

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	Tuesday 14 March 2023
Report Title	Grounds Maintenance Facility Update
Agenda Reference	13
Authors	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces and Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

External Project Manager

The Head of Parks & Open Spaces has been in touch with three potential companies that could offer advice and fee. At the time of writing this report there is no further update.

Timeframe

The chosen contractor, Affleck, has confirmed there is a 5–6-week lead time from receipt of instructions or signing of a contract with a 22–24-week construction period. The 30-week total brings the completion date to mid-October 2023, although this does not factor in any external delays such as solicitors' timelines for reviewing the contract.

Contracts and Solicitors

The Council has appointed an external solicitor to assist with the contractual elements. Affleck has recommended a JCT D&B Contract 2016 and will be preparing a draft for approval.

Consultation

The public consultation regarding the Grounds Maintenance Facility has launched and the deadline for this is Friday 17th March 2023. Posters with the consultation details have been displayed on the noticeboards, leisure garden gates and on social media.

Communications

The plot holders have been informed of the next stages of the Grounds Maintenance Facility project. Regular updates will continue at Parks & Open Spaces Committees (second Tuesday of every month) and Full Council (fourth Tuesday of every month).

Project Plan

The project plan continues to be updated and key milestones are factored in.

Ventnor Close Planning Application

The decision should be reached by 13th April 2023.

Temporary Move to Swindon Borough Council's (SBC) Waterside Depot

Officers visited a space available at Waterside Depot in January 2023. SBC were contacted with an update on the possible time frames after the decision by full council on the 28th of February 2023. They have said that they will work towards terms and conditions for us to take temporary residence at Waterside Park.

An opportunity has arisen with St Andrews Parish Council, who is currently occupying a space at Waterside Depot and may be willing to share spaces and split the costs for the old stores building offered. A suitable meeting time with St Andrews Parish Council and a response from the Operations Manager at Swindon Borough Council is still outstanding.