

## **6 monthly report of the work completed by the Environment Committee since June 2021.**

2021 was another difficult year for Council staff and Councillors and although we began meeting Face to Face at various times we were only just quorate when Councillors were isolating, sick or unavailable.

All meetings were held at the Emmanuel Centre with the exception of the meeting in December which was held in the new Chamber at the Almonry.

As we had to postpone or delay so much the previous year, we were determined to go ahead with the Actions as detailed on our Action Plan

Looking back at the Plan, I am pleased to report that we are up to date with most actions being completed on time:

- We judged the Allotment Competition and presented the awards in the Cherry Gardens.
- Jane de Garston and ground staff completed their inspections of all allotments sites.
- The Rents and Charges were reviewed and recommended to Finance and General Purposes for agreement in August
- The Allotment Tenancy Agreement was also reviewed and changes agreed.
- The only outstanding Action is the provision of water for Netherfield allotments but this is awaiting news of new homes that may be built adjacent to these allotments.
- The annual memorial inspections took place in July.
- In October we completed the review of the cemetery regulations.
- A lovely new cemetery leaflet was approved and will be distributed to local funeral directors and other appropriate organisations promoting Battle Cemetery as a resting place.
- A proposal to digitise the cemetery records has been postponed until Councillors can visit other places where this has been successful.
- The refurbishment of the mortuary has been postponed due to other calls on the Council resources.

There has been amazing progress with the provision of equipment space and opportunities at our recreation grounds and the vision of previous Councillors and members of the community who drew up these plans is to be commended. We now have a busy, happy and well used, ecologically friendly recreation ground with felled trees being used for seating and an (almost) native hedging planted.

Plans to improve the surfaces at the tennis courts and restoring the faded markings on the Multi Use Games Area are ongoing. We have received the annual RoSPA reports for discussion and we will be considering the way forward.

The Battle Town Football club is growing and making good use of both Junior and senior pitches for adult, youth, veterans and walking football. Pass & Move are also utilising the pitches in cooperation with BTFC.

Gym equipment, youth swings, a replacement toddler swing and a swing for those who need securing and more support have also been installed close to the existing toddler equipment.

The provision of flood lighting of the MUGA has been temporarily postponed due to other calls on the Council finances but is now being re-explored.

This Committee is also responsible for Street lighting and furniture. Sites for further seating in the town have been considered and new memorial benches have been sited in the-cemetery, near the cricket ground and Market Road. Additionally, a bench was kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Clemence close to the new cycle skills area.

Councillors regularly walk the town and report issues to the Council Officers who are often able to resolve the issues quite quickly, using grounds staff or referral to the relevant authority.

By October 2021 the Committee had reviewed the Estates Risk Assessment and updated the Management Programme-

Looking ahead there are plans to complete an audit of flowers in the Amenity field, improve access to Mansers Shaw, improve the wild meadow at Telham playing field and to monitor, and budget for, the surface of the Abbey Green.

Caryl Victoria Cook

Chairman

January 2022