
Report To: Planning and Environment

Date: 8th December 2025

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: PROJECTS UPDATE

1. **Projects**

1.1 To update on progress of West Swindon Parish projects.

a. **Corton Crescent**

Work is ongoing at Corton Crescent. Grounds work have been mostly completed. This has involved the removal of existing tarmac and restoration of a pathway to the Corton Crescent crossing. The tarmac has been removed by a grab lorry and tons of soil dropped in to the site. This has been raked and seeded with wildflowers and wild grass which will be maintained going forward. Looking ahead, depending on ground conditions being workable, hard landscaping will continue with the installation of steel sculptural pieces, benches, garden sleeper edges and stone surfacing. The goal will be to have all the landscaping elements completed ready for additional planting to be added in the Spring.

b. **Memorial Benches**

Memorial benches are on order and have not yet been delivered. These are one bench in Toothill Park dedicated to the late Councillor Steph Exell and a bench in Corton Crescent garden dedicated to the late resident volunteer Moya Pinsom. It is hoped these will be delivered before the end of the year and installed in January.

c. **Christmas Decorations**

Lighting

Christmas decorations are complete. The goal has been to improve on the snowmen and trees of the previous year, with additional lighting and decorations.

The Parish Team has liaised closely with Swindon Borough Council Street Lighting Team to create new sockets in the village centre lamp columns to enable lighting to be featured for the first time.

Our request for lighting installation was comparatively late for the Street Lighting Team who would typically be completing Christmas work during the Summer. This can be taken into account for planning lighting for 2026. The light units utilised in the village centres have been the result of repurposing and repairing strings that have not been in use for some time. New units including lit column banners could be in bought preparation for next year. The Council would need to plan for install and de-install contractor time.

Planter and Column decoration

The Parish Team has made bows from ribbon made from recycled plastic bottles to feature on planters across the Parish. Columns at the village centres have been wrapped ribbon around columns where it has been practical to do so. Small solar lighting has been added in a number of locations to see if this works.

We will have to wait for January to see how well these handmade decorations have lasted and whether the materials can be reused next year.

If Councillors are keen to build and grow on this year's displays, this can be planned earlier to enable purchase and making time.

Environmentally, the team has focused on recycling and creating new decorations from recycled materials.

Defibrillators

- d. The partnership with the street lighting team to use lamp columns for Parish projects extends to the creation of free standing defibrillator units. The aim is to have these installed in January 2026, subject to the alignment of work scheduling and installation approvals. The Parish team have identified the following locations as opportunities to cover current gaps in provision, however, there are many parts of West Swindon that could benefit:

- Sudeley Way, Grange Park
- Swinley Drive
- Angler Close to Shaw Ridge

4. Financial and Budget Considerations

- 4.1 Corton Crescent: a budget of up to £10,000 was identified from the Backlands projects Earmarked Reserves. Around £6,000 has been spent to date. There are low costs associated with this project.

Christmas Decorations: the Parish Council does not have a defined budget for Christmas decorations such as lighting installation and de-rigging. Costs have retained within existing budgets for 2025 but if expansion and improvement is desired, a new budget line is recommended. On average, small Parish Council's budget £1-3,000 for small schemes. Large Parish Councils budgets are variable depending on type of scheme. Typical costs for village-centre displays range from £1,500–£3,000 per centre, with additional infrastructure such as road entrances and roundabouts costed at £1,000–£3,000 per site. Based on this, a total allocation of £17,000 is recommended to deliver a safe, consistent, and high-quality Christmas lighting programme for 2026/27. For a maintenance and installation ongoing programme beyond that and/or if an incremental approach over a number of years was preferred, this could be scaled back to £5,000 to enable a budget to cover a repeat of this year with some installation improvements.

Defibrillators: it is anticipated that three additional defibrillators will be delivered within the current budget of £5,000.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That this Committee notes the report and considers
- a) proposing a budget for future Christmas lighting and decorations
 - b) approving the location of free standing defibrillators for 2026