

Central Swindon North Parish Council
Grounds Maintenance & PQMS report
March 2024

Overview of the Month

Since the last meeting we have been busy finishing off the last bits of winter works and gearing up for grass cutting. Our advert for seasonal positions went up late February into March and I'm pleased to report that we had a huge response (close to 50 applicants)

Interviews were carried out during the 1st week of March and posts were filled by the 8th, unfortunately we had to let one of these people go for personal reasons but this post has now been back filled.

Grass cutting commenced on the 13th of March and at the time of writing this report we are close to finishing the 1st cut, the weather is most definitely against us and has made progress difficult as some areas (mainly large open spaces) are inaccessible for large machines. We had a window of opportunity where we were able to cut South Brook, Pembroke and the Football pitches on Seven Fields, Mannington requires a good period of dry weather to allow the water to drain before we can get on to it.

I have been keeping an eye on St Marks as we are desperate to get in there and carry out a cut and collect visit, this has been held back due to wet weather and subsequent ground conditions, but after a visit this morning it's starting to dry out and I'm hoping that through week commencing 8th of April we should be able to action this, the same applies for Penhill Gardens.

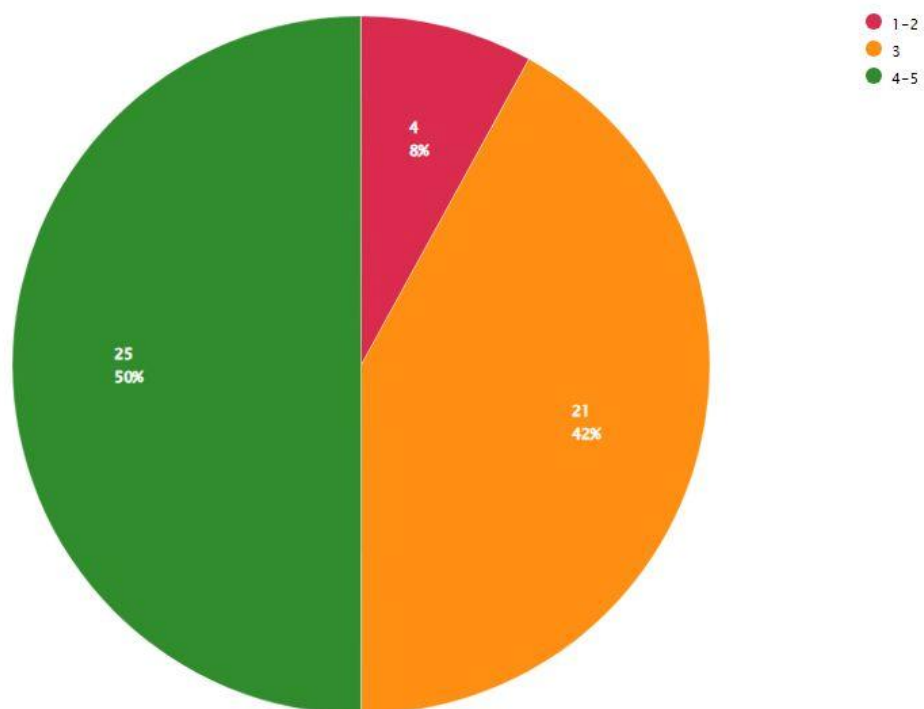
Issues around recycling collections seem to have tailed off but we are still up against it with litter in general, I know that this is an issue for the Parish and is something we are discussing in regards to reallocation of some staff so the resource is better utilised for the Parish as a whole.

The main focus now will be grass and keeping the round moving along, the weather for the next few weeks is less than favourable, I will keep the Ops Manager update with progress and any site issues as we encounter them.

PQMS report

I have carried 50 inspections this period covering all elements of our service delivery, there are only a few grass inspections this time but I expect them to increase as we progress through the season. My aim going forward is to have at least 50 inspections per month. The break down per service is as follows,

- Grass – 6 inspections
- Bins – 17 inspections
- Hard Surfaces – 24 inspections
- Shrubs – 1 inspection
- Hedges – 2 inspections



The slide above shows the number of inspections carried out and the percentage by grade,

