

## ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Environment and Amenities Committee</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>19 July 2022</b>
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>8 - Forward Plan</b>

<b>1. Community Woodland (TB/NW)</b>	
Jan to Mar 2021	Plan for community woodland
Jun 2021 review	Community Wood Project - report to Amenities 9.6.21. Carbon Cutters undertaking a site survey June 2021
July to Sep 2021	Consideration of business plan
Oct to Dec 2021	Site and draft plan agreed by committee November 2021
January 2022	Budget now needs to be agreed.
February 2022	Landowner approached by council's agent; awaiting further advice.
Apr to Jun 2022	Commence work
July 2022 update	Land acquisition being progressed, Town Clerk to chase and report further.
Oct to Dec 2022	Planting
<b>2. Review of play areas (TB)</b>	
Jan to Mar 2021	Review of play areas
Jun 2021 review	Review took place June 2021
Oct 2021 update	Quotes for play equipment received. Procurement should be completed in 2021 – report to committee 16 November 2021
Nov 2021 update	Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager updated meeting on quotes received. Work to proceed under delegation to officers.
January 2022 update	See action plan update
February 2022 update	Play area working group established – meeting originally to be arranged for late March 2022.
July 2022	<p>Outdoor Services Manager reports:                      Has considered each of the play areas in turn and will come the appointed working group which will include the following proposals:  <u>Boxhill and Chilton</u> – recently improved so no proposals  <u>Caldecott Recreation Ground</u> – improving play value for those aged up to 11 within the enclosed park whilst providing activities for those older, in the adjacent area. The activities would include a pendulum basket swing and a hurricane swing. There would be scope to further extend in the future as it is a large with potential. Adult fitness equipment will be installed shortly.  <u>Chaunterill Way</u>- propose extending the enclosed area with a <a href="#">basket swing</a>, two DDA compliant roundabouts - <a href="#">simulator</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">roundabout</a> and <a href="#">inclusive wheelchair roundabout</a>. Outside the play park, adjacent to the trees – toddler area with items which include interactive panels, balancing mushrooms/ logs, talking flower tubes and picnic table. Often young families visit this park.</p> <p>Masefield Crescent – tall multi-play climbing unit to take advantage of the site’s elevated position.</p>
<b>3. Tree Survey (TB)</b>	
Apr to Jun 2022	Commission tree report
Apr to Jun 2024	Commission tree report
February 2022 – contractors and staff continue to address the works identified. Contractors are behind schedule with 43% of work, by value, done.	
July 2022 update – next survey to be commissioned once currently outstanding works are completed.	
<b>4. New Cemetery (NW&gt;VM)</b>	
Apr to Jun 2021	Land offer from VOWH - Key decision on proceeding
Jun 2021 review	<p>Masefield Crescent site part of Vale Strategic Property review See Amenities Committee - 9.6.21 Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) New Cemetery Working Group reappointed;</li> <li>2) Sum of £20,000 released from the earmarked reserves towards work on the business case</li> <li>3) Other potential sites in the town be explored cemetery infrastructure is already in place);</li> <li>4) Confirmation on suitability of Masefield Crescent site undertaking a desk top exercise;</li> <li>5) Valuation of the Masefield Crescent site;</li> <li>6) A business proposal be developed, as far as we are able, ahead of further information from DC;</li> <li>7) Dialogue with the District Council continue during this period so that proposals can be informed. Further meeting due with VWHDC June 21</li> </ol>
February update	2022 Feasibility study scoped and contract awarded. Work on feasibility study taking place in April 2022 – see update on agenda for meeting of 8 March 2022
July 2022	The external consultants, CDS, are making good progress and submitting regular updates - the original timetable has slipped slightly as they required detailed information. Draft report now received for consideration by working group.
Oct to Dec 2023	Commence building work TBC
Jan to Mar 2025	Open new cemetery TBC

