle had no immediate plans to dispose of any parks at the moment but were taking proactive measures to reduce the overall costs of running and maintaining the parks. Their general consensus was that in a few years' time Pendle would be merged into a larger authority and any rationalisation would see that Pendle because of its original make up of several borough and urban district councils had a large number of parks in comparison to other borough authorities.

Cllr. Oliver told the meeting that the Parish Council would consider funding for Barrowford Park but felt the Victoria was historically Nelson's Park and should be treated as such.

Cllr. Nike expressed the opinion that given the specialist maintenance and administration needed to successfully run playing fields, that Pendle should retain all playing fields as a separate entity to the parks, even if this meant a separate trust running them.

Mr. Lord said that given the health and wellbeing context of playing fields and the Olympic factor, additional funding may be available from different health and sporting sources. He also enquired if councils took over the running of some of the parks completely, when would the economy of scale in maintenance be lost and the current provision become unviable?

Mr Mousdale said that ideally Pendle would like to see financial contributions towards the upkeep of parks and envisaged that even if devolved completely Pendle would carry out the functions funded by the relevant Parish or Town Council but this was up for further discussion. The only thing at the moment was that within twelve months cuts in the maintenance budget would be forthcoming.

Mr. Lord asked about the structural condition of the bank between the park and the cemetery and showed two pictures showing the effect of soil erosion on retaining walls.

Mr. Mousdale responded that this would be investigated.

Cllr. Oliver asked what would happen to parks where the local council would not contribute.

Mr. Mousdale responded that initially very little but as the cuts were implemented those parks that had contributions would have enhanced provision on the reduced basic service provided by Pendle Borough Council.

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Cllr. Oliver responded that he would report to the Council the general ideas and options to the Parish Council and further discussions meetings would be arranged.

Mr. Mousdale said that it would be helpful to have the Parish Councils response before the end of September.