
Report To: Full Council Date: 29 April 2024

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Services Update

1. Services Work Completed (4 weekly update)

1.1 During the last four weeks, the team completed the following:

- Started mowing rounds – Councillors should note that the mowing fleet cuts at a 2.5 inches or higher, this allows for buttercups and daisies to remain. Bluebells and daffodils will be avoided until they have died back.
- Scraped moss from splitter islands
- Low level tree and fallen branch removal
- Strimming
- Cleared subways and steel barriers around roadside verges
- Graffiti removal

1.2 Play improvement work has been undertaken including

- Jet washing play surfaces
- Swing pivot repaired and spinner repaired
- Removal of broken music panel at the Chesters – unfortunately not repairable and will need replacing
- Rubber surface repairs at Clayhill play area

1.3 Project Work

The team have completed

- Cleaning and painting the horse sculpture at Claypits/Cartwright Drive
- Replacing the wood on benches at Cartwright Drive
- Weeding and refilling the brick planters at Freshbrook village centre – 8 tons of top soil
- Repaired noticeboard at Westlea

1.4 Income Generation:

Payment for tree planting/maintenance £1571

1.5 Requests for Service:

The team have received a low number of requests from the public, including flytipping, overgrown hedges (private property) and

1.6 Land ownership

- a) Resident clarification Thornford Drive
- b) Resident clarification Roughmoor Farm Close

1.7 Cross Parish Support –

- Assisted St Andrews Parish Council with welding for gate repairs
- Joint demonstrations of utility vehicles
- Liaising with other Parishes regarding road sweeping machines

2. Services Work (May 2024)

2.1 For May the focus will be as follows:

- Priority is continuing with grass cutting - the first cut is ongoing. Some areas are still too soft for the mowers to cut.
- Handmowing and strimming
- New members of the team operating the tractor

2.2 Play Maintenance

Routine inspections and repairs

Play Inspection Training for all staff booked 1st May.

Annual Play Inspection responses

2.3 Planting

Preparation for new bedding plants, removing bulbs for drying/replanting, refilling and repairing plant containers. New bedding plants due end of May.

2.4 Village Centre Maintenance

Add new plants to Freshbrook and Shaw village centre brick planters. Add two new tiered planters to Toothill Village Centre.

2.5 Bins and Flytipping

Business as usual. A number of bin requests have been received to be reviewed by Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee in June.

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