

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
WORKS MANAGEMENT REPORT**

1. Works Department

Property Maintenance

The hand-dryers in the Pannier Market's Ladies' WC are no longer in working order, replacements have been ordered.

A night survey has been undertaken on the streetlights in The Meadows. The Works Manager is awaiting a quotation in respect of the remedial repairs.

Unfortunately, there is graffiti in the Bandstand. As soon as there is capacity, the Works Department will remove it.

Grounds Maintenance

The Bannawell Playground project has progressed well. All of the play equipment and perimeter fencing has been installed. The safety matting and smaller items such as bins, benches and signage will be installed at a later date. Once the ground conditions have dried and settled, the contractors will be return to site to install the safety matting and remaining items of equipment. We anticipate the playground will be open to the public July / August time and will be marked by an official opening.

Despite the poor weather conditions, the Works Department have started the grass cutting schedule for the season. Due to how wet the ground is in the meadows, the large area of open space in front of the subway has yet to be cut.

The Plymouth Road Cemetery driveways are currently undergoing maintenance work by the Works Department who are laying gravel to the areas that have deteriorated.

There is planned trees worked scheduled in April for two of the Town Council's sites' which include the removal of two ash trees. To mitigate the loss and in line with WDBC's conditions in respect of the Conservation Area, replanting will be organised.

A number of hawthorn trees as well as an oak tree on Whitchurch Down have uprooted, most likely due to windthrow. The trees which have uprooted remain in situ for their eco-biodiversity benefits. A replanting schedule is currently being drafted for Whitchurch Down and will form part of the Whitchurch Down Management Plan.

The Works Manager is currently reviewing costs in respect of broken play equipment with the aim of reinstall before Spring / Summer.

Quotes are being sought in respect of the repair to the Monksmead Playground perimeter fence.

The Works Manager is currently working on the 2024 tree inspection tender. It is anticipated tenders will go by the end of April.

Reports were received regarding damage to the moorland on Whitchurch Down near the Cricket Club. The Works Manager is in liaison with the Cricket Club regarding this matter and reinstatement of the area in question.

Training

The Works Manager recently undertook a tree survey and inspection course.

The following training has been organised for the Works Department; tractor driving and cutting, use of pesticides, chainsaw maintenance, cross cutting and fell, hedge trimming and memorial headstone inspection.

A long-standing member of the Works Department team left the organisation at the end of March. The Works Manager would like to thank the team member for their service and commitment to the Council as well as their hard work for the local community.

This departure does mean the Works Department are currently two members of staff short, there is an active recruitment campaign. The Works Manager has also recruited an agency member on a temporary basis to provide support in what is historically the start to the busiest time of the year for the department.

**REBECCA ROWE
WORKS MANAGER
APRIL 2024**