

Maintenance Report

October 2019

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting has continued on a regular basis through the season, the Maintenance Team cut approximately 102,924m² of grass within the parish boundary. Approx. 49,898m² grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council.

Cuttle Brook and Ham Wood

A fallen Willow branch was cut and made safe by the Maintenance Team. Following this advice was sought from an arboricultural expert (and CBV) and the Willow was pollarded by an arboricultural contractor.

The exceptional weather / gusting winds on 30 July 2019 resulted in a tree falling across Spring Path. The Maintenance Team were called out after hours to make the path safe.

Fallen Alder branch cut and made safe on 30 August 2019.

A hot air balloon made an unexpected safe landing in the nature reserve on Monday 2 September 2019. In lieu of a landing fee, the company have provided a voucher for a Balloon Flight for the Town Mayor to use as a fundraiser.

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.

From the end of October, to assist the Cuttle Brook Volunteers, the Maintenance Team will empty the litter bins on the weeks when the CBVs are not scheduled to do so.

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, Skate Park and the Memorial Gardens. Weekend litter picking will cease at the end of October at these sites.

Summer / Winter Planting

The summer bedding and hanging baskets have now been removed and replaced with winter bedding and baskets.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

Contractors fitted a new table and roof to the play shelter following vandalism earlier in the year. An insurance claim was raised and approved which covered the cost of the repairs (less £250 excess fee).

St Joseph's Primary School will use SRRG for a cross country race on Wednesday 6 November 2019. In the past when they have run this event they have used Lord Williams' Upper School land but due to the number of sporting events LWS already have on it is no longer possible. The race is run between St Joseph's and other primary schools involving between 100 – 200 children running round a set course.

St Mary's Church

The Maintenance Team continue to cut the grass on a regular basis and in line with the specification for maintenance of the churchyard. The Maintenance Team will assist with the church yard tidy up day on 28 November 2019.

Play Areas & Skate Park

The annual RoSPA play area and skate park safety inspections have been ordered and will be completed during October.

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A swarm of wasps at Elms Park was dealt with by a pest control contractor and the Maintenance Team.

The roof of the multi-use play equipment at QEC was damaged overnight on 23 July 2019. The incident was reported to the Police. Components within the Zip Wire have been replaced.

The Maintenance Team have removed a memorial bench from the Skate Park which had become unsafe. The family have been contacted.

Barns Centre

Regular grass cut.

Town Hall

A ground floor meeting room window was smashed overnight Friday 26 July 2019. The window pane was quickly repaired and the incident reported to the Police.

Repairs identified during the annual emergency lights testing have been ordered and will take place in October.

Tree Works

The Council's arboricultural contractor has undertaken the following tree works:

- QEC – three Beech trees - 25% crown reduction and clearance from adjacent properties.
- Edge Hill Road – Fell dead Cherry tree and grind out stump.
- Parliament Road – two Ash trees – 25% crown reduction.

Youens Drive - An application was submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) on 16 September 2019 to carry out tree works to four Horse Chestnut trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order. SODC have eight weeks in which to determine the application.

Street Furniture / Bus Shelters

Graffiti which appeared overnight on a bus shelter in Oxford Road was removed swiftly the same day.

September Fair

The Maintenance Team completed a number of operational tasks for the September Fair. As previous years, all car park signage, floral standards and traffic island bollards were removed. Road closure signage and cones put out in a timely manner to warn residents and visitors about vehicle restrictions and additional refuse bins placed within the Upper and Lower High Street to cater for the increase in litter during this period. Equipment was also supplied to the OX9ers for the public car parking at Southern Road Recreation Ground.

Event Support

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

- 11-12 October - Charter Fair
- 4-5 October – French Market.

Maintenance Team

Mr Croake attended an Emergency First Aid at Work + Forestry course on 22 July 2019.

Mr Collingwood and Mr Turan attended an Emergency First Aid at Work course on 27 August 2019.

Health and Safety

Following the Health & Safety audit in February steps are being taken to replace the mezzanine floor at Lupton Road Depot. Two new internal fire doors have been fitted at the Depot, again following advice from the Health & Safety audit.