FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT

Play Areas
Park Hill Rec – Nothing to report
Orchard Rec – Nothing to report
Ron Groves – Nothing to report
Exeter Park – A contractor attended to quote for mounds' slide relocation and presently awaiting a quote.
Briar Close & Croxford Parks – Nothing to report

Open Spaces
St Mary's Burial Ground: New bell ringers' path at the back of the church to be programmed later in the year. Tomb repairs – awaiting an update from a memorial mason and presently looking for advice and quotes for these works.

St Mary's Fields: A new interpretation board to be installed once finalised. Flooding has been obvious throughout this area during the winter period, although we managed to cut the wild flower area.

Bicester Road Cemetery:
Following my report in March, I met with ODS to better understand the issues when they are preparing graves for full burials. They are reluctant to continue with double depth digging, given ongoing collapses and concern raised about mourners attending graveside at point of burial and the possible risks encountered. Subsequent to this meeting we have requested ODS policy on managing mourners and funeral directors at this stage of burial so as to be reassured that this is managed better. CDS attended to review the issue with the drainage concerns raised again by ODS, and the aggregate spread along the rear pathway. CDS confirmed at the time of recent visit, the aggregate spread was confined to a specific section of the pathway (as can be witnessed on the attached photo). They suggested that burials can still be undertaken along this pathway, once additional recommended drainage is installed along the most affected section to assist the perched water to flow into the existing drainage. They have sent details on how this can be undertaken and recommend a company called **Teleshore** can offer advice to ODS on how best to prepare and shore graves moving forward, as these are experts in grave preparations. **Action:** KPC to suggest ODS (Oxford Direct Services) speak with Teleshore to resolve the present issues experienced. CDS confirms the existing site has available burial capacity for the next seven years, although suggested the required stages for the top section (old allotment area) be reviewed and planning application submitted as soon as possible due to changes in planning and environment requirements.

Trees: Tree works to Bicester Road Cemetery and Blenheim Road and Hazel Walk allotments completed. Unauthorised roadside tree removal at Lock Crescent – OCC presently investigating with possible prosecution.

Kings Coronation Garden/Home Close: New signage has been installed and the wild flower are cut.

Allotments: New water troughs installed at Blenheim Road site – FM to make some lids to prevent debris. The ditch and immediate area cleared of rubbish and debris.

A councillor allotment tour to take place on 7 May and the quarterly meeting being held on 14 May at 10.30am.

Dog Bins & Litter Bins: Presently finalising the map with dog bin locations.

Recycling Bins: I am presently negotiating signage for this area with CDC to include QR code and information on nearest recycle centres.

Exeter Hall:

The bar area has now been vacated by Cherwell Collective, although there are a number of works to be completed to make good for hiring purposes. Awaiting quotes for replacement carpet tiles, redecoration of area, replacement of failed patio door (£2,955 plus VAT) – this is to install a new door, windows and panels (similar to the back-office door), this will allow independent access for hirers in the future.

I am presently awaiting confirmation for the installation of the handrail (which will now be powder coated as requested and agreed, at an additional cost).

New reception foyer lighting recently installed and the display cabinets repositioned to enhance the area. A section of the flooring in this area to be replaced – a quote to be obtained.

Cherwell Collective will now only be using the buildings on Thursdays with additional adhoc additional Saturday hire, depending on their events. New rear bar access created for their use and storage of equipment and produce as agreed. Presently only access during building normal opening hours. All keys have been returned by the Collective who previously had their own management of use of the hall and building. We are hopeful hiring of weekend evenings will return for community use and parties as previous.

Pavilion:

We are presently considering the replacement of the foyer carpet which has now worn. These will probably be carpet tiles as more manageable.

Christmas Lights Event: FM & CPO met with 3 contractors with a view to securing another 3-year contract. One contractor contacted w/c 8 April to advise they could not recruit a local electrical contractor for installation this period, and so therefore pulled out.

Gala Day activities, 20 July 2024, presently being booked. CPO has secured a new zorbing activity for the event.

Graham Kearney
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