

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 22 February 2024

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.

Information

1. Allotments.

The water meters on all sites are read monthly and those readings are submitted to wave to get as accurate a bill as possible, this has led to some sites being in credit due to Wave overestimating the sites usage. Vacant plots are re-let following the Allotment Waiting procedure.

Bolam

As reported there has been an issue with the field drain on the site which was blocked in the main drain outside of the site which had stopped the water moving off the site. This was further exacerbated by a water leak.

Bolam

The double gates at the Bolam Cottage Gardens entrance have been secured to prevent further deterioration of the lanes and tenants are being allowed limited access with vehicles at designated times. Emergency services still have access with a key in a key safe on the gates.

Key safes

The secretary of one of the associations reported to the General Service Officer that the combination for the key safes had become public knowledge. Senior Officers were contacted and made aware of this, and the combination has been changed to another number and the emergency services have been informed. Additional keys have been purchased for every site and they will be given to contractors in future when carrying out repairs and these will be returned to the office when completed. In the past contractors have been given access to the combination for the key safes to allow them to enter and leave the sites to free up officer's time.

2. Play Areas.

All weekly inspections are being carried as per the inspection programme by both NCC and BTC Officers, the quarterly inspections are also being conducted by both BTC and NCC Officers.

Chase Farm Play Area

A new side panel for the multi-unit and a bearing for the Spica has been ordered for the Chace Farm Play Area. These will be fitted as soon as possible.

3. Bins.

Additional bins have been installed in a number of locations. Within the annual procurement exercise, we have had to change the specification for the pads which has included increasing the depth of the pad and inserting four steel pins.

This change in specification is to try and stop vandalism as we are now finding that the frames of the bins are now being used to lever the pads out of the ground entirely.

4. Bus Shelters.

The inspection programme of the bus shelters is being carried out as per the schedule. Damage/vandalism to shelters is still ongoing and repairs to shelters are carried out where needed by the approved contractors. The Neat Team have also been requested to clean the roofs of the shelters throughout the Town.

The bus shelter by the Pound-Stretcher store / Library has been removed as instructed in January 2024 by Northumberland County Council.

5. Speed Sensors.

The batteries on 17 sensors are changed every two weeks and this includes the downloading of the data on each sensor. That data is shared with the Police and Highways who can then identify locations to deploy the mobile speed camera and the handheld speed guns.

6. Defibrillators.

Since the last meeting we have been informed by email from the Circuit that the access code has been requested and given out on 21 occasions.

The requests are as follows.

Arms Everytne House = 2

Newsham = 1
 Ridley Park = 5
 Marketplace = 10
 Dave Stephens Centre = 3

On each occasion when officers have attended the defibrillators, they have been cleaned down. No pads have been replenished from stock, this suggests that although they have been deployed, they have not been used on each occasion.

The pads in the defibrillators have been changed due to the current pads reaching their use by date.

7. Seats.

The NHS seats that were next to the library, have been moved next to the display boards by the Plessey Road/A193 roundabout.

The additional seat has been installed against the Last Shift Sculpture as agreed by the committee at the previous meeting along with the seat and memorial plaque for former Cllr and Mayor Margaret Parker.

8. CCTV Systems.

Footage from the system at Beaumont Street /Gladstone Street was downloaded in connection with a fly tip in December 2023. This matter is being investigated by the Enforcement Team who have also retrieved additional footage from their deployable cameras.

CCTV locations as of February 2024.

1	North Farm Play Area
2	St Johns MUGA
3	Beaumont Street/Gladstone Street
4	Marketplace East /Out of Service
4 a	Marketplace West
5	Bowes Street Play Area
6	Axwell Drive Play Area
7	Ogle Drive Olga Potts Play Area
8	Hepple Court (skate park location)
9	Isabella Heap
10	Isabella Pavilion
11	Broadway Play Area
12	Burns Avenue Play Area
13	Spare
14	Banbury Way
15	South Beach Play Area
16	Kitty Brewster Play Area
17	Mermaid Car Park 2

9. Procurement

Officers contacted contractors in late January requesting quotations for a number of common repairs that we regularly require. A notification was also placed on the Blyth Town Council website advertising the same. This exercise ends on March 15, 2024, where an evaluation will be carried out for best value.

10. Council Van

At the time of drafting this report the EV was at the Sign Services Workshop having the Blyth Town Council livery attached. Fleet Services have advised the tracker will be installed on WC 19 Feb 2024 and the vehicle should be handed over the same week.

David Clough
General Services Officer

15 February 2024