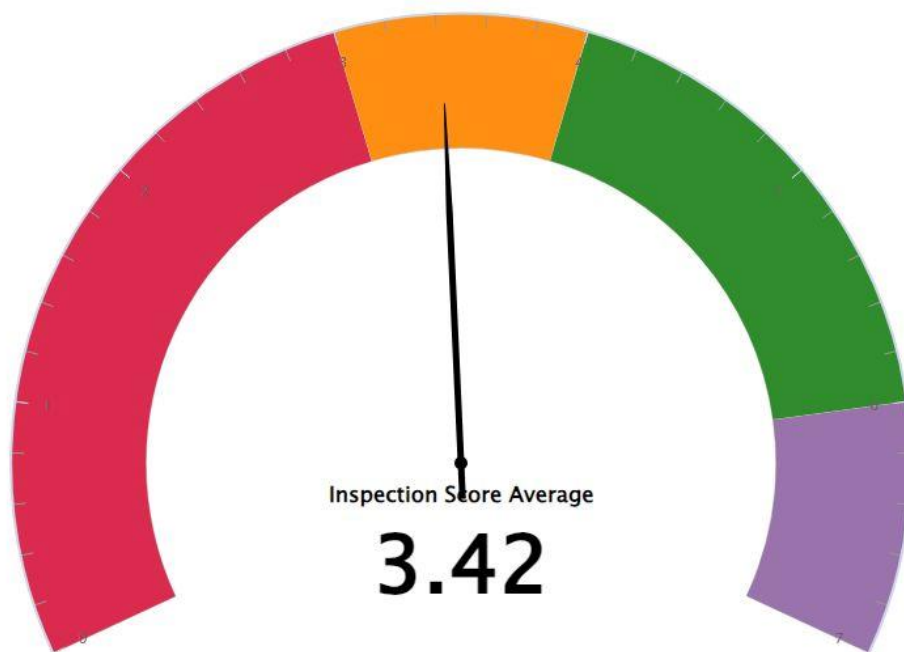
- 25 sites with a score of 4
- 21 sites with a score of 3
- 4 sites with a score of 2

The PQMS site inspection spreadsheet lists all the locations visited and associated scores, I have included comments to inspections that have scored 2

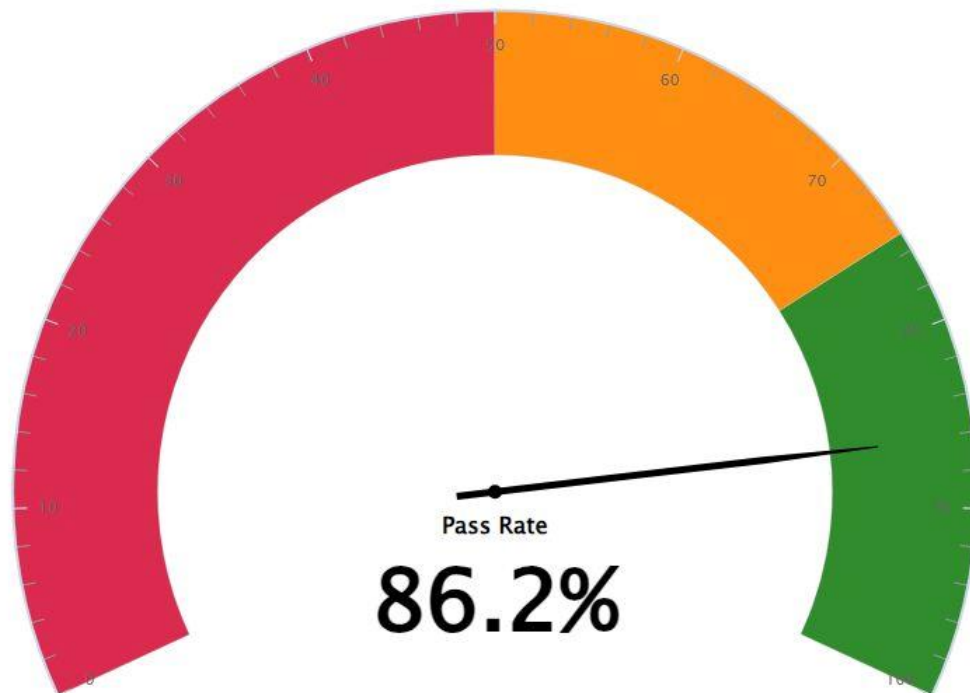
Slide 2 Average score by month

The table and chart below displays the average score by month, the average score for March is 3.42, my aim is to have this improve month on month going forward. A lesson learned from last year is to have better communication with the ops Manager when we encounter issues that could result in a drop in scores which can be passed on to Cllrs rather than wait for the monthly meetings.

January 2024	3.65
February 2024	3.60
March 2024	3.42



Slide 4 PQMS pass rate



The pass rate for this month is detailed above, while this might seem as a high pass rate its worth taking in mind that a score of 3 is still considered a pass.

Plans for the next month

As mentioned above our focus now will be getting the grass in check and under control, obviously the weather will play its part. We have a few odd jobs to get completed this month (cut & collect, tree planting at Mannington and preparing Penhill Gardens ready for the Green Flag assessment)