

Agenda item 5

For information - Review of Nurture Open Spaces Work Programme

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Highlights Summary (updates since October 23 briefing)

- Devolution project – active discussions with SC on possible land that might come to FTC as freehold transfer together with possible access to highways depot – all TBC. Possibly main deal being 1 April 2025 with a few sites under review for a possible 1 April 2024 date – again TBC
- Town Centre ranger recruited and making a great contribution to upkeep and presentation (as per Peter W update to Council). Also base at Cheese and Grain fully equipped and with power, and electrical utility vehicle in use
- Incidental play at Welshmill, building on success of Fairy Door trail, has been reviewed with St John’s school and plans now being created. Install in early Spring.
- Phase 1 of works to Broadway Community Graden finished – path from Oakfield round to main growing area. Phase 2 – path continuing to end of property – to start in May 24
- Showfield Play Area opening at end of March. Currently reviewing drainage at top of site. Also fencing upgraded and new hedging being installed end February
- Showfield boundary hedge with Frome Medical Practice layed with great feedback
- Community Woodland project is ready to progress but no progress for 2 months+ waiting for owners to sign lease. May be sign that the project does not complete
- New fortnightly volunteer ranger service started on January 17. First one very well attended and signs of growing interest for future events. Work will take place on any FTC site, tasks assessed based on need, being safe and appropriate to large numbers.
- Review of Ag Soc and Cricket Club ground is ongoing – awaiting feedback from both organisations
- Toilets Vic Park – to be opened shortly. Last stage is finalising tarmac ramp (CW project)
- Police owned and managed CCTV camera installed with direct view of toilets to manage ASB/vandalism.
- Infra red lights being installed onto Vic Park bandstand to allow Vic Park camera to have night vision
- Vic Park café – refurbishment works to floor and refresh of furniture/layout is underway. Re-opening in March
- Loop de Loop building in Market Yard – lease being finalised with SC with a view to Mahesh and Community Café re-using shortly
- Winter tree safety works ongoing



- Access works to Cranmore View, Orchard Street and Muriel Jones planned for spring

Open Spaces Programme:

Project	Update	Status
Convene people who use our open spaces to ensure existing groups are represented but also to reach out to other users whom we have not yet engaged	Engaging with local residents to undertake management plan reviews for each site. Showfield is first site. Play Area plans based on community input. Showfield Management plan review in April 24. Mary Baily/Vic Park June 24	
Work with the forum to consider resident involvement in the maintenance and development of open spaces	Ditto above	
Identify open spaces that we want to take on during the creation of the new Unitary	Active discussions with SC on possible land that might come to FTC as freehold transfer together with possible access to highways depot. Possibly main deal being 1 April 2025 with a few sites under review for a possible 1 April 2024 date. All details TBC	
Consider how FTC would service and maintain a growing number of open spaces	Extra ranger, assistant ranger and associated equipment and vehicles approved in Jan Council meeting if extra land is taken on	
Work with housing and planning to agree which open spaces should be maintained and which could be made available for housing	Ongoing	
Ensure our parks and open spaces are places that people value highly to enjoy, are accessible and inclusive, and support a wide range of outdoor activities and bio-diversity	<p>Review of management plans to ensure inclusivity</p> <p>New access paths in Egford and Broadway Community Gardens</p> <p>Bike shelter installed at FTH</p> <p>Incidental play in Welshmill – co-design with St John’s school, install spring 24.</p> <p>Showfield Play Park – soft opening March 28</p> <p>Café and toilet refurbishment in Victoria Park</p> <p>Biodiversity assessed through iNaturalist record keeping</p> <p>Town Centre Ranger – making a clear contribution to upkeep and presentation and responsiveness for town centre</p> <p>Reviewing options of working with Ag Soc at Showfield, negotiations ongoing</p> <p>River habitat management at Rodden Meadow</p> <p>Broadway Community Garden – Phase 1 access works completed. Phase 2 – May 24</p>	

<p>Other - Collaboration with partner agencies on land, works and maintenance across Open Spaces and the town</p>	<p>Ongoing as discussions arise Working with Frome Medical Practice – boundary hedge layed to great acclaim! Community woodland site – next step is with owners</p>	