

Maintenance Report

October 2017

Grass Cutting

The Maintenance Team have been fully dedicated to regularly cutting approximately 102,924m² of grass. Approx. 49,898m² grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council. This has been the Team's main focus and depending on weather conditions grass cutting may continue into mid-November.

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 were cut for hay during August by a specialist contractor. This was delayed due to the wet weather.

Following Conservation Area Consent regarding tree works, a willow on the banks of Cuttle Brook within Nontron Meadow has been pollarded by the Council's arboricultural contractor.

Cuttle Brook Volunteers have commenced the first phase of habitat improvement works by providing a fish refuge in Nontron Meadow and the creation of a dog entry point near the steps to the Phoenix Trail. This work is being funded by a TOE2 grant (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment). Details of the whole project were circulated with the Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers Summer Update 2017 and a progress report within the Autumn Update 2017.

Litter Picking

During the summer months litter picking has been undertaken seven days per week at Southern Road Recreation Ground, Elms Park, Queen Elizabeth Circle and the Memorial Gardens. Weekend litter picking will cease mid-October at these sites.

Summer Planting

The Maintenance Team have been watering and maintaining the 48 town centre hanging baskets and the summer bedding planted at the Memorial Gardens, The Millennium Circle, the entrance planters and the flowerbeds in North Street, Pickenfield and Pearce Way. Watering has been undertaken by the Team early in the morning and at regular intervals dependant on the weather conditions. For the second season the bedding plant supplier provided self-watering hanging baskets as part of the contract. This has proven to be very successful with the hanging baskets abundantly flowering and requiring less watering visits but enabling the soil to continue to obtain water during very hot weather conditions.

The summer bedding and hanging baskets have now been removed in preparation for the winter bedding and baskets.

Memorial Gardens

Members from The Thame Lions Club have commenced repainting the metal railings and gates. This project will take place over a number of sessions. The Council supplied the materials to undertake the work and this community work is greatly appreciated to ensure the Memorial Gardens remain well maintained.

Skate Park

The Maintenance Team have reduced a section of perimeter hedging adjacent to the skate park. This was requested by the Police following issues with anti-social behaviour. This will assist with the area being more visible to passing members of the public and Police and fewer sheltered areas within the skate park.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

The Maintenance Team have installed the football goal posts and there are regularly bookings from one football team with matches on Sundays. The changing rooms are cleaned following weekend matches.

A specialist contractor has undertaken a tank clean and system disinfection of the cold water system at the changing rooms.

A specialist contractor has undertaken repair works to a toilet within the changing rooms.

Replacement parts have been fitted to the junior Biibox unit within the play area.

An order has been placed for remedial electrical works to be undertaken within the changing rooms.

Queen Elizabeth Circle Play Area

The Maintenance Team have installed eight tonnes of soft washed sand into the junior play area. Replacement parts have been ordered for the Mobilus unit.

Churchill Crescent Play Area

The Maintenance Team have repainted the basketball hoop.

St Mary's Church

Grounds maintenance contractors continue to undertake a fortnightly grass cut within the churchyard and this also now includes the additional burial area at Priest End.

The Moats

Investigations have been undertaken by a drainage contractor working on behalf of Lea Park (V) South Ltd. to a blocked drain within a private car park on Chalgrove Road. Following clearance of the drain and a section of the pipeline it has been established that a blockage exists under land on The Moats. During continued levels of rainfall the car park and adjacent public footpaths become flooded. The Moats is a Historic England listed site and Officers have approached Historic England for advice and guidance on resolving the issue. The Council is working closely with Lea Park (V) South Ltd. to resolve this issue as a matter of priority.

Street Furniture

Repairs have been undertaken by a specialist contractor to the two damaged bus shelters on Oxford Road and Aylesbury Road.

Town Hall

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

Two broken glass window panes have been replaced on the first floor following damage caused 25/26 September.

Event Support

The Maintenance Team provided assistance with operations for the following events by providing cones, signage and fencing:

- 13-14 October - October Fair.
- 19-21 October – French Market.

Christmas Lights

The OCC licence for this season's festive decorations has been granted. Under the Highways Act 1980 section 178, licence information is required to be submitted to OCC detailing locations of lights, insurance details and installation contractor details. The unmetered supply agreement with UK Power Networks for the use of the electricity has also been received.

Vehicles

The equipment storage area within the new Ford Transit has been fitted out to securely store and carry plant and equipment. The vehicle has also now been sign written.

Health and Safety

Fire Risk Assessments Reviews and Fire Inspections have been completed on the Town Hall, Southern Road Recreation Ground Changing Rooms and Lupton Road Depot.