Haydon Wick Parish Council
Thames Avenue
Haydon Wick
Swindon
SN25 1QQ

01793 722446
info@haydonwick.gov.uk
www.haydonwick.gov.uk

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	1st December 2026
Report Title	Parks & Open Spaces Report
Agenda Reference	10a
Author	Jason Watts, Parks & Open Spaces Manager

Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.
2. To note litter concerns at Akers Way due to SBC household waste collection.
3. To note resident request for two additional benches within the parish.
4. To receive operational updates.

Akers Way litter concern

Litter remains a concern at Akers Way, with no apparent improvement despite daily visits by the team. The issue is linked to household waste collections undertaken by Swindon Borough Council. Foxes continue to tear open waste bags, allowing litter to be scattered by the wind across the area. Further litter is dispersed during collections and is not subsequently retrieved.

The team inspects the area and collects litter each day, placing considerable pressure on resources. Feedback is requested from Swindon Borough Council, together with confirmation of the measures it will take to address the issue.

Bench request

A resident has requested that two additional benches are installed within the parish.

1. On the path from Caraway Drive to the Tawny Owl.
2. Moulden Hill Park. Although there are already multiple benches at Moulden Hill Park the request is to install a bench at the top of the field south of the lake as shown below.



Tidy Up Team Update

No incidents of bin vandalism were reported during October or November. This represents an improvement on last year, when several litter bin fires occurred around Bonfire Night. The team has trialled a new graffiti removal product with promising results. The product is expected to be particularly useful for removing graffiti from porous brickwork.

We would like to thank all volunteer litter pickers for their valued support. All litter bins have been emptied in accordance with the scheduled programme.

Mini compact sweeper
The sweeper and its operative are making good progress in managing leaf fall across the parish. Additional resources, including manual leaf blowing, have been deployed in areas with heavy leaf fall. Leaf clearance remains a high priority as leaves continue to fall, alongside ongoing work to address the usual hotspots throughout the parish.

Planters / Hanging baskets
All the planters and hanging baskets have now been replenished and returned to their locations around the parish. Spring bulbs have also been planted within them, providing a welcome burst of colour during this season.

Parks & Open Spaces Team – Shrubs & Hedges
The team has made excellent progress on the path programme, successfully completing sections HP1 and HP7. They are currently clearing the path adjacent to Thamesdown Drive, which extends for 3.6 km. Once this work is complete, the team will continue with clearance and maintenance activities across several other path networks within the parish.

Grass Cutting
Grass cutting operations came to an end on 30 October. Despite the challenges faced throughout the season, the team successfully delivered all ten scheduled cuts. This was a testament to the dedication and adaptability of our staff, supported by the training of additional team members ahead of the grass-cutting season to ensure we had the resources needed to meet our programme.

Crown lifting & Epicormic removal
The team has commenced the removal of epicormic growth and crown lifting across the parish and is recording progress as work continues. Some trees were affected by the recent storms, and the team remains vigilant in identifying any potential hazards. Where issues are identified, appropriate remedial work will be undertaken as part of this programme to help maintain the safety and health of the parish's tree stock.

Bulb Planting
During October, the team planted over 3,000 bulbs on the grass bank at Akers Way, comprising a mixture of crocuses and snowdrops. We look forward to seeing a vibrant display of colour emerge in the lead-up to spring and will provide a further update on the results once the bulbs begin to flower.
Additional bulb planting is also scheduled to take place at Wick Farm, where efforts will focus on enhancing and expanding the established fritillaria population. This work will help strengthen the existing display and further support the biodiversity and visual appeal of the area.

Sheep at Tadpole Field
The parish council has recently agreed to rent part of the tadpole field to a young local farmer, the farmer will be keeping six pregnant sheep in the paddock area, the sheep and the newborn lambs will be relocated once they have matured, please keep all dogs on a lead when visiting this area.

Resource
Following a successful recruitment campaign, we are delighted to welcome three new Parks and Open Spaces Operatives and a Deputy to the team in the coming weeks. These new appointments will strengthen our service delivery and complete the staffing structure necessary to effectively maintain and enhance our parks and open spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors.