

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

24 AUGUST 2021

Updates and Information

Parks Ranger Update

From The Parks Ranger:

Since last meeting we have had another 7 volunteer tasks and the bio-blitz, the bio-blitz on the day alone had 18 volunteers helping and at least 120 hours of free community time.

The total for the year is now 537 hours = nearly 90 volunteer days (@ 6 hours per volunteer day) worth a total of £4,500 of community time (if valued at £50 per volunteer day).

Tasks have included:

Longtimber Woods - Removal of Pheasant Berry and Laurel.

Holman Way - tidy and general site visits

Filham Park - bridleway and path tidy

Rights of Way - footpath 1 vegetation control – removing soil from path, cutting back over hanging vegetation.

Longtimber Wood & Station Road and Footpath 6 - tidy Up

Filham Park - Removal and installation of new bridleway gate and Lesley's Wood sign.

Victoria Park - Nature garden meadow cut and hedge cut.

MacAndrews - Meadow cut, raking and hedge cut.

Filham Park Bioblitz

This event was arranged at short notice for seasonal reasons. It was generously supported by all four SHDC Councillors from their locality budgets. We are yet to do the final tallies at the time of writing, but despite the rain there was a good turn out and great feedback from attendees mentioning that they had learned about nature – of Filham Park and also to take away to their homes and gardens – and enjoyed having an educational holiday activity to do.

Filham Fishing Club

A successful meeting was held with the Fishing Club and it was agreed to reconvene the regular management meeting. The management committee consists of 3 people from ITC (Town Clerk, Chairperson of Parks and the Parks Ranger) and 3 from the

Fishing Club. Some minor tweaks to the management plan were made to remove any obsolete references.

Victoria Park Wall gap to access Crescent Road

We have been waiting pre-application advices from SHDC to ensure that any change to this wall would not contravene the Planning Conservation Area. Initial advice requires us to take some more accurate measurements to establish if permission is needed as if the wall is over a certain height then permission would need to be applied for.

Filham Park Projects

The Phase 1 Filham Master Plan S106 application has now been submitted for consideration by SHDC. Following greatly delayed talks with the other affected party, the Access Track bid has now also been submitted and work on detailing and executing the projects is now commencing.

Erme Playing Fields Project

This project to support the Football Club in a new club house extension has been put on hold while the club discuss alternative plans.

Cemetery Maintenance

The items agreed at the June meeting have had orders placed and dates arranged for the works commencing in September 2021.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk