

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	11 th July 2023
Report Title	Spring Summer Shrub Bed Maintenance
Agenda Reference	13
Author	David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Officers' recommendation

1. To note the report.

Background

The summer shrub bed maintenance has carried on with no clear break from the winter programme. The schedule is conducted by the Deputy Parks & Open Spaces Manager and an operative every day of the week. The team is tasked with actioning urgent items on the daily work sheets or attending to public enquiries where the schedule is a few weeks away. The team is also bolstered by the Grass Team where the schedule is up to date and back up has been completed.

The winter maintenance was not completed to the full extent of previous years when an external contractor was engaged. This has been attributed to the lack of availability of an in house compact tractor and side arm which required more manual labour. This has reflected recently on the 50% increase from public enquiries since June 2022. The vast majority of these enquires being shrub/hedge/tree related.

Shrub bed species of Rosa Rugosia and Lonicera coupled with rouge brambles, thistles and self-set Ash put on excessive and repeated growth during June. This has led to us responding to areas of required maintenance on grounds of heightened health and safety issues.

73 of the 87 new public enquiries raised in June 23 were shrub/hedge/tree related. Maintenance will continue in line with the current work schedule.