



BLANDFORD FORUM TOWN COUNCIL

To: All Members of the Recreation & Amenities Committee
(Cllr L Lindsay, Cllr C Stevens, Cllr H Miéville, Cllr H White, Cllr S Hitchings, Cllr R Carter, Cllr L Hitchings, Cllr N Lacey-Clarke and Cllr S Chapman)

All other Members of the Town Council
Members of the Public & the Press

Dorset Council Councillors

Dear Member

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee which will be held in the Corn Exchange, Market Place, Blandford on **Monday 13th November 2023 at 7:00 pm** to consider the following items. The meeting is also accessible for the public to attend remotely via Microsoft Teams [using this link](#).

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
6th November 2023

A G E N D A

Prior to consideration of the following Agenda, there will be a democratic quarter of an hour, which may be extended at the discretion of the Committee, during which time members of the public may speak. During the course of the meeting, members of the public and our elected representatives from the Dorset Council may indicate they wish to speak, and, at the discretion of the Chairman, and with the approval of the Members, they may be allowed to do so on points of information only. The Committee may on occasion invite members of the public to comment on specific issues where points of information or their particular knowledge on a subject might prove of benefit to the Committee.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, belief or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Disabled access is available.

All in attendance should be aware that filming, recording, photography or otherwise may occur during the meeting.

1. Public Session
2. Apologies
3. To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations
4. [Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023](#)
5. [Town Clerk's Report & Correspondence](#)

6. Review of Recreation & Amenities Budgets to 31st October 2023
 - 6.1 [Analytical Review of Revenue Budget](#)
 - 6.2 [Review of Earmarked Reserves](#)
 - 6.3 [Reserve Accounts](#)
7. [Consideration of the proposed budget for the financial year 2024/2025 and recommendation to Finance & Staffing Committee meeting](#)
8. [Report by the Operations Manager September 2023 – November 2023](#)
9. [To consider expenditure for surfacing at Balmer Road Play Area](#)
10. [To consider a request from Blandford Rugby Football Club for permanent fencing at Larksmead](#)

Minutes of the Town Council and Committee meetings are available from Blandford Library, the Town Clerk's Office and at www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20 th November	Town & General Purposes Committee
27 th November	Town Council Meeting
4 th December	Planning Meeting
11 th December	Finance & Staffing Meeting
18 th December	Town Council Meeting

Twinned with Preetz, Germany



**Town Clerk's Office
Church Lane, Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 7AD**



Twinned with Mortain, France



**Tel: 01258 454500 • Fax: 01258 454432
Email: admin@blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk
www.blandfordforum-tc.gov.uk**

Town Clerk's Report

Persimmon Homes – Another chasing email has been sent to the solicitors acting on the Town Council's behalf and, once received, Councillors will be informed of the outcome/update.

Blandford United Football Club – The Club has asked if the grounds team can spare a few hours over the next couple of weeks to work on the pitch due to the amount of divot work that is required. This has been discussed and agreed and the Club will be invoiced accordingly, in line with the additional works done on the cricket pitch.

Christmas Decorations at Woodhouse Gardens – The Town Council's contribution to the church's tree trail is a Christmas tree in Woodhouse Gardens, with councillors and staff on the decorations. These are being renewed this year and a photo will be sent once it is in place on 27th November, ready for the start of the tree trail. However, our tree is not part of the competition because they are judged by the Mayor! The gardens will be decorated for the month of December, as usual, with inflatable guests again this year!

Corn Exchange Tenders – One contractor has withdrawn from the process which leaves four contractors, who have all arranged to visit the venue. The Town Council's quantity surveyor has been responding to queries from the contractors, and the responses are shared with all the contractors tendering for the works.

Barn Dance – A barn dance has been arranged in the Corn Exchange, before it is closed, with Black Sheep on Saturday 3rd February 2024. This should be a good opportunity to give the venue a lively send-off!

Bastard Memorial – At the last R&A meeting, the Town Clerk raised the damage to the Bastard memorial in the churchyard, which was reported by the Mace Bearer. The Committee was reminded that local councils who have responsibility for closed churchyards are responsible for memorial repairs should they be considered to be a danger to the public or unsafe. This is not considered to be the case with this memorial. However, the Operations Manager spoke with a local stonemason, but they are very busy at the moment and said it is not really the type of work they carry out. Town Council staff will keep an eye on it if it deteriorates further or causes any issues.

