

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
WORKS MANAGEMENT REPORT
March 2025**

1. Works Department

Property Maintenance

The Works Depot have completed the refurbishment of the rubbish and recycling area within the market perimeter. The project included extending the area to enable all bins to be stored inside, under cover which not only improves the visual aesthetics when approaching the market but also enables a more efficient working area for staff. Members of the Works Department are currently undertaking the redecoration of the Market Road Cottages.

The accessible toilet in the Town Hall is currently out of use due to the discovery of a persistent leak. The leak has been identified and repaired, remaining repairs to the floor are ongoing.

EPC assessments are being arranged for the Town Council's domestic and commercial properties.

Roof repairs to the Pannier Market and Butchers Hall have been completed. As part of our monthly inspections, rainwater goods have been inspected.

Grounds Maintenance

Funded by the Town Council, the Works Department have planted a variety of trees within the Meadows including:

- Ginkgo biloba (Ginkgo): A deciduous tree, believed to be one of the most ancient of living trees is known for its distinctive fan-shaped leaves and its resilience to pests and diseases.
- Alnus rubra (Red Alder) and Alnus cordifolia (Italian Alder): Both species are appreciated for their ability to improve soil quality and help with flood defence and water-logged areas.
- Eucalyptus Gunnii (Cider Gum): Valued for its aromatic leaves and fast growth. The Eucalyptus and Alders have been planted specifically in area of the Meadows where the ground is increasingly water logged.
- Quercus ilex (Holm Oak): An evergreen oak that provides year-round greenery.
- Liriodendrum Tulipifera (Tulip Tree): Renowned for its stunning tulip-shaped flowers, the Tulip Tree is Rich in ecological benefits.
- Prunus avium (Wild Cherry): To replace the fallen tree by the tractor shed, a Cherry Tree offers beautiful spring blossoms and attracts wildlife.

This year's tree planting initiative has been bolstered by generous contributions from the community. The Tavistock Community Gardening Group kindly donated an Amelanchier 'Rainbow Pillar' tree to the Town Council. Additionally, as part of the Saving Devon's Treescapes project which the Works Manager applied to, the Town Council received a Tilia cordata (Small Leaf Lime Tree) from the Devon Wildlife Trust, which has been planted in Benson's Meadow.

In addition to the Meadows, we have also planted a wild Cherry tree in Bishopsmead Park and a Ginkgo and Tulip Tree in Courtlands Park.

As part of our long term after care, members of the Works Department have re mulched and undertaken formative pruning to the trees planted over last few previous years.

The remaining few items of fitness equipment in the meadows that had reached their safe useful life expectancy have been removed.

As we move into spring the Works Manager will organise a clean of play park equipment and infrastructure within our parks and open spaces. A new swingset for Bishopsmead Park has been ordered, the Works Manager is hopeful the equipment will be installed by the end of April (subject to delivery times). The play parks are scheduled to be inspected (internally) in April. The grass cutting season will also commence in April prior to the Easter Holidays.

Administration

The Works Manager has organised Asbestos Awareness Training for the relevant departments within the Town Council for March.

The Works Manager recently met with Dartmoor National Park to discuss the Walkham Valley Landscape Recovery project of which Whitchurch Down has been included. The aim of the project is to carry out long term land management (20 years) for climate resilience, nature benefit and sustainable food production. This bespoke project is in a 2-year development phase whereby a range of plans must be created for a bid to Defra to secure funding. The Works Manager will report back to Council once discussions ensue.