



Chair of Community Assets Committee
Graham Overbury
Report to Annual Parish Council – 23 May 2023

Secret Garden Play Area and Community Garden

This secluded site off Boness Road has been completely redesigned with a circular accessible path, additional seating and sustainable hardwood play equipment. Native species planting has been introduced which includes hedges, shrubs, trees and bulbs. We received a grant from Swindon Borough Council for the whole cost of the planting. Richard James Estate Agents sponsored two of the new benches. Residents attended a volunteer event to assist with some of the hedge and shrub planting.

Jubilee Event

A £3000 grant was obtained from the National Lottery Community Fund to support this popular event to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee which was held on the Weirfield. There was live music, a children's entertainer, youth activities, professional storyteller, immersive theatre, face painting, crafts, a fire engine, police car and ice cream van. The event was well attended and received very positive feedback from residents. Special thanks go to the volunteers who ensured the day ran smoothly and to 1st Wroughton Scout Group for lending us a number of marquees which they also erected and dismantled these.

Bus Shelters

Following a public consultation two new bus shelters have been installed, one towards the Waitrose end of Wharf Road and another on Perry's Lane.

Youth Team

Our Service Level Agreement with Central Swindon South Parish Council ended in March 2023. This agreement enabled us to access a fully qualified youth provision with a clear Safeguarding Lead, policies and procedure. We offered a two hour outreach session once a week based around Maunsell Way Recreation Ground and once a month at Thorney Park. We have approached some other

larger Parishes to see if they can offer a similar contract to us but so far this has not been fruitful. It is unfeasible for us to directly employ 2 youth workers directly whilst we have no structure to ensure our legal obligations for a safeguarding lead can be met.

Remembrance Sunday

We were delighted to welcome REME Reservists again to assist with the management of this event which brings to the community together to pay their respects. Over 50 wreaths were laid this year. Thanks to all the local organisations who make this possible and in particular to Ian and Jane Woodford from the Royal British Legion.

New Benches

Three new benches have been installed this year. All three are memorial benches. One located near to Trefoil House was purchased by Wroughton Parish Council in memory of Anne Richards. The other two benches were paid for by residents and are located at the Wharf Road end of Perry's Lane and in Falkirk Field, North Wroughton. Another memorial bench has been ordered and will be installed at the Weirfield near to the jubilee gates.

Grounds Team Workshop

We are optimistic that the Grounds Team will be able to move to a new location on Wroughton Business Park later this year and will be able to vacate the Maunsell Way shipping containers. We are in ongoing and regular dialogue with the Landlord at the Business Park.

Maunsell Way Pavilion

Planning Permission for improvements to this site and a new pavilion have already been obtained. Wroughton Parish Council will consider whether to obtain a public works loan to enable these works later this year.

Electric Vehicles for Grounds Team

This project is on hold pending the Grounds Team having a permanent home where charging facilities can be installed.



**Chair of Open Spaces Committee
Graham Overbury
Report to Annual Parish Council 2023**

Presented by Nathanael Hooper, Vice Chairman of Open Spaces

Churchyard at St John the Baptist and St Helen

The churchyard area at the parish church no longer has space for burials and responsibility for this area has now transferred to Swindon Borough Council. The Clerk is involved in discussions with the church and interested parties regarding the ongoing maintenance of the area and how this can best be addressed.

Allotments

Following discussion at the Annual Plotolders Meeting, this year a one-off deposit system was introduced for all to assist in ensuring that sites are returned to the Parish in a good state of repair at the end of tenancies. Allotment holders have been issued with a new contract to reflect this. Annual allotment lease costs have not been increased for a number of years. A 'skip day' has now been introduced and now takes place annually where allotment holders can get rid of waste from their plots.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Another successful event was held this year with good feedback from members of the public. WPC decided not to install the lighting motifs on the High Street this year as the installation costs would have been more than £2000 which was not viable within the allocated budget. Improvements were made to lighting around the Moat Pond area and members of the community were encouraged to decorate wooden stars which were hung from the trees there. This year the event will be held on Saturday 2nd December. A review meeting of last years event has taken place and new ideas for further improvements being explored.

Extended Wildflower Planting and Biodiversity

The Wildflower planting area has been extended further down Church Hill after good resident feedback last year. Most of the areas identified for our Biodiversity Trial for reduced cutting received a lot of resident complaints and were unsuccessful.

Moat Pond

Some developer funding has been allocated to improvements at the Moat Pond site. The Community Projects and Grants Officer will scope some ideas and take these to committee for further input.

Footpaths

The Footpaths working party is now more independent and is already working on identifying footpaths, bridleways and cycleways within the Parish. They will be reporting back to WPC on a more regular basis on progress.

Sports Bookings

Prices to hire playing space have been increased this year in line with inflation. We have regular local sports club users for the Weirfield and Maunsell Way. New goals have been purchased this year for the Weirfield with some money coming from grant funding to support this.