Analytical Review of Revenue Budget as at 31st October 2023

	Annual Budget	2023/24 Budget to Date	Actual Spend to Date	Budget Variance	Status
INCOME					
Corn Exchange	9,092	5,304	6,762	1,458	On Target
Woodhouse Gardens	6,695	3,905	4,498	593	On Target
Larksmead	1,864	1,087	1,384	297	On Target
Cemetery	13,390	7,811	5,567	(2,244)	Under-budget
Sundries	3,573	2,084	5,934	3,850	On Target
Skate park	0	0	0	0	Under-budget
Total Income	34,614	20,192	24,146	3,954	On Target
EXPENDITURE					
Vehicles	12,564	7,329	5,746	(1,583)	On Target
Corn Exchange	44,241	27,501	31,190	3,689	Over-Budget
Woodhouse Gardens	3,548	2,070	2,297	228	Over-Budget
Larksmead	2,425	1,415	2,557	1,142	Over-Budget
Recreation Ground (as Corporate Trustee)	37,163	21,678	18,049	(3,630)	On Target
Cemetery	6,753	4,401	11,236	6,835	Over-Budget
Glenmore Workshop	7,399	4,814	4,697	(117)	On Target
Langton	335	195	128	(67)	On Target
Skatepark	1,445	843	16,650	15,807	Over-Budget
Sundries	19,314	11,267	9,921	(1,345)	On Target
Total Expenditure	135,187	81,513	102,470	20,957	
TOTAL COST	100,573	61,321	78,324	17,003	Over-Budget

Note

Over budget figure positive variance

Under budget negative variance ()

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend to Date	Budget Variance	Status
NET REVENUE					
VEHICLE RUNNING COSTS	12,564	7,329	5,746	(1,583)	On Target
CEMETERY	(6,637)	(3,410)	5,669	9,078	Over-Budget
GLENMORE WORKSHOP	7,399	4,814	4,697	(117)	On Target
LARKSMEAD	561	327	1,172	845	Over-Budget
CORN EXCHANGE	35,149	22,198	24,428	2,230	Over-Budget
RECREATION GROUND	37,163	21,678	18,049	(3,630)	On Target
WOODHOUSE GARDENS	(3,147)	(1,836)	(2,201)	(365)	On Target
SUNDRIES	15,741	9,182	3,987	(5,196)	On Target
LANGTON ROAD	335	195	128	(67)	On Target
SKATEPARK	1,445	843	16,650	15,807	Over-Budget
REVENUE TOTAL	100,573	61,321	78,324	17,003	Over-Budget
Total	100,573	61,321	78,324	17,003	

Note

Over budget figure positive variance

Under budget negative variance ()

Review of Earmarked Reserves

			Balance as at 31/3/23	Income & Transfer of funds	Budget 2023/24	Total Reserves	Spend YTD	Committed YTD	Current Balance	Proposed budget for 2024/25
1060		Allotment - ring fenced charges	4,175	0	0	4,175	-533		4,708	0
10610	2014	B/Heights Phase 1 - POS - S106	61,566	0	0	61,566	1,539 (1)		60,026	0
10620		B/Heights Phase 2 - POS - S106	28,470	0	0	28,470	1,539 (2)		26,931	0
10621	Transferred 2018	B/Heights Phase 2 - Playarea Maint - S106	51,666	0	0	51,666	98 (3)		51,568	0
10622		B/Heights Phase 2 - Playarea Capital - S106	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
10630		B/Heights Phase 3A - POS - AREA 1 (20 years) - S106	13,332	0	0	13,332	0		13,332	0
10631		B/Heights Phase 3A - POS - AREA 2 (20 years) - S106	50,966	0	0	50,966	0		50,966	0
10632		B/Heights Phase 3A - POS - AREA 3 (20 years) - S106	57,443	0	0	57,443	0		57,443	0
10633		B/Heights Phase 3A - POS - AREA 4 (20 years) - S106	24,484	0	0	24,484	0		24,484	0
10634		B/Heights Phase 3A - COM SUM - LAP (20 years) - S106	34,900	0	0	34,900	0		34,900	0
10635		B/Heights Phase 3A - COM SUM - LEAP (20 years) - S106	172,441	0	0	172,441	0		172,441	0
10636		B/Heights Phase 3A - COM SUM - NEAP (20 years) - S106	113,458	0	0	113,458	0		113,458	0
10637		B/Heights Phase 3A - CAP SUM - LAP - S106	9,978	0	0	9,978	0		9,978	0
10638		B/Heights Phase 3A - CAP SUM - LEAP - S106	52,801	0	0	52,801	0		52,801	0
10639		B/Heights Phase 3A - CAP SUM - NEAP - S106	116,944	0	0	116,944	0		116,944	0
10640		B/Heights Public Arts - S106	13,012	0	0	13,012	0		13,012	0
1080		Planned Preventative Maint (PPM)	28,784	5,000	5,000	33,784	3,675 (4)		30,109	4,000
1081		Cemetery Chapel (PPM)	7,420	1,000	1,000	8,420	0		8,420	1,000
1082		Cemetery Workshop (PPM)	10,000	1,000	1,000	11,000	0		11,000	1,000
1084		Cemetery Wall	32,654	0	0	32,654	0		32,654	0
1086		Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)	2,374	0	0	2,374	0		2,374	0
1087		Play Area Fencing & Surfacing	8,557	3,000	3,000	11,557	0		11,557	0
1088		Larksmead Outdoor Fitness	2,000	0	0	2,000	0		2,000	0
1070		Seat Replacement	1,696	0	0	1,696	0		1,696	0
1071		Skatefest	97	2,000	2,000	2,097	2,512 (5)		-415	2,500
1076		Tree Survey & Works (5 Years)	13,913	3,000	3,000	16,913	0		16,913	3,000
1080		H & S Works Memorials	1,263	0	0	1,263	0		1,263	0
1080		Woodhouse Garden Wall Repairs	21,650	500	500	22,150	0		22,150	500
1088		Contingency	1,000	0	0	1,000	0		1,000	0
			937,042	15,500	15,500	952,542	8,830	0	943,712	12,000

(if Contingency budget is unspent on 31st March 2024 balance will remain committed to code 1096)

Spend

Committed

		0			
(1)	Staff Wages Glenmore Depot Asset Replacement Accrual - Annual Charge SARA - Equipment Maintenance Replacement - Annual Charge Interest accrual	1,539	(a)		
		1,539			
(2)	Staff Wages Glenmore Depot Asset Replacement Accrual - Annual Charge SARA - Equipment Maintenance Replacement - Annual Charge Interest accrual	1,539			
		1,539			
(3)	SARA - Play Equipment Replacement - Annual Charge ROSPA Annual Inspection Balmer Rd Play Area Annual Inspection	98		98	
(4)	Legionelle check Football club - new fuseboard for circuit alterations Football club - sockets for fryers & circuit for cellar coolers	2,157 840 638			
		3,675			
(6)	Event sponsorship Event expenses Hire of toilets First Aiders Kings Ramps - provision of community event	-100 54 249 158 2,150			
		2,512		0	
		8,883			

