

Notes of the Environmental Working Group held at 13.00 on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Town Council Office.

Present: Councillors M Boon, L Burns, M Cholerton.

Officers E Brown- Deputy Town Clerk, D Earl – Town Clerk

Apologies – Councillors S Harrison and E Hartley.

### **ATTLEE TERRACE PLAY AREA**

The Installation of play equipment was complete and many positive comments have been received about how much of an improvement the new equipment was. The Deputy Clerk informed that there was an issue with the sand diggers and a contractor was to come back out and lower them as they were presently too high for majority of children to use.

Intensive weeding was still to be carried out in the play area and planting of the sleeper planters.

Shrubs planting on the Pant Road outside corner of the park had encroached into the park due to lack of maintenance sand supported these shrubs to the depth of 4ft and the shrubs would therefore need to be removed from both outside and inside the park by mechanical means. This had been discussed with the Neighbourhood Services Manager on the basis that NCC clean the shrubs outside the park and the Town Council clean them from inside the park. A quotation had been received to the amount of £1410 and it was suggested this be taken from the repairs and maintenance budget.

Pressure from the build up of sand had also buckled the fence on the promenade side of the play area; this was a health and safety concern. A quotation had been received to repair the fence at the cost of £1360. It was suggested this be funded from the repairs and maintenance budget.

A member raised concerns about dogs being taken into the play area and more prominent signage was requested with self-closing gates to be looked into. Environmental works around the park would be ongoing to ensure it was in pristine condition for spring-time.

### **PAINTING OF HERITAGE LIGHTING COLUMNS.**

The Deputy Clerk informed that there was still no progress from NCC on the painting of the heritage lighting columns on Front Street and at Church Point although this was actively being chased up. It was noticed that 5 of the columns on the promenade were not blue and it was recommended that there be added to the list of for painting to keep consistent the street scape of the promenade.

### **MEMORIAL PLANTERS**

With memorial seats costing residents £550 and with areas already being a maximum capacity, it was agreed to look into at memorial planter scheme for the promenade, with the planters to be located next to seats and bins to be relocated to the quay wall side of the promenade; this would also alleviate complaints from seat users regarding the smell from bins. A perennial feature plant with annual surround was discussed. This would need to be discussed further with NCC and would be brought back to the Council.

### **PLANTING**

It was noted that the horseshoe steps required some weeding. The horticultural teams were presently working on the other planters around the town.

It was suggested that the Council consider implementing a tiered planter scheme in the town centre shopping areas. This may need to be done of a rolling programme dependent on costs. Costs would be investigated and the scheme discussed further with NCC.

The planting of more spring bulbs was considered for the dedication tree area.

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Overhanging branches and over-growth of shrubs were noted at both town entrances. A request would be submitted to NCC to have these cut back.

Woodhorn Farm required some maintenance of landscapes areas as it looked neglected. This would be discussed further with NCC in terms of a low maintenance scheme.

The theft of plants from the Colliery wheel were noted and also thefts from planters at Dixons Corner and on Gibson Street.

It was suggested to look at a scheme for the Colliery wheel and war memorial to coincide with the restoration works to the memorial which were now submitted to the planning system.

The shrubs and hedgerows around the overflow car park were noted to be severely overgrown and with 10m of grass and weeds being allowed to grow immediately next to them on the inside of the field. This was prone to fly tipping and was likely the reason cars were not parking here during events as the cars are not visible from the road. This would be discussed further with NCC.

A member expressed a concern that proper procedure for reporting some environmental issues were not being followed which resulted in changes of priorities for the Enhanced Services team.

It was suggested that directions from the temporary overflow to the town centre be looked at and included in a future tourist leaflet.

It was suggested replacement signage be arranged for the bus shelters at Sandy Bay, to be mounted between Perspex panels to avoid vandalism. A gap would need to be left for visibility purposes. This would be funded from the repairs and maintenance budget.

## **BONFIRES**

Last years bonfire sites required quite a bit of attention from NCC who sent teams out to remove a significant number of items on several occasions last year. It was suggested NCC be asked to provide skips on the bonfire sites during early to mid-October to allow residents the opportunity to dispose of items that may end up on the bonfire. It was suggested County Councillors may be able to pay for this as it happens elsewhere in the County.