

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	6 th January 2026
Report Title	Parks & Open Spaces Report
Agenda Reference	9a
Author	Jason Watts, POS & Facility Manager

Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.
2. To note the resident request to reduce hedges leading into Shepperton Way as highlighted yellow.



Tidy Up Team Update

All waste removal and litter-picking activities are progressing as planned. Fly-tipping remains a regular issue throughout the parish; on several occasions we have found items left with signs such as “free to good home.” Residents should be aware that, even with such signage, this still constitutes fly-tipping.

The team continues to focus on known litter-picking hotspots and is monitoring all areas closely. We have received positive feedback from residents along Akers Way regarding the improvements.

During routine inspections, hypodermic needles were discovered and were safely and promptly removed. We also identified instances of household waste being deposited into public litter bins. These types of incidents continue to impact the daily operations of the tidy team. A total of 22 new bin liners has been installed across litter bins throughout the parish to replace deteriorated liners, this will improve black sack removal and replacement, replacements will continue next year.





Mini Compact Street Sweeper – Operational Update

- Leaf Clearance: With the autumn leaf fall now easing, the team is concentrating on built-up debris along kerb edges while continuing routine path clearance.
- Monday Hotspot Coverage: The team maintains its focus on known hotspot areas each Monday, with particular attention to underpasses where litter tends to accumulate more heavily. Overall parish coverage is progressing well. Residents are encouraged to contact us if they notice anything requiring urgent attention.
- Equipment Maintenance: The sweeper was taken out of service for four hours to allow for a vacuum pipe replacement, ensuring the machine continues to operate at optimal performance.

Grounds Team – Shrubs & Hedges

Hedge cutting has now been completed in Taw Hill and Haydon End, with work currently progressing along Westfield Way. Alongside this scheduled work, the team continues to support reactive requests as they arise. This is the first cutting season for our current tractor and flail operative, who has performed exceptionally well in meeting the required standards. Their strong performance will enhance our operational flexibility moving forward

Crown Lift / Epicormic Removal

Team members are working across the parish to remove low-level tree limbs and epicormic growth. This programme of work will continue throughout the autumn and winter months.

Fleet Maintenance Update

Our Goupil machines are scheduled for servicing in December to ensure they remain in prime condition and fully prepared for the winter months.

Other

- We are pleased to welcome our additional seasonal support, who are settling into the team well.
- As anticipated, efficiency has improved since moving into the new GMF building, and we are delighted to be back at the heart of the parish and community.
- Additional wildflower seeds have been sown in the wildflower area opposite Catherine Wayte Primary School, and we are hopeful for enhanced growth from spring onwards.

Elstree Way roundabout

Hello Jason,

Many thanks for the order.

Looking at dates, this is now a little too late for us to get the grass sown and plants in before the risk of overnight frost, so we would propose to do this work in the last week of February 2026, which should be fine for planting purposes. However, it does allow us to push back the finishing elements of planting and grass to March, if the weather does still look bad at that time.

I hope this will work for you but please let me know if there are any issues with this proposed timing.

Kind regards,

Adrian