Receipts/Transfers

Switch of Budgets

0

0

Reserve Accounts

Nominal Code(s)	Standard Asset Replacement Accruals	Responsible Cor	Balances	2022-23 Precept adjustments	Movements to 30.09.23		Sub Totals
			£				£
1300	IT	F & S	21,033.73		3,653.13		24,686.86
1305	Skate park	R & A	160,318.73		- 81,067.25		79,251.48
1310	General Play Equipment	R & A	74,839.80		10,300.71		85,140.51
1315	Maintenance Equipment Replacement	R & A	13,268.94		2,164.66		15,433.60
1320	Vehicle Replacement	R & A	16,258.00		2,732.00		18,990.00
1325	Tractor Replacement	R & A	16,701.20		2,119.60		18,820.80
1330	Mower Replacement	R & A	34,546.77		5,343.25		39,890.02
1340	CCTV / ANPR	T & GP	36,230.92		7,140.86		43,371.78
1345	Benches	T/C	12,516.65		35,997.85		48,514.50
1350	Glenmore Depot	R & A	10,384.93		29,615.06		39,999.99
1351	B/Heights Play Equipment	R & A	14,494.28		- 1,171.37		13,322.91
1352	B/Heights Maintenance Equipment Replacement	R & A	2,386.82		10,804.09		13,190.91
			412,980.77				440,613.36
	Earmarked Accounts						
1020	T & GP Town Maps	T&GP	3,282.77		-		3,282.77
1021	T & GP DCC Highways	T&GP	86.25				86.25
1025	T & GP Christmas Lights	T&GP	- 2,857.13		13,918.20		11,061.07
1030	T & GP Tourism	T&GP	3,950.44		-		3,950.44
1035	T & GP Twinning	T&GP	1,302.81		-		1,302.81
1040	T & GP Town Improvements	T&GP	12,190.10		-		12,190.10
1042	T & GP Seat Replacement	T&GP	2,633.81		-		2,633.81
1043	T & GP Jubilee	T&GP	- 184.07		184.07		-
1045	T & GP Contingency	T&GP	908.33				908.33
1135	Railway Arches	T & GP	3,625.56	500.00	500.00		4,625.56
			24,938.87				40,041.14
10510	R & A B/Heights Phase 1 POS	R&A	61,565.51		- 1,539.18		60,026.33
10520	R & A B/Heights Phase 2 POS	R&A	28,469.92		- 1,539.24		26,930.68
10521	R & A B/Heights Phase 2 - Play area com Sums	R&A	51,567.58				51,567.58
10522	R & A B/Heights Phase 2 - Play area	R&A	-				-
10530	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	13,331.79				13,331.79
10531	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	50,966.32				50,966.32
10532	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	57,442.93				57,442.93
10533	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	24,483.78				24,483.78
10534	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	34,900.27				34,900.27
10535	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	172,440.51				172,440.51
10536	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	113,457.57				113,457.57
10537	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	9,978.26				9,978.26
10538	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	52,801.28				52,801.28
10539	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	116,943.53				116,943.53
10540	R & A B/Heights Phase 3	R&A	13,011.55				13,011.55
			801,360.80				798,282.38
1060	R & A Plan Preventative Maintenance	R & A	23,784.15	5,000.00	1,324.76		30,108.91
1061	R & A Cemetery Chapel	R & A	6,420.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		8,420.00
1062	R & A Cemetery Workshop	R & A	9,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00		11,000.00
1064	R & A Cemetery Wall	R & A	31,654.49	1,000.00			32,654.49
1065	R & A DDA	R & A	2,373.87				2,373.87
1067	R & A Play area fencing & surfacing	R & A	6,556.66	2,000.00	3,000.00		11,556.66
1068	R & A Larksmead Outdoor fitness	R & A	1,500.00	500.00			2,000.00
1070	R & A Seat Replacement	R & A	1,695.85				1,695.85
1071	R & A Skate Fest	R & A	96.61		- 511.50		414.89
1075	R & A 5 Year Tree Survey	R & A	8,913.20	5,000.00	3,000.00		16,913.20
1080	R & A H&S Mem Cemetery	R & A	1,263.00				1,263.00
1090	R & A Woodhouse Garden Wall Repairs	R & A	21,150.00	500.00	500.00		22,150.00
1096	R & A Contingency	R & A	1,000.00				1,000.00
			115,407.83				140,721.09
	Other Earmarked Accounts						
1001	Earmarked Interest	F & S	4,363.39		-		4,363.39
1002	Property Fund Dividend	F & S	38,425.60		-		38,425.60
1003	Office relocation				18,000.00		18,000.00
1005	Election Costs	T/C	4,976.35		1,000.00		5,976.35
1006	Youth Services	T/C	10,726.03		-		10,726.03
1009	BFTC Commemoration Group	T/C	262.60		-		262.60
1010	Capital Interest	F & S	2,793.86		-		2,793.86
1011	Land North of Bypass / Sport & Recreation	T/C	5,772.98		-		5,772.98
1012	The Blandford Events Group	T/C	442.17		-		442.17
1013	Neighbourhood Plan	T/C	- 2.87		4,800.00		4,797.13
1015	Support for Essential Services (Earmarked)	T/C	28,049.00		-		28,049.00
1017	Woodhouse Garden Re-build	T/C	19,981.67		-		19,981.67
1019	Old Bath House/St Peter & St Paul's Churchyard (Listed Wall & Town Pump)	T & GP	52,964.49		- 8,613.01		44,351.48
1050	Allotments	R&A	4,175.36		533.33		4,708.69
1335	Civic Regalia	F & S	18,849.84		- 2,461.84		16,388.00
1185	Pension Deficit	F & S	20,000.00				20,000.00
1195	Improvements to Market Place	T/C	70,000.00				70,000.00
1500	General Reserves	T/C	246,219.72		- 16,179.00		230,040.72
			528,000.19				525,079.67
	Capital Projects						
1104	Corn Exchange S106 Funds	T/C	83,177.06				83,177.06
1105	Corn Exchange	T/C	435,885.28		- 169,168.84		266,716.44
1110	Corn Exchange Promotions Group	T/C	2,907.73		- 314.62		2,593.11
1115	Corn Exchange Project Development	T/C	108,928.83		55,000.00		163,928.83
1116	Corn Exchange HLF Stage 1 Matchfunding	T/C	117,379.97		55,000.00		172,379.97
1120	Corn Exchange & Venues Refurbishment Project	T/C	79,000.00				79,000.00
1122	Corn Exchange Community Hall S106 Funds	T/C	103,292.81				103,292.81
1125	Cemetery Field Project	R & A	1,000.00				1,000.00
1175	CCTV / ANPR - New Equipment	T & GP	14,161.40		- 10,970.17		3,191.23
			945,733.08				875,279.45
							2,820,017.09
	Total Reserves		2,828,421.54	16,500.00 -	24,904.45		2,820,017.09

