

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	8 November 2022
Report Title	Autumn Shrub Bed & Hedge Maintenance
Agenda Reference	11
Author	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces and Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendations

To note the report.

Shrub Bed Maintenance

The shrub bed maintenance has continued with the external contractor up until Monday 31st October 2022.

A meeting between the Contractor and Officers of Haydon Wick Parish Council took place on Wednesday 19th October 2022. The meeting was positive and good feedback was passed on.

The meeting discussed the progress of the schedule during the last three weeks, the completed streets within the specified zones and discussed the need to share before/after pictures for social media so that the Parish Council could keep its residents up to date with next steps.

The Contractors during the time of the meeting expressed concerns about using a tractor and side arm due to the overall finish of the hedge and had planned to cut all the areas by hand, especially as the width of the hedges were being heavily reduced in line with the new specification. During the time of the meeting, this wouldn't add any additional costs to the contract, but it would take longer to complete the schedule.

Unfortunately, on Thursday 27th October 2022, the Contractor notified the Parish Council that it has pulled its service due to under-pricing the initial contract, the additional journeys back/forth from its depot in Avonmouth and not having enough resources to complete the requirements. Officers called a Grounds Maintenance Working Party meeting on the same afternoon and updated Councillors R Hailstone, V Manro and S Heyes on the situation.

At the time of accepting the contract, the Parish Council knew there were some risks associated and made extra provisions with the cost savings to the contract for this very scenario.

In the meantime, the Parks & Open Spaces Team has been able to pick up and cover elements of the contract until further operational and budgetary details can be discussed by the Parks & Open Spaces Committee later in the exempt session.

The service is still on track and the Parish Council is in a better position with additional resources, equipment, surplus grounds maintenance budgets due to cost savings and a dedicated Head of Parks & Open Spaces.