

## Agenda item 6

### For information - Review of Nurture Open Spaces Work Programme

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The work programme is on track – see table below. Key highlights:

- River bank stabilisation project underway – first step: design and EA permit. Next step: contractor quotes.
- Refresh of two important play areas: Tower View and St Johns. Both have had a new design, with extensive community input coordinated by Liz Stone and Emily Osler and a final design facilitated by Helen Viner, and new fencing. The larger play elements will be sourced and installed by a contractor (after tendering for 3 quotes), and the ranger team will undertake as many in-house elements as possible to enable funds to have maximum impact
- Skatepark project update – 6-week consultation now drawing to a close with final design workshop on 13 March 2026
- Tractor hedge cutting has been a great success. 6 staff trained in use and 3 in the advanced course on flail usage. Total people hours on hedging this winter has not increased vs expected DOUBLING of manual time cutting extra devolution hedges without tractor. And work far less physically impactful.
- Community woodland – site has been seeded, track has (mostly) been put in, drainage installed and site has been planted with help of over 600 people from the community.
- Depot works to make site watertight underway
- Depot fuel store up and running
- Winter tree works have been completed (notably Sycamores at Millenium Green and Welshmill)
- Vic Park: welcome board installed, Toddler play area refresh with new tower and community seating, historic photos installed, QR code Tree Trail being set up, Mower shelter phase II refresh (after street art mural), Green Flag currently being assessed,
- Adderwell Water Meadow – contractual boundary fencing works have been completed on field side. This leaves a post and rail fence along the development/access track boundary once site development works complete
- Showfield Drainage works set for end March 2026
- Victoria Park - Green Flag award currently being assessed, new Welcome signs and Historic photos installed, Toddler play area having a refresh, Tree trail being devised

Also: Partnership working with Heal, Student placement, exploring working with probation

### Report sign off

Peter Wheelhouse, Acting Town Clerk 04/03/26



Open Spaces Programme:

Project	Update	Status
<p>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</p>	<p>Community led Skatepark consulted on from 10 Feb with community design workshop 13 March                      Co-design project for Mary Baily installation has been commissioned and is underway                      Work to community tested management plans for Mary Baily and Victoria park well advanced (see list of recent changes above)                      High level of engagement in community consultations for refresh of Tower View and St John’s Play Areas                      Over 600 people booked to support community woodland planting                      Active engagement in skatepark consultation</p>	
<p>Work with the forum to consider resident involvement in the maintenance and development of open spaces</p>	<p>Ditto above</p>	
<p>Managing newly devolved open spaces</p>	<p>All hedging work has been finished and even though length of hedges increased by 50%, the time taken to complete this single largest workstream of the year was lower with the use of the tractor and flail</p>	
<p>Consider how FTC would service and maintain a growing number of open spaces</p>	<p>Tractor in active use over winter for hedging and tree planting</p>	
<p>Work with housing and planning to agree which open spaces should be maintained and which could be made available for housing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>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 biodiversity</p>	<p>Nature recovery plan in advance stages of preparation</p>	
<p>Other - Collaboration with partner agencies on land, works and maintenance across Open Spaces and the town</p>	<p>Active programme of works in town centre including planters, benches                      Street Sweeper in active use</p>	