

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 4^h April 2023

Title: Countryside Managers Report

Purpose of Report

To inform member of activities that have been undertaken by the Open spaces team since the last report

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Report:

1. The Recreation Ground

1.1 We have made good progress putting in new benches down on the recreation ground and are just waiting for a turn in the weather to get the Queen's memorial bench in-situ which hopefully be within the next week or so.

1.2 Some recent maintenance work and cleaning on our pyramid climber has revealed some amazing colours on the rope which looks fantastic compared to what it did before

1.3 The new toilet block doors are in place and are looking fantastic. They are of a much more sturdy and robust design and as required should be more vandal proof



1.4 recently there has been a spat of vandalism which has seen window smashed on the Recreation Ground. This saw the roof smashed on the toilet block, reports of fires by the Cricket Pavilion and some additional graffiti. All of this has been reported to the police. Efforts will continue to deter the vandals as well as to promote via social media the need for members of the public to keep their eyes open and report suspicious behaviour to the police.

2. Britten's Field

The Sports club limited, have undertaken the drainage repairs on the path along the football pitch and the canal ditch clearing many of the blocked and collapsed pipes. This has resulted a clear improvement of drainage and many of these pipes have been flowing with water since

While undertaking the works, they identified an old broken manhole cover hidden only a few cm under ground level which had partly collapsed and posed a significant risk. Work has been undertaken by a contractor to fix the manhole and replace the cover as per discussions between the Town Clerk and members of the council in order to authorise emergency repairs.



The site of the bonfire has been checked by Councillor Jenner-Hurford and myself, we both agreed we are satisfied with the results of the work. We have been informed that

the sports club intend to seed and roll the area once more before the beginning of the seasons and are just waiting for the appropriate weather.

There has been significant badger activity in the area though unfortunately there is little that can be done to deter this.



3. Herne Hill

The first HUG meeting is due to take place on Friday 31st March with an agenda to discuss Terms of reference and an introduction to the green flag management plan.

We will ask for ideas and thoughts on the management plan before bringing a draft copy to the Open Spaces committee for their comment and input.

This should give us plenty of preparation time to apply for the award with the deadline for next year's applicants being January 31st, 2024

4. Church

Unfortunately, our planning application for maintenance on the Irish yew in the church yard have been declined, the tree officer said both sets at each gate are relatively modest in size and far enough away from property to be of no concern.

He mentioned giving training to the town council staff back in 2008 on how he would like these trees to be managed, there are a few trees we have with TPO around the site so other the next month or so I will contact the tree officer to arrange a site visit to discuss how he would like us to proceed with future management before we apply again.

5. Cemetary

We've undertaken the first cut at the cemetery and its starting look nice.

We have also had our volunteer in to help expose some of the curb sets which have grown over and almost disappeared making it difficult to cut the grass.



6. Town benches

Nick has done a fantastic job is giving the benches in town a tidy up so they will be looking at their best for the celebrations in May.

Once the ones in town are complete, we will continue with the maintenance schedule as dictated by the bench survey targeting the ones needing it most first.

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,		High	Complete	21/02/2023	21/02/2023	
Install three new concrete pads		High	Complete	21/02/2023	21/02/2023	
Install benches		High	Complete	21/02/2023	21/02/2023	Last one by oak tree and cricket club path to be the queens Jubilee bench
2. Spray entrances and the hogging path by cricket club						
Spray path and entrances	JF	Medium				
3. Clean out guttering and replace broken bits						
Repair and reattach guttering around toilet block		Medium				
4. 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				
5. Reestablish goal mouths at the rec						
Repair goal mouth		high	Complete	29/11/2022	21/02/23	
6. Remove tarps and wood from along cemetery fence line						
Clear rubbish from tin hut at the bottom of the cemetery		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	
Put all tarp and grave boards in tin hut		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	

AGENDA ITEM 7

Ask office to inform grave digger		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	
7. Move funeral signs to Back of cemetery lodge						
Put signs and cones by back gate to cemetery lodge		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	
8. Cost up repairs to steps by morgue and toilet						
List all materials needed and quantities			Complete	15/03/23	15/03/23	
Meet with Allison to cost up			Complete	15/03/23	15/03/23	
Order materials			Complete	15/03/23	15/03/23	
Carry out repairs						
9. Grass seed patches where required cemetery						
Order Grass seed	JT	High				
Fill in any areas where it required		medium				
10. Tidy up the beds along wall and by path						
Remove weeds and re-edge edges			Complete	13/02/23	14/02/23	
(MARCH) cut fuchsia down to ground level						
11. Cemetery trees and shrubs						
Pollard willow in middle section of cemetery	Tree Surgeon					
Raise trees along bottom of cemetery	Tree surgeon					
Cemetery viburnum re-shape level			Complete	13/02/23	14/02/23	
Traditional band and cut Irish yews						
12. Cemetery toilet block Maintenance						
Repair broken overflow		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	
Paint and clean up walls		Medium	Complete	08/02/23	08/02/23	
13. Recreation ground maintenance jobs						
Count how many new fence posts required			Complete	16/03/23	16/03/23	

AGENDA ITEM 7

Order fence posts/rails						
Order paint						
Replace fence posts						
Paint fence line	Volunteers					
Move stone bollard entrance pin						
Reduce trees overhanging tennis courts	Tree surgeon	High	Complete	16/03/23	16/03/23	
Pollard ash overhanging tennis courts	Tree surgeon	High	Complete	16/03/23	16/03/23	
14. Recreation ground/ Britten's field etc. reduce grass height for 2023 season						
Week 7 Cut to 50mm	NB		Complete	14/02/23	14/02/23	
Week 8 cut to 45mm	JT		Complete	14/02/23	14/02/23	
Week 9 cut to 40mm	NB		Complete	14/02/23	14/02/23	
Wek 10 cut to 35mm	JT		Complete	14/02/23	14/02/23	
Week 11 cut to 30 mm	NB					
15. Move Items from Vaughn lee store to backdown (Before 31st march)						
Move items			Complete	28/02/23	28/02/23	
Email office letting them know			Complete	28/02/23	28/02/23	
16. Play Equipment Maintenance						
Jet wash rope climber	JF		Complete	17/03/23	17/03/23	
17. Tennis court prep for refurb						
Blow up Leaves			Complete	18/03/23	18/03/23	
Remove plaque of bench and dismantle						
18. Cemetery Maintenance						
Collect and dispose of Christmas wreaths			Complete	22/03/23	23/03/23	
19. Tidy up benches in town for coronation (May)						
Bring in first double bench by coop	NB		Complete	16/03/23	22/03/23	
Dismantle	NB		Complete	16/03/23	22/03/23	

AGENDA ITEM 7

Treat and paint	NB		Complete	16/03/23	22/03/23	
Put back together and put back out	NB		Complete	16/03/23	22/03/23	
Bring in second bench by coop	NB		Complete	22/03/23	22/03/23	
Dismantle				22/03/23		
Treat and paint				22/03/23		
Treat and paint bench by bus stop						