

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

29th November 2022

Updates and Information

Work Plan

Although works have been carried out since the last meeting workloads within the team in preparing for the Christmas Festival, as well as training courses attended by the Parks Officers mean that it has not been possible to update the Work Plan in advance of the meeting, however highlights of some of the achievements of the last 2 months are shown below:

- Chapel Windows – now repaired
- Park Officers attended First Aid, chainsaw (low level) and Lighting and Signing course (to enable them to work safely on a live highway) enabling them to deal with public hedges, road sign cleaning etc as well as our own land management.
- Path along Station Road cleared of vegetation.
- Leaf clearance in various locations.
- Tidying of Wayside.
- Path and track repairs
- Grave maintenance
- Installed new play area gate in Victoria Park
- Dealt with fallen trees and wind damage across the parks

Masterplan

Progress report as follows:

- **Project 1: Allotment/community garden – COMPLETE** - completed preparation work for extending the existing allotment area into the triangle land by installing post and rail fencing along the boundary. The hedge planting was not required, so the proposed landscaping was switched to the main park entrance, where a bee garden has been established. Work carried out by ParkLife SW staff and volunteers.
- **Project 4: Entrance gates/paths – IN PROGRESS** - some design and consultation work carried out by ParkLife SW and Ivybridge TC with a view to winter implementation. ParkLife SW staff coordinating.
- **Projects 5 and 9: Information hub inc. angling signage – IN PROGRESS** - design and consultation work carried out by ParkLife SW and Ivybridge TC with a view to winter implementation. ParkLife SW staff coordinating.
- **Project 7: Picnic areas – COMPLETE** - 10 no. picnic benches installed at locations around the park.
- **Project 10: Perimeter planting – COMPLETE** - the s106 funding contributed to a total of 600 broadleaf whips being planted around the perimeter of the park, with a new tree bely established. ParkLife SW staff and volunteers carried out planting. Volunteers included ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students, Dartmoor Youth and Junior Rangers and Ivybridge Conservation Volunteers.
- **Projects 11 and 13: bridleway improvements and access for all track – COMPLETE** – main track and bridleway link improvements carried out during autumn. Bridleway clearance widening adj. lake also close to completion
- **Project 15: Community orchard – IN PROGRESS** - research, design completed, groundworks including wildflower meadow creation completed, fruit tree planting now planned for winter 2022. Work carried out by ParkLife SW staff and volunteers.

Phase 1 projects are generally on track for completion autumn/winter 2022, with some delays as set out below. Some slowing of activities due to hot dry summer affecting ground conditions.

- Orchard planting delayed to winter due to hostile ground conditions, brought about by hot dry droughting weather.
- Information hub and other signage to be installed winter 2022 on completion of elements above, as don't want to have to remove signs to accommodate groundworks.
- Entrance furniture to be installed winter 2022.

Access Track

A further meeting has been held with John Grimes Partnership and the Donkey Centre representative.

The aim is to be going to tender in January for a spring programme of works.

This is word covered by S106 money plus a contribution from the Donkey Centre.

Kings Gutter

Dartmoor National Park have asked possible contractors to look at the stump removal and none seem to be able to find a workable solution so planning is ongoing as to how to tackle it.

Jonathan Parsons – Town Clerk

Julie Gilbert – Assistant Town Clerk