

Maintenance Report

February 2020

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 2020 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. 32 winter/spring hanging baskets were installed within the town. The scheme colours for summer 2020 will be red, white & blue to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day

The War Memorial and gardens 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. The team set up the PA / sound equipment for the 2 minute silence outside the Town Hall on Armistice Day.

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

Weather forecasts are monitored and the area checked when flood alerts are issued. Daily inspections of the Brook took place following the prolonged heavy rainfall in October. The exceptionally wet weather and gusting winds on 15 January 2020 resulted in a large eucalyptus tree falling and damaging the boundary fences to two residential properties in Hazel Avenue. The tree was chipped and cut into manageable sized logs and left to form wildlife habitats within the Nature Reserve.

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 month. 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. The reports raised no urgent items requiring attention or items we were not already aware of. The Asset Manager is progressing repairs / replacement where necessary. Concrete repairs to the skate park, as reported in the RoSPA report have been ordered and will commence when the weather improves.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk gave permission for gas contractors carrying out work over several weeks to have a welfare area at SRRG in October. In return the contractors made a donation to the Mayor's Charity.

Town Hall

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

Planned work to the emergency lighting has been completed. Servicing of the fire alarm and intruder alarm has been completed.

Street Furniture

The hanging baskets were removed from the floral standard on the footpath outside Superdrug / Robert Dyas after it was damaged by an HGV delivery vehicle. The cost of removing and replacing the damaged floral standard, together with the necessary work to make good the footpath will be recovered from the company. Installation of the new floral standard is expected to take place in the next few months.

Tree Works

The Council's arboricultural contractor has undertaken planned work to four Horse Chestnut trees in Youens Drive. All had a Tree Preservation Order and the necessary permission was obtained from SODC before work commenced. Two trees were felled and two had lateral reductions by approximately 2m around the perimeter of the canopy. Four new trees (2 to replace the felled trees, plus 2 additional trees) will be planted later this year:

Lupton Road Depot

On the advice of the Council's Health & Safety Consultants the old mezzanine floor was removed and a new larger floor was fitted between Christmas and New Year.

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 continue the programme of PAT testing the Council's electrical equipment.

St Mary's Churchyard

The Maintenance Team assisted Church volunteers with the annual winter tidy up on 28 November.

2019 is the second year in which the Maintenance Team have undertaken various works including grass cutting and hedge cutting this continues to be very successful with compliments being received from the public and church.

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 in the next couple of months. The full report from the visit will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee on 14 April 2020.

Training

The Asset Manager successfully completed a three day IOSH Managing Safely training course in November.

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 7 tonnes.