	<b>This is on the Actions Register.</b>
<b>5. Infant Burial Area (TB)</b>	
January 2022	This project is ahead of schedule. The area has been planned by the Outdoor Services Manager and a quote has been obtained for the work
Apr to Jun 2022	Plan infant burial area – planning work completed
July to Sep 2022	Implement infant burial area – quotes to be obtained
<b>This is on the Actions Register.</b>	
<b>Potential projects for prioritisation and timetabling</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rewilding and tree planting programme.</li> <li>- January 2022 update: have identified sites for 30 replacement and additional trees. Identified 150 metres of council boundaries suitable for hedge planting. Town Council is not responsible for grass verges on the highway. March 2022 update – please see report at item 10.</li> <li>- Annual programmes for: cemetery improvements, major arboricultural works (inc. date of next major survey), vehicles/equipment replacement dates, street furniture.</li> </ul>	

<b>1. Green Projects</b>	
Oct to Dec 2020	Cllr Andrew Coveney & Anne Smart to liaise with takeaway establishments regarding climate emergency. Invite experts to discuss. met with all establishments Anne to update – theme of green forum
Oct to Dec 2021	Promote small financial awards programme for environmental initiatives especially in relation to schools, to include biodiversity initiatives (inc. competition) Biodiversity competition was launched over the summer, showcasing biodiversity in action from residents and organisations sharing gardens, shared spaces form residents. Judging to commence shortly, with the announcement of the winners and prize giving ceremony to be hosted by the Mayor in December at the County Hall Museum.  Update July 2022: Abingdon Learning Trust had an exhibition in the Guildhall in June – as agreed council paid for room hire.
Apr to Jun 2022	Environmental Awareness Day – requires proposal for November 2021 meeting to include format, date, budget etc - To be included as a theme within the Green Forum. Update March 2022: being considered and taken forward by the Green Forum. Update at meeting in July 2022.

October 2021 update	Cllr Cheryl Briggs to take over from Cllr Coveney (see Oct to Dec 2020 note) and work with Anne Smart in relation to work with “takeaway” establishments. Date of project to be put back to 2022.
March 2022	Anne Smart updated meeting on the survey which she undertook with Cllr Cheryl Briggs re survey on takeaway establishments
<b>2. Plastic-free town initiative</b>	
Jan to Mar 2021	Work with ACC regarding the plastic free town initiative with the objective that shop and market retailers use no plastic or polystyrene. Commence this work with an audit of retailers
Apr to Jun 2021	Agree and implement measures and incentives to achieve the objective that shop and market retailers use no plastic or polystyrene. Pop-up to promote reusable cups took place 29 May 21
June 2021 review	Cafes audited. Most retailers do not now use polystyrene. Work delayed due to Covid but next steps and proposal to be considered at July mtg
October 2021 update	Use of single use plastic in relation to activity on the Market considered by Community Committee (as service ctte), at its September 2021 meeting – The report of the Community Services and Events Officer on the single use plastics policy on the Market Place was noted. The Community Services and Events Officer noted the delay in rolling out the new policy due to the pandemic and health and safety concerns over reusing items. The policy was now being introduced in consultation with market traders. Report to a future meeting to consider the position regarding plastic-free initiatives beyond the Market Place
<b>3. Biodiversity plan</b>	
Apr to Jun 2021	Commence work on a biodiversity plan for the town council.
June 2021 review	Plan discussed ctte April 2021 and rescheduled adoption. Link to the Green Spaces Plan (Neighbourhood Plan). Approach a volunteer to assist in this area
Jan to Mar 2022	Adoption of biodiversity plan
Oct 2021 update	Work has commenced and we should be able to keep to the timetable for a biodiversity plan to be adopted in March 2022. Report due to committee in November 2021.
January 2022 update	See report to meeting of EA Committee together with budget proposal.
July 2022 update	See report under agenda item 12

**Potential projects for prioritisation and timetabling**

- Ensure actions and decisions are in line with and partner the Neighbourhood Plan and relevant Local Plan work.
- Be ready to be a pilot town for innovative green schemes which may emerge, noting that this will require flexibility in relation to this section of the Forward Plan.