

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

14th DECEMBER 2021

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Parks Ranger Update

Members will be aware that the Parks Ranger has resigned and recruitment is underway.

The Parks Assistant is keeping the core operation running and also stepping in to keep on top of as much as possible.

Projects in progress are being completed by Parklife SW to ensure planned and required works are seen through without undue delay. This work is well within the set budgets.

New and yet to start projects will be held back where possible until the new team member is in place.

Filham Masterplan

The funding for the agreed phase one of the Filham Masterplan has now been agreed and approved by SHDC and so that work can now begin. Phase one includes:

- Picnic benches
- Information boards
- Gates and paths improvements
- Accessibility Improvements
- Community Orchard

A site meeting was held with SHDC Councillors and officers to discuss access from the north eastern side of the park. There is a strong mutual desire to see that pedestrian access improved with a link through the new estate and minimising pedestrians having to walk in the lane. Work will continue to develop this plan so that it can be implemented as soon as possible.

Grounds Maintenance Contracts

The new specifications for contracts due to start on 1 April 2022 have been completed and are now ready to advertise. The contracts have been simplified where possible and take into account the new areas of biodiversity and tree planting.

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

South Hams District Council have succeeded in securing £250,000 for Tree planting in the district. SHDC and Kingsbridge Town Council will both provide match funding towards this significant scheme. They will each provide their own arboriculture and grounds' team support to plant and maintain the trees.

As part of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund project, 300 trees will be planted at 15 sites in early 2022 and a further 300 will follow early in 2023 at another 15 sites.

In Ivybridge, SHDC teams will plant 52 trees in total across Filham, Victoria Park, MacAndrews Field and St Peters Way.

Wayside

This Committee had previously agreed to take on the maintenance of Wayside following DCC's improvements there. DCC have commissioned the Council to complete the planting there and Parklife SW have been contracted to deliver this within the budget provided by DCC. They have worked with Manor School and Dame Hannahs, as well as the excellent community volunteers, to implement the scheme which should be completed over the next few weeks. It includes wildflower meadow, native trees and a yew hedge to shield the houses across the road from the headlights of parking vehicles.

Longtimber Path Improvements

Various improvements are in the pipeline for Longtimber including further improvements to the boardwalk over the leat, and the DNPA co-funded 'Miles without Stiles' project to remove the barriers between the viaduct entrance on Station Road, and improve the drainage and track down to the river. This work will be carried out in the new year.

Urgent Tree Work

DCC have requested some urgent work to a tree adjacent to Station Road. A contractor has been booked to do this w/c 20 December 2021, which is after the schools have broken up which should help with parking and traffic while the work is being carried out. It will take less than a day to complete.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk