

REPORT TO:	King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee		
DATE:	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019		
TITLE:	Public Open Space Special Expenses		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Budget Monitoring For Special Expenses for King's Lynn		
PORTFOLIO(S):			
REPORT AUTHOR:	Nathan Johnson: Public Open Space Manager Claire Thompsett: Operations Manager John Hussey: Operations Manager Holy Attlesey: Admin Assistant		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:</b>
To provide an update on budget monitoring and outturn position for Public Open Space Special Expense areas (Allotments, Play Areas and Open Spaces)
<b>KEY ISSUES:</b>
The terms of reference for the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee (KLACC) describe one of its roles as acting as a consultative forum, on the funding raised by, and utilisation of the King's Lynn Special Expenses, and to offer input on priorities for this expenditure and if appropriate the level of funds to be raised.
<b>OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</b>
The Committee are asked to discuss the report and make suggestions with regard to ongoing service delivery.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
That the Committee consider the monitoring position and projected outturn of Public Open Space Special Expense areas for 2019 / 2020 as detailed in the report.
<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
Making recommendations on the utilisation of Special Expenses for King's Lynn with regards to Public Open Space Special Expense areas.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 One of the Terms of Reference of KLACC, is "to act as a consultative forum on the funding raised by, and utilisation of the King's Lynn Special Expenses, and to offer input on priorities for this expenditure and if appropriate the level of funds to be raised."

1.2 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 defines a Local Authority's Special Expenses. It states that Special Expenses are any expenses incurred by the authority in performing in a part of its area, a function performed elsewhere by a Parish Council.

1.3 Special Expenses are currently charged for the maintenance of Allotments, Play Areas and Open spaces; this includes West Lynn which is unparished.

1.4 The total cost of Special Expenses is met by the Council tax payers of King's Lynn. The annual charge to residents is made through an addition to the Council tax bill. The Charges for 2018 / 2019 & 2019 /2020 for these services is as follows:

	<b>2018 / 19</b>	<b>2019 / 20</b>
Allotments	£7080	£6690
Play Areas	£35,003	£35,892
Open Spaces	£301,885	£296,648

## **2. Monitoring Report**

### **2.1 Allotments**

In 2017 it was reported that 422 plots across 7 allotment sites within King's Lynn which were managed by the borough council and charged to Special Expenses, later in 2017 North Lynn allotments moved across to an association, which reduced the managed stock by 135 allotments. As of September 2019, there are 246 plots across 6 allotment sites within King's Lynn which are directly managed by the borough council which are charged to Special Expenses. Ferry Road, West Lynn allotments have now become an association, which has reduced the managed stock by 70 allotments.

#### Directly Managed Sites:

<b>Site</b>	<b>No. of Plots</b>	<b>Size m2</b>	<b>Waiting List</b>
Wardles Chase	118	30379.21	0
Seven Sisters	15	2535.81	7
Ouse Avenue	34	11287.3	10
Gaywood	61	15281.35	31
Curtis Field	8	2595.34	10
Turbus Road	10	219.17	0

The current charge per m2 is now 0.28p. This is the final increase over a 4 year period taking the average price of a plot to £70.00 per annum.

The amount charged to Special Expenses has reduced from £19,980 in 2017/18 to £6,690 for the current year.

Extra allotment area has been provided at North Lynn Allotments as part of the new development occurring in the Lynnsport area. This extra allotment allocation will be taken on by North Lynn Allotment Association.

Last year new fencing was added to Gaywood and North Lynn allotments to improve security within these sites.

There have been significant problem with security at Wardles Chase Allotment site. This is the largest allotment site and would cost a significant amount of money to fence the whole site.

Two new CCTV cameras have been installed at this site, one on the bridge leading to the allotments and one on the roadway leading down from Hardwick Road in an effort to discourage ASB.

Future Investment in new locks and keys is required for this site.

Allotment plots have been offered at Wardles Chase to all those on the waiting list for other sites.

#### Self-Managed Sites:

We now have 6 allotment sites that have set up associations.

Site	No. of Plots	Size m2
North Lynn	132	39821
Sharpins Field	28	7972
Drakes Field	23	9226
Winfarthing Avenue	19	5746
Old Gala Ground	73	22541
Ferry Road	70	24483

#### 2.2 Play Areas:

Due to the number of new developments within the King's Lynn Area, there have been a number of new play areas installed and subsequently adopted.

These include:

2018: Two new play areas were built in Sand Piper way, South Lynn.

1 x LAP (Local Area for Play)

1 x LEAP (Locally Equipped Area for Play).

Due to the developments at Lynnsport 1, 2 and 3 offsite play was provided at the Lynnsport play area which was significantly improved and provided a major boost in equipment for all age ranges and inclusive play equipment.

This offsite provision not only enhanced the Lynnsport play area but also gave a central hub play area where families could interact with other families and develop social skills on a much wider scale.

2019:

A LEAP was built as part of the Marsh Lane development

A LAP will be completed in September 2019.

