

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT  
October 2024**

***1. Works Department***

Property Maintenance

The boilers in three of our Council buildings have required significant repairs, of which the works have been completed.

The Market Reeve has reported further issues with two of the glass doors (manual and automatic) in the Pannier Market. An engineer has been scheduled to investigate.

Following the service, significant repairs to the passenger lift at the Council Offices has been commissioned. In addition, new energy saving LED lights have been installed in the Council Chamber.

To support energy efficiency, the light in the cemetery toilet is scheduled to be replaced with a sensor light. This is to avoid the light being left on for prolonged periods of time.

The leak previously reported on at the Works Depot has been resolved.

Works previously reported on that are still ongoing: a Duke Street commercial property toilet redecoration, repair to the rear window on Butchers' Hall.

Grounds Maintenance

The Honour Oak on Whitchurch Road and a Lime Tree in the Meadows both required emergency works recently. Following the failure of one of the primary limbs on the Honour Oak, further work was done to stabilise and further protect the tree. The work has been highly praised by the Regional Tree Officer Group, which is formed by some of Devon and Cornwall's most Senior Tree Officers all of whom have a vast amount of experience and knowledge. Due to the age and prominence of the tree there is significant interest in its protection and longevity. The view of the group was the work undertaken was subtle and considered and was not out of character for the species and was sensitive to the Honour Oak's veteran status. This highly significant tree will continue to be managed as a veteran tree and will require annual tree inspections.

The Works Department are currently undertaking the last grass cut of the season in our parks and open spaces. Once complete, the team will move onto hedge maintenance.

The TTC pest control contractors have reported yet again a spike in rodent activity in the meadows. It takes approximately seven weeks for a family of rats to become established in any given area where there is an available food source. The Works Manager is in liaison with the Environment Agency. All stakeholders of the Meadows need to work together to help combat this ongoing issue.

The Butchers' Park Allotment have raised concerns pertaining to the speed and increased number of vehicles and cyclists coming down Butchers Park Hill and the subsequent danger that is posed from exiting the allotments. The Works Manager will schedule a meeting with the Chairman to discuss concerns. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the track

surface which has been posed as needing significant repair. The Works Manager will report back to Full Council in due course.

Several streetlights in the Meadows were out of action. The Works Manager is pleased to advised all necessary repairs have been undertaken and all the street lights are now back in working order. A structural test for the street columns has been commissioned.

#### Community Engagement

The Works Department will undertake the annual clean of the War Memorial in the Guildhall Car Park in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. Tavistock College have requested the use of the Pimple for another Cross-Country event scheduled for December.

The Works Manager and General Manger have met with Tavistock BID in order to organise the install of the Christmas Lights. It has been agreed the lights will come on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, with the official "switch on" scheduled for Dickensian Evening on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The lights will be on until 6<sup>th</sup> January between the hours of 3.30pm – 11pm.

The Town Council will support Tavistock Lions again this year with the Trees of Light.

#### Administration

The Works Manager has recruited in the last remaining vacant position within the Works Department. From mid October the Works Department will be back to a full team of eight.

Members of the Works Department have completed the following training courses; 360 Excavator, First Aid at Work, Chapter 8, Brushcutter and Hedge Cutting.

#### Goose Fair

Goose Fair 2024 has been deemed a success, with no major incidents reported. The Park and Ride figures were on a par with 2023 and all available pitches were let. A full report on Goose Fair will follow post the stakeholder wash up meeting. The Works Manager would like to thank all TTC staff for their hard work with the event, which spans over several weeks on the run up to the event.