

**Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer's Report:**

**Coosebean - Suggested Bike Track**

Further to Minute 381, together with the Countryside Ranger I recently met with residents and interested young people on-site. They'd like to develop something utilising materials on-site. We are considering the implications of an environmental risk assessment. The Countryside Ranger is also contacting the National Trust for advice on bike track installation because the National Trust have a bike trail located at Lanhydrock. The Committee will be updated in due course.

**Truro City Council: Garden and Allotment Competition 2022**

The competition takes place 1 July as part of the Council's usual events programme. Unfortunately, entry numbers are down but I am anticipating that standards will be high. This is due to a return following several years absence due to Covid and it is hoped numbers will increase in the future.

**Nuisance Behaviour and Rough Sleeping**

Nuisance behaviour in Waterfall Gardens is an in-going issue. There have also been reports of homeless people camping in Boscawen Park. The Council has contacted St Petrocs, Cornwall Council, 'We are With You' charity and worked face to face with the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

**Leats System Update Summary**

Late in 2021, all of the sludge was excavated from the Leat which, on completion, exposed many leaks in the system. One severe leak in particular raised concern about the structure and stability of the walkway. The Council engaged the services of water specialist engineer who surveyed the Leat and recommended a solution. They have advised the Leat requires complete sealing and suggested a design for a flexible lining to the Leat. This would start at its source and improve the flow rate of water, which in the process is anticipated to highlight the severity of the existing leaks. The engineer has also advised the Council that the supply pipe from the river Kenwyn is 50% blocked and needs to be blasted out to ensure all the gravel and silt is removed. An order has been placed with a specialist contractor to undertake this work. In addition, the Council has also commissioned a new replacement foot bridge over the Leat at the furthest crossing point into Victoria Gardens at the St George's Road entrance. I will update the Committee as work progresses.

**Parks Machinery and Equipment**

Unfortunately, we have had on-going issues with our flat-bed truck which has been to the workshop on several occasions. It has been returned to the workshop because the fault seems to be an issue. This has resulted in the Council having to hire an alternative vehicle to carry the new water bowser which has recently been delivered to the Watering Team.

We have also had issues with the John Deere mower and the operator presence control system, which kept cutting the engine out when working on-site. After many quick fixes and failures, a seat fault was diagnosed, and the seat has now been replaced. This will allow the Grass-cutting Team to catch up w/c 4 July because some areas have not been cut for 2 weeks.

**Parks Department Staffing - Update**

As reported to the Committee previously, following several key members of staff leaving the Council's employment, I am currently covering two additional roles alongside my own responsibilities. Parks Department staff are also covering for staff sickness etc as usual. The Council advertised for four summer staff positions earlier this year and received only two applications. The overall effect is that the Parks Department is currently operating six staff members short this season. As a result, we don't have sufficient capacity to deal with our regular level of work. This has led to an increased number of complaints. As an organisation we are working hard to come up with a solution but until then, this is the current situation.

### **Tremorvah Playing Field**

The new spring animal play equipment X 3 have been installed in the Play Park. At the same time the safety surfacing was replaced by the Council's contracted installer.

### **Truro City Council – Plant Stock**

The Council currently has a surplus of bedding plants which I am planning to offer for sale to other town and parish councils via Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC). We are also considering a sale of plants via the Council's Café at Boscawen Park and the Tourist Information Centre (Visit Truro).

### **Truro in Bloom**

4 July sees the return of the SWIB judges following a long absence. The Truro in Bloom committee (non-Council committee) have worked hard to put on an exceptional show along with the excellent commitment of the Parks Department staff. This year it has really set us a deadline date to make sure everything has been planted and planting orders have been delivered.

### **Use of Parks and Gardens**

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer's Secretary and Compliance Officer continue to process applications for use and events in the Council's parks and gardens as usual. Since the last meeting:

- a. Boscawen Park Car park - Sunday 19 06 22 Canoe Club: competitor car parking for kayak race starting at Boscawen Park.
- b. Hendra (Dreadnought) Playing Field - Thomas Rowland Amusements' family funfair took place from 6 to 12 06 22 following the issue of permission by myself.
  - Community Group evening rounders match 21 06 22.
  - Zebs in the Park: youth outreach services mainly sport related weekly subject to weather Wednesdays 6pm - 7.30pm weekly 30 06 – 28 09 22.
- c. Hendra Skate Park - TCC – The Council's Community Development Officer, together with the Hendra Skate Park Group are organising an event-led skate jam event. Scheduled for 24 07 22 the date has changed from 16 07 22 since the last meeting. The Committee has been invited to attend this event on Sunday 24 July from 12:00 noon to 18:00.
- d. Application for Use of Hendra Playing Field Withdrawn - South West Inflatable Theme parks – Truro Inflatable Theme Park 25 - 26 06 22.
- e. Victoria Gardens – Sunday 05 06 22 Jubilee Picnic in the Park 11am - 4pm. The Town Clerk granted permission (due to urgency between committee meetings and timescale) following consultation with Mayor and Chairman of the Parks and Amenities Committee and myself and permission was issued. Feedback from the event, including Pollen in the Park refreshment facility was very positive.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

That the report be noted.

Richard Budge  
Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer's Report:  
30 June 2022