

## Maintenance Report

September 2024

This report covers a shorter period (July & August) related to the change in scheduling of Committee cycles at the beginning of this civic year.

### Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve

Footpaths are cut regularly through the nature reserve and woodland. Within the nature reserve ditches and the stream continue to be checked and cleared of debris following any flood alerts that are issued by the Environment Agency.

Following the annual meadow cut, a small group of children pushed two hay bales into the Brook. The contractor has retrieved one and will return to pull the other out in the next couple of weeks.



The pig which forms part of the public art installation by the bridge on Spring Path was forcibly removed by a group of teenagers on Sunday 4 August along with the duck from the art installation on the path which links Thame Meadows estate with Oxford Road. Both pieces of missing art have been recovered and an investigation is underway as to how best to reinstall them and the cost. All acts of vandalism (including the one below) have been reported to the police and are the subject of a police investigation.

### Town Hall

Two birds which form part of the public art installation outside the town hall were removed by a member of public during the evening of 6 August. A member of the maintenance team discovered the missing artwork on the flat roof at the rear of the building on 9 August whilst watering the hanging flower baskets.

### Southern Road Recreation Ground (SRRG)

Travellers broke the lock on the gate nearest the changing rooms on Southern Road Recreation Ground during the evening of 13 August 2024 and gained access to the site. A small encampment of four caravans and four vans/cars was formed on the recreation ground near to the boundary with Coombe Hill Crescent. With the aid of the Traveller's Service Manager from Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police and a great deal of town council officer time, the group moved off the recreation ground during the morning of 16 August.

Members of the Maintenance Team did a fantastic job clearing the site of rubbish, etc after the travellers had vacated the site.

## Play Areas & Skate Park

The maintenance team are carrying out emergency watering to the newly planted hedging around the play area in Elms Park and planting in Queen Elizabeth Circle for three weeks from 15 August during the dry period. Volunteers continue to water newly planted trees / hedging in other areas.

## QEC

A small number of children removed a large amount of sand from the sandpit and covered nearby pieces of play equipment. Members of the maintenance team have returned as much sand as possible to the sandpit.

## Benches

A new bench has been installed on North Street on the green near the cattle market.



## Tree Works

- Langdale Road – trees reduced in height
- Youens Drive – tree reduced in height and overhanging branches removed from the resident's garden.

## Event Support

The Maintenance Team helped with operations for the following events:

- Tuesday market – including equipment for the community day and Town Council stall on 20 August 2024
- StrEat Market around the Town Hall on 16 August.

## Thame Youth Projects Group

The Town Council are providing temporary storage facilities to Thame Youth Projects Group (TYPG) to enable them to move equipment from a paid equipment storage facility.

## Operations Team

A new horticultural apprentice joined the Maintenance Team on 12 July 2024 and is settling in well to both work and study.

A member of the Maintenance Team resigned at the beginning of July. Following interviews in August, a new member of the Maintenance Team has been appointed and is due to start work on Monday 15 September.

The caretaker resigned at the end of July. In the interim officers are covering the opening and closing of the town hall for hirers. The recruitment process to find a new caretaker will start in September.