From General Reserve

Salary adjustment

Salary adjustment

Church wall repairs

Bellcote repairs

Install CCTV

Total Reserves

Consideration of the proposed budget for the year 2024/2025 and recommendation to Finance & Staffing Committee meeting

R&A Earmarked Reserves

Please note that this information is a result of officers' discussions and is merely intended to help the Committee reach its decisions. Please also refer to the right-hand column (in red) on the [Earmarked Reserves report](#).

1050 Allotment – £0

No budget required.

10510-10540 Badbury Heights – s106 monies

Councillors will note that there has been some expenditure, however it has been minimal this year.

The s106 monies for Persimmon POS phase 1 is to be spent over 20 years.

The s106 monies for POS phase 2 is to be spend over 10 years.

The s106 monies for Phase 2 commuted sum is to be spent over 10 years.

Persimmon s106 monies have their own budget and are not included in the precept monies.

Staff wages / SARA on equipment maintenance, SARA for Glenmore depot, POS and capital commuted sums for Phase 1 & Phase 2 are included in the Persimmon budget. The RFO calculates how much is required each year, so that the funds last the period that they are to be spent in. Once the period has exceeded as to when the s106 monies are due to be spent, the Town Council will have to fund all the costs through the precept. Councillors may therefore wish to replenish monies spent this financial year.

1060 Planned Preventative Maintenance – £5,000

This budget line is used for a variety of some scheduled and some unforeseen building/maintenance costs, and we are also accruing to replace the old roof at Woodhouse Gardens pavilion. It is recommended that only £4,000 is added to the budget this year to replenish what has been spent to date.

1061 Cemetery Chapel – £1,000 & 1062 Cemetery Workshop – £1,000

These budget lines were introduced ten years ago to gradually build up a sufficient budget for carrying out the repointing works raised by the PPM condition survey to the exterior of the Chapel and the Workshop. It is recommended that the budget is continued at £1,000 for each building, due to the nature of the buildings and especially now they have been listed.

1064 Cemetery Wall – £0

It is not recommended that additional funds are raised for this budget line, although this will need to be retained for future works as it is now listed, and this not only applies to the boundary wall with Davis Gardens but the whole of the wall enclosing the cemetery.

