

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

1. Works Department

Property Maintenance

The refurbishment to the windows on one of our commercial properties in the Market Perimeter undertaken by an external contractor has now been completed.

There is a further commercial property within the Market Perimeter that requires window refurbishment due to age / deterioration. Due to budget constraints, replacement windows will be investigated next year however in the meantime the Works Department will undertake repairs to the significant areas of concern in October.

Recent Duke Street property maintenance includes a new smoke alarm detector to one of the commercial properties, as well as a new lock on one of the property's front doors.

In regards to the Town Hall boiler and the ongoing concerns reference its longevity, the Works Manager has commissioned further work to ensure both of the boilers are working as efficiently as possible. This includes repairs to the flue terminal guard as well as a full sweep. A further update will be provided once the repairs have been completed and the system is re tested.

Last month more graffiti was reported on the Sir Francis Drake information board, of which the Works Depot removed immediately.

Grounds Maintenance

The Works Manager has commissioned maintenance work to an area on Whitchurch Down, Tamerton Bottom which has become overgrown. A positive meeting was held recently with representatives from the Whitchurch Down Commoners whereby it was noted the verge management they had undertaken, plans for next phase of Gorse Management was also discussed with a site meeting planned for the end of 2023.

The two goal posts on Whitchurch Down have been installed.

The programme of works to the Council's bench stock remains ongoing.

In consultation with the Allotments Committee and a nearby resident, new signage to the Allotments driveway will be installed reminding users to drive at slow speed (5mph) at all times.

The annual scythe in the Wild Flower Meadow in Plymouth Road Cemetery yet again received a positive number of volunteers wishing to join the Works Department in undertaken this sustainable meadow maintenance method. The traditional method of

scything encourages wildlife and reduces the carbon footprint left by more modern techniques.

The Town Council's application to WDBC to undertake management work to our trees in Plymouth Road Cemetery has been approved. A further application will be submitted in due course which covers essential work to the identified trees in The Meadows.

The Council are now in receipt of the new vehicle purchased for the Works Department.

Events & Community Working Partnerships

A Heritage Open Day Walk is scheduled in Plymouth Road Cemetery Sunday 17th September.

The Works Manager would like to thank a Councillor for her work on the Bat Field Surveys which have been undertaken throughout the summer in various locations in the town. The project received a positive significant response from the public wishing to join the volunteer group following the press release. Findings include Tavistock having a healthy population of Daubentons Bats.

As part of the Rapid Response Project in the Tiddy Brook catchment, representatives from the Tavistock Neighbourhood Plan, West Country River Trust and the Town Council have met to discuss the projects scope which involves individual farmers and landowners across Middlemoor and other private landowners in the area to identify where any possible natural flood management (NFM) opportunities might be appropriate. Westcountry Rivers Trust are undertaking investigations of which a report to Council will follow. Discussions are also ongoing regarding Bannawell Park with the Council seeking advice on how to effectively manage that area.

Devon Orienteering have been in touch to request use of the Meadows and Market Perimeter again in 2024 for their annual event.

The Tavistock Lions have requested support from the Town Council again this year in regard to the Trees of Light, of which the Council will organise the crane hire. The official switching on Ceremony is schedule for Thursday 30th November, with the Tavistock BID Town Christmas Light Switch On (Dickensian Evening) scheduled for Friday 1st December. As per last year the lights will be for a reduced period, 1st December to 3rd January 3pm-11.30pm daily.

**REBECCA ROWE
WORKS MANAGER
SEPTEMBER 2023**