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| Meeting | Parks & Open Spaces Committee |
| Date | Tuesday 13 th July 2021 |
| Report Title | Parks & Projects Report |
| Agenda Reference | 11 |
| Author | Dave New & Mark Weaving (Technical Officers) |

Officer's Recommendation

There are no recommendations.

Background

The team has been busy meeting with different play area companies that wished to join in on the play area refurbishment tenders for Luna Close and Gaynor Close and assisted in the tender specification and review.

The team continues to assist in other areas of the Parks & Open Spaces Team with the emptying of public litter and dog waste bins due to holidays or sickness. They have also been assisting the grass team to catch up with the cutting schedule This includes some hedge cutting within the parish from resident reporting to the team.

The team continue to clean play areas and with the hot weather it can start repairing the play area surfaces. The team has also been on a small training course by watching a presentation organised by Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and a play company 'Proludic' on accessible play.

Works Completed

| Location | Work Completed |
|----------------------|--|
| Various | Several play areas have been blown out and cleared of leaves or moss. |
| Thyme Play Area | The fence has been repaired around the back of the park with six new posts. |
| Galloway Play Area | The Rocker was removed, cleaned up and repainted then put back and Surface repaired. |
| Brookfield Play Area | Wet pour surface has now been repaired under swings and swings fitted. |



Working Towards

A schedule has been drawn up throughout July and August to allow the Officers to progress with their priorities to put the team in good stead for the projects to be conducted in 2021/2022.

| Location | Working towards |
|------------------------|---|
| Various | Play Area floor repairs. |
| Heaton Close Play Area | Paint Shelter and clear edges around park. |
| Various Play Areas | Continuation of cleaning the surfaces and edges. Working on any actions required from this year's annual external play area inspection. Also continue with repainting and cleaning some pieces of equipment ahead of the peak season. |
| Brookfield Play Area | Hope to start repairing steps and putting grass matting on slopes beside the slide. |
| Greenmeadow Stores | Remove and replace the noticeboard |
| Voyager Play Area | Putting another dolphin bin inside the park. |
| Luna Play Area | Floor repairs prior to refurb |
| Gaynor Play Area | To remove bench and toddler unit before refurb |

Other items - 'the case of the missing penguin'

Recently the penguin bin that was put in Doyle Close Play Area to encourage the children to keep the play area tidy, had gone missing. The team noticed that the bin was in the play area during inspections on 28th June but when returned on 29th June the bin had been deliberately removed. The bin liner was left. The 'case of the missing penguin' was put on social media and received several shares and comments from concerned residents and other organisations. The bin was finally retrieved from Mouldon Hill lake, with the help of a local fisherman. North Swindon Police were contacted to provide them with the information received about the person(s) who deliberately caused damage to Council property.