

#### Agenda Item 4

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

Author: Chris Stringer, Environment Manager

##### Summary

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.

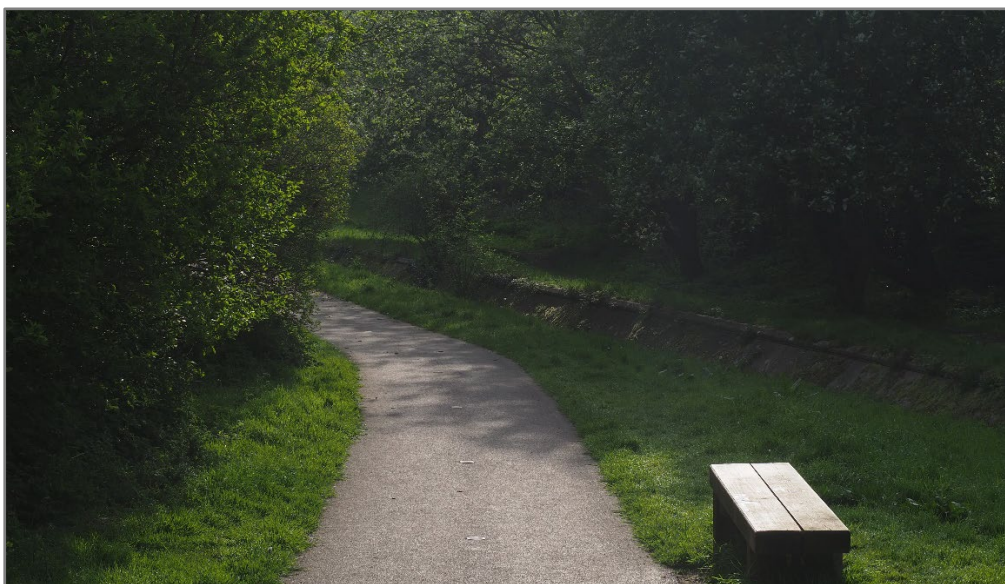
The first part of the report focuses on projects and discrete pieces of work - meaning work with clearly identifiable end points.

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. Naturally, weather and ground conditions can get in the way of this. And there are also times that we have to react to things that have happened and to new opportunities that appear.

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. Necessarily, we balance how much time we spend on upkeep with time spent on improvements.



The Rangers have started grass cutting again; as seen here at the Dippy

### Recently completed

- A report to the Town Matters committee on our Speed Indicator Device (SID)
- A community event at Egford Lane to discuss and try out the possible locations for the mini football pitch planned for the space
- Reinstatement works to the grass and the ground in Mary Baily

### Ongoing

- Work on the Jubilee project at the Showfield
- Creating new wildflower areas along the edge of the Mary Baily playing field
- Conversations with MDC about the rough sleepers in the spaces we look after



One of the rough sleepers currently on Council land

### Coming soon

- Tree surveys for our parks and green spaces
- Community engagement at the Showfield (with more detail on this below)

### Day to day

- We've resumed grass cutting in all our spaces  
This has included the first (early) meadow cuts of Rodden Meadow and the Dippy
- Park checks and play checks
- Play repairs and upkeep
- Sharing the data coming from the SID with Community Speedwatch and SCC for analysis
- Watering our flowers – and all the recently planted trees



### The return of our management and improvement plans

We had paused the reviews of our management and improvement plans. This was to allow for further work on the town's play strategy which has now been adopted and for more detailed discussions about the declared climate and ecological emergencies which are ongoing.

Updated management plans have returned as of this meeting though; starting with reviews of the plans for New Road; North Parade; Packsaddle and the Roundhouse.

### Community engagement at the Showfield

As reported at the last Council Matters meeting, we'll be giving people the opportunity to have their say on the Showfield before we start work on the updated plan for the space.

We'll be discussing some particular ideas and proposals as part of this:

- The Collegians' proposal for a toilet block building next to the football pitch
- A Healing Garden project – working with the medical practice
- A Tiny Forest at the Showfield

This community engagement will be happening soon with full information beforehand including when we'll be in the Showfield for people to come to talk to us.

### Improving the toilets in Victoria Park

The refurbishment/demolition asbestos survey of the toilets has been completed and we're now awaiting the written report.

We also have site meetings booked with design and build companies that specialise in public toilets. These meetings are booked for early May.

## The Boyle Cross fountain

We're finalising the date to have the fountain switched on again (which will happen as soon as the pump room has been inspected for the first time by our new specialist contractor).