1065 DDA – £0

Due to the lack of expenditure carried out this year and no large projects being scheduled it is recommended that no additional funds are included in the budget. Situations do change at all venues depending on usage, and we would want to make our venues as accessible as possible, but we do have the PPM budget, which could be used as a back-up if required.

1067 Play Area Fencing & Surfacing – £0

As no expenditure has been incurred this financial year, so far, it is recommended that the budget is not added to.

1068 Larksmead Outdoor Fitness – £0

It is suggested that the budget is not added to this year. There is a balance that should cover any repairs when they are required.

1070 Seat Replacement – £0

The seat replacement budget has a balance of £1,696 and it is not recommended to increase this budget line.

1071 – Skatefest – £2,500

It is recommended that, should the Committee wish to continue with this annual event, £2,500 is included in this budget line to cover the cost of running the event with the attendance of St John Ambulance, promotion/advertising and the crew who run the event.

1075 Tree Survey & Works – £2,000

It is recommended that the budget line is increased by £2,000 as works are constantly required due to the numerous trees the Town Council is responsible for. Works are already scheduled to be carried out this year following on from the tree survey.

1080 Health & Safety Memorials – £0

It is recommended that there is no increase this year.

1090 Woodhouse Gardens Wall Repairs – £500

It is recommended that this budget is gradually built back up again as there are still bays that have not yet been worked on, as well as the boundary wall at the back of the pavilion.

1096 Contingency – £0

It has been agreed that any remaining balance in the Contingency budget is held to avoid additional accruals. At this stage in the financial year the £500 has not been used so it is recommended that this line is not added to.

Additional Information

There were no requests or feedback from the public at the budget consultation held at the September community expo regarding the R&A remit.

Recommendation

The above will give a draft Earmarked Reserves budget of £12,000 which is £3,500 less than last year's budget for Recreation & Amenities.

There are no other proposals for Capital Reserves.

The revenue budget will be considered in December at the Finance & Staffing Committee meeting as part of the overall budget.

Linda Scott-Giles
Town Clerk
30th October 2023

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager

Report by Operations Manager September 2023 – November 2023

STAFFING

First Aid refresher training has been attended by four members of staff.
A trip to the Anaerobic Digester Plant was attended by nearly all staff, which they found very informative.

CORN EXCHANGE

Grant funding of £265,000 from the Community Ownership Fund has been successful. The Town Council has now moved to the tendering process. It is still realistic to have the contractors on site for the beginning of April.

PARK ROAD

The football season is now well underway, electrical upgrades have taken place in the pavilion and the pest contractors have been in.

LARKSMEAD

Outdoor fitness equipment has had its yearly inspection.

Defibrillator attached to the pavilion has been returned and we are awaiting a replacement.

TOWN

The planters have now been planted up with the winter bedding.

TREES

Tree works have commenced at various locations in the town. The cemetery hedge is due to be cut shortly.

CEMETERY

The Cemetery won Cemetery of the year, thanks to all the hard work of the staff that maintain it and administrate it.

Work has been completed on the bellcote to make it safe and to carry out repairs.

Internments at the cemetery are at average levels for the time of year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Asbestos monitoring has been done and monthly legionella testing continues, PAT testing is being done.

WORKS CARRIED OUT

- Sept 29th Electrical work carried out at Football Club
- Oct 10th Electrical work to change office fuseboard.
- Oct 11th Shrub bed cut back at Shottesford Avenue
- Oct 16th Visit to Digestor Plant in Piddlehinton
- Oct 20th Annual emergency light tests finished.
- Oct 21st Works to the Bellcote at Cemetery completed.
- Oct 23rd Meeting with potential funder Corn Exchange
- Oct 27th Road Closure signs put out.
- Oct 30th Marsh and Ham cistern replaced.
- Nov 2nd Meeting with potential funder Corn Exchange
- Nov 6th Boiler serviced at WHG pavilion

VANDALISM

September 2023-November 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
25 Sep	Railway Arches	Broken Glass/Rubbish
30 Sep	Skate Park	Broken Glass
6 Oct	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Toilet blocked.
10 Oct	Skate Park	Broken Glass
17 Oct	Skate Park	Broken Glass
18 Oct	Railway Arches	Broken Glass/Rubbish
28 Oct	Skate Park	Broken Glass
31 Oct	Marsh and Ham Toilets	Rough Sleeping
2 Nov	Skate Park	Broken Glass
06 Nov	Skate Park	Broken Glass

Evidence of drug use at public toilets at various times throughout the period (Police aware).

