

Maintenance Report

April 2018

Winter Preparation

The Maintenance Team undertook gritting operations within the town on 28 February and 2 March. The newly purchased snow plough was also utilised on 2 March. Approximately 10 tonne of grit has been used this winter season, with 5 tonne of grit remaining in stock.

The salt spreader has now been cleaned and stored and the operational unit has been removed from the tractor until next winter season.

Grass Cutting

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

Litter Picking

Litter picking of all of the main recreation grounds, memorial gardens and play areas is now undertaken seven days per week with the work being undertaken on a rota basis by the Maintenance Team.

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.

Depot

A Legionella Risk Assessment was undertaken on 2 March and a number of remedial works were identified for action and these are being progressed by the Asset Manager. The Maintenance Team have commenced PAT testing on all electrical equipment at the depot.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

All electrical remedial works have now been completed at the Changing Rooms and a revised Electrical Installation Certificate issued for the building.

Town Hall

Routine servicing has been undertaken by a specialist contractor on the emergency lighting, fire alarm and intruder alarm systems. Routine servicing of the automatic door to the Information Centre has also been undertaken.

A replacement gas boiler has been fitted to serve the central heating system to the ground floor offices.

Seasonal Bedding

The seasonal bedding requirements for summer and winter has been finalised with a colour theme of red, white and blue. 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.

Radio System

The replacement radio system for the Maintenance Team has been installed and being used during the teams working day. Communication via the radio system is good and clear throughout Thame.

St Mary's Churchyard

The additional burial space area has been cut under agreement with the Church in preparation for marking out for burial use. All areas will be cut in line with the specification.

Tree Work

Tree works have been completed by the Council's arboricultural contractor at the following sites:

- Cuttle Brook – boundary with 18 Hazel Avenue – 2 x Willow trees – pollarded, 2 x Cherry trees – felled, 1 x Sycamore – crown raised to 5m.
- Webster Close – 1 x Cherry tree – felled and stump ground out. The Maintenance Team have replanted a replacement Cherry tree. The original tree was planted by the residents of Webster Close in memory of Princess Diana.
- Queen Elizabeth Circle Play Area – Beech tree line – trees reduced at rear of 68 and 70 Roundhead Drive.
- Pickenfield – Maple tree – tree reduced by 25% at rear of 34 Pickenfield. The Maintenance Team have also replanted a replacement Rowan tree that had recently been felled.
- Langdale Road – Tree line – trees reduced on Council amenity land opp. 4-10 Langdale Road.
- Tythrop Way – Trees adjacent to highway all crown raised to provide 1m clearance around all signs and street lights and from highway edge.

Grass Cutting Equipment

New grass cutting equipment consisting of a Kubota ZD1211 Zero-Turn ride on mower and Toro pedestrian rotary mower have been delivered. These machines have replaced the Kubota ZD326 Zero Turn mower and Great Dane Scamper pedestrian mower which have been traded-in against the new equipment. Two new pedestrian rotary mowers and a trimmer have also been delivered to undertake grass cutting within St Mary's Churchyard.