

## Agenda Item 4

For information - An update on the town's parks and green spaces

Author: Chris Stringer, Environment Manager

This report provides a summary of what's happening in the town's parks and green spaces.

It's a list-based update for the committee and the town; something that's succinct and that's quick to read and reference.

The first part of the report focuses on projects and discrete pieces of work (meaning work with clearly identifiable end points).

This work is split into three categories:

- Recently completed
- Ongoing
- Coming soon

Projects and work listed in the **Coming soon** category are expected to be completed between Council Matters meetings. The weather and tricky ground conditions can get in the way of this; and at the moment the pandemic and the lockdown are impacting our work, too.

The second part of the report notes the day to day work that is being completed at the present time; and the essential maintenance and upkeep that happens whatever the weather. This is mentioned for completeness, but also for context; naturally and necessarily, we balance how much time we spend on upkeep with time spent on improvements.



### Recently completed

- Ranger Phil has started; bringing us up to a full complement of five Rangers
- Our Wild about Trees Project Officer has started, too. Congratulations to Helen Viner
- Spiking and slitting the grass at the Old Showfield and in Mary Baily & Victoria Park
- Planting around the bandstand
- We've been re-opening our play areas in line with the Government's current guidance
- A Wild about Frome grass spiral at the Showfield
- We've invested in an electric bike for the Rangers (and the Council)
- New Ranger-made benches for the Dippy and Weylands
- Wild about Sharing: places for people to swap and share things like seeds and plants

### Ongoing

- We've got a local expert completing tree surveys of a number of our spaces, including Rodden Meadow, Welshmill and Weylands
- Wessex Water are completing repairs to a tidal flap in the river by Rodden Meadow
- Looking at how we can safely and sensibly re-open the public toilets in Victoria Park
- Discussions with MDC about the old allotments site off Broadway
- Discussions with SCC about Frome's Speed Indicator Device (SID)
- Discussions with MDC about spaces that they are going to look after differently in the future – with opportunities for re-wilding and tree planting

### Coming soon

- Network Rail will be completing some works to the Pilly Vale bridge at the end of Willow Vale. Subject to agreements with Network Rail, this could involve contractors making use of both Rodden Meadow and Millennium Green for access, storage and work



### Day to day

- Responding to the pandemic and the lockdown
- Park checks and play checks
- The Market Place fountain
- Grass cutting
- Summer watering

### Lastly...

We've trialled letting the grass grow over the summer in some new places, including Mary Baily and Victoria Park.

We'll be following up on this by asking people what they think of this change.