To consider expenditure for surfacing at Balmer Road play area

Background

The play area at Balmer Road was installed in May 2018 after a tendering process. Part of the chosen tender was the use of mulch bark surface, (a surfacing made of tyre remains), a bonded surface which was laid without a sub-base across all of the play area. This surfacing had a five year guarantee, which expired in May 2023.

Report

The Town Council has received reports of the colour transferring to users clothes and it is then hard to impossible to get off, also ROSPA in their annual report have stated that in the high use areas, (i.e. bottom of the slide), the mulch is forming a depression and getting water logged.

Due to the contents of the report and the complaints the company that installed the surfacing was approached and they said after inspection that:

“Thank you for providing me with all the relevant information. I have had a look at this and can see that your installation took place back in May 2018. The surfacing was inspected at the time and was passed on the inspection report. I have discussed this with our Project Manager.

Rubber mulch is a hard-wearing, soft rubberised surface composed of bound shredded rubber in a variety of colours. Designed for playgrounds and other areas where children play, it provides a safe, durable surface. It is often a cheaper alternative to wet pour material (a similar rubberised surface). Due to the nature of rubber mulch, utilising recycled material in its construction, it has been known for the colour of rubber mulch to be transferred onto other surfaces that come into contact with it. Unfortunately, this is a characteristic that can arise on all mulch jobs. The black colouring is the black carbon that will come out of the tyres through the natural oils that tyres have in them. Please be aware that this is safe, the mulch used onsite is Non-toxic – Oral tested to toy safety rating BS EN71-3.

Unfortunately, your Guarantee has now expired. Under our Ts and Cs we do state that ‘Guarantees of products purchased externally are subject to manufacturer’s warranty unless otherwise agreed’.

As you can see their response is based on safety and the fact the guarantee has expired. I have explained that although it maybe safe we cannot ignore complaints about colour transfer and we would have expected the surfacing to last much longer.

I have contacted two companies who we have dealt with successfully in the past and their comments and quotes are outlined below.

Company A

Option One – Complete Resurface

Removal and disposal of existing bonded rubber mulch surfacing, approx. 360m² x 50mm

Excavation of ground to a depth of approx. 100mm x 360m²

Supply and installation of type one stone subbase to a min depth of 50mm, compact stone

Supply and installation of approx. 360m² weed suppressing membrane

Supply and installation of approx. 360m² Rhyno Mulch safety surfacing to a min depth of 50mm, in line with critical fall heights across existing equipment.

Edges to be rolled into the ground to avoid premature shrinkage.

Rhyno. mulch in various colours, to be confirmed with client.
EPDM wear pads in high impact areas, approx. 12
Plant inc. digger & dumper
Site welfare inc. HERAS security fencing and portaloo.
Skips and grab for removal and disposal of rubber and spoil.

Total: **£45,169.00 +VAT**

** We highly recommend this option as we discovered that there is no subbase under the existing surfacing, the sink spots will continue to appear with continued use of the play area

Option Two – Complete Over skim

Rectify sink spots in surfacing by adding a fine 2-6 stone into voids and compacting, dressing tops with concrete powder to avoid sinkage again approx. 10 areas
Supply and installation of approx. 360m² Rhyno Mulch safety surfacing to a min depth of 30mm, over skim of whole surface area.
Edges to be rolled into the ground to avoid premature shrinkage.
Rhyno mulch in various colours, to be confirmed with client.
EPDM wear pads in high impact areas, approx. 12
Site welfare inc. HERAS security fencing and portaloo.

Total: **£28,512.00 +VAT**

The over skim is a one year warranty, the replacement surface with subbase is a five year warranty. (Industry Standard).

