

**316 - Update from Keith Bergman of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles**  
**Monday, 3 December 2018**

Mr Bergman reported the following:

General

Haigh Woodland Park had enjoyed a busy year this year. Officially this had been Year 2 of the development. In Year 1 visitor numbers totalled 417,000. In Year 2 they were expected to reach half a million. The increase was due to natural growth, improved marketing, improved events, an extension of the season and the good Summer in 2018.

The development had gained two awards. One was a quality accreditation from Visit England and the other was an award in the Neighbourhood Park category of the Britain in Bloom competition.

Haigh Estate Roads

Plans had been submitted to the Highways Department of Wigan Council for a TRO to extend the double yellow lines on some of the estate roads. This would happen in the Spring. It would not solve all of the issues, e.g. there was no control over speeding vehicles, as the Police were opposed to the introduction of more speed bumps.

Phase I

Phase I of the development had involved considerable investment into car parks and the attractions.

Phase II

An application to the Heritage Lottery was being prepared for submission in 2019. If successful, the refurbishment of the heritage assets would go ahead.

Haigh Hall

There had been issues over public access to the grounds in the immediate vicinity of the Hall. The Hotel maintained that they had the right to restrict access whenever they wished, but that was not the case. The LA were prepared to work with them if they needed exclusivity for a specific occasion, e.g. a large wedding.

New signage had been introduced so that, if the gates happened to be closed, visitors to the Park could find their way around the Hall. A path had also been introduced around the top of the Park for this purpose.

Mr Bergman then took questions from members. His answers were recorded, as below:

- (a) In reply to a question about ensuring Haigh Hall Hotel complied with the LA's requirements in relation to public access, he informed the Council that legal means could be used to enforce this. Everything was in the lease.

The gates at Mowpin Lodge were the main entrance to the hotel and were never closed. This had led to instances of anti-social behaviour taking place.

- (b) In reply to questions about the extension of the double yellow lines, Mr Bergman assured the Council that he and his staff were working with residents with respect to the locations of the extensions. At present strategically placed logs were being used in several locations to prevent parking on grass verges.

## Appendix A

Parking issues had arisen in the vicinity of Mowpin Lodge because staff had been parking their cars there. This had been addressed by trying to persuade the staff to park their cars within the gates of the property.

Both Traffic Wardens and the Police had the authority to move vehicles that had been parked inappropriately. Blue badge holders, however, were allowed to park their cars on double yellow lines as long as they did not cause an obstruction.

In Copperas Lane there would be double yellow lines on both sides of the road. They would be on either side of the cottages, but not immediately in front of the cottages on the side of the road where the cottages were.

- (c) Phase II included a Woodland Management plan for the Plantations.
- (d) White lines could be introduced in front of the helicopter landing pad. This did not require planning permission and Contessa Hotels were free to do this, if they wished.
- (e) There were still plans to introduce a car park beyond the chestnut fencing at the rear of the hotel building.
- (f) The majority of the work on the hotel had to be completed within three years of the start of the lease. Under the terms of the lease the LA had the power to make Contessa Hotels complete the work if not enough had been done.
- (g) The lease was for 199 years.