

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
WORKS MANAGEMENT REPORT
September 2026**

1. Works Department

Property Maintenance

Following ongoing issues with the time keeping of the church clock, further work has been commissioned in September to undertake the necessary repairs.

Redecoration works to one of the ground floor commercial properties on Duke Street has been undertaken and completed by the Works Department.

The Works Department have removed the stage curtains in the Town Hall, pending repairs.

Work has been commissioned to install chimney cowl on two of the Council's residential property lets.

The WM & GM undertook formal property inspections on the Duke Street commercial and residential properties and will be reviewing any arising work in due course.

The lights that require replacement in the Pannier Market have unfortunately been pushed back due to supplier stock delays.

Necessary work to upgrade the fire alarm panel in the Council offices in order to be compliant has been commissioned.

Repairs to the boilers in the Guildhall and Depot have been commissioned following their respective services. The Works Manager over the coming weeks will prepare a tender for the replacement boiler in the Council Offices which is now required.

Grounds Maintenance

One of the positive consequences of the prolonged drought was respite from the grass cutting schedule. This resulted in the Works Department being able to turn their attention to other property and grounds maintenance tasks which normally we would not have time to undertake during the summer months.

Unfortunately one of the many downsides of the drought, was the loss of hedgehogs in Plymouth Road Cemetery. Once the Works Manager was aware of the situation, with the help of a local resident, temporary water stations were installed. A more permanent solution has been designed for future periods of drought to help support local wildlife. The WM recommends for consideration is given to the other parks and open spaces should drought become a regular pattern over the summer period.

In order to help support the Council's young and newly planted tree population, our watering programme was increased and so far the early signs for their establishment and survival are positive. Additional annual weeding and replenishment of mulch (wood chip) around their immediate rooting environment was also undertaken on a regular basis.

Queries have been made regarding some of the older trees on the Council's estate turning brown and losing their leaves early. Browning of foliage, curling up of leaves, or early defoliation is a consequence of soil-water stress brought on from drought and happens in order to reduce water evaporation through the stomata so to balance stored carbohydrates within the plant for its next season of incremental growth, bud burst and defense against decay and fungi. This isn't an automatic response and some trees, depending on species can take years to display symptoms, such as secondary infection from parasitic fungi i.e. Honey fungus.

Devon Tree Services has completed the bi annual tree inspection. The Works Manager is awaiting the formal reports to review any recommendations.

Various grounds maintenance jobs at Bannawell Park have been tasked to the team including but not limited to repairs to the footbridges, replacement of two fence rows, stone wall repairs and path re-grading.

Work to re design a section of the yard at the Works Department has commenced. The initial clearance will take some time due to the amount of masonry and material located there.

The Town Council have received planning permission to proceed with the installation of the new 6m climbing net in the Meadows. This new piece of equipment is part of the Meadows Enhancement project previously reported on. It is anticipated this concluding phase of the project will start in approximately 8 weeks. In addition a new accessible mirage swing will be installed in the Meadows.

The Works Manager has commissioned three gates in the Meadows to be refurbished over the coming months as well as a new powder coated and embellished gate at Courtlands Park.

Further fabrication repairs to the skate park has been commissioned.

The annual scythe of the Green Burial Wild Flower Meadow in July was another success with volunteers, Councillors and TTC staff working well together as team. The Works Manager has requested the Community and Compliance Officer to draft a five year maintenance plan for the Wild Flower Meadow. It is hoped the plan will provide clarity on the primary objectives as well as manage expectations and ultimately provide a working framework. The installation of a information board is in its final stages of design and production.

Three new rustic benches (one of which has been donated to the Town Council) will be installed in the green burial wild flower meadow. The timber for the benches is from trees which have fallen due to natural causes, and not felled for timber production.

The Works Manager is currently working on a spring bulb planting scheme for the meadows with one of the local schools.

Three new wooden planters have been positioned in our smaller parks, with herbs and draught tolerant pollinating plants.

Looking ahead, the Works Department will start in the annual hedge maintenance throughout the Council's parks and open spaces.

Administration

The previous Cherry Picker was sold last month at an auction in Exeter for £1650.

The Works Department will support Tavistock Lions early September to remove the town bunting.

The Tavistock BID hanging baskets are scheduled to be removed mid September.

The Peter Tavy Fayre Committee have expressed their sincere thanks to the Town Mayor and Works Department for their support towards their annual fete last month.

In addition to working on Goose Fair, the Works Manager is now also looking ahead to Christmas and the various arrangements which need to be made.

B Rowe
Works Manager