

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 7th February 2023

Title: Countryside Managers Report

Purpose of Report

To inform Members of activities that have been undertaken by the Open Spaces team since the last report.

Report:

1. The Recreation Ground

1.1 We have made good progress laying the hedge along Canal Way. This has kept us busy over the last month or so and our lovely volunteers have assisted with helping.

1.2 We have had a lot of positive feedback from the public as they have passed by, who have really shown an interest on the style and theory behind what we have done.



2. Herne Hill

2.1 We have been busy with surfacing work up on the hill over the last few weeks. We have managed to finish the zig zag path that allows for an alternative route to the steep slippery slope.

2.2 We have also surfaced a section close to the entrance which gets really wet when it rains.

2.3 With the help of the student on placement from the UWE, we have undertaken a badger set survey which has identified new locations from the sett previously identified in a survey carried out in 1995. These results will be extremely valuable in planning future works.

2.4 The next section of the coppice band has also been cut and the posts and arising have been used as stakes and binders for the hedge along Canal Way.

2.5 A decision node survey was also carried out to help identify how visitors find their way around the site and where improvement is required. Using these results, a plan will be put together to get new way markers in place.

2.6 The first [Herne Hill Users Group \(HUG\)](#) meeting is being arranged for the end of February. This is to allow the Countryside Manager to finish the first draft of the management plan.



3. Horse Chestnut at Winterhay

3.1 The office had a visit from a tree surveyor who works for Abri. He called in to check ownership of a horse chestnut that sits on the corner, outside of the fencing that surrounds the Winterhay play park, and alongside the track from Winterhay Lane.

3.2 Having checked his map and compared it to the Land Registry record of the play park held in the office, it was clear that the fencing is the boundary of the Town Council's land, and that the tree was not within that boundary. The surveyor has taken away that information and confirmed that Abri's legal team will run some checks on the ownership of the track and verges just to be certain that is the case. Once they are satisfied that the tree belongs to Abri, they will be carrying out some work on the horse chestnut, which he believes will happen in a few months' time.

3.3 The surveyor also confirmed Abri ownership of the hollies, hawthorn and ash that run adjacent to the IEF land by the garages.

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AGENDA ITEM 10

| Action | Assigned to | Priority | Status | Start date | End date | Notes |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|-------|
| 1. Install four new benches to replace old metal ones/ | | | | | | |
| Remove three of the old metal benches and take up to the Cemetery | | Medium | | | | |
| Install four three new concrete pads | | Medium | | | | |
| Install benches | | | | | | |
| 2. Side up hedge and remove undergrowth ready to lay | | | | | | |
| Trim sides of hedge using hedge cutting/brushcutter | Volunteers | Medium | Complete | 25/11/2022 | 20/12/2022 | |
| Rack out/cut any brambles growing up through | Volunteers | Medium | Complete | 25/11/2022 | 20/12/2022 | |
| Remove arising to the fire area | Volunteers | Medium | Complete | 25/11/2022 | 20/12/2022 | |
| 3. Spray entrances and the hogging path by cricket club | | | | | | |
| Spray path and entrances | JF | Medium | | | | |
| 4. Clean out guttering and replace broken bits | | | | | | |
| Repair and reattach guttering around toilet block | | Medium | | | | |
| 5. Clear up hammer head area | | | | | | |
| Remove bramble and growth from hammerhead area | | Medium | Complete | 13/10/22 | 21/01/2023 | |
| Edge path going down by canal | | Medium | Complete | 13/10/22 | 21/01/2023 | |
| 6. Repaint and install new market signs | | | | | | |
| Paint wharf lane rec frame and legs | | Medium | Complete | 21/11/22 | 21/11/22 | |
| Install Wharf Lane board | | Medium | Complete | 21/11/22 | 21/11/22 | |
| Collect market house frame and legs | | Medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 11/01/22 | |
| Paint market house frame and legs | | Medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 11/01/22 | |

AGENDA ITEM 10

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|---|--|--------|-------------|------------|----------|--|
| Install market house board | | Medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 18/01/22 | |
| Collect east street board and frame | | Medium | Complete | 18/11/22 | 18/11/22 | |
| Paint east street frame and legs | | Medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 18/01/22 | |
| Install east street board | | medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 18/01/22 | |
| Collect Tesco board and frame | | Medium | Complete | 20/12/22 | 18/01/22 | |
| 7. Winter maintenance cleaves close | | | | | | |
| Ferris cris cross paths | | Medium | Complete | 15/12/22 | 04/01/23 | |
| Brush cut mosaics | | Medium | Complete | 12/12/22 | 04/01/23 | |
| Burn fire | | Medium | Complete | 31/01/22 | 31/01/23 | |
| 8. Finish zig zag path Herne hill | | | | | | |
| Build base layer and secure | | Medium | Complete | 01/12/22 | 25/01/23 | |
| Add wood chip | | Medium | Complete | 01/12/22 | 25/01/23 | |
| 9. Seek permission to install blue town direction signs | | | | | | |
| Create parish online map with locations | | Medium | | | | |
| Find a list of pole owners | | Medium | | | | |
| Seek permission for installation | | Medium | | | | |
| Install signs | | Medium | | | | |
| 10. Get churchyard ready for winter | | | | | | |
| Check caution signs are in place | | High | Complete | | 20/12/22 | |
| Apply for permission of maintenance of Irish yew | | high | Complete | | 03/03/23 | |
| 11. Reestablish goal mouths at the rec | | | | | | |
| Repair goal mouth | | high | In progress | 29/11/2022 | | |