

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 29 June 2020

Title: Progress on improvements & repairs since last meeting

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer-John Hickman

Background

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of improvements and repairs since the last meeting of the Halls & Green Spaces Committee.

Current Situation

Burwell Hall

The senior maintenance operative has redecorated both of the changing rooms in Burwell Hall, has also carried out redecoration to all exterior woodwork and has renewed the anti-climb paint to the fascia boards and guttering.

Tower Hill Cemetery

The works team have cleaned and treated two benches, cleaned and weeded the area in front of the memorial wall in section 10, and dug up and replaced concrete pathways where they were causing trip hazards.

The works team are due to start clearing the area below section 9 in preparation for future ashes interments in this location. Equipment and spoil heap will be placed in other areas away from the current burial area as agreed by council.

Windrush Cemetery

A separate report will be provided regarding Windrush Cemetery.

Closed Churchyards

Two complaints have been received regarding the closed church yards, one from Holy trinity regarding some alleged damages to headstones by grounds contractors whilst carrying out grass cutting operations. The other complaint by a local resident regarding grass cutting in St Mary's church yard. Grounds Contractors have been spoken to regarding both complaints. The Operations and Estates Officer has also spoken with the local resident regarding their complaints re St Marys church yard and has agreed to meet with them on site once back from Shielding.

St Mary's T583 Cedar of Lebanon

Bat Survey, the final visit of the Survey was due to be carried out in the early hours of the 16th June. It should be expected that the results will be provided soon.

St Mary's Church Survey Boundary Wall Survey

The report for this survey has only recently been received, given its size and technical content it will take time for the Operations and Estates Officer to go through before bringing the recommendations to Council.

Repair works to boundary walls, pillars and arch caused by vehicles - the Operations and Estates Officer is seeking PCC approval and a faculty to carry these works out.

Memorial stability - the Operations and Estates Officer is seeking PCC approval and a faculty to carry these works out.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Obviously, the Cemeteries are an area with several risk factors – particularly around memorial stability and trees. The Council has a programme of inspection for both these in order to mitigate or where mitigation is not possible, reduce the risk.

Financial implications

Financial implications on these project have been reported previously or are contained within the Council's budgets.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.