
Report To: Planning & Environment Committee

Date: 15 September 25

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Projects & Christmas

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Planning & Environment Committee with information to review projects progress and activities relating to Christmas.

2. DETAIL

2.1 *Corton Crescent*

Grounds works are getting underway. The project is subject to staff availability so may take some weeks to reach completion. Wood, metal sculptures and planting are ready.

2.2 *Gateway Signs*

The team is making the gateway signs for Parish boundary entry points on Whitehill Way, Tewkesbury Way and Purton Road bridge. We are liaising with Swindon BC highways regarding any restrictions.

2.3 *Memorial Bench*

A bench with a commemorative plaque has been ordered to recognise the contribution of the late Councillor Steph Exell. The bench will be sited at Toothill park. Councillors will be updated closer to the date of installation.

2.4 *Toothill Pond*

Work has been undertaken by volunteers at Toothill pond at a scale that has involved the removal of established vegetation and natural habitat. The scale of excavation was outside of Parish team approval and supervision. The volunteers have been asked to pause whilst independent advice is secured to establish the next best steps.

2.5 *Shaw Ridge FAB Meadow*

A new meadow area on the slope of Shaw Ridge Linear Park has been cut out volunteers have been given their choice of seed to plant the area. This new meadow exceeds the footprint of the area re-allocated to the play area.

3 Christmas

- 3.1 From 2017 to 2020, the Parish Council provide a lit Christmas tree to the Link Centre foyer until the Parish Council was no longer a tenant. From 2022-24, the Parish Council partnered with the Westlea fire station open day and provided a Santa's grotto experience. It has been noted in earlier reports that participant numbers last year were significantly lower than previous years. This year, the Fire Service may be repeating the event but

have not confirmed any details with the Parish Council. It is likely that they would create their own Santa experience in the absence of support from the Parish Council.

3.2 Last year, the Parish Team distributed decorated trees and snowmen figures to village centre sites. As an expansion on previous years, it is recommended that this Committee considers the following installations by the Parish Team

- Tinsel and garlands on columns across village centres including canopy columns
- Lighting on canopies/clock tower if a power source can be found and its use agreed
- Lighting on roundabout foliage (subject to Highways approval)
- Lighting on planters (subject to Highways approval)

3.3 A quote has been provided for a lit and decorated tree for consideration (see attached). This would need a space to be secured and access to electricity supply.

4. FINANCIAL & LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

4.1 The Parish Council allocated £10,000 to community events in the current budget. Christmas decorations could be purchased from this budget. It is estimated that general lighting and decorations could be sourced in the region of £2500 and with the avoidance of vandalism and theft, could be used again in future years. A professionally decorated lit tree is in the region of £3,800 for single supply and removal.

5. RECOMMENDATION:

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the information in the report and confirms its proposal for Christmas.