

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 9 April 2024

Title: Disposal of green waste

Purpose of Report

Members to receive information regarding future disposal of green waste.

Recommendation:

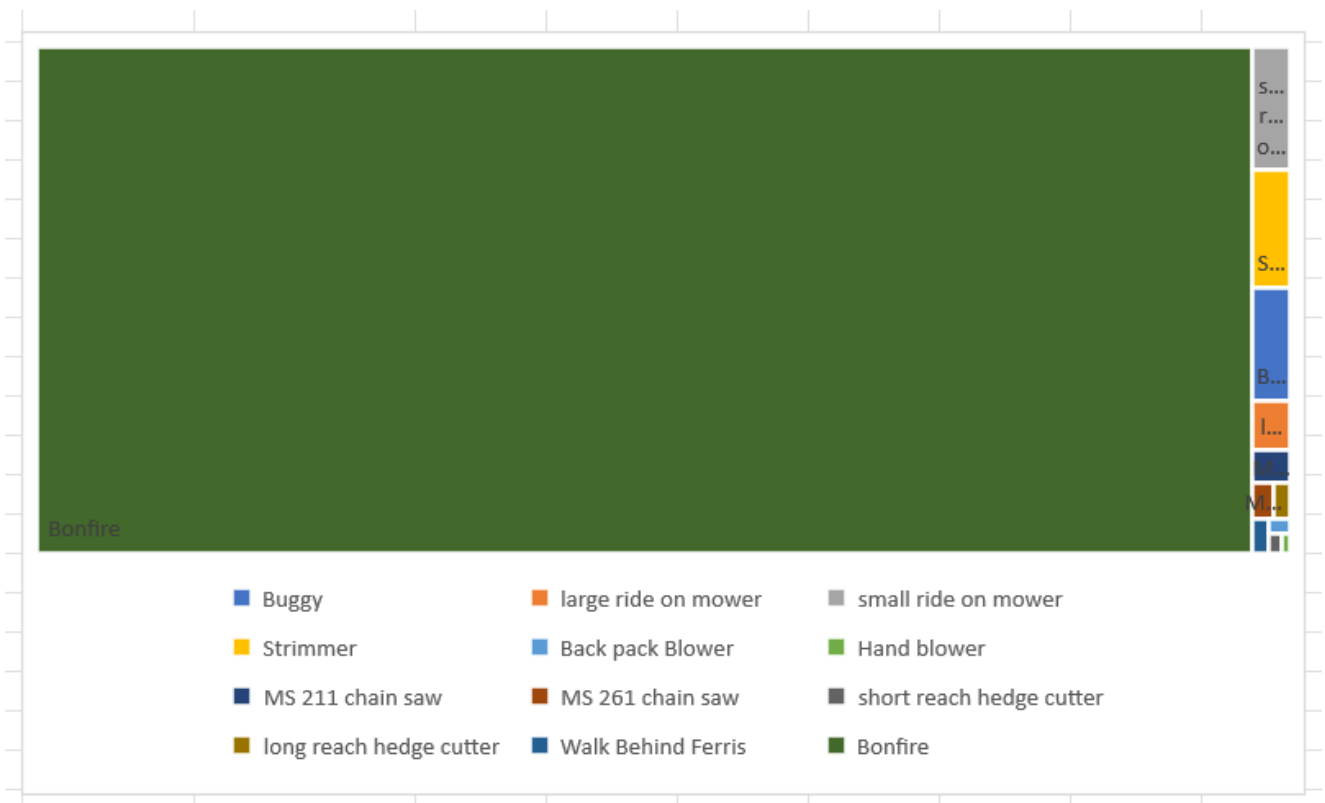
1. Members **Resolve** to prohibit all future bonfires on Herne Hill Nature Reserve.
2. Members **Resolve** to delegate to officers to employ a suitable supplier of a green waste bin in accordance with the Town Council’s Financial Regulations.

Background:

