

Maintenance Team Report

December 2013

Grass Cutting

Due to the abnormally mild approach to Christmas, the grass continues to grow. The Maintenance Team has dedicated the necessary amount of time to cut the 102,924m² of grass, plus the 499,898m² that is done under contract for Oxfordshire County Council. The grass is cut over a two-week period and will continue to be cut until winter sets in and it is no longer required.

Litter Picking

Litter is picked on a regular basis within the play areas and at other sites around the town including Lenthall Green and The Moats. Weather depending, this is completed up to five times a week.

Floral Standards

Contrary to previous years, the 24 floral standards that are removed to make way for the September and October Fairs were re-hung to decorate the town for a few extra weeks. The Team was able to preserve the flowers throughout their time in storage and reinstate the baskets that have received numerous compliments throughout the summer and autumn months.

Despite the baskets having now been removed, Thame remains in bloom as the entrance planters, the Millennium Circle and the planters outside the Town Hall have been replenished with winter foliage.

Safety Barrier at QEC

Following concern raised by residents from Harrison Place regarding cyclists and children on scooters leaving QEC, a safety barrier has been installed between the play area and the road. The new barrier will encourage cyclists and scooter users to reduce their speed before entering onto Harrison Place preventing any collisions with cars or pedestrians. In addition to this work, the gate and bollards within the play area have been re-stained.

SRRG Slide Steps

The slide at SRRG continues to be popular with local children, however, over time the steps leading up the slide have eroded. The old steps have been removed and sleepers installed with a new handrail that should prove more resilient to the level of usage.

Moreton

In addition to the maintenance work carried out within Thame, improvement works have been going on within Moreton. The condition of the War Memorial has been improved; the surrounding stones were removed to allow the installation of a new membrane to prevent weed growth. The small stones were then replaced and an additional 6 bags of stones were spread to return the Memorial to its former glory, completed in time for the annual Service of Remembrance. The village's bus shelter and noticeboard have also been sanded, re-stained and painted.

September and October Fairs

Each year the Maintenance Team has to complete a number of operational tasks in preparation for both the September and October Fairs. As with previous years, all the car park signage, floral

standards and traffic islands were removed. Road closure signage and cones were put out in a timely manner to warn residents and visitors about vehicle restrictions and additional refuse bins were placed within the Upper and Lower High Street to cater for the increase in litter during this period.

Remembrance

Time was allocated for erecting a podium within the Memorial Gardens for the Service of Remembrance. A tannoy system was also installed and the Gardens were tidied and mown in preparation for the occasion. Signage and barriers were also erected to inform residents and visitors of the temporary road closure and swiftly removed following the ceremony.

Thame Youth Memorial

Following the installation of the Thame Youth Memorial within the Gardens, the Team has begun to maintain the area on a regular basis, removing fallen leaves and cleaning off bird excrement that may damage the sculpture and paving.

New Pathway in Parliament Road

Assistance was given with the installation of a new tarmac pathway in Parliament Road that will help to combat the continual wear of the surrounding grassed area. The pathway was built by Drayton Construction, however, the Team prepared the area so work could commence in a timely manner.

Town Hall Improvements

In addition to the painting in QEC and Moreton, the bins and outdoor seating around the Town Hall have been repainted and stained ready for the onset of winter.

Adverse Weather

Six fallen trees were promptly removed in the Nature Reserve caused by the adverse weather that Thame experienced at the end of October.