

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
Report Title	Parks & Projects Report
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Mark Weaving (Technical Officer)

Officer's Recommendations

1. To note the report.

Background

The team continues to assist in other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team with the emptying of public litter and dog waste bins and removal of graffiti.

The team has taken ownership of the hedges that are attached to the fences of the Play Areas and are working on an extensive programme to increase the perimeters and sightlines/ major footpaths to and from the Play Areas. The team will also be doing the three weekly maintenance of the leisure gardens and Council Offices.

The team continue to help the Office Team with the setting up of the Memory Cafe at the Bowls Club every other Wednesday, but the tasks have been reduced to transportation of equipment, set up of tables and the Office Team is taking on some of the room and this should save up to 2 hours per week.

Play Area Maintenance

The painting of Play Areas is governed by the weather. Also the summer holidays have been a factor because the Play Areas have been used more frequently.

The team would like to explain the process of rebuilding of Play Area unit panels, as whilst the cost of doing this saves on the annual budget, it is quite labour intensive:

- To start with we need to remove the equipment so we can take measurements for new ones.
- They then mark them out on Marine ply which they are using this time as to hope it lasts longer.
- The patterns then need to be cut out and edges rounded off with a router.
- The team is then having to use PVA glue to seal the edges and the team are now using oil-based paint with under coat and topcoat which is taking longer due to drying.

As an example of the time this kind of repair takes the team to complete; the team started White Eagle unit on the 9th July and all panels were ready on 2nd August. The panels are being fitted in the week of the 26th August due to other jobs needed doing and the team need a clear day to refit the unit.

Bus Shelter Maintenance

The team fixed the new Perspex panels at the Westfield Way bus shelter but sadly these have been vandalised and kicked out. This is disappointing for the team as many hours of labour went in to repainting the metal frame and replacing the panels.

Paperless Reporting System

The team would like to ask if they are able to investigate purchasing a tablet or iPad as then they will be able to add a programme to do inspections and the upload photos etc more quickly.



This will save on paper and having to scan each one into the system.

Works Completed

Location	Work Completed, August / September	Date Completed
Various	Several play areas have been tidied up and the hedges have been cut. Some of which are on there 4th or 5th cut.	July /August 2024
Brookfield /KGV Play Area	Surfaces in both of these parks were Damaged so they both got repaired the day reported.	02/08/2024
Brookfield hedge	The hedge between the Play Area and the slide was cut down to the height of the fence. Others were done the same time.	07/08/2024
White Eagle hedges	These hedges were last done in November 23 so had its second cut last month.	13/08/2024 19/08/2024
Havisham / Gaynor Play Area	These hedges were cut by the team in two days Havisham is on its first cut and Gaynor is on its third cut.	25/07/2024 26/07/2024
Gaynor Play Area	The Plat forms on the Junior unit were remade from Marine ply. This took longer due to sealing the board and using oil-based paint which takes longer to dry.	02/07/2024 Fitted 08/07/2024
Luna Play Area	New gate mechanism fitted due to old one causing safety issues	21/08/2024
Bus stop opposite skatepark	Old Perspex removed and 2mm Perspex fitted as requested.	Start 19/07/2024 Finished 31/07/2024
Lillian Play Area	Removed old Junior and baby swing seats and updated them with new style swings.	15/07/2024

Working Towards

A schedule has been drawn up throughout May/June 2024 to allow the Officers to progress with their priorities to put the team in good stead for the projects to be conducted in 2024/2025.

Location	Working towards	Time Scale
Bus shelter opposite Morrisons	To cut the hedge and paint the three back panels and replace the others	Within the month of September.
Play Areas	Continue to cut hedges that are attached to the fences.	All to be completed between September and December 2024
Play Areas	Surface repairs in Mazurek, Capes thorn and Havisham.	These will be completed by the end of October 2024