

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 20 May 2021
Information Report

This report will not form part of the meeting. The contents are intended for information only. Should any member have questions or want further information about the items, please contact the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in the first instance.

1. Trees

In the last decision report, I informed committee of the additional tree planting at Meggies Burn that was carried out and completed in February 2021.

2. Additional Wildflower Beds/ Planters

Additional Wildflower beds have been created along the west side of Broadway Field and along a metre strip at Meggie's Burn field. The partnership team have installed the additional barrier planters on Cowpen Road and at South Beach on the crossings on the gateway entrances. The additional bulb planting at Newsham, Croft and around the Cowpen War Memorial are giving those locations a real boost of colour. The pollinator mixes on Cowpen Road, Links View and the Laverock Hall Road gave the bees a much-needed supply of nectar in a very dry April.

3. Allotments

We have experienced water leaks on a few sites in the past few months which have all been reported and fixed by our contractor within 24 hours. Requests have been received from two sites for a skip which have been ordered and delivered.

Water meters on all the sites continue to be read once a month which ensures accurate billing. We are currently in dialogue with the water authority regarding one of the meters which we would hope will lead to it being moved.

The annual invoices for the allotment rents at the time this report is being written are in the process of being sent to tenants so payments can be accepted.

The access barrier agreed by Committee to be installed at Bolam Allotments at the sport centre entrance was installed in March 2021.

Additionally, the surface stabilisation work agreed by Committee at South Farm Allotments was completed in early April 2021.

4. Play Areas

We have replaced Cradle swing seats on a few play areas installed as they have been found to have a manufacturing fault and these have been replaced free of charge by Kompan.

Ogle Drive play area - we are waiting for a date for RTC who laid the wet pour surface to return when they will put a sealant on the whole surface.

Broadway play area - we have been informed by the contractor that work will recommence on 14 June. Due to other commitments this is the first available date they have.

5. Bins

We are continuing to install bins in new locations after receiving requests and where possible we are doing so. We have over a few weeks had bins vandalised which has resulted in the inner being replaced which we have in stock.

The decorative bins that Committee agreed to have fabricated which will be located along the Quayside work started on those in May.

6. Bus Shelters

The removal of the two brick shelters was carried out in mid-February and the new shelters were installed the last week of February 2021.

7. Seats

Locations are being looked at on the open space area at South Beach to install a few seats as we are receiving requests from residents. There are three on South Newsham Road that will be replaced with St Issey seats in the coming weeks.

Cllr Potts paid for two benches from his councillor allowance to be installed on Princess Louise Road and Newsham road next to the new bus shelters in the Isabella Ward in memory of his late wife and Blyth Town Cllr Olga Potts.

7. Sculptures X 3.

Last Shift Sculpture

The sculpture that Cllr Webb has funded from his MLIS allowance was installed looking over to the Isabella Heap and the site where the former colliery was located as a lasting memorial to the former colliery. The sculpture is based off a photo of the last shift of miners to leave the Isabella Colliery.

Bates & Shipyard Corner

Both of the above are being funded by former Cllrs G & S Davey from their MLIS allowance. Both have received no objections from Highway Development and at this time we are awaiting planning approval once that is received both sculptures will be fabricated.

8. Flagpole

The flagpole to be installed at Elfin Walk as agreed by the Environment Committee at this time we are awaiting the necessary approvals from NCC. When those are received the installation work will be carried out and the appropriate flags have been ordered.

David Clough
General Services Officer

11 May 2021