

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 6th July 2020

Title: Progress on improvements & repairs since last meeting

Contact Officer: [Officer Title] - [Name]

Background

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of improvements and repairs since the last meeting.

Current Situation

Summer Bedding

Summer bedding has all been planted up now and is looking really good. One Lamp Post planter is missing due to a new lamp post being installed and the bracket being removed with the old pole not replaced onto the new pole, the bracket is being replaced today by the works team and the basket should be up in the near future. Several hanging basket extender arms have gone missing from the brackets on the Lower High Street since last year's baskets were removed. replacement brackets have been ordered and these are expected to be delivered this week. The remaining hanging baskets can then go up, extender brackets will be removed and kept with the hanging baskets in future to avoid this issue happening again.

Trees

The following tree works have been carried out by WTC tree surgeons, West Witney Tree belt dead wood removed, West Witney Depot trees felled, Tree survey 2019 year one tree works completed, several trees have been reduced back from close proximity to properties and dead wood has been removed from several trees to the Leys Recreation Ground that were overhanging the top road and footpaths.

The Bat Survey has now been completed and the report stating no Bats are present and T583 in St Mary's church yard can be felled has been received. The tree surgeon is now re-quoting for the associated works once this is received a faculty will be applied for to section fell this tree to a 2m stump as agreed by council and the WODC Tree Conservation Officer Nick Dolby.

The works team have cut up and removed a large fallen bow from Queen Emma's Dyke.

Litter

The Grounds Contractors are finding excessive amounts of litter both on the amenity spaces and within the litter bins this is being caused by the school closures etc. and more people than

normal using WTC's amenity and recreational areas. This is causing the contractors issues with additional skips and staff levels due to the additional work.

Events

Currently all events with the exception of Winey Feast which is still expected in September and Remembrance Sunday have been cancelled. The communication Officer has written a separate report with regards to Remembrance Sunday.

West Witney Defibrillator

The defibrillator at West Witney sports and Social Club purchased, installed and maintained by Tower Hill football club has not been maintained recently. The operations and Estates Officer noticed it and raised it with both the Sports and Social Club at Tower Hill F.C. The unit has been taken off line with the South Central Ambulance Service as it is not being maintained.

The club it would appear no longer want to take responsibility for this unit and it would appear feel that WTC should take responsibility for it. The Operations and Estates Officer has informed the club that if that is the case they should write in officially with these reasons as to why they would want WTC to take responsibility for the unit and also to state they are willing to give the existing unit etc. to WTC. Also to provide the current condition of the unit its batteries and associated equipment and unit lifespan remaining in order that the Operations and Estates Officer can bring this matter to this committee with an appropriate costing for council to consider.

The information has not been provided as requested by the Operations and estates Officer in time for the writing this report therefore the item will have to wait until the next meeting of this committee on 21st September 20.

Vandalism

There have been few reports of vandalism recently other than a memorial bench at the Lake and a length of guttering pulled off the rear of Burwell Hall.

Street Furniture

The works Team have been cleaning and repairing benches throughout the Town.

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.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.