

Full Council Meeting – 5 October 2021

Report of Councillor Derek Perry – Deputy Leader of the Council and Sports, Parks and Leisure

Green Flag Awards

The results of this years Green Flags submissions are expected in September for Blenheim, Wellington, Vivary, Victoria, French Weir and Comeytrove parks, as well as Swains Lane Nature Reserve.

Play Areas

All play area inspections have been completed. The replacement programme plan for 2021/22 has been shared with parish/town Councils and ward members who have work scheduled to be undertaken on play areas in their area. This was undertaken in August and September with the works to be completed in quarter three following feedback.

Pathway Repairs

A series of pathway repairs in Vivary Park are scheduled to start on the 22nd September. Condition reports of paths have been undertaken in other parks and works to repair them will be completed during the remainder of the year. It is also anticipated that the resurfacing of Ash Meadows – the access Rd to the park from the top of Mount St - will take place on the 6th of October.

Leisure (Everyone Active)

Following all leisure facilities reopening and restrictions being lifted it allowed increased gym, swim, and exercise class space. The figures for memberships following reopening are now back to pre covid levels which allows SLM to work towards ambitious growth targets as per the original contract.

On 22nd September as part of national fitness day Everyone Active will be offering free activities to members and to members of the public at Wellsprings and at Blackbrook.

Taunton Green

Further to my July report a meeting has now taken place with relevant officers and members as a result of which options are now being actively explored to try and bring competitive sport back to Taunton green and also, if practicable, to bring the pavilion building back into use in some form.

Baseball

On Sunday I had the pleasure of attending Taunton Musketts game against local rivals Exeter At Victoria Park. Although I was well aware of baseball and American football being played at Victoria Park this was the first time that I'd been down there when a game was taking place. On a lovely sunny day it really was a sight to behold and the evident dedication and organisation of those behind the club was very impressive indeed. This season is all but at an end now but I would encourage any member to find time to go and watch a game next season if only as an illustration of the depth and breadth of grassroots sporting activity taking place in our area.