

Maintenance Report

February 2019

Grass Cutting

The Maintenance Team continued grass cutting until mid-November. All grass cutting machinery is now being serviced in preparation of the commencement of the 2019 grass cutting season in March.

Seasonal Bedding

The summer bedding was removed late autumn from all flower beds and winter bedding planted at the town entrance planters, Memorial Gardens, Elms Park, North Street, the Millennium Circle and Town Hall planters. Financial resources this season also permitted the installation of 32 winter/spring hanging baskets within the town. The scheme colours for summer 2019 will be pastels.

Remembrance Sunday and World War One 2018 Commemorations

The War Memorial and grounds at Thame and Moreton were tidied for the Remembrance Service. The Maintenance Team undertook numerous operational tasks for the Remembrance Service in Thame including road closures and assisted with the evening beacon lighting event.

Christmas Event

Numerous operational tasks were undertaken throughout the day including traffic control, road closures, provision of lighting and sound and assisting with the lights switch-on and crowd control.

Christmas Tree

The Maintenance Team assisted the supplier with the installation of the Christmas tree by providing traffic and pedestrian control. Sponsorship banners were hung for the duration of the Christmas period around the wooden barrier fencing. The tree was removed following the lights switch-off and wood chipped and distributed as a weed suppressant to hedge bases at Ham Wood.

Senior Citizens Christmas Tea Party

The Maintenance Team delivered crockery and assisted with setting up and removal of tables and chairs for the event.

Cuttle Brook

The ditches and stream have been cleared of debris and continue to be checked. The weather forecast is monitored and the area is checked when flood alerts are issued.

Hedge Cutting, Shrub Bed Maintenance and Tree Work

The programme of hedge cutting and shrub bed maintenance on Council owned land has commenced and will be completed over the next few months. Low tree branches and basal growth will be removed from trees where required.

Play Areas

The annual RoSPA play area safety inspection reports have been undertaken on all play areas including the skate park.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

The Maintenance Team have installed a replacement deck to the junior multi use.

Town Hall

Christmas decorations and lights were installed within the Information Centre and Council Chamber for the festive season.

In January the intruder alarm engineers installed a replacement system. This follows ongoing issues throughout December with the system which were caused from both a faulty panel and software issues.

Agenda Item: 14

Four callouts to the lift engineers were made to the Town Hall passenger lift during November and December. Some of the issues have been caused by the doors being wedged open and the door sensors being damaged. Officers have requested that the service engineer makes any necessary recommendations of work/repairs on the lift as a matter of priority for consideration.

A glazed panel in the disabled toilet was smashed during an incident on 16 January with staff being called out by the Police to attend and secure the building. The panel was replaced on 18 January and recovery of the cost of this work is being pursued with the parents of the children concerned.

An electrician and plumber were called out to resolve issues with the lighting in the disabled toilet on 21 January. It was discovered that a minor water leak from a pipe serving the boiler had ingress into the ceiling light. The issue was fixed the same day and enabled a hire of the Upper Chamber to proceed that evening.

Elms Park

Following the very hot summer in 2018 the grass within the park has not fully re-established and requires over seeding. It is programmed to over seed the main grass area during March.

Tree Works

Elms Park - The Council's arboricultural contractor has undertaken the following work to trees neighbouring properties on Park Street:

- Maple trees x 2 – crown cleaned and thinned
- Maple trees x 6 - crown reduced by 25%, cleaned and thinned
- Sycamore trees x 2 - crown cleaned and thinned

Lupton Road Depot

Servicing of the fire alarm and intruder alarm has been completed.

The PAT tester has been recalibrated and will be used by the Maintenance Team to PAT test the councils electrical equipment.

St Mary's Churchyard

Permission was obtained from SODC to re pollard the lime trees in and the Maintenance Team undertook this work during November.

The Maintenance Team assisted Church volunteers with the annual winter tidy up on 22 November.

The first year with the Maintenance Team undertaking various works including grass cutting and hedge cutting has proved to be very successful with compliments being received from the public and church.

Memorial Gardens

A fencing post was damaged during a road traffic accident on 11 January. A replacement post has been ordered and will be installed by the Maintenance Team once delivered. Recovery of the cost of this work will be pursued with the driver concerned.

Health and Safety Reviews

The annual COSHH review on substances and materials used by the Council has been completed.

Gas safety inspections have been completed on the boilers at Southern Road Recreation Ground Changing Rooms, Lupton Road Depot and the Town Hall.

The Council's Health and Safety Consultants, Ellis Whittam will be undertaking the annual safety review on 13 February 2019. The full report from this visit will be reported to Policy and Finance on 9 April 2019.

Training

Chris Truran & Tony Collingwood have successfully completed training and assessments on Chainsaw Maintenance & Operation CS30 (CS0960) Course.

Winter Preparation

Following the end of the grass cutting season the salt spreader was serviced and the operational unit fitted within the tractor for winter use.

In November, OCC delivered 1 tonne of road salt which is now held in stock. The road salt has been provided free of charge by OCC for use if required by the Council. The quantity held in stock is now 8 tonnes. Following the snowfall on 22 January, the Maintenance Team undertook gritting of the main town centre footpaths and other crucial areas and have used approx. 1 tonne of grit.