

# Maintenance Report

July 2017

## Grass Cutting

The Team are now fully dedicated to regularly cutting approximately 102,924m<sup>2</sup> of grass. Approx. 49,898m<sup>2</sup> grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council. This will be the Team's main focus until October.

## Cuttle Brook and Ham Wood

Footpaths are cut regularly through the nature reserve and woodland. Within 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. The meadow areas are programmed to be cut for hay during late July by a specialist contractor. The Cuttle Brook Site Visit took place on 28 June and was attended by Cllr. Midwinter, Officers and members of the Cuttle Brook Volunteers (CBV). During a tour of the site the CBV discussed various matters including the proposed 3 new notice boards that have been grant funded by the Co-op; that the pond still has issues with water levels and the group are looking into the possible diversion of a spring to feed the pond; the future management of Cox's Wood and the impact that Ash Dieback may have; the major projects and planned work on the brook as detailed in the 'Summer Update' (previously circulated to all Members) and wild flower spotting within the meadows by the group. The tour was extremely informative to all those present.

## Litter

Litter picking has now increased to 7 days per week on Southern Road Recreation Ground, Elms Park, Queen Elizabeth Circle, Skate Park and the Memorial Gardens. Large volumes of smashed glass and litter are being removed daily from the areas and this is being reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team for enforcement along with the reported anti-social behaviour.

Following complaints from a resident and working closely with SODC a litter bin at Lenthall Green has been reprovisioned in a better location.

## Summer Planting

All 48 hanging baskets have been planted and reinstalled in the Town Centre. The nursery has supplied self-watering baskets that contain a water reservoir to assist with maintenance during the hot weather. The Millennium Circle, the Town Hall, Elms Park, the entrance planters and the flowerbeds in the Memorial Gardens, North Street, Pickenfield and Pearce Way have also been planted with a total of 3584 plants. Whilst planting the Team received many compliments from the public regarding the displays and how this is very much appreciated by the community of all ages. Watering is undertaken by the Team early in the morning and at regular intervals dependent on the weather conditions.

## Southern Road Recreation Ground

The football goal posts have now been removed following the end of the football season.

The cesspit serving the changing rooms and Scout Hut has been emptied and three road gullies have been cleared within the car park.

A replacement programmer has been fitted to a boiler in the changing rooms that serves the showers.

Low tree branches have been removed on the tree line adjacent to Moreton Lane to prevent obstruction to pedestrians using the footpath.

Three new metal litter bins have been installed at various locations within the recreation ground. These new bins replace bins that have been removed due to damage over the past year.

### **St Mary's Church**

The grounds maintenance contractors continue to cut the grass on a regular basis. Complaints were received during May from visitors regarding the grass cutting regime. The hot and wet weather conditions made grass cutting very difficult with large volumes of arising left after each cut with grass growth being exceptional. An additional cut in May will be added to the contract next year to help alleviate this issue. Two skips were provided to assist the church volunteers with the annual summer churchyard tidy up on 22 June.

### **Play Areas**

On 13 May a number of perimeter wooden fencing rails were vandalised at Queen Elizabeth Circle. This followed a spate of anti-social behaviour at the area and the adjacent skate park. The damage was reported to Police and repairs to the fence have been undertaken. Emergency tree works were undertaken by the Council's arboricultural contractor to the mature Poplar tree at Churchill Crescent Play Area following storm damage.

### **Bus Shelters and Street Furniture**

Damaged end and base perspex panels are being replaced by contractors on 2 bus shelters on the Oxford Road and Aylesbury Road. Repairs have been undertaken to a number of damaged tree grill kerb surrounds in the Upper High Street car park. This has been caused by vehicles parking inappropriately. Unauthorised signage around the town continues to be removed when seen.

### **Vehicle Inventory**

The Maintenance Team have taken delivery of a new Ford Transit, this replaces the VW Crafter which has also now been sold. The new vehicle has been modified to enable the rear section of the double cab to securely store plant and equipment.

### **Event Support**

The Maintenance Team have provided assistance with operations and signage for the following events:

- 30 April – Music in the Park
- 10 June – Thame Carnival
- 23 June – Sports in the Street
- 8 July – Thame Music Festival

### **Town Hall**

Arrangements have been made with Healthmatic to deal with any major cleaning issues with the disabled toilet. This also includes better access control of the toilet should this be required.

### **Brookside**

During Storm Doris a Hawthorn tree fell from the OCC verge obstructing the highway. The Maintenance Team cleared the tree from the highway to assist OCC during this very busy time. After some confusion regarding land ownership and the lengthy time frame in trying to resolve the issue and complaints from residents, we have bitten the bullet and removed the fallen tree from the verge. The Asset Manager will continue to investigate the land ownership as inaccuracies appear on OCC records.

### **Health and Safety**

All fire extinguishers within the Council's buildings and vehicles have been serviced. Following the recent electrical wire testing of the Southern Road Changing Rooms a number of remedial works were identified. An order for this work has been placed with the electrical contractor for completion.