



## BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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**PORTFOLIO:** LEISURE AND CULTURE

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** COUNCILLOR BEA FOSTER

**DATE OF REPORT:** 21/12/2016

### Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p><b>PL4-</b> We will adopt and implement a new Green Space Strategy</p>	<p><b>Play Area Improvements</b></p> <p>I am pleased to report that funding of £28,000 has been secured from the Lancashire Environment Fund for refurbishing the play area at Bedford Place in Padiham. The Perseverance Area Residents' Group applied for the grant with help from local Councillors and the refurbishment will commence in January.</p> <p>A desire to improve the play area at Calder Park has led to the formation of a new group, the Friends of Calder Park, which held its first meeting in October, again supported by local Councillors. There are now ten 'friends of' groups in Burnley covering parks, cemeteries and the Padiham Greenway.</p> <p><b>Memorial Park</b></p> <p>A new £15,000 extension to the popular pump track has been completed at Memorial Park, funded by Ward Opportunities Fund (WOF), the Parish Council and the Lancashire Environment Fund. The new pump track offers a more challenging ride for BMX bikes and scooters and is proving extremely popular.</p>

	<p>Work on the relocation of the bandstand is progressing well, with the bandstand now erected and re-roofed. Plans are underway for volunteers to re-paint the metal work in the New Year, in preparation for a grand opening at Easter.</p> <p><b>Towneley Bonfire</b>  This year’s bonfire was a success, with more than 6,000 tickets sold. The audience enjoyed a spectacular fireworks display and the event broke even. The size of the audience meant there were long queues for refreshments and toilets and there will be better provision next year.</p> <p><b>Brun Valley Forest Park</b>  During the coming weeks more than 70 finger signs will be installed to direct visitors around the 15 kilometres of paths that make up Brun Valley Forest Park together with installation of 9 large format maps and interpretive panels. A new Forest Park leaflet has also been printed and this will be launched in February.</p>
<p><b>PL5-</b> We will continue to develop the leisure and cultural offer of Burnley in partnership with Burnley Leisure.</p>	<p>Burnley Leisure recently launched its new mini-golf and short game golf practice area, which was funded by a £75,000 grant from Sport England. This is a great addition to the very popular facility, which celebrated 2 million golf balls being hit at the driving range since its opening.</p> <p>Congratulations to our strategic partner, Burnley Leisure, on winning the award for the best cultural venue in Lancashire.</p> <p>In addition, congratulations to Burnley Rounders’ Club for winning the Lancashire Sports Awards Community Club of the Year.</p> <p><b>Literary Festival</b>  The first ever Burnley Literary Festival was made up of 48 sessions across 10 days and took place over October half-term.</p> <p>The sessions were tailored to all ages and ranged from author readings, story-telling, poetry workshops and creative writing sessions, to shared reading groups, theatre performances and interactive talks.</p>

	<p>Many of the sessions were aimed at children and in particular engaging them with reading and books.</p>
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