

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 2nd August 2022

Title: Open Spaces Team 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. Since my last report in June not much has changed on the recreation ground, though unfortunately we did have some more vandalism. Someone had tried to set light to some newspapers on the Sophie Louise. This was reported to the police via 101.
- 1.2. The fair came and despite the poor weather, there were no issues with them leaving the area in an immaculate condition.
- 1.3. Although a few months behind schedule, we have begun reclaiming the hoggin path from the entrance from Canal Way, past the cricket club. Once complete, minor regular works will be added to the monthly tasks to ensure it doesn't fall back into a similar state
- 1.4. The water bottle refilling station has now been installed into the side of the tuck shop along with an external tap that is located within a lockable box.

2. Herne Hill

- 2.1. Unfortunately, due to a lack of time, we haven't been spending much time up on the hill in the past month as we have been busy cutting grass in other areas.
- 2.2. During the hot spell we gave the paths a good cut back though as they were getting a little overgrown, which was very much welcomed by those who use the woods regularly.
- 2.3. I spent some time with Nick and Kane showing them how to undertake a decision node survey, an important part of access management which will help us identify where we are lacking in way-markers and how we can improve the way people find their way around the site.

3. New Road cemetery

- 3.1. Grass cutting is going well, and we have been getting positive feedback from members of the public whilst we have been up there.
- 3.2. We got our tree surgeon in to remove some stumps that had made it difficult to cut the grass, and when the weather is more appropriate, we will re-turf to maintain sward evenness.
- 3.3. We removed a lot of weeds and growth from the gravel path down the side of the cemetery and will ensure that the spraying regime is kept up to ensure it stays looking as it should.



- 3.4. Working with the team and industry standards we have put together a set of maintenance standards to ensure that no matter who is carry out the works the quality remains the same.
- 3.5. Using the standards, we've drafted an action plan to get the cemetery up to the standard and then once complete, routine tasks will be added to ensure that we remain at these standards.

3.6. A massive thank you to Cllr Shearman and Cllr Burton who helped tidy the shed under the mound and have done a superb job of tidying up along the bottom of the cemetery. Cllr Shearman also fixed a broken section of fence and bench which had seen better days. This has really helped us pull the cemetery around and the team really appreciate the time they have put in to help us.

4. West Crescent Wild Meadow

4.1. The second cut of the meadow went well, and we have actually found some yellow rattle which is often referred to as the meadow maker. It competes directly with the grasses, so it is hopefully a sign of things to come.

5. Volunteers

5.1. Since the last update, our volunteers have raked the meadow and also spent the day finishing the zig zag path up at Herne hill which will help walkers avoid the steep, slippery hill in the winter months.

6. Staff Training

6.1. Kane has recently been on a chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting course and we will now look at getting him some practical experience using his new skills up on Herne Hill.