

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

15 FEBRUARY 2020

### UPDATE AND INFORMATION

#### Rangers Report

##### Cemetery

- Replacement memorial bench installed, first recycled plastic bench for the cemetery.
- Disposed of all the old Christmas light, freeing up much needed storage space at the cemetery.
- Clearing out space in the mortuary, due to unsafe roof – contacting contractors for price to repair roof / possible new roof needed – additional 6 tiles now missing, awaiting quotes.

##### Filham Park

- Post cards dropped off to local businesses regarding questionnaire – signs installed and collection points / paper copy of leaflets made available on site and at town hall
- Following up issues regarding traps and rope on the lake including video taken by public showing swans in difficulty due to rope. Working with the club, members of the public and relevant authorities and associations to find best solutions.
- Tree donation scheme, 14 trees now received and awaiting the other 6. Planning started for planting later this month.

##### Victoria Park

- Replacement of broken basketball backing board installed.
- Emergency tree works carried out by contractors over Christmas, after completing TPO requests with SHDC.

##### Longtimber wood

- New warning sign install by swimming pool due to seasonal flooding, trying to unblock the drain.
- Tree surgeon working to fell damaged and dangerous trees now completed. Forestry operations due to start on Monday 8th Feb for a week – no horses this time
- Report of dog chasing deer in the wood and shoot gun cartridge found near path

##### General

- Bicton college work placement formally started after induction process and meeting with college staff.

- Rangers completed online lead paint awareness course.
- Ordered new battery hedge trimmer and mower (externally funded from P3 and Cllr Croad respectively).
- Working with PL21 regarding covid signs for Sustrans quiet cycle route through.
- Graffiti removal from around town.

#### Volunteering

- Mostly on hold during November and since start of January, but still managed to run 3 tasks with a total of 10 volunteers, an additional 40 hours of extra community support.

#### **Filham Park tree planting**

The community tree donation scheme proved to be highly successful, with 20 applications for the 14 available trees. Rather than limit the number of trees to be planted, and disappoint some applicants, the number of specimen trees to be planted has been increased to 20, with 8 elms and 12 oaks. These have now been acquired and will be planted by the Parks Ranger, with the individual donors in attendance, during late February and March.

Donors have given £50 each towards the cost of the trees, amounting to £1000. This is matched by a s106 contribution via South Hams DC from the Langage Landscape Fund. Whilst most donors are private individuals, some local organisations are also supporting the scheme, including South Dartmoor Community Energy, PL21, Manstow Youth FC, Lions Club of Ivybridge and Folk of Oak Gardens.

#### **St Peters Way**

A scheme has been drawn up by the Parks Ranger which will be implemented in March. This involves rotavating a strip of the broad section of verge, and reseeding with a showy mix of annual and perennial wildflowers and grasses. In addition some crab apples, rowan and wild cherry trees will be planted, these being good for pollinating insects. The scheme is being delivered within the allocated budget of £400.

#### **Filham Fishing Lake**

Following the incidents mentioned in the Rangers Report above, an initial informal meeting is taking place between the Town Clerk, Parks Ranger and PADCAC to look at short term solutions. The intention is then to agree to formally review the management plan for the Fishing Lake and enhance the way that the use and occasional restrictions of the lake are communicated to the wider Filham Park users.

#### **Filham Park bridleway**

The DCC officer indicated some progress should be expected in the near future but no other updates at present.

#### **Ivybridge Bloomers projects**

The group are taking control of the old phone box at the bottom of Harford Road and have already engaged a professional firm with expertise in old structures and paint to tackle the initial refurbishment. They are just awaiting a suitable weather window.

### **P3 and Sustrans Covid Cycle Quietway projects**

The £650 P3 grant from DCC has been used to purchase a hedge trimmer that we are awaiting the delivery of.

The signs for the Cycle Quietway routes have been received and will be installed over the next few weeks.

Keith Rennells – Parks and Open Spaces Consultant

Jonathan Parsons - Town Clerk