

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 5 December 2023

Title: Open Spaces Report

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendation:

Members to note the report.

Report:

1. The Recreation Ground

The mulch has been installed around the slide on the recreation ground.



This month the grounds team have been raking up leaves on the recreation ground with 52 dumpy sacks worth so far and still going. We have managed to cut the grass on the rec and the IEF land, but some areas of grass are still long due to water logging. The vehicle gate at the tennis courts is in the process of being painted. The long bench in the play park has been sanded and repainted. The hedge along Canal Way has been cut to allow people to pass easily.

2. Herne Hill

An email has been sent to all members of the HUG group to advise them that the HUG meetings have been temporarily paused and will start again in due course when the Countryside Manager's replacement has been appointed and has settled in.

4 of the 6 new signs have now been installed, including the map. The kissing gate has been repainted, vastly improving the look of that entrance.



3. Cemetery

Half of the path has been jet washed, but the other half remains to be done due to a breakdown of the rented machinery. It will be sprayed when the weather is right to allow the moss to die off. Ivy has been removed from the hamstone walls. Small self-seeded shrubs (Ash and Holly) have been removed from some of the old graves.

4. Winterhay Play Park

The Winterhay playpark is now fully open. Last week it was finally dry enough to cut the grass again. It has been great, especially during the fine weather in the school half term, to see so many children having fun and enjoy playing on the new equipment. The feedback from the local residents has also been very positive. Signs and bins have been moved or replaced decluttering the site. The grounds team have also started hedge cutting.

5. Tennis courts

The tennis courts seem to be used more than ever, lots of leaves to clear off this time of year and the contractors have fixed the damaged fencing.

6. West Crescent Play Park

One of the cradle swings has been removed because it was broken (age related).

7. Offices

The entrance and car park at the offices have been sprayed to kill the moss. It was also cleaned with a wire brush to remove the slippery moss before the Christmas Lights switch on.

8. Burma Star Garden

The hedge has been cut regularly which has improved the look. A general tidy up and some resetting of loose stones in the wall made it look good for Remembrance Day.

9. Listers Hill Bus Shelter

The Listers Hill bus shelter has been given a good clean for the first time in many years, and is looking much better.

10. Benches

We have been continuing our bench refurbishment program, and I have included some examples below:



Station Road



Playpark



Outside the Wardens Building

Jason Fontana

Open Spaces Manager

December 2023

AGENDA ITEM 6

Site	Task	Complete
Recreation Ground		
	Hedge by play park- reduce to improve visibility to toilets from road	
	Hedge lay opposite Muchelney House	
	Hedge Lay along IEF land	
	Reduce and tidy hedge by garages	
	Refresh long bench play park	Complete
	Straighten goal post	
	Tighten zip wire / ask Play UK to do when here	
	Clear leaves	ongoing
	Paint gate vehicle gate by tennis court	started
	Remove extra bin by tennis court	
Canal		
	Repair damage to Banks	
	Cut back vegetation on football side	
Herne Hill		
	Put in updated map board	
	Put in wooded entrance signs	2 left
West Crescent		
	Replace fence on to road	
	Spray tiles to stop slippery surface	
Winterhay		
	Remove old bins x2	complete
	Remove wooden post and put sign on fence	complete
	Put in rope pull and wooden stepping stones	complete
	Level soil under new fence	complete
	Hedge cut	started
Church Yard		
	Planning on crown lifting trees	Waiting for reply
	Crown lift trees	
	'Wet and forget' paths	
Cemetery		
	Clear brash in bottom section	
	Clear along fence line	
	Remove rubble	ongoing
	Remove ivy on hamstone walls	complete
	Remove ivy on Cemetery Lodge	
	Clear flower bed at the Lodge	
	Hedge cut	