

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	<i>Environment and Amenities Committee</i>
Meeting date	5 October 2022
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	12a Works team activity

Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the activity of the works team.

2. **Summary**

The team have had a busy summer working and early autumn on various projects alongside their regular duties maintaining the council's cemeteries and outdoor services.

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**

Watering trees planted earlier this year.

Watering and maintaining flower beds, tubs and pole displays.

Cemetery and play park etc grass cutting

Regular inspection, litter picks and maintenance of play parks and council land.

Several burials and ashes interments.

Some tree works in various locations due to summer branch drop

Large clean-up of Ock Meadow following traveller incursion

The team have installed six items of outdoor fitness equipment in Caldecott Recreation ground. The siting of the equipment was done in consultation with Saxton Rovers football club to ensure it did not interfere with their use of the field whilst also enabling them to incorporate it as part of their training.

The Jubilee flags from around the town centre have now been removed and are available in the information office in return for a suggested donation of £10 to the mayor's charities. They are not all in good condition but some interest was expressed when they were first installed so we have made them available should people still want one.

We have installed several bait boxes in St Helens church yard after concerns from the church office regarding rats in the churchyard. This has been an on-going problem in this area that has recently got worse. Your officers are of the view that responsibility in this matter is not clear but after reassurance that both the church and Christ's Hospital's residents would also make efforts to negate the problem I agreed that we would take action.

A new salt bin has been ordered from the County Council that will be placed at the junction of Alexander Close and Dunmore Road. These bins are kept topped up by parish councils using salt supplied by the County's winter preparedness scheme.

Soon the flower displays will be stripped in preparation for the winter bedding but it is at this time of year we reflect on the successes and failures of the years display and order plants for next year's summer planting. I have met with Chris Ford of Wick Nurseries and discussed options for 2023. We both feel that the flexibility of a varied vibrant mix of colour across the displays gives us the choice of plants to make an impact and fill the beds with plants that do well in the challenging locations that some of our displays are exposed to. Whereas limiting the colour choice with a theme narrows down the options and should this year's temperatures be repeated next year plant choice again is limited. Therefore we strongly suggest another vibrant year of colour for 2023 drawing on the success of the 2022 summer displays that are still gaining numerous positive comments in their final weeks. In light of the sad death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III likely to take place in the spring/ summer of 2023, some more regal colours could be focused on in the market place baskets such as the trailing velvet purple petunias looked very attractive in this year's baskets.

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

8. **Financial/budget implications**

No additional financial/ budget implications from this report.

9. **HR implications**

No additional HR implications from this report.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

None.

Tim Badcock
Cemetery and Outdoor Services Manager
30 September 2022.