

Maintenance Report

April 2017

Winter Preparation

Due to the mild winter the Maintenance Team were not required to undertake major gritting operations within the town. Gritting of selected footways was executed on a precautionary basis on 25 January. The salt spreader has now been cleaned and stored and the operational unit has been removed from the tractor until next winter season.

Storm Doris

During the height of storm Doris on 23 February, gusts of winds reaching 50-60mph caused damage in Thame. The Maintenance Team assisted two businesses in Lupton Road making safe damaged roofs and assisting OCC by reopening Brookside to traffic following a fallen tree until OCC could attend site. During the storm a large tree fell onto the grass area at The Moats. The fallen tree was inspected and removed over the following few days. The Maintenance Team have now cleared a large amount of fallen tree debris from the recreation grounds around Thame.

Grass Cutting

All grass cutting machinery has been serviced and the first grass cut of the season commenced early-March. The Maintenance Team cut approximately 102,924m² of grass. Approx. 49,898m² grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council.

Hedge Cutting, Shrub Bed Maintenance and Tree Work

The programme of winter hedge cutting and shrub bed maintenance on Council owned land has now been completed. Low tree branches and basal growth has been removed from trees where required.

Cuttle Brook

The ditches and stream continue to be checked and cleared of debris following any flood alerts that are issued by the Environment Agency.

Skate Park

The wildflower areas on the steep banks have been cut and cleared in preparation for applying additional wildflower seed mixture to further enhance these difficult to maintain areas and provide added interest and biodiversity to the facility.

Following some minor remedial works to the skate park by Wheelscape, the final account has been settled concluding the 12 month retention period for the project.

Memorial Gardens

The Maintenance Team have re-stained the benches within the Memorial Gardens.

Depot

Following the electrical wire testing of the depot a number of remedial works were identified. An order for this work has been placed with the electrical contractor for completion.

The Maintenance Team are undertaking PAT testing on all electrical equipment at the depot.

Town Hall

Routine servicing has been undertaken by a specialist contractor on the emergency lighting, fire alarm and intruder alarm systems.

The Maintenance Team are undertaking PAT testing on all electrical equipment at the Town Hall.

The Maintenance Team have reorganised the office area to accommodate a further desk for the Market Town Co-ordinator.

A specialist contractor has been engaged to undertake an acoustic survey of the Upper Chamber.

Street Furniture

Wooden benches around the town have been re-stained and a number of litter bins repainted.

St Mary's Churchyard

The grounds maintenance contract has been re-awarded to Oxford Edens. The contractors have commenced grass cutting for this season.

The Maintenance Team undertook a spring tidy up around the churchyard clearing unwanted vegetation.

Seasonal Bedding

The seasonal bedding requirements for summer and winter have been finalised with a colour theme of bright colours consisting of red, orange, yellow etc. The supplier R C Smith Plants, will once again be providing the self-watering hanging baskets that proved to be very successful last summer. This contract is within budget lines.

Continental Market

The Maintenance Team provided road closure signage and barriers for the Italian Market that operated over 3 and 4 March 2017.