

Agenda item 11

For information - Review of Nurture Open Spaces Work Programme

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Highlights Summary (updates since Jan 2024 briefing)

- CCTV Cameras in Victoria Park working well, now with infra-red lighting for good night vision
- Community Café refurbished and re-opened. Newly installed café mounted motion-sensitive night-time floodlights have been warmly welcomed by community
- Showfield Play Area opened, very good feedback from community
- Showfield Community Engagement over Easter to gain feedback for update to management plan
- Reviewing drainage in Showfield
- Community Woodland – 99 year lease to FTC is now signed. Thanks to landowners and Cllrs Mark Dorrington and Andy Wrintmore. Next step is to remove fly grazing.
- Henley Way – timber ramp to The Other Side adjacent to Welshmill Allotments needs replacing. Will be a public procurement project available to any contractor on Proactis
- Egford Park – project to work with community to consider design for play equipment replacement
- Milk St – Engagement team have done a great job working with the local community and a draft design is now being agreed to be worked on in the summer
- Welshmill incidental play started – log circle, balance beams, musical spiral, mud kitchen. Working with St John’s school
- Worked with Frome College (rangers Mark S and Asia P) to clear pond and create an outdoor teaching space
- Worked with Berkely School (rangers Toni D and Asia P) to plant a willow structure
- Big Spring Clean – Over 70 people turned up, very successful day – thanks Cllrs Mark Dorrington, Anna Hill and Phillip Campagna for joining
- Town Centre Lights – Finalising permissions to enable festoons to be year round. Likely up in May
- Town Centre works – Chateau Gontier improvement project



- **Broadway Community Garden** – Great community activity going from strength to strength. Monthly meetings with FTC, SOS, and BCG to review transition to SOS. Next step for FTC is Phase II of footpath works and establishing clear boundaries
- **Devolution Project** – Review of all SC land underway. FTC seeking a full list and map of sites and confirming what is and is not of interest to take on. Details of FTC access to SC Depot being confirmed by SC. Cllrs to make decisions over acquisitions following this due diligence
- **CCTV cameras** around town will be owned by FTC not SC and new SLA in progress
- **Land at Adderwell** – advanced stage of negotiations. Proposal will come Council when a draft agreement is reached.
- **Volunteering** – We continue to work weekly with Critchill School, and the Discovery Group and the new Volunteer Ranger Service now takes place every fortnight. Together these regular volunteer posts equate to approximately 600 people days of volunteering per year



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 access to highways depot. Time line is transfers likely before April 2025. 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	Review of management plans to ensure inclusivity New access paths in Egford and Broadway Community Gardens Incidental play in Welshmill – co-design with St John’s school, install spring 24. Showfield Play Park designed for inclusivity – now open Café and toilet refurbishment in Victoria Park – both now open Biodiversity assessed through iNaturalist record keeping Town Centre Ranger – making a clear contribution to upkeep and presentation and responsiveness for town centre River habitat management at Rodden Meadow Broadway Community Garden –Phase 2 access works – May/June 24	
Other - Collaboration with partner agencies on land, works and maintenance across Open Spaces and the town	Ongoing as discussions arise Working with Frome Medical Practice Community woodland site – Lease signed. Next step, manage fly grazing	