

## **ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL**

**Amenities and Recreation Committee 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **Agenda Item 6 - Cemetery & Works Supervisor's Report**

We continue to work from the tree survey, as reported at the last meeting, which identified work to be undertaken. This has taken a large amount of our time in recent weeks not to mention some damage done after storm "Doris" had passed through. The shrubberies around the offices at Roysse Court and the Guildhall have been tidied as have others around the town.

Once again this year we had another successful day on the Market Place chipping Christmas Trees brought in by the public. We had well over three hundred trees this year and this service seems to be getting more popular each year. This wood chip along with others was taken to Abingdon Lock where the Lock-keeper uses it to maintain the grounds there.

In the Spring Road Cemetery we have two large compost bays which we clear out bi-annually. This year we have delivered several loads of compost to our allotment sites so now we have empty bays ready for this year's grass cutting season.

Within the cemeteries there are approximately 40 benches. Most of these benches are quite old and none have been replaced for many years. Some years ago the Council felt that the number of benches being donated in memory of a loved one was becoming a problem therefore no new benches have been purchased and none replaced for some years. These benches require a substantial amount of maintenance and as I am sure you will appreciate sanding down and staining takes a considerable amount of time. We have managed to hold on to nearly all of them but a few were condemned, I can foresee we shall be losing more in the next few years. I shall be discussing with the Committee at a future date about a replacement programme.

We have continued to maintain the play areas rectifying faults identified from inspections by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) and Zurich the Council's insurers and from our own weekly reports. We will shortly be attending refresher courses to enable us to continue to undertake these inspections and repairs.

At the time of writing this report we are in the process of recruiting two more members to the Works Team. We have been operating with four men instead of six which has been a struggle with some of our programmed work falling behind.

Tim Badcock  
Works Manager  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2017