

## Working Parties Report

### 1. Background

- 1.1 Following the creation of working parties at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, there have been requests for two additional working parties.
- A Working Party to review the responses to graffiti (this potentially links with the review of the Streetsmart street cleaning work).
  - A Working Party to review Backlands, Communal areas and Former Play spaces Working Party

### 2. Detail:

#### Backlands, Communal areas and Former Play spaces Working Party

- 2.1 A number of issues are prevalent in West Swindon that relate to backland sites, small patches of open space and areas that were once small play areas. Often there is not a clear line of responsibility and the land may be wrongly designated on the land ownership maps. It is likely that this is a long term project.
- 2.2 A Working Party could bring the relevant parties together such as Swindon Borough Council Housing & Highways to review responsibilities and the purpose of these areas. Then grounds maintenance responsibilities now and for the future could be addressed (including a strategy for addressing current deterioration/abandonment).
- 2.3 The Working Party could ensure that land ownership and designation is corrected (this would start to improve the Parish's data knowledge about the classification of land across the Parish).
- 2.4 Issues are arising in communal areas for instance, parking bays, such as damaged walls, overgrown shrubbery, flytipping and littering. The Working Party could look at how to encourage joint working with residents to take responsibility for communal areas.

### 3. Recommendations:

- 3.1 To agree to set up the two working parties and agree nominations to those groups.

Paula Harrison  
Parish Manager