



Service Delivery Committee	Tuesday, 19 January 2016	Matter for Information
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Title: Operations and Facilities Services Update

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1. Introduction

This report covers progress and developments within the Operations and Facilities Services setting out achievements and work in progress since October 2015 when activity was last reported.

2. Recommendations

That Members note the information provided within the report.

3. Information

3.1. Facilities

3.1.1. Capital Projects 2015-16

Ervins Lock Footbridge - £55k has been set aside for this project. Negotiation with Canal and River Trust (CRT) are proving frustrating with much conflicting advice and information. Given that there is no in-house experience of undertaking a project of this nature nor of bridge design it is suggested that, in order to move this project forward, external professional advice is sought in order to:

- a) Advise whether the available budget for this project is sufficient
- b) Advise on the process for taking this project forward in order to fully understand upfront what will need to be taken into consideration from start to finish of the project including such things as:
 - Bridge design and procurement;
 - Navigational clearance requirement for the bridge (which in turn would dictate the length of ramps / bridge design);
 - Potential easement arrangements with CRT and / or land purchase on towpath side;
 - Planning permission;
 - Surveys (structural, ecological etc);
 - Project management and co-ordination;
 - Access issues for lifting bridge into place and whether this can be done from canal-side or from the waterway;
 - Applying for a restriction or stoppage on the waterway during installation;
 - Disabled access;

- Maintenance and ongoing liability issues including risk assessments; and
- Potential fees required by CRT (enquiry fees, use of air space, discharge of surface water into canal, indemnity etc).

3.1.2. Memorial Safety – On-going. Cemetery staff continue to carry out remedial work to memorials on an as required basis with stonemasons carrying out work on larger more complex memorials if required.

3.1.3. Wigston Cemetery Boundary Wall repairs – Work to be carried out in March 2016.

3.1.4. Car Park re-surfacing – Quotes are being invited for re-surfacing of a section of East Street Car Park, Oadby.

3.2. Forum Projects

- Burton's Corner, Oadby – completed.
- Ellis Park Drinking Fountain – as agreed with Chair of Oadby Forum this work will be carried out in July 2016.
- Bus shelters – on order.
- Chicken Alley – one quote obtained, two further quotes being sought.

3.3. Other Facilities work:

- Crow Mills – roof of picnic shelter has been replaced, fences mended and two picnic benches installed.
- Wigston Cemetery – slabs re-laid around taps and soak aways created to drain ponding water away.
- Oadby Cemetery – barrier wall installed to create compound for spoil; car parks signs installed.
- The Facilities Office has successfully relocated from Oadby Depot to Room 31 of Council Offices; this was managed without disruption to services, in particular cemeteries.

3.4. Dog Bins/Bags

A supply of dog waste bags are now available in the new Customer Service Centre at 40 Bell Street, Wigston. We are currently giving out to 5/10 people max per week. Feedback from customers is positive that we provide these (including non dog owners – especially people that have an issue with dog fouling in their area). There will also be a supply available from Brocks Hill Country Park reception.

3.5. Waste Collection

Garden waste collection ceased on 27 November 2015 and will resume on 29 February 2016. We have now delivered over 14,000 garden waste bins this is approximately 65% of the Borough. There continues to be the ongoing issues with garden waste bags.

Food waste ceased on 27 November 2015. A good communications exercise by

the recycling officers explaining the rationale for stopping the collection resulted in only a very few initial complaints and there has been nothing further.

3.6. Public Cleansing

NI 195 outturn for October to December 2015 for the streets and sites surveyed is that none are below “B” grading (good) with the majority being B+ and above. Attached as an appendix are the assessment sheets for each of the 3 months.

3.7. Grounds Maintenance

The winter maintenance programme has included the reducing and raising of crowns on trees across the Borough, particular sites include crown reductions at All Saints, Wigston, St Peter’s Path, Oadby, Meadows Open Space and Wigston. Replacement trees have been re-planted in Peace Memorial Park and restocking of beds.

3.8. Green Flag Award – Peace Memorial Park

Unfortunately, the Park was not awarded the Green Flag in 2015. Issues highlighted in the report have been addressed as follows:-

- Sensory Garden, The Fountain – despite repairing a few months ago this has been vandalised again and so further repair will be undertaken. Re-stocking of the garden is in-hand in the near future;
- Wooden slats around fountain base – Some require replacement due to rotting timbers, again this repair will be undertaken; and
- Canopy roof of pavilion – A capital bid has been submitted for this as the fixing rafters are rotten and require replacement which is beyond the revenue budget

The application for 2016 will need to be submitted by 31 January.

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Implications	
Financial	No significant implications.
Legal	No significant implications.
Risk	CR2 - Key supplier/partnership failure. CR5 - Effective utilisation of assets.
Equalities	No significant implications.