

Full Council Meeting – 8 February 2022

Report of Councillor Andy Sully – Environmental Services

It gives me great pleasure to present my report to Full Council on the varied activities of the Environment Services Portfolio.

Parks and Open Spaces

- Programme of work
 - The winter grounds maintenance programme is in progress.
 - Over 35k Bulbs, were planted in Hankridge and others areas around the district.
 - The planting of over 600 trees started in January with planting works on Minehead Sea Front to be completed by the end of February.
 - The winter stream clearance works have been completed.
 - HRA sites will have hedge reduction works and pruning winter pruning works undertaken in the next few weeks.
 - All Green Flag applications will be completed by February the 14th.
 - We are completing the works to ensure the Tender for Vivary Parks path repairs, this will be completed by 14th of January.
 - The Netflix bench has been installed at Blenheim Gardens Minehead and Vivary Park Taunton.



Street Cleansing

- Litter and Dog Bins Replacement

The first 30 of the 130 new litter / dog waste / recycling bins were delivered and installed in December. The second delivery of 30 bins and installation is in

progress. This batch will complete Vivary Park in Taunton, Castle Green area in Taunton and some of the Parade area of Taunton, before moving to the West Somerset area. The remaining bins are expected to be delivered and installed by the end of February.



Refuse (Somerset Waste Partnership)

- **RecycleMore**

The new RecycleMore service has now been operating since the 1st November 2021 in the Taunton Deane area. Earlier indicators show an increase in recycling and a reduction in overall waste as seen in other phases. The collection crews have completed the Christmas excess waste and catch up collections working incredibly hard with only minor disruption due to COVID related absences.

The final and 4th phase of the project to incorporate the old West Somerset and Sedgemoor areas is still on schedule to roll out at the end of February / beginning of March with the first and second leaflets being posted and the delivery of blue bags to all households. Communal flats in these areas will be added to the scheme latter in the year.

Bereavement Services

- **Baby Memorial Garden**

Work within the baby memorial garden will start in January replacing the small grass areas with stone chipping and a personalised memorial will be offered for all graves. This change will remove the need to move personal items each month to cut the grass in this highly sensitive area.

- **Café**

The new café at the crematoria site has been open now for a number of months and has been a welcome addition for visitors.

- **Heating System**

A new heat exchanger plate is due to finish being installed imminently allowing the site to be self-sufficient with its heating and providing both cost savings and a reduction in use of fossil fuels.

Harbours and Coastal Protection

- **Blue Anchor Coastal Protection Works**

The consultation period required for the Marine Management Organisation permissions has ended and we have responded to the questions raised and now

await formal granting of permission. An order for the rock armour will then be placed.

The design process is ongoing with final designs expected week beginning 24/1/22. Planning permission will be sought at this point. We remain on course for a spring commencement.

- Watchet Harbour

The dredging of the Watchet Harbour is complete for the year – over 6000m³ of silt has been removed.

Dredging within the marina continues, and more than 50% of vessels are now afloat at low water. The marina is expected to be fully watered by April.



I would like to give personal my thanks to all the Officers in the various teams that make up the portfolio who are delivering exceptional services and are always very helpful to me in my role on the Executive.