

July 2025

Maintenance Report

Grass Cutting

The Maintenance Team are now fully dedicated to regular grass cutting. Unlike this time last year when it was a challenge to keep up with the grass cutting schedule due to the warm / wet weather, the recent very hot dry conditions have slowed growth. Areas identified to cultivate greener / wildflower meadow areas continue to be managed with a late cut planned for late August / September. Volunteers from Thame Green Living have carried out the annual survey, the data from which is being captured to inform what seeding takes place in the future.

Hedge Cutting and Tree Work

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

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 Local Nature Reserve

Within the nature reserve ditches and the Brook continue to be checked and cleared of debris following any flood alerts issued by the Environment Agency. Members of the Maintenance Team cleared vegetation build up along Spring Path to ensure water from the spring travels down the channel next to the path rather than flowing across it causing an ice hazard in cold weather.

A contractor carried out work to install a new headwall and valve in a drainage ditch (watercourse 2) which runs parallel to numbers 40-54 Cedar Crescent, this will help alleviate flooding risk to residential properties. The work was carried out in consultation with SODC Flood Alleviation Department.

A large limb fell from the willow tree near the brook close to a popular spot where people stop and sit. The Maintenance Team cut the limb into large logs which have been placed around the reserve to provide natural habitats. The feeling is that the remaining willow will need pollarding in the autumn. An arboriculture report is expected shortly.

The annual grant of £2,000 is due to be paid to the Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers (CBCV). The meadow areas are programmed to be cut for hay by a specialist contractor, slightly earlier this year due to the extreme hot / dry weather.

The new path through Rycote Meadow has been completed and was officially opened on 25 June 2025.

Ham Wood

The Maintenance Team assisted volunteers with hazel coppicing in Ham Wood. Further coppicing will take place in the winter.



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 have also been planted. Watering is undertaken by the Maintenance Team early morning and at regular intervals dependant on weather conditions. Thanks to volunteers and councillors who helped plant the memorial gardens.

Town Hall

One of two annual visits to service the automatic door on the main entrance to the Information Centre has taken place.

The lift doors failed to open wide enough for the occupants to be able to vacate the lift on the ground floor. All methods were tried to open the doors but in the end the fire brigade was called. At time of writing the lift is expected to be out of action for 10-12 days due to the lift contractor waiting for the parts required to repair the lift.

New Government regulations on waste and recycling introduced in the Spring require businesses with over 10 office-based employees to separate general, recyclable and food waste. The Town Council has separated general and recyclable waste for many years, however, to comply with new legislation food caddies have been introduced at the Town Hall and Depot. A food collection waste bin has been added to the current waste contract at an additional annual cost of £174.25.

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.

Park yoga takes place every Sunday morning and is proving very popular.

The running track has been marked out for St Joseph's School sport's day. The same contractor will mark out a 400m – 4 lane running track which will be in place until the ground becomes too soft. It is hoped individuals and groups will take advantage of this facility.

Play Areas & Skate Park

All play area surfaces within the six play areas have been jet washed.



Elms Park

The running track has been marked out for John Hampden's School sport's day.

Maintenance Team replaced the old wooden raised planters at the entrance to Elms Park.



Queen Elizabeth Circle

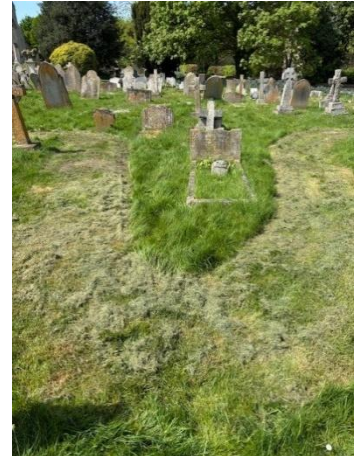
Maintenance work to replace some of the rotting timber around the sandpit has taken place.



Memorial Gardens

The bed planted with pollinators is establishing well.

The ponds will need some work to remove silt build up and the pond pumps and piping cleaned. Quotations for the work are currently being sought.



St Mary's Church

The Maintenance Team continue to cut the grass on a regular basis in line with the specification for maintenance of the churchyard. This year a section of the churchyard has been set aside for wilding. Hedges were cut during the winter.

Dog Waste Bins

A new dog waste bin has been installed at the end of the footpath which runs from Towersey Road and joins with the new estate off Howland Road. A new dog bin has also been installed in the nature reserve along the track from Oxford Road to replace the one in Nontron Meadow.

Bus Shelters

Bus shelters along Wenman Road have been cleaned.

Tree Works

- Nature Reserve – dead alder tree felled
- The Moats – a dying acacia tree and a cherry tree were felled. A loose limb was removed from the top of the poplar tree.

Event Support

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

- Tuesday market – and the Mayor's monthly stall
- Spring market – 7-9 March
- Music in The Park
- Taste of Thame
- Thame Carnival
- Thame Pride
- Sportive
- Rotary tool collection

Health & Safety

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

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

Recommendations raised within Fire Risk Assessment Reports for both the Town Hall and Depot have been completed.