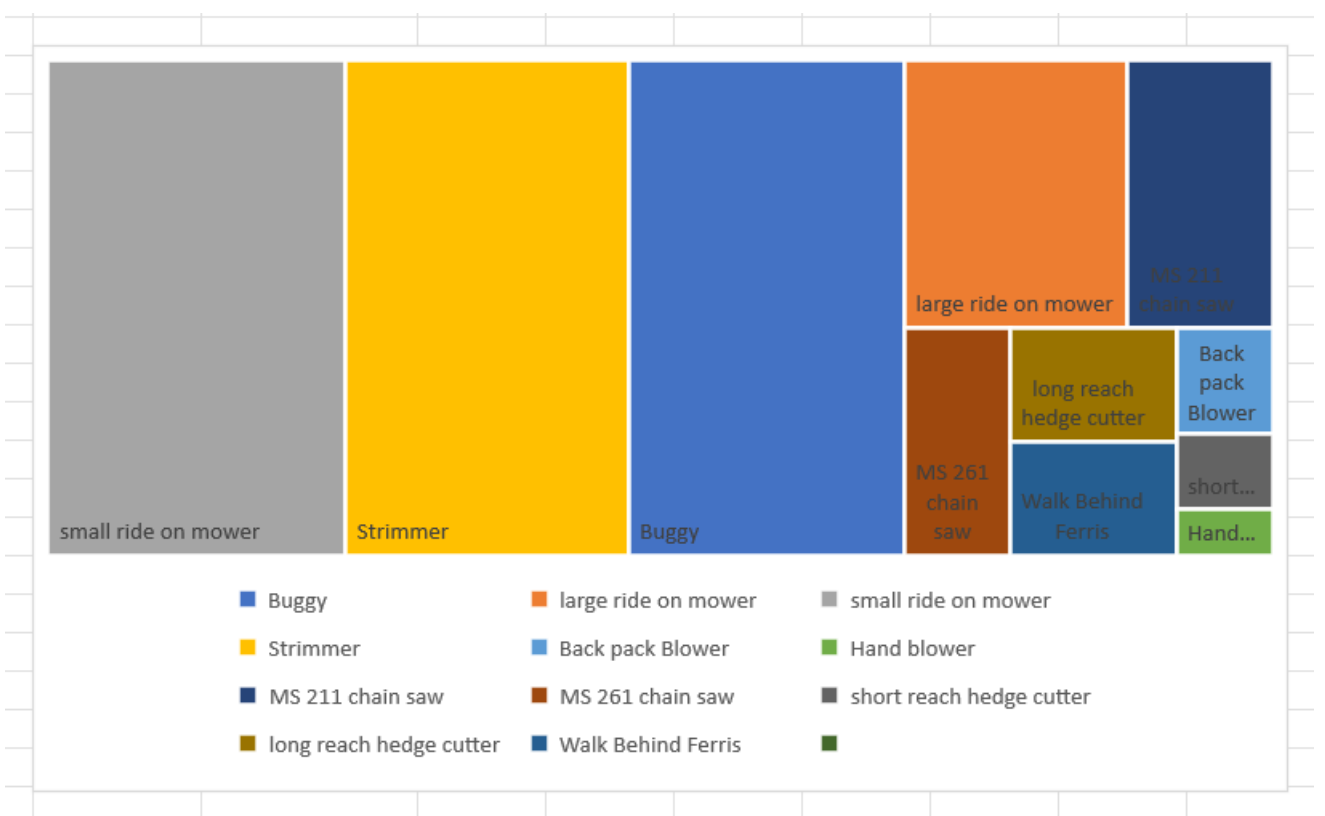
1. The grounds team regularly need to have a bonfire to burn off green waste. As per government recommendations, councils should only have bonfires to burn off invasive species such as Japanese knotweed. There is a byelaw in place that prohibits having fires on our open spaces land unless there is specific council permission given.
2. There are concerning Health and Safety issues with having bonfires on Herne Hill. The bonfire would be on public land that is not fenced off. One of the grounds staff would need to be in attendance whilst the fire is burning. There is always the possibility of a flare up. Although the fire may appear to be out, it can stay hot for a few days which could pose a significant risk.
3. With Climate Change we are experiencing greater rainfall. This results in land that is increasingly muddy for longer periods. This means consequently that the grounds team are unable to get green waste up Herne Hill safely using the ATV. The spring and summer months are drier which creates the second flare up risk of having a bonfire.
4. When considering the environmental impact of a bonfire, it is the single highest CO2 emission at an estimated 28 tonnes in a year when compared to the next most polluting item of equipment used by the grounds team, a strimmer at 0.2 tonnes per year which can be seen in the graphs below.

	tons Co2
Buggy	0.199728
large ride on mo	0.0875471
small ride on mo	0.2165839
Strimmer	0.20587
Back pack Blowe	0.015015
Hand blower	0.00636
MS 211 chain sav	0.056943
MS 261 chain sav	0.03525
short reach hedg	0.010637
long reach hedge	0.02779
Walk Behind Feri	0.027755
Bontire	28.956

This graph shows the amount of CO2 produced from a bonfire compared to our other equipment:



This graph shows the same information but without the bonfire included:



Report:

5. A proposed solution to replace having a bonfire is for the grounds team to collect green waste and be able to hire a chipper and rent a green waste skip. These skips come with a lockable lid and are only emptied when full. An estimate from one company was around £1,900.00 for a year which includes rental, carriage and disposal of roughly 5 tonnes 4 times a year. Crewkerne Town Council have a similar scheme in place.
6. It is estimated it would need emptying 4 times a year and that the cost of hiring a chipper would be approximately £400 per week.
7. Funding has been allocated within the reserves budget from which this expenditure can be covered Budget heading 558/4 Waste Stroke recycling £2,600. There are then also identified Open Spaces Reserves that can be used to help cover further expenditure should it be required later in the year.
8. There will be a need due to the green waste already collected for at least one skip to be brought in. This is due to fact the existing waste is saturated and would take some time to dry out. The changes in Somerset Council services from April 2024 could potentially create more green waste that the Town Council will become responsible for removing.
9. Members **Resolve** to prohibit all future bonfires on Herne Hill Nature Reserve.
10. Members **Resolve** to delegate to officers to employ a suitable supplier of a green waste bin in accordance with the Town Council's Financial Regulations.

Jason Fontana
Open Spaces Manager
March 2024