

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee Discussion
Date	11 th May 2021
Report Title	Head of POST Report
Agenda Reference	10
Author	Dave Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer's Recommendation

There are no recommendations.

Tidy Up Team

- Extreme use of the litter bins by the public has decreased, coinciding with the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. Also the occasions of household waste being placed into or near to bins has subsided.
- Graffiti removal has been carried out at Morrison's and Rushmere subways.
- We have had two completed disclaimers for graffiti removal from private properties.
- One verbal instruction from a resident to paint over graffiti on their boundary wall.
- One new bin has been added to the West bin round at Voyager Drive / Ulysses Rd connecting footpath.
- A new seasonal Tidy Up Operative started on 12th April 2021, has been trained on most aspects of the operations section, except for the ride on mowers.

Hysopp Close Consultation

Conclusions of the recent public consultation with residents of Hysopp Close were emailed to those residents who had replied to the consultation letter thanking them for their input and updating them on the Council's findings.

The conclusions were:

- Not to proceed with a new bench and associated pathway in the open space.
- To proceed with the creation of a walkway through the hedge line and carry out a greater seasonal reduction of the shrub bed at the front of numbers 8, 10 and 12 Hysopp Close in the autumn when birds nesting season has ended.

Daily Work Sheets

Using Microsoft Teams to access the daily work sheets has made the recording of tasks easier to manage and has taken some of the workload from the office administrator. Allocation of jobs is now dealt with directly by the Head of POST.

Melstock Rd and Callington Road

There are ongoing conversations with SBC about the responsibilities of the two subways at these locations.



Callington Road subway that goes beneath the Swindon and Cricklade Railway line seems to be permanently flooded, the area is leased by SBC Property to Swindon and Cricklade Railway and therefore the subway is their responsibility.

Melstock Road subway that runs beneath Thamesdown Drive is SBC Highways responsibility.

The areas below and around the Thamesdown Drive subway and presumably through it are recorded as Parish maintained. We have raised the issue with SBC of this area flooding, and they are investigating further, as currently there is limited area for storm water to disperse.

The Head of POST has a contact on Main Drainage who has helped with previous enquiries. If necessary, will ask for assistance from SBC Ward Councillors.

Rushmere Walk Subway

SBC operations team were contacted on Wednesday 28th April when the subway became flooded after overnight rain. It was pointed out to them that the subway floods now when we get any amount of rain. Whereas previously it only flooded when we had substantial rain fall. They have raised a job to jet the drains. They have given me a contact at SBC at the Drainage Asset Team to see if a more permanent salutation can be put in place.

Tommy

The Tommy figure has been repaired following its recent damage in the high winds. The Tommy figure will be put back out before VE Day on the 8th May. VE Day is not listed on the official Government Flag Hoisting list for 2021 so the flag will not be flown but a social media post including the picture of Tommy will be shared. The company who repaired did this free of charge so the post will thank them for their assistance.

Tree Enquiries

The Head of POST has been tasked with investigating a few tree enquiries of late mainly due to the high winds and heavy rain recently. A couple of ash trees with ash die back reported by the Chair of Parks & Open Spaces Committee and one tree on land that we still need to investigate to establish ownership.

Dead Oak adjacent to Oakhurst School – to be referred to Swindon Borough Council's Tree Team, needs felling but likely to have beehives in there. Previously the bees have been swarming in the School's playground.