

---

**Report To:** Full Council **Date:** 18 September 2023

**Contact Officer:** Paula Harrison

**Subject:** Services Update

---

## 1. Services Work Completed (4 weekly update)

- 1.1 The Parish Council team has undertaken routine work over the last four weeks as follows:
- Grass cutting programme – no delays or issues arising
  - Fly tipping and bin emptying – no delays or issues arising
  - Watering/weeding floral planting
- 1.2 The annual hedge cutting and shrub maintenance has begun with the tractor work focusing on soft ground areas, mostly public open space boundary hedges and hedges bordering schools including:
- Shaw Ridge open space partly
  - Middleleaze Saltway field
  - Beaumaris Road
  - Gainsborough Way
  - Markenfield
  - Camden Close, Bloomsbury Park and Bess Road play areas
- 1.3 Routine play maintenance is ongoing with twice weekly play inspections until the October half term after which it will be weekly.
- 1.4 Play improvement work has been undertaken including
- Replacement handles at Sparcells play area
  - Temporary repair to wooden edging at The Chesters
  - Replacement rodeo board at Bloomsbury Park
  - Replacement net at Whitehill Park
  - Removal of bouncer net at Mead Park
  - Warrantee replacement of gate at Plattes Close
  - Removal of swing at Claypits – new pivot is on order
- 1.5 **Project Work**  
The team have begun the regrading work at Shaw Ridge Linear park after removing the rubber surface and wooden edging. Work to clear the pathways at Nine Elms park will be undertaken whilst there is a
- 1.6 **Income Generation:**  
The team completed work on the boundary hedge for Millbrook School
- 1.7 **Requests for Service:**  
The team have received regular requests for overgrown shrubbery and/or brambles. These have been actioned on an as and when reported basis. Those

on private land have been referred to Swindon Borough Council Highways. Obstructions to sight lines have been checked promptly.

#### 1.8 **Meadow cut**

The Toothill meadow grass area has been cut and risings removed through a joint arrangement with Swindon Borough Council.

#### 1.9 **Cross Parish Support**

The Parish team have given assistance to St Andrews Parish Council with the repair and installation of play equipment.

#### 1.10 **Vandalism**

The Parish team have replaced a bin at the Middleleaze kickabout space due to deliberate fire damage.

### **2. Services Work (October 2023)**

#### 2.1 **Hedge and Shrub Cutting**

The team will continue with the Autumn shrub and hedge cutting, this will be mostly tractor-based work finishing Sparcells before moving to Nine Elms and then Middleleaze during October.

#### 2.2 **Grass cutting**

The Parish team look set to continue routine grass cutting through October as the weather conditions will promote growth.

#### 2.3 **Play Maintenance**

- The team will work on the landscaping around Claypits play area, improving the pathways, adding drainage and removing fencing.
- Replacement wooden edging will be installed at the Chesters
- Aerial swing replacement at Camden Park (parts supply dependent)

#### 2.4 **Peatmoor Noticeboard**

Peatmoor Noticeboard should be delivered and installed in October.

#### 2.5 **Floral Planting**

At the end of the month, the Parish team will switch over to Autumn/Winter planting.

#### 2.6 **Village Centre Maintenance**

The Parish Team have collected the circular bench for Shaw Village Centre and will review its suitability for installation. Additional planting should be available for the planter areas at Shaw and Freshbrook village centres.

#### 2.7 **Project Work**

Bulb planting may commence from October. Locations will be reviewed by the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee in October.

Report Author: Paula Harrison