

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	6 th October 2026
Report Title	Parks & Open Spaces Report
Agenda Reference	11a
Author	Jason Watts, POS & Facility Manager

Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.
2. To note cost of HAKO Sweeper repair
3. To note a resident's report about excessive noise from the newly installed dog park.
4. To receive operational updates.

Hako Sweeper repair cost

The HAKO sweeper has undergone several repairs throughout August & September.

When	Qty of repairs	Cost
August	10 Items repaired	£1,341.15
September	09 Items repaired	£722.94

The repairs were necessary to keep the sweeper machine functioning, the sweeper is now three years old and has been maintained through an agreed service contract with HAKO, despite this there are many consumable damages and wear and tear items that are not covered within this service agreement. The Council's lease agreement is ongoing until May 2028 and therefore repairs and service will continue up until this point.

The team has improved operator assignment and training and is concentrating on ensuring all required repairs are carried out to obtain optimum performance. This will be followed up with designated start up and shutdown procedures and documentation to improve vehicle daily maintenance.

Financial Impact

307 / 4634

Month 5 - there is £10,698.00 of budget available.

Additional cost outside service agreement as explained above.

Resident dog park report

A resident of Furlong Close has reported noise disturbance from the newly installed dog park, specifically due to dogs barking during the early morning and late evening. The resident states that the barking causes their own dogs to react and bark in response, which has resulted in ongoing disruption within the property. Because of this, the resident has begun keeping all windows closed during these periods.

Officers responded to this acknowledging the of the extreme heat meaning that residents would be walking dogs' early morning and late evening to avoid the midday sun, hopefully this will settle back down as it had done in spring and now approaching the winter.

The team will continue to monitor for any further incoming reports and have not received additional to date.



Tidy Up Team Update

The Council is still experiencing the vandalism of litter bins from being set on fire to liners being removed and stamped on making them unusable. The litter bin liners cost £43.00 each and over 8 have been destroyed beyond repair. An additional bin has been installed at Luna Play area to improve litter disposal. The team constantly monitor litter hotspots and are striving to retrieve litter that has been thrown from vehicles. All litter bins have been emptied as per schedule.

Mini compact sweeper

As previously reported, many repairs have been carried out in readiness for the autumn leaf fall. The team continue to sweep all areas of the parish that is recorded and documented each day.

Planters / Hanging baskets / Shrub & Tree watering

Following a successful floral display throughout the spring and summer seasons, the existing planter arrangements are now approaching the end of their lifecycle. The newly appointed supplier and installer has agreed to replenish all planters with autumn and winter displays. To facilitate this work, the existing arrangements will be removed from September onwards, with the new seasonal planting installed shortly thereafter. This will ensure that the planters continue to provide an attractive and welcoming display throughout the autumn and winter months. The external contractor has been more cost-effective than the team doing the work in-house and there has been positive feedback about the displays.

Parks & Open Spaces Team – Shrubs & Hedges

The team has successfully completed all low-level shrub maintenance across the parish, while continuing to respond to reactive works raised by residents. In preparation for the start of the new school term, the team has also undertaken clearance works to ensure safe and unobstructed access along key routes used by pupils and pedestrians.

With the bird nesting season now concluded, the team will turn its attention to high-level hedge maintenance throughout the parish, including hedges bordering main pathways and public access routes. This programme of work will help maintain accessibility, improve visibility, and ensure that public spaces remain safe and well-presented.

Grass Cutting

Due to the prolonged dry weather, the grass-cutting programme was suspended at the end of round 7 for a total of nine weeks, as growth levels were insufficient to justify routine cutting. During this period, the grounds maintenance team was redeployed to support shrub maintenance and reactive works across the parish.

Recent rainfall has resulted in signs of recovery across many grassed areas, and growth rates are beginning to increase. The situation will continue to be monitored closely, with grass-cutting operations resuming on a phased basis where conditions permit. The service will gradually return to full capacity as growth levels become consistent across the parish. The current hired mowers will be returned at the end of October; this will generate workshop space in preparation for Parks and Project autumn / winter projects.

Resource

Unfortunately, due to annual leave, staff absence and training commitments, the team has not operated at full capacity for more than eight weeks. A recruitment drive will therefore take place in October to restore staffing resources to the level required to support all parish services. Despite these challenges, cross-training across the team has enabled us to maintain all essential services.

