

Open Spaces Committee meeting November report

Information/updates

Allotments policy review: This remains outstanding. The allotment tenancy renewals are issued in February/March 2023. The Town Clerk with the Community Warden has visited the Forge Croft allotments a couple of times to monitor issues with a very small number of plots, and has been liaising with the Allotments Gardens Association to help address these individual issues.

CCTV project: The members of the Working Group have been looking at possible CCTV options for the Pavilion, Recreation Ground and the cemetery depot. The Buildings Manager had also required some costs which were present to Council January 2022. This item will be presented back to Committee when the working group have collated all the information and considered a viable proposal.

Churchyard/Market Yard car park boundary wall: The Parish Church has received its 5-year inspection report. Details will be reported to Open Spaces Committee in February, but the conclusion of the report indicates no initial urgency to rebuild the Wall on the north side of the Churchyard and that some repairs should suffice. It has however highlighted the need for a repair to the stone wall on the east side, where there is also memorial leaning which needs attention.

Dog poos bags: Cllr Baker and the Community Warden recently spent a morning at the Recreation Ground talking to dog owners and handing out free dog poop bags and holder which are provided free by SDC to help with dog fouling.

Kent Highways Tree Planting: Kent Highways has a planting programme and are looking at suitable locations to increase its tree stock improving the quality urban environments and protecting green spaces. If members have suggestions for suitable locations, they can forward these to their County Councillor Margot McArthur.

Recreation Ground new playground: The CIL award for the project was £174,250. The total invoice was £173,787.21 plus a bin £680. However, £2,857.14 was held back as was a cost for access reinstatement which was not necessary as the ground was not damaged during the works, and there is no evidence of ground make good required, so this was challenged. The total cost of project £171,610.07 (£170,930.07 plus bin £680).

Stangrove Park: A resident has been in touch regarding a boundary fence on their property. The deeds show the property does align with Stangrove Park, but the fencing does not appear to be installed by the Council and sits on the property boundary side. The resident has been advised that the Council has no objection to them replacing their fence.