

Maintenance Report

February 2023

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 2023 grass cutting season.

Christmas

The Maintenance Team assisted the supplier with the installation of the Christmas tree by providing traffic and pedestrian control. A sponsorship banner was hung for the duration of the Christmas period around the wooden barrier fencing and information panels for planned Christmas events placed in locations in the town centre. The tree was removed following the lights switch-off and wood chipped and distributed as a weed suppressant to hedge bases.

The Council is within season four of the five-year contract for the Christmas Lighting Scheme. Illumination problems related to a small number of motifs were reported to the contractor. All lights were switched off on 6 January 2023 and the scheme removed to the contractor's storage facility.

The Maintenance Team assisted, by providing operational equipment for various planned Christmas events including the lights switch on and Carols Around the tree.

Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day

The War Memorial and grounds at Thame and Moreton were tidied for the Service of Remembrance. The Maintenance Team undertook numerous operational tasks in Thame including road closures, barrier control and operating the PA system on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

Hedge Cutting, Shrub Bed Maintenance and Tree Work

The programme of hedge cutting and shrub 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.

Summer / Winter Planting

The summer bedding was removed late autumn from all flower beds and winter bedding planted at the town entrance planters, Memorial Gardens, Elms Park, Millennium Circle. 30 winter/spring hanging baskets were installed within the town. The scheme colours for summer 2023 will be red, white and blue to celebrate His Majesty the King's Coronation.

Winter Preparation

In October, 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 at beginning of December was 5 tonnes. Following the snowfall in mid-December, the Maintenance Team undertook gritting of the main town centre footpaths and other crucial areas over several days using approx. 3 tonnes of salt.

Cuttle Brook

The weather forecast is monitored and the area checked when flood alerts are issued.

Southern Road Recreation Ground (SRRG)

Following annual inspection of the boiler in the changing rooms by a qualified gas engineer it was agreed the boiler was no longer fit for purpose and has been decommissioned.

St Mary's Church

The annual churchyard tidy up, with which Members of the Maintenance Team assist volunteers was cancelled due to prolonged icy weather.

Play Areas & Skate Park

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 Operations Manager and Maintenance Supervisor are progressing repairs / replacement where necessary.

Queen Elizabeth Circle play area – One of two wooden roofs on the junior multiplay equipment has been removed due to damage caused over a period of time. Quotations are being sought for a replacement roof.

Town Hall

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

Servicing of the fire alarm and intruder alarm has been completed.

Electrical Fixed Wire Test which is undertaken every five years was completed at the Town Hall on Saturday 21 January 2023, no areas for concern were reported.

Tree Planting / Works

Members of the Maintenance Team felled a goat willow tree alongside Cuttle Brook in the nature reserve. The tree had been identified for work through the tree survey report.

An arboricultural contractor has undertaken the following tree work:

- Felled black poplar hybrid – Churchill Crescent. Maintenance Team assisted with closure of the area whilst work undertaken.
- Reduction of Sycamore tree on public open space to rear of Sedgemoor Drive.
- Various tree work in Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve in line with recommendations from the Tree Survey report carried out in April 2022.

Event Support

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

- Tuesday Market (extra equipment to allow the Market to operate safely)
- Christmas Lights Switch-on

- Service of Remembrance and Armistice Day
- Senior Citizens Christmas Tea Party - delivered equipment and assisted with setting up of tables and chairs.
- Equipment provided to Christmas light decorators to cone off parking area to aid safe installation / removal of Christmas lights from trees in Upper High Street car park.

Depot

Servicing of the fire alarm and intruder alarm has been completed.

Health and Safety

Gas safety inspections have been completed on the boilers at Southern Road Recreation Ground Changing Rooms, Lupton Road Depot and the Town Hall.

The Operations Manager attended a First Aid at Work Course on 17 January 2023.