

# ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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| Report to     | Environment, Amenities and Infrastructure committee |
| Meeting date  | 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026                           |
| Report author | Tim Badcock   |
| Agenda item   | 8   |

## Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report

### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update members on the activity of the outdoor services team.

### 2. Summary

2.1 Our small team have been busy maintaining the towns open spaces and facilities. Carrying out seasonal tasks and completing larger projects where possible.

### 3. Action required and recommendations

3.1 Members are requested to note the report.

3.2 To approve installation of a noticeboard on the Peachcroft Road bus shelter.

### 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. We've been low on staff numbers recently and have employed a new member of staff on a 6-month contract to assist with the workload. We have also have a vacancy advertised.

### 6. Key information and options

#### 6.1 Activities:

Cemetery & Outdoor Services Managers Report

- Maintenance of flower beds and tubs
- Completion of polytunnel installation
- Regular inspection, litter picks and maintenance of play parks and council land
- Play Park/equipment rectifications following vandalism and inspection
- Hedge cutting
- Weekly Market Place deep cleans and cleaning pigeon mess at County Hall
- Graffiti removal
- Cemetery interments and enquiries
- Tree works
- Maintenance tasks at Roysse Court, The County Hall, Cemetery and depot.
- Maintenance of bus shelters
- Grass cutting in cemeteries, recreation grounds, play areas and formal gardens.

### **Bus Shelter Noticeboard**

The Town Council has received a request to use the bus shelter on Peachcroft Road nearest to the shops as a public noticeboard. This bus shelter is not currently on a bus route but is positioned well for notices.

I propose that rather than allowing notices to be stuck informally to the shelter, a noticeboard matching the units on other Town Council shelters is installed with The Friends of Abingdon approached to manage the notices as in other locations.

### **Festive Lights**

The contract with Blachere Illumination has been extended for a further four years. A new scheme has been agreed. We will now have warm white illuminations. The locations will remain the same with the addition of a new street crossing in East St Helens Street. The white and blue cone tree on Roysse Court is to be replaced with a sleigh and reindeer which people can sit in for photographs.

### **River Close Play Area**

The planned removal of trees in this area is now complete. The team have planted shrub beds around this small park with scope for more planting in the next season.

### **Chilton Close Flood Container**

The container is now fitted with shelving, a ramp, and is stocked with flood defence equipment. The key has been handed over to the community flood warden. This project was funded by OCC with the town councils outdoor services team facilitating it.

**Climate change/green implications**

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

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

**Financial/budget implications**

None

**HR implications**

No additional HR implications from this report.

**Supporting papers and appendices**

None