

Maintenance Report

October 2022

Grass Cutting

Grass cutting has continued on a regular basis apart from a period of 6-8 weeks during the summer when the grass did not grow due to the extreme heat and lack of rain. Areas badly affected during the summer heat have recovered remarkably quickly. Areas identified for 'wilding' have been cut and the arisings collected.

Cuttle Brook and Ham Wood

The meadow areas were cut for hay in August by a specialist agricultural contractor. 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.

Felling of Ash trees suffering from dieback took place in Cox's Wood in August. 50m³ of ash was felled and 5 trailer loads of firewood removed by the contractor. The contractor has been invoiced and the money received will be used to purchase new trees to be planted in Cox's Wood in November / December creating a second-generation woodland. The Maintenance Team continue to assist volunteers with chipping of felled top branches.

The Asset Manager and Maintenance Supervisor together with a member of the Cuttle Brook Management Committee met with representatives of UK Power Networks to agree proposed tree work to clear the power lines in the Reserve.

Unwanted sofas and cushions dumped in the Reserve were removed by the Maintenance Team.

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 mid-October at these sites.

Summer / Winter Planting

The summer hanging baskets have now been removed and winter baskets are due to be installed in by the end of October. Watering ceased in line with Thames Water's hosepipe ban. At time of writing the summer bedding is due to be removed and replaced by winter bedding w/c 17 October.

Moreton

Maintenance Team undertook minor repairs to the bus shelter roof in Moreton.

Southern Road Recreation Ground

The access door to the goal store which was vandalised on 20 July has been replaced. Soil investigation work and utility searches connected with the planning application for the community and youth building have taken place. This required the access road and car park to be closed for a day on each occasion.

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. Hedges have been cut.

The Maintenance Team will assist with the churchyard tidy up day on 8 December.

Barns Centre

Regular grass cutting.

Museum

The Asset Manager met with a volunteer from the museum to carry out the annual inspection.

Town Hall

Second of two annual visits to service the automatic door on the main entrance to the Information Centre took place in September.

Bunting around the town hall was removed at the same time as removal of the floral baskets.

Two members of the Maintenance Team came to the rescue of two doves trapped in the Upper Chamber between the window and secondary glazing.

Tree Works

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

- Tidy up and removal of fallen tree in Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve on Spring Path
- Removal of diseased ash tree in Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve on Oxford Road and trim back branches from a further ash tree on Oxford Road
- Removal of diseased poplar tree in Churchill Crescent.

Christmas Lights

The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) licence for this season's festive decorations has been submitted. Under the Highways Act 1980 section 178, licence information is required to be submitted to OCC detailing locations of lights, insurance details and installation contractor details. The unmetered supply agreement with UK Power Networks for the use of the electricity has been submitted.

The Asset Manager, Community Services Manager and Maintenance Supervisor visited the Tree Barn at Christmas Common on 8 September to choose the 2022 Christmas Tree.

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.

Play Areas and Skate Parks

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

Event Support

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

- Tuesday Market (extra equipment to allow the Market to operate safely during the pandemic).
- Statement of Condolence on the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – 9 September
- Proclamation of King Charles III – 11 September
- 14-18 September Fair
- AyStreatmeet – 26 August

- 6-9 October - Charter Fair
- 7-9 October – French Market
- Thame Youth Projects Activity Day – 25 October
- Christmas Light Installation to trees in Upper High Street Car Park

Street Furniture / Bus Shelters

Broken seat replaced in bus shelter adjacent to the Town Hall.

Maintenance Team

Members of the Maintenance Team attended a LANTRA Accredited Working on the Highway training course on 6 September 2022.

Three members of Maintenance Team attended Emergency First Aid at Work with Forestry training course on 19 July 2022.