

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Parks & Open Spaces, 25 March 2024
Agenda item: PA23-048
Report subject: Updates & Information
Report author: K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

Tree surveys

Devon Tree Services Ltd have been appointed to undertake the Council's risk assessment/detailed inspection of trees in June 2024. The data collected will be saved on an OTISS system which can be easily transferred to the Council's online mapping system. It can also be accessed to re-survey the sites in future making tree management cost effective for the long term.

Sale of Holman Way/Orchid Avenue

Following an action from the last Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting PA23/037 to investigate the sale of Holman Way/Orchid Avenue, a document search has revealed that the land was purchased in 2007 with a commuted sum payment of £25,000 and a commitment to maintain the land for a 20 year period.

Relocation of BBQ in Swimming Pool – Longtimber Wood

Following an action from the last Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting PA23/037 to relocate the BBQ in the swimming pool, the parks officers advised that it had lost its grill and was rusty and disintegrating plus has sharp edges. An action was therefore taken to dispose of the BBQ due to health and safety concerns

Footpath 6, 60 and 7

Footpath 6 running between Stowford Mill entrance on Station Road and the viaduct in Longtimber Wood had to be partially closed at the end of February due to a landslip and path erosion caused by flooding. The Public Rights of Way warden arranged for the debris to be cleared and drainage improvements which include clearance of the leat. A new stretch of safety rail was installed where that edge is eroding and improvements were also made to FP60, the short section leading to Station Road part way along FP6.

Whilst visiting, the warden observed that the bollard at the entrance to Longtimber Wood FP7 which replaced the metal kissing gate, and installed by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) under their miles without stiles project did not meet with the RNIB's guidance. It blended into the fence behind and such structures should be brightly coloured and have a high tonal contrast to their surroundings, to make them more visually detectable and he was concerned that a visually-impaired person might easily walk into it. It also had square edges, whereas generally bollards should have smooth edges and tops, to minimise the damage caused by any accidental impact.

DNPA therefore instructed for the bollard to be removed. Access into the woods would be tight for four-wheeled vehicles, however if further restriction is required posts could be

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installed on one or both sides to narrow the gap. The situation will be monitored by the parks team.

Easy Access Picnic Area

The parks officers have cleared an area of vegetation identified for an easy access picnic area in Longtimber Wood. The project is being jointly managed by Ivybridge Town Council and DNPA. Quotations for contractors are being sought to undertake the grounds works and install two picnic tables as part of the design. An application is being made to Defra for funding under the Access for All Projects 2024-25.

Victoria Park and MacAndrews Field Play Areas

Planning approval has now been granted for new play equipment and installation in both Victoria Park and MacAndrews Field following the tender submission from Kompan in June 2023. The Planning Committee had objected to the Victoria Park planning application due to a neighbouring resident being concerned about the impact of the chimes sensory panel. Environmental Health had no issues with the chimes due to them being mounted, and therefore the sound would be absorbed through the frame. As such the Planning Officer considered that they would not present greater noise disturbance to nearby residences than already created by children playing.

Despite the significant delay since submitting the tender, Kompan confirmed they would honour their quotation of £99,999, and an order has now been placed for the equipment and installation, and an additional £2406.78 for hanging bars in MacAndrews Field as an additional piece of fitness equipment not included in the original tender. It has been requested for works in Victoria Park play area to commence first, then followed by MacAndrews Field.

Plymouth and District Course Angling Club Meeting

A meeting between the Town Council and Plymouth and District Course Angling Club (PADCAC) is scheduled at the Filham Park fishing lake for the second week in April. Topics of discussion will include possible solutions for managing the flooding around the fishing lake outer path