Company B

“The site is 352m² with good access and includes a variety of timber play equipment. The surfacing is all low-grade shredded rubber mulch and has little to no stone subbase. The surfacing has been laid with insufficient amounts of binder resulting in it crumbing in places. There are various sink spots across the play area in high usage points. When using Mulch, it is advised to use hard colour crumb EPDM in high wear points. Due to the low quality of rubber the dye is coming out when wet.”

Option One – Complete Resurface

Full replacement of surfacing with groundworks
Remove and dispose to a licenced tip of 352m² existing rubber surfacing at an average depth of 60mm
Excavate to 50mm existing subbase that consist of compacted soil with no type one stone evident
Supply and install weed suppressant membrane.
Supply and install 50mm of compacted type one stone
Supply and install between 40mm and 60mm highest quality UK manufactured rubber mulch in autumn blend and green with colour EPDM wear pad over existing surfacing.
All depths inline with BS EN 1177 FFH requirements
Provisions include 2D design, HERAS fencing, spoil removal and all required plant and machinery.

Total **£46,693.44 + VAT**

Option Two – Complete Over skim

Advised solution:

Over-skim existing surfacing, re-instating groundworks in sink spots and installing colour wear pads in high usage areas.

Re-instate groundworks in high impact sunken areas with type one stone compacted.

Supply and install 30mm highest quality UK manufactured rubber mulch in autumn blend and green with colour EPDM wear pad over existing surfacing.

Provisions include 2D design, HERAS fencing, spoil removal and all required plant and machinery.

Total: **£25,766.40 + VAT**

The over skim is a one-year warranty, the replacement surface with subbase is a five year warranty. (Industry Standard).

They also guarantee binder ratios (as this is important to prevent crumbing):

1 litre to every 5kg of mulch

1 litre to every 5kg of 1mm-4mm granule EPDM rubber (wear pads)

1 litre to every 12.5kg of 2mm-6mm granule base EPDM rubber (not visible)

“The above ratios are tried and tested to provide the highest levels of durability required to avoid premature wear to high impact areas, whilst maintaining a perfect finish. Our carefully measured ratio of binder to topping produces an unbelievably strong bond between the fine granules, resulting in an ultra-hard-wearing surface.”

Financial Implications

There is only a small difference in cost between Company A and B, but the more difficult choice is whether to invest £20,000.00 more to get the surfacing completely replaced or to pay less and choose the re-skim. Company A advises a complete resurface and Company B thinks a re-skim is the best option.

The safest option would be to resurface completely due to the five year warranty both companies offer but that is the more costly option.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors read the report and decide if they wish to resurface or over skim the surfacing at the Balmer Road play area, using either Company A or B.

Taking funds from:

10521 Play Equipment SARA Phase 1&2 which has a balance of £51,568.00.

or

1310 General Play Equipment which has a balance of £85,143.00.

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
20th October 2023

To consider a request from Blandford Rugby Football Club for permanent fencing at Larksmead

Background

The Rugby Club has approached the Town Council asking for permission to install extra permanent fencing, stating:

“With the increased crowds that we are currently enjoying at Larksmead on both Saturday and Sundays at the moment we are needing to have something permanent between the supporters and the pitch. This should also help with the amount of glass that makes its way on to the pitch from others using Larksmead when we are not there. We have a no glass policy outside of the Pavilion to ensure that we are not contributing to that risk. We are looking at something similar to the football club, utilising a metal fence with a wooden top. We would be looking to come off on the existing fence on the right-hand side of the pavilion about 1 meter, to the top of the slope and the turn 90 degrees across the top of the bank for about 35 to 40 meters. We would be putting a removeable pieced about halfway down to allow players on to the pitch and this would be removed when not in use to allow people to get to the football pitch. We are also proposing to add a gate to the football pitch at the car park end of the existing fence opposite the one to the play area.”

Progress with the lease is delayed due to the allotment relocation work being prioritised by the solicitor.

Report

The location of the fencing is shown on the plan:

AWAITED FROM THE CLUB

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors consider the report and request and resolve whether to allow the Rugby Club to install extra permanent fencing.

Jon Goodenough
Operations Manager
29th September 2023