

Agenda item 4 - For information - Review of Nurture Open Spaces Work Programme

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

- Heatwave has shifted work schedules to watering (triple frequency) and construction (benches, sandpits, shelter, signage) away from grass cutting (not growing).
- Riverbank stabilisation project at Welshmill underway – exploring options - EA have declined permission for hard bank stabilisation option so path will need to be rerouted – a proposal will come to Council
- Refresh of Tower View and St Johns now largely complete with external contractor features installed; ranger works finished St John's (just planting remaining) and in train for Tower View
- Depot reroofing works finished
- Nature Recovery Plan has been drafted with input from wide range of stakeholders, now live on My Frome, final version coming to Council in October
- Green flag has been awarded for excellence in Mary Baily and Victoria Park
- Project started with Community Payback scheme for supporting our works to manage Millenium Green
- Summer of engagement supported with wide range of events
- Skatepark project moving forwards well with very valuable inclusivity research completed, updated design in review and fundraising moving forwards well
- New signage for town centre under construction and graffiti renewal



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	Community led Skatepark consultation concluded (10 Feb - 13 March 2026), inclusive research report in, design being updated, fundraising in full flow Co-design project for Mary Baily has resulted in an instantly much loved and used addition to the park Green Flag award received for MB/VP, flagpole unveil to come Community consulted refresh of Tower View and St John's Play Areas now nearly complete Communities team leading on widescale public consultation for Brunel Way corridor with works by Outdoors team to follow from Autumn Env team have worked to support a range of summer events including nature prowl, pride, townwide bat count, children's festival, carnival fun day Canoe club is supporting FTCs efforts to clean rubbish from bottom of riverside slope	
Work with the forum to consider resident involvement in the maintenance and development of open spaces	As above	
Managing existing and newly devolved open spaces	Ongoing site management continues, notably, in the heatwave weather, switching from grass cutting to watering Work started to maintain and improve the 8 new play areas Busy Bees waste contract for bins on FTC land continues with faultless results Accessible swing being installed ~mid-September in Mary Baily opposite changing places facility Riverbank stabilisation project continues – latest is EA say the bank cannot be saved so the path will have to be re-routed	
Consider how FTC would service and maintain a growing number of open spaces	Review of outdoor team capacity underway, polytunnel at ranger base being replaced, extra security measures installed	

	Repairs to depot roof and roof drainage now complete	
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 biodiversity	Draft report for Nature Recovery Plan has been produced with stakeholder input, public consultation taking place (My Frome) with a view to final rewrite in September and taking to Council in October	
Other - Collaboration with partner agencies on land, works and maintenance across Open Spaces and the town	New collaboration working with Community Payback to manage Millenium Green Active programme of works in town centre including newly built signage holders plus planters and benches Street Sweeper and graffiti reset Work to re-establish a multi-stakeholder Frome River Catchment Partnership forum moving forwards	

Report signed off by Peter Wheelhouse, Town Clerk 14/08/26