

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	11 th July 2023
Report Title	Head of Parks & Open Spaces Report
Agenda Reference	12
Author	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officer Recommendations

1. To consider removing the bench from the isolated open space next to Voyager Drive open space.
2. To note that a public litter bin will be placed next to the benches in Thursday Street following consultation with residents.
3. To note that a public consultation will be conducted to ask residents about the installation of a memorial bench at Voyager Drive Play Area.
4. To note that three additional vehicle trackers have been purchased for the electric vehicles, the cost for this is £81.00 initially and then £81.00 per quarter to be met from 4511/307.
5. To approve the request for Queen Elizabeth Drive open space to be used as a venue for a parent and baby's group if the group satisfy any conditions, we deem appropriate.

Daily Work Sheets June 2023

6 carried forward from May. 87 new cases in June, 42 completed in June with 51 being carried forward to July. Completed tasks/ Categories:

- Fly tipping 3
- Grass 4
- Litter 2
- Graffiti 1
- Other 1
- Shrubs / trees 40

Public enquiries now have a reference number issued to reported tasks. This number can be given to the public when feasible. Daily work sheet information used to contain the basic information we now add more personal details so the outstanding tasks will not be published.

Tidy Up Team

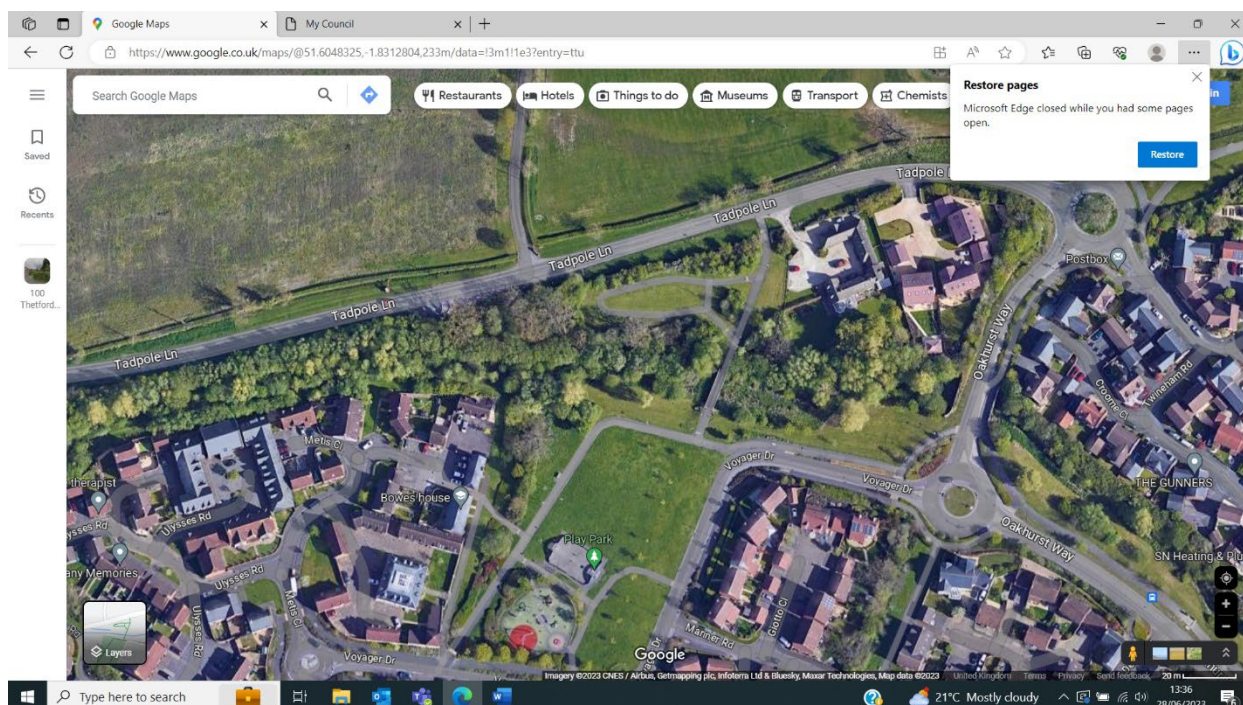
The Tidy Up Team has continued to help bolster the shrub / tree team assisting with overgrown shrubs and hedges in the afternoon after the main tasks of litter and bins have been completed. Standard ongoing tasks of litter picking, bin emptying, graffiti removal, fly tipping removal will continue throughout the winter months.

Compact Street Sweeper

A new 5-year contract lease commenced in April 2023. The previous machine had been on hire for 18 months.

Bench Removal

A request has been received from three members of the public for a bench to be removed from an isolated open space across the stream from Voyager Drive open space. Anti-social behaviour takes place focused on this bench at evenings and weekends. The member of the public has informed the PCSO's live as the problems occur. The PCSO's agree that there is a lot of antisocial behaviour within this location and back the decision to remove the bench. As the space is isolated there is no need for public consultation.



Trent Road Playing Field – Football Lease

Revised conditions of use were presented and agreed at Full Council 27th June 2023 and have been presented to the football club.

Bin Request for Thursday Street

Comments from public consultation are still to be collated. 20 properties on Monday 26th June. The closing date for responses was Friday 7th July. As at the time of writing the report there were none.

Memorial Bench

Following June's Parks & Open Spaces Committee the Council agreed to the placement of a memorial bench at Voyager Drive Play Area. The bench and maintenance would be funded by the resident in line with the Memorial Bench Policy. The next step is to consult with residents about the installation of a bench within that location.

Tadpole Field Trees for Climate

This is the second summer since the planting took place.

The area has remained unmown. This saves on resources, encourages moisture retention, and lessens the impact of members of the public to remain to desire lines within the site.

A plant count will take place in August with a list of replants ordered with a view to replanting taking place in the Autumn. The replant list will be adjusted to reflect species that have thrived in the conditions of the past two growing seasons.

Tiny Forest Update

The joint bid for Tiny Forest grant funding has been prepared for Haydon Wick, along with Central North, Swindon South and West Swindon Parish Councils.

Earthwatch, the charity who manage the Tiny Forest project, have assessed the list of sites considering deprivation and need. The four suggested sites for Haydon Wick sites down to a single location at Heaton Close, as the other proposed sites (at Luna Close, Grace Walk and Voyager Drive) were in 'affluent areas with good existing canopy cover'. There is still an opportunity for our other sites to be progressed if space within the bid becomes available.

Vehicle Trackers

The three new electric vehicles require trackers fitting. The cost we have received for this is an initial payment of £81 and thereafter £81 every 3 months. This is an added agreement with the company that the Council currently uses.

The trackers previously fitted to two hire vehicles were not removed at the off-hire period and the Officers are in the process of trying to retrieve these. The trackers are hired with a cost of £175 each if lost or damaged.

Queen Elizabeth Drive Open Space

The Council has received a request from a local resident regarding permission to hold an outdoor parent and baby class on the open space. Officers have the resident to confirm the actual area, potential numbers that would be attending, dates and times of classes and a brief description of the activities that will take place. Officers would like to work with the resident in line with the Community Choices initiatives Loneliness & Isolation and Youth Activities.