

## Maintenance Report

April 2021

### Winter Preparation

Thankfully no heavy snowfall during the winter meant the salt spreader and snow plough were not needed. The tractor mounted salt spreader has been cleaned and stored and the operational unit has been removed from the tractor.

### 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 102,924m<sup>2</sup> of grass. Approx. 49,898m<sup>2</sup> grass is cut under contract for Oxfordshire County Council.

The management of identified areas where grass cuts will be reduced to two per annum (an early and late cut) in order to cultivate greener / wildflower meadow areas has begun. A site visit of all the areas has taken place with members of Thame Green Living whose volunteers will monitor the project.

It has become clear a mower with a 'cut and collect' facility will be required to undertake the grass cuts to these areas. A machine has been demonstrated to members of the Maintenance Team, Asset Manager and Chair of CLR and a proposal will be put to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

### COVID-19

Working arrangements continue to be regularly reviewed in line with the Town Council's COVID Risk Assessment and Disaster Recovery Plan.

Appropriate signage is displayed in the play areas and skate park and continues to be renewed as guidelines change.

### Litter Picking

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

The volume of litter picked and also left bagged in and close to Town Council litter bins has increased to such an extent that a third general waste bin, located at the depot, has been added to the weekly Grundons schedule for emptying.

### 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.

### Ham Wood

The Maintenance Team have undertaken tree work, as identified in the tree survey, within Ham Wood.

### **Seasonal Bedding**

The seasonal bedding requirements for summer and winter has been finalised with a theme of bright colours. The supplier R C Smith Plants, will once again be providing the self-watering hanging baskets that have proved to be very successful. This contract is within budget lines.

### **Southern Road Recreation Ground**

Thames water have fenced off an area to the rear of the playground, adjacent to Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve to undertake necessary work to rebuild a meter chamber and install a new meter.

### **St Mary's Church**

The Maintenance Team have now commenced cutting the grass on a regular basis and in line with the specification for maintenance of the churchyard. Clearance of ivy from walls and trees has been undertaken and the boundary hedges have been cut.

### **Play Areas & Skate Park**

The sand in the play pit at Queen Elizabeth Circle has been topped up ready for the summer. Unfortunately, no sooner had the graffiti been removed from the Skate Park more reappeared. Graffiti has also appeared on the wall of the changing rooms at Southern Road. Removal is being progressed.

### **Museum**

A contractor conducted a site visit to assess the roof in March. A quotation for the proposed work is expected shortly.

### **Town Hall**

Routine servicing of the automatic door to the Information Centre has been undertaken and remedial works relating to the door closure completed.

The Maintenance Team have completed PAT testing on electrical equipment at the Town Hall according to the testing schedule.

### **Memorial Gardens**

The silhouette presented by the Mayor of Thame, to remember all those who have died due to the Coronavirus pandemic and acknowledge the dedication of medical professionals and key workers has been installed in the Memorial Gardens.

### **Tree Works**

Work to remove the deadwood to three oak trees near the play area within Elms Park has been completed.

### **Event Support**

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

- Tuesday Market (extra equipment to allow the Market to operate safely during pandemic)

### **Depot**

The Maintenance Team have completed PAT testing on all of the electrical equipment at the depot.