

Supporting Documentation  
Environment & Leisure  
Committee Meeting

Tuesday 6 September 2022



## **AGENDA ITEM 9 – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT**

### **Grass-Cutting**

The grounds team have completed 8 full mowing rounds including the Old Golf Course paths. The cost of fuel continues to be a concern and the team are mindful of this when scheduling the work. We currently have 2 mowers, one is on an off-hire contract and is being collected by the hire company from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022, this will see hire savings from September through to March 2023. Going forward we will only have the second mower for 5 months of the year, again on an off-hire agreement.

### **Weedkilling**

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) have been out and sprayed the curb edges and pathways within the town.

### **Preventative Measures**

The grass mounding has been completed at the Lower Rec and will be sown with wildflower. SBC have approved the erection of a height barrier and will install additional bollards behind the knee rail fencing.

The Grounds Manager wanted to thank the grounds team for their assistance with the clear up operation following the traveller's departure.

### **Vandalism**

Both litter bins at the Jubilee Park and the Skate Park have recently been vandalised. The bin at the Jubilee Park is irreparable and has had to be removed. The bin at the Skate Park was repaired by the grounds team.

### **Notice Boards**

The wall mounted notice boards have been erected on the Council Offices building and the site at Tesco. Free standing notice boards will be erected once the ground has softened.

### **Bulb planting around the town**

The Grounds Manager is working with the admin team to produce a map of suitable locations to plant bulbs in the town to enhance areas, this will be shared with the Committee once completed.

### **Mapping**

All grounds maintenance schedules and street furniture locations have successfully been mapped using the mapping software. The Town Clerk is working with SBC to review the map layers and discuss any anomalies within the records, this will help alleviate any discrepancies in responsibility and provide a better service to residents.

### **Road Sweeper**

Several options have been explored in relation to the street cleaning of the High Street. A road sweeper was hired for a week on a trial period, the machine did not fit the requirements and alternatives have been investigated. The sweeper is not only used in the High Street and Swindon Street but also in other areas of the town during leaf fall to prevent paths becoming hazardous and is considered a valued asset to the grounds team.

During the weeks trial the High Street and surrounding areas were cleansed with the road sweeper, it was hoped that a road sweeper could be hired 4-5 times per year for a week at a time however after as little as 2 weeks the area needs a deep clean again and proved that this solution will not work.

To keep the High Street and surrounding area to a high standard it is anticipated that a machine is required for at least 10 hours per week and therefore the only suitable options are to purchase or lease hire.

Lease hire is the preferred method and for the City Master 650 costs up to £19,000 per annum on a 5-year contract, this would include all servicing, call out and replacement parts.

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City Master 650 is the preferred option - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2J795iW6eA> and comes with pressure washer and suction hose.

Purchase price - £49800 plus VAT

3-year rental - £431 per week plus VAT

**5-year rental £366 per week plus VAT**

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Karcher MIC 35 mini road sweeper - <https://www.kaercher.com/int/professional/municipal-equipment/municipal-implemment-carrier/mic-35-14422512.html>

Purchase price - £ 62545 plus VAT

3-year hire - £370 per week

*\* Please note this is the smaller model that was trialled, the next model up would be required\**

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*Recommendation to Full Council*

*To lease a City Master 650 Road Sweeper on a 5-year lease hire agreement at a cost of £19,000 per annum (cost of £9100 for the remaining months of 2022/2023 financial year – **funded November 2022-March 2023 through the mower lease hire savings of £6300 and EMR 327 Street Cleaning £2800**)*

*To be funded 2023/2024 £ 6300 mower lease hire savings and £12,700 through Precept.*

Deanne Rose  
Town Clerk