
Report To: Planning and Environment Date: 12 January 2026

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: PROJECTS UPDATE 2026

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 To update Councillors on the progress of projects relevant to this Committee.

2. **Projects at January 2026**

2.1 *Corton Crescent*

The improvements to the former backland site at Corton Crescent will continue over the coming weeks. Benches have been delivered and timber ordered. The next stage will be to install hard standing to position the benches and install the sculptural steel rings. This will create a framework for planting to follow. An outline of the garden structure is attached as **Appendix A**.

2.2 *Murals*

The West Swindon District Centre subway mural is completed, a protective coating will be applied in due course. The Peatmoor mural has further work in order to complete the exterior wing walls. Conversations are progressing for a third sponsored mural for the Whitehill Way subway on a eco-energy generation theme.

2.3 *Benches*

Commemorative benches have been received. Installation of the bench in Toothill park should happen shortly as should the benches in Corton Crescent. Alongside this, the team have installed a relocated bench from Hay Lane to Camden Close toddler play area.

2.4 *Sign cleaning*

The next round of main road sign cleaning is booked for 22nd January. The focus will be Whitehill Way.

2.5 *Waste Transfers*

A review of the year's waste transfers indicates that there continues to be high levels of bin misuse and flytipping. Over the year, the team has removed **247 tonnes of waste** – the equivalent of nearly 25,000 full wheelie bins or more than 200 small cars. Managing this volume places significant pressure on the Council's vehicles and staff. Public litter bins (often ~120 L capacity) are intended for lighter, incidental street litter — things like food wrappers, drink cans, cups, cigarette packs and takeaway packaging. These individual items weigh very little in isolation. A well-used bin may have a total bag weight in the region of 5-8 kg. Even when moderately full, litter

collected from streets usually weighs far less per bag than the heavier, compacted household waste that comes from people's homes. If someone fills a public waste bin with general domestic rubbish it can easily top 15–40 kg because food waste, cat litter, nappies, packaging, clothing, metal and dense mixed items add weight. There are many instances where a bin will require two people to empty and carry the waste.

In addition to the misuse of bins, West Swindon has high levels of flytipping. This is most often in the form of builder waste sacks that do not get collected, garden products and green waste dumped over back garden fences, broken furniture, toys and household waste left beside public bins and dumped items such as bikes and trolleys. Increasing the number of bins is not an effective solution as it has proved to increase misuse and acts as a receptacle or site for dumping waste.

The Engagement Officer will be tasked to look at behaviour change activities and the wildlife cameras will be monitored. The team continues to recycle metal (scrap) and separate waste where possible.

2.6 *Christmas Lighting/decorations*

The Parish Team have collected the outdoor Christmas decorations which will be stored ready for next year. We are liaising with Swindon Borough Council's lighting team to have the lights switched off and removed where it is practical to do so. Some may stay in situ. We will review options for purchasing new lighting and welcome any suggestions for this.

2.7 *Footpath Request*

The Parish Council has received a request from the Office of Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP, Member of Parliament, Swindon South (Labour) for reinstatement of an existing pathway from Grandison Close to Shaw Ridge.

Once the team have purchased a 360 excavator, we will be able to scrape back any vegetation from an existing stone surface. It is not clear at present the extent or condition of the pathway, an update will be brought to a future meeting.

2.8 *Knife Surrender Bin*

The Surrender Bin at Freshbrook Church as been installed and advertised. The Parish Team have received a number of enquiries regarding it. A second bin will be installed at the rear of the Link Centre (near the bridge) in the coming weeks.

2.9 *Little Libraries*

The Little Libraries are awaiting final logos to be applied and will then be ready for installation. Each library has a local resident to act as a host and caretaker and each one will be stocked to begin with. The aim will be for residents to take, share and give books thereafter.

2.10 *Defibrillators*

With the completion of the Christmas lighting project, focus will be given to installing defibrillators as previously reported. This is subject to scheduling being agreed by Swindon Borough Council's street lighting team.

2.11 There are no new or non budgeted costs associated with this report.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That this Committee notes the report.

Appendix A – Corton Crescent



Appendix B – Waste Transfer Totals

2025 Weighbridge Tonnage Monthly Totals						
Month	Bins Fly Tip	Green	Wood	Hardcore	Soil	Totals
January	10.32	18.3	0.14	0	0	28.76
February	9.34	20.02	0	0	0	29.36
March	8.72	0.82	1.82	0	0	11.36
April	12.14	0.46	0.56	0	0	13.16
May	12.42	3.02	0.16	0.68	0	16.28
June	8.32	5.2	0	0	0	13.52
July	12.48	15.1	2.1	0	0	29.68
August	10.12	14.66	0	0	0	24.78
September	12.64	8.66	0	0.72	0	22.02
October	10.36	3	0	0	0	13.36
November	9.8	8.4	0.14	5.92	0	24.26
December	10.84	9.42	0	0	0	20.26
Totals	127.50	107.06	4.92	7.32	0	246.80