

Maintenance Report

April 2022

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.

Hedge Cutting and Tree Work

The programme of winter hedge cutting on Council owned land has now been completed. Low tree branches and basal growth has been removed from trees where required.

A hawthorn tree in Brookside came down during storm Eunice. The Maintenance Team disposed of the tree, chipping small branches, and chopping larger limbs and the trunk into logs.

Grass Cutting

All grass cutting machinery has been serviced and the first grass cut of the season commenced a couple of weeks ago.

Litter Picking

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

Cuttle Brook

The ditches and stream continue to be checked and cleared of debris, especially following the recent storms.

Three large willow trees came down across various footpaths during the high winds associated with storm Eunice. The Maintenance Team chopped larger limbs and trunks into logs which remained on site to form natural wildlife habitats. The pollarding of one willow, located close to electrical power lines was completed by a qualified tree surgeon.

Thames Water are undertaking environmental monitoring of the Chiltern Chalk Scarp. As part of the programme sub-contractors will undertake monthly flow monitoring of the Cuttle Brook through Rycote Meadow. Monitoring commenced in February and will take place over the next 18 months.

Seasonal Bedding

The seasonal bedding requirements for summer and winter has been finalised with a theme of red, white and blue to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The contract is within budget lines. Carpet bedding designed with the Jubilee logo has been ordered for the raised beds in the Memorial Gardens.

St Mary's Church

The Maintenance Team removed a large conifer tree in the churchyard after it was brought down during storm Eunice.

Grass cutting has commenced 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

Part of the wooden surround to the sand pit at Queen Elizabeth Circle has rotted and has been replaced, the play sand has been topped up ready for the summer.

Signage within the Skate Park has been cleaned.

Repairs have taken place to the post and rail fence on the boundary of open green space (next the skate park) and Tythrop Way.

The basketball net in Churchill Crescent play area has been replaced.

Elms Park

Two lamps on the footpath within the Park were reported as not working, new lanterns have been fitted.

Town Hall

Routine servicing of the automatic door to the Information Centre has been undertaken.

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

Bus Shelters & Entrance Signs

Bus shelters and town entrance signs have been cleaned and where applicable graffiti removed.

Event Support

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

- Tuesday Market
- Spring Market

Depot

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