

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment and Amenities Committee
Meeting date	10 January 2023
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	10

Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update members on the activity of the works team.

2. Summary

2.1 The team have had a busy winter working on various projects alongside their regular duties.

3. Action required and recommendations

3.1 The committee is asked to note the report.

3.2 The committee is asked to consider the recommendation at item 6.3 for a new boardwalk to be installed by the Outdoor Services Team at Boxhill Wood and that a budget of £5,000 be approved to be taken from the green projects and/or footpath repairs budgets.

4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

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

5. Background

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

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 Areas of regular and ad hoc work undertaken by the team have included the following:

- Maintenance of the cemeteries' 30+ memorial benches
- Maintaining the flower bed, tub and planter displays around Abingdon
- Leaf removal from pathways, play surfaces memorial gardens and formal gardens
- Regular inspection, litter picks and maintenance of play parks and council land
- Several burials and ashes interments
- Some tree works in various locations
- Hedge cutting
- Repairing and installing Market Place Christmas lights
- The team assisted with the road closures and logistics for the extravaganza
- Christmas lights switch on
- Half of the team attended a one-day emergency first aid course.

Boxhill Wood boardwalk

6.2 Boxhill wood has a tarmac footpath with street lighting running through the main route and there is also a less formal path that follows the stream through the wood which can be a very pleasant nature walk. Some years ago, a simple wooden bridge/boardwalk structure was installed by the works team in an area where there are several springs. This has now come to the end of its life and needs removing.

6.3 I propose to install a longer boardwalk made of recycled plastic decking that will span the entire length of the wet area of enabling easier access to the nature reserve throughout the seasons. This project can be undertaken by the works team at a cost of no more than £5000 from the green projects and/or footpath repairs budget.

Fishing Competition Charges

6.4 A verbal report will be made to the committee.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 Some aspects of the works team activities will have an adverse effect whereas others have a positive effect. Overall, the work of the Outdoor Services Team greatly benefits the environment in Abingdon through its work maintaining green spaces.

7.2 All actions taken by the works team are carried out in a manner considerate of sustainability and environmental impacts

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 There are no additional financial implications to consider other than the recommendation at item 3.2.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 There are no additional HR implications from this report.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

None.