

Maintenance Report

July 2022

Grass Cutting

The Maintenance Team are now fully dedicated to regular grass cutting. Areas identified to cultivate greener / wildflower meadow areas continue to be managed as last year with a late cut planned for September.

Litter Picking

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

Cuttle Brook

A tree survey took place on 20 April, the priority for the survey was to do a check on the condition of mature trees in higher risk locations by the main paths and along Oxford Road and the parking area. The survey highlighted a number of trees in higher risk locations that either need work done in the autumn or should be monitored every 18 months to ensure safety.

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.

The annual grant of £1,500 has been paid to the Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers (CBCV). The meadow areas are programmed to be cut for hay during late July / August by a specialist contractor.

CBCVs have replaced / repaired the board walk nr Watkins bridge. The Maintenance Team assisted by removing old timber from the site.

Summer Bedding

46 hanging baskets have been planted and reinstalled in the Town Centre. The Millennium Circle, the Town Hall, Elms Park, the entrance planters and the flowerbeds in the Memorial Gardens, North Street, Pickenfield and Pearce Way have also been planted. Watering is undertaken by the Maintenance Team early morning and at regular intervals dependant on weather conditions. Thanks to volunteers from the Royal British Legion who helped plant the memorial gardens.

Unfortunately, bedding plants have been taken from the entrance planter on Towersey Road. This has been reported to Thames Valley Police via 101.

Town Hall

One of two annual visits to service the automatic door on the main entrance to the Information Centre took place in April. The mixer tap in the kitchen in the Upper Chamber has been replaced.

Work to the clock turret has been completed. Rotten timbers replaced and all timber elements repainted.

One external electrical socket has been repaired by a specialist electrical contractor.

Southern Road Recreation Ground (SRRG)

The cesspit serving the changing rooms and Scout building has been emptied and three road gullies cleared within the car park.

The football pitch has been regularly hired by a local youth football team who played their last game in April. The goalposts have been removed and minor maintenance work to the goal areas will take place before the new football season begins.

A new lantern has been fitted to one of the lighting columns in the car park. It's possible the old lamp was vandalised, the contractor has suggested an option maybe to make the lighting column vandal proof if the same problem occurs again.

Groups of young people are congregating behind the Scout garage and around the changing rooms resulting in increased litter, graffiti on buildings and smashed glass. Thames Valley Neighbourhood Police Team have been informed.

A yoga group used open space at SRRG for an open-air yoga class on 21 June 2022 to celebrate National Yoga Day.

The running track has been marked out for St Joseph's School sports day which took place on 4 July 2022.

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 Community Services Manager liaised with the building contractor regarding the repairs to the church wall and repair of the wooden gate which were completed in May.

Play Areas & Skate Park

Skate Park – Repairs to cracks in the concrete have been undertaken by a specialist contractor.

Queen Elizabeth Circle - Graffiti appeared on a number of pieces of play equipment – the Maintenance Team have removed as much as possible and the wooden parts of the equipment will be repainted in the autumn.

Elms Park – a resident reported antisocial behaviour, including smashed glass on the MUGA to Thames Valley Police. The running track has been marked out for John Hampden's School sports day.

Town Entrance Sign

The Town Entrance sign on Chinnor to Thame Road has been replaced.

Museum

Planned work to the roof has been completed and scaffolding removed.

Memorial Gardens

The dead willow tree has been removed. It is planned to replace it with a different species of tree in the autumn.

The raised beds have each been planted with the Platinum Jubilee logo. The remaining flower beds have been planted in a red, white and blue theme.

Tree Works

- The overhanging branches of four trees on the boundary with properties in Park Street have been trimmed back.

Event Support

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

- Tuesday market
- 1 May – Music in The Park
- 15 May – RAF Halton Freedom Parade
- 2 June – Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting
- 4 June – Thame Carnival
- 9 July – Thame Town Music Festival

Bunting has been put up around the Town Hall to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee Year.

Health & Safety

All fire extinguishers within the Council's buildings and vehicles have been serviced.

The six-monthly service of the Fire Alarm Systems at the Town Hall and Depot site took place at the end of June.