

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment and Amenities Committee
Meeting date	5 th December 2023
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	7

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 been working fantastically well through the Autumn and into the winter with the team now being two members down and following an amount of absence through the summer. This has meant that some tasks have been delayed but generally the work is getting done and the weekends etc are being covered.

3. **Action required and recommendations**

3.1 Members are requested to note the report and to consider the proposal at item 6.2.5.

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

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

5. **Background**

5.1 The council employs a team of 5 operatives managed by myself to provide direct services. The team reduced to 4 in September and to 3 in October.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 **Activities:**

- Grass cutting the town councils varied open spaces and cemeteries
- Clearing of summer flower displays

- Preparation and planting of winter bedding and tubs
- Hedge cutting
- Implementation of road closures, diversion routes, site infrastructure and staffing and overseeing the arrival and pack down of the Michaelmas and runaway fairs and Remembrance Sunday parade etc
- Regular inspection, litter picks and maintenance of play parks and council land.
- Play Park/equipment rectifications following vandalism and inspection
- Weekly Market Place deep cleans
- Graffiti removal
- Cemetery interments and enquiries
- Tree works attending to wind damage and work identified in the recent tree survey.
- Installation of new bike racks, signage and other maintenance tasks at Roysse Court
- Bus shelter repairs
- Autumn leaf clearance – ongoing

6.2 **Play area improvements**

6.2.1 Now that we have placed the order for the MUGA at Caldecott Rec, I seek approval for the next stage of improvements for which I recommend as discussed at a previous meeting of this committee, we improve provision for the junior age group at Boxhill park by the addition of a large adventurous climbing frame unit with various items of interest.

6.2.2 The unit that is in situ can remain as it's still serviceable and does add some play value but with the addition of a new unit this already popular play park could be more exciting for primary school age children. I have obtained a speculative quotation for the unit that is pictured in this report. The purchase and installation of this could be achieved with a budget of £50k.

6.2.3 Further to the improvements in the play park at Boxhill, I recommend the restoration of existing outdoor fitness equipment and additional items to improve the current stock and expand the trails that have proven very popular in their locations at Boxhill, Ock Meadow and Caldecott.

6.2.4 Members may wish to add new fitness trails on other Town Council managed areas such as Austin Place.

6.2.5 Members are requested to instruct officers to obtain further quotations and deliver proposals to the February meeting of this 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.
- 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 RFO has confirmed there is a budget available.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 No additional HR implications from this report.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

Brochure for new item of play equipment.