Please find below a list of the play area presently maintained under Special Expenses:

Post Code	Name	Area	Comments
PE34 3LN	Poppyfields	West Lynn	
PE34 3LN	Poppyfields	West Lynn	
PE34 3JR	Community Centre	West Lynn	
PE34 3JJ	Kempe Road	West Lynn	
PE30 5LA	Wisbech Road	South Lynn	
PE30 5NA	Winfarthing Avenue	South Lynn	
PE30 5NA	Winfarthing Avenue - MUGA	South Lynn	
PE30 5HE	Community Centre - MUGA	South Lynn	
PE30 5DH	Sandpiper Way (near No 60)	South Lynn	New in 2018
PE30 5DN	Sandpiper Way (near No 87)	South Lynn	New in 2018
PE30 5AN	Friars Street	Kings Lynn	
PE30 1NR	Walks - Play	Kings Lynn	
PE30 1NR	Walks - Parkour/teen	Kings Lynn	
PE30 1NR	Walks - MUGA	Kings Lynn	
PE30 1PS	Highgate	Kings Lynn	
PE30 2BX	Loke Road	North Lynn	
PE30 2BX	Loke Road - Fitness trail	North Lynn	
PE30 2BB	Edma Street	North Lynn	
PE30 2NB	Lynnsport	North Lynn	Enhanced 2018
PE30 2NB	Lynnsport Assault Course	North Lynn	
PE30 2NB	The Shed Skate Park (Lynnsport)	North Lynn	
PE30 4QN	Parkway - MUGA	Gaywood	
PE30 4QN	Parkway - Play	Gaywood	
PE30 4BX	Queen Elizabeth Avenue	Gaywood	
PE30 3AL	Marsh Lane (Seagrave Road)	Gaywood	New 2019
PE30 4SD	Woodside - Sport	Fairstead	
PE30 4SD	Woodside - Play	Fairstead	
PE30 4GD	Centre Point - Play	Fairstead	
PE30 4SU	Coronation Wood	Fairstead	
PE30 4GD	Centre Point - MUGA	Fairstead	
PE30 4SR	Doorstep Green	Fairstead	
PE30 4SE	Pulkey Wood	Fairstead	
PE30 4BG	Savage Close	Fairstead	
	Russell Close	Fairstead	NOT ADOPTED YET
	Clement Attlee Way	Fairstead	NOT ADOPTED YET
	Fred Ackland Drive	Fairstead	NOT ADOPTED YET
PE30 3DA	Peppers Green	Kings Lynn	
PE30 3HE	Blenheim Road	Kings Lynn	
PE30 3SR	Templemead Reffley	Kings Lynn	
PE30 2HU	Edward Benefer Way - MUGA	Kings Lynn	

There are no major play area refurbishments planned for this financial year.

### 2.3 Open Spaces

A full review of the grass cutting regime across the borough was carried out in late 2015 and came into force from March 2016, the regime is reviewed on an annual basis at the end of each cutting season and although in the main it has not changed there have been a few revisions in the schedules.

A log is still in use to record any service requests so as the situation can be monitored and revised as necessary, to date there have been 21 service requests for the King's Lynn area this year. These logs will enable to target areas where the most requests are reported and redeploy / revise resource allocation.

At the end of the 2019 grass cutting season each teams areas of responsibility will be reviewed due to the number of new housing developments that have been or due to be adopted, particularly in the North and South Lynn areas.

This will ensure that each of the teams that carry out grounds maintenance have an equitable amount of areas to maintain.

However, based on feedback from internal and external stakeholders there are no plans to drastically amend / alter the present grass cutting regime.

Ward maps showing areas maintained by the POS Service Area are available and these will be forwarded to Ward Members in due course.

All formal areas within Kings Lynn (The Walks, Tower Gardens and Mintlyn Crematorium) maintained their Green Flag Awards for 2019.

We are still awaiting the results from Anglia in Bloom Awards these will be released on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September and the committee will be informed of the results at the meeting scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> September.

The Rivulet within the Walks has also been desilted, which has had an impact on the look and ambiance of the area and once the pump has been refurbished the rivulet will once again have a flow

This year has also seen an increase in the number of events held in The Walks and Tower Gardens these include Kings Lynn Lions Fun Day, Pride in the Park and a circus.

The POS Management Team and other officers are now preparing for Fawkes in the Walks.

### **3. Issues for the Panel to Consider**

That the Committee consider the monitoring position and projected outturn of Public Open Space Special Expense areas for 2019 / 2020 as detailed in the report.

### **4. Corporate Priorities**

TBC

### **5. Financial Implications**

Although Special Expenses are not a separated budget and included in the overall Open Space budgets, all areas are within the forecasted budget as of the end of August 2019.

**6. Any other Implications/Risks**

Nil

**7. Equal Opportunity Considerations**

Nil

**8. Consultation**

Executive Director: Commercial Services  
POS Management Team

**9. Conclusion**

All areas are being managed and maintained to agreed standards and within budget.

**10. Background Papers**