



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Drumglass Park – Progress Report,
Date:	11 December 2014
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1. Relevant Background Information

The Committee will be aware that the Council is currently carrying out enhancement works to Drumglass Park. A copy of the scheme is attached as Appendix A. While it is a relatively modest scheme it will make a positive impact on the Park. The budget for the project is £420,000.

The work has been commissioned in phases. Phase 1 which is now complete included the realignment and widening of the existing footpaths; new seating and waste bins; a new path to form a circular route around the upper grassed area at the bandstand; removal of steps surrounding the bandstand with new paving that increase accessibility and enhance usage; new drainage was installed and some new planting at focal areas. Aligned to Phase 1 were some improvements to the underground infrastructure by Northern Ireland Water. Owing to timing and the popularity of the park over the summer months, the work was halted during July and August and into September to minimise inconvenience to Park users. Phase 1 recommenced in September 2014 and has now been completed. The snagging process has commenced.

At the design stage drainage was identified as a key issue to the usability of the grassed areas in the park. To help alleviate the problem swales were introduced as part of a sustainable drainage system. Swales are linear grass covered depressions that are shallow and relatively wide providing temporary storage for storm water and reducing peak flows to the already overloaded mains system.

	Phase 2 of the works has not yet commenced. Phase 2 will include lowering of part of the wall running along Lisburn Road; the illumination of the trees along the Lisburn Road boundary and some art pieces.
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>When work commenced a number of additional drainage issues were identified within the existing drainage system including a collapsed brick culvert and blockages from tree roots. The pitches behind the park boundary at Victoria school also drain directly through the weep holes of the boundary wall into the park, discharging water directly into the park. The fixing and repair of existing drainage has been rectified as part of the contract, however, the drainage of Victoria school pitches remains outstanding.</p> <p>Over the summer months Officers had received representations from several members of the public and some elected representatives complaining about a number of elements. The concerns related to (a) the finish of the work and in particular the swales; and (b) flooding at the lower grass area adjacent to the toilet block.</p> <p>Prior to the works starting the Council engaged with NIW to ensure that works would be co-ordinated to reduce disruption. However, NIW experienced delays and consequently delayed council works at the area adjacent to the toilet block.</p> <p>Owing to the break in the contract over the summer months and the very dry weather in late summer combined with the recent very wet weather has resulted in this issue being unresolved for longer than anticipated. It is accepted that the issue needs to be resolved and this has been agreed with the Consultant and the Contractor. The ground at present is very wet and we have been advised that it would be best to delay remedial action until March / April 2015. Whilst not ideal we believe this option is the correct approach.</p> <p>On the matter of flooding at the lower grassed area this was not intended to be part of the original scheme. However, some additional funding was secured and some minor drainage works have been carried out. This will we hope reduce the flooding but will not prevent it. Indeed, the flooding in the park may in some way prevent overflow of water on to the main Lisburn Road.</p> <p>Phase 2 will progress in the New Year with the finalisation of the procurement exercise for the lighting to the trees and the lowering of the wall. The Planning Service have confirmed that an application is not required to illuminate the trees while Listed Building Consent has been granted for the lowering of part of the wall running along Lisburn Road. Work will commence once temperatures are sufficient to permit work with lime mortar mix.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>This report has no financial implications at this time</p> <p><u>Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality implications
5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the report.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A Drawing of Drumglass Park Scheme