

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment and Amenities Committee
Meeting date	8 March 2022
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	10

Cemetery & Outdoor Services Manager's Report

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the activity of the works team.

2. **Summary**

The team have had a busy end to the year working on various projects alongside their regular duties.

3. **Action required and recommendations**

Members are requested to note the report

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

The teams work since the last meeting has impacted positively on the councils four key objectives

5. **Background**

The council employs a team of five operatives managed by myself to provide direct services.

6. **Key information and options**

The team's activities are summarised below:

- 6.1 A major draw on the team's time has been dealing with wind damaged trees and repairing fences following the storms in February 2022.
- 6.2 Weeding of flower beds and tubs .

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- 6.3 Regular inspection, litter picks and maintenance of play parks and council land.
- 6.4 Several burials and ashes interments.
- 6.5 Planting of new native hedging in Caldecott Recreation Ground, River Close, Ock Meadow and Chilton Close.
- 6.6 Planting of 27 new trees at various sites will commence w/c 7 March 2022; some of the trees are replacements but others are adding to the tree stock.
- 6.7 Planted many new shrubs in the new ashes scattering area
- 6.8 All of the team undertook RoSPA training on playground inspections
- 6.9 Assistance with the Morlands exhibition and in particular make fit for display the large Morlands artist sign which was until the 1990s located at the entrance to the brewery.
- 6.10 Installed new steel weld-mesh fence at Caldecott Recreation Ground by the Blacknell Road entrance.
- 6.11 I have met with suppliers regarding the potential for the council to use battery-powered hand tools e.g. chain saws. Previously battery-powered tools did not have the amount of usage time required before it was necessary for them to be re-charged. The market is changing and so there is now a more realistic prospect that such tools may be sourced. If it were possible to procure battery-powered hand tools then this would have a significant impact on our carbon footprint as we would be able to reduce our reliance on fossil-fuels. We could also consider solar panels on the roof of the works depot which could then be used as an energy source. I will report back further when I have more information.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

Some aspects of the works team activities will have an adverse effect whereas others have a positive effect.

All actions taken by the works team are conducted in a manner considerate of sustainability and environmental impacts.

Biodiversity has been further improved on the town's sites through the planting hedgerows and trees.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

N/A

9. **HR implications**

No additional HR implications from this report.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

None.

Tim Badcock
Cemetery and Outdoor Services Manager
4 March 2022