

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
WORKS MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1. Works Department

Property Maintenance

The Cemetery Lodge refurbishment and kitchen installation has been completed and is now ready to be re-let. The minor kitchen repairs to one of the Duke Street properties has been undertaken by the Works Department.

We have now received quotations in respect of the Market Road redecoration project and are in the process letting the contract. Anticipated completion end of November.

The zip boiler in the Pannier Market trader kitchen has now been replaced and the boilers in the Town Council Offices and Town Hall have been serviced.

Unfortunately, there has been further deterioration to the ceiling in one of the rooms in the Council Offices basement. The Works Manager is still awaiting a date for a site visit from an external contractor to discuss the necessary repairs to the lathe and plaster ceiling.

The Works Depot has undergone a thorough tidy, identifying items on the asset register that can be sold subject to the approval of Council.

A service on the St Eucstachius' church town clock has been booked, date pending contractor availability.

Due to the ongoing issue with pigeons under the entrance to the Plymouth Road Cemetery, work has been commissioned to an external contractor to replace the wire netting under the arch and provide a thorough deep clean.

Ground Maintenance

The Works Manager is still awaiting a response from DCC in regards to Bannawell Play Park and the much-needed repair works to the culvert. A positive meeting was held between TTC and the new DCC Officer and so it is hoped these longstanding issues will soon be resolved.

Both of the goal posts on Whitchurch Down have now been removed due to their state of disrepair and safety concerns. A replacement will be sourced and installed post Goose Fair.

Reports were received reference a damaged bench outside the Catholic Church which now falls under the Town Council's responsibility. The bench was replaced and a second bench has been reinstated further up Callington Road following its removal by DCC last year. A full audit of the bench register will be undertaken towards the end of the year.

Environmental Health have expressed concerns reference the rise in rodent sightings along the Canal path. The Town Council have an active pest control program which includes measures to reduce their habitat through the replanting scheme in front of the tennis courts. It has been suggested feeding of the ducks should be discouraged, as such signage will be installed. WDBC will look at what measures they can introduce for their sections of responsibility.

Staffing

The Works Manager would like to express sincere thanks to the Support Officer who is due to retire soon. The outgoing post holder has been an asset to the department and organization and will be greatly missed by colleagues and stakeholders alike. Unfortunately following two recruitment drives for the aforementioned job role, the position has not been successfully filled. In order to support the department, especially in the run up to Goose Fair, a temporary member of staff has been recruited via recruitment agency.

Chapter 8 refresher courses have been successfully undertaken by the Works Manager and Depot staff. MEWP training has been booked in November for four members of the Works Department team.

Events & Community Working Partnerships

The Town Mayor officially unveiled the flagship Oak Tree which was planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy campaign to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Tavistock Lions town bunting is scheduled to be removed week commencing 5th September, the Tavistock BID hanging baskets are scheduled to be taken down week commencing 19th September.

THT have organised a guided walk of Plymouth Road Cemetery on Sunday 11 September as part of the National Heritage Open Days. The Works Manager has given permission for the Chapel and Mortuary to be viewed as part of the tour.

The Britain in Bloom reception will be held on Friday 14th October in Butchers' Hall.

The grant to Tavistock BID in respect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee came in under the original maximum sum as agreed by Council. The Town Council granted Tavistock BID the sum of just over £4,000; part in kind, part to the cash value of approx. £1,300.

Bird boxes varying in size have been installed following a partnership activity with Tavistock Community Gardeners and Tavistock Men in Sheds. The Town Council would like to thank Tavistock Men in Sheds for the handcrafted wooden nest boxes which are located throughout the town's parks and open spaces.

The Town Council supported the Harrowbeer Show again this year by providing barriers and sandbags.

The Meadows has been hired for a variety of causes and events over the summer, both commercial and community. Most recently there has been a cycling event, brass bands performing in the bandstand as well as Summer Fetes and the annual Ecofest. It is pleasing to see the local community enjoying the open spaces the Town Council has available.

The Cherry Picker has been hired on a commercial basis twice recently, with talks underway for a Chapter 8 required to be hired for a road closure in November, all of which brings in additional income.

Goose Fair

The Works Manager held a positive site meeting with Stagecoach and Tavistock Lions respectively to discuss logistics for the new park and ride site on Whitchurch Down, and AA Signs have incorporated the new route into the schedule of traffic signs. A site meeting was also held at the Yelverton park and ride site to enable Tamar Lions to provide a handover to the Tavistock Lions who have taken over this area.

The café at the Yelverton park and ride is due to close down and so additional infrastructure and facilities i.e. porta loos will need to be sourced this year.

Unfortunately, this year organisers have lost some longstanding traders to Goose Fair like the auction who have decided to retire. Work to attract new trader and exhibitors to the event is ongoing and thus far a positive uptake has been received.

**REBECCA ROWE
WORKS MANAGER
SEPTEMBER 2022**