

## Agenda Item 7

### 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 concise 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, of course; and the pandemic and the lockdown continue to impact our work.

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

- Footpath improvements at Millennium Green
- More solar lights at the Dippy – set into the steps leading to and from Feltham Drive; and in the path leading that joins up with New Buildings and Long Ground
- Solar lights for the path between Mary Baily and Victoria Park, as well
- Some new planters and a bench on Catherine Hill
- New Share boxes being built and finished
- The spinning disc is back in at the Showfield play area
- Much less than in November – as reported at the last Council Matters meeting - but we're still responding to petty vandalism across the town's parks and green spaces

### Ongoing

- Supporting the Police with the Government's lockdown restrictions for our parks and green spaces; including the skatepark at Mary Baily
- Low timber posts going in around the outside of the green at Tower View (to stop cars and other vehicles driving onto the grass)
- Hedge cutting across the town
- Working on the town's Play Strategy
- Winter tree works, including Welshmill woods





### Coming soon

- Grass cutting will be starting again in the next few weeks
- Working with the Friends of Egford Lane on the community plan for the play area
- Organising an open meeting with Earthwatch to talk about Tiny Forests
- New bins will be going in
- And some new Ranger-made timber benches, too

### Day to day

- Park checks and play checks
- The Market Place fountain
- Hedge cutting and leaf clearance
- And naturally, we're not working with the Discovery Rangers at the moment (after briefly picking things up before Christmas)

