

CSNPC Contract report

July/August 2024

Grounds – M Ware

Since my last report we have had a good run on the main grass round, cut 5 was completed in 14 days. The main reason for this is that the grass has been held back by the lovely hot and dry weather. We are now on top of the grass, and I see no reason why this will not continue until the end of the cutting season. We are currently on cut 6 (started on the 26th of July) and are on track to complete within the allocated 15 days cycle.

In previous years we have struggled at this point due to numerous hedge and shrub defects that have been raised by Cllrs and residents, this has been made a lot easier to manage this year due to the new Sparkle Team being in place, these guys have set works but also have time to shoot off and resolve minor issues as and when they come in, more detail on this later in the report.

As is the norm for this time of year we have guys taking annual leave over the next few weeks, this is managed so that we do not have too many people off at the same time, so impact to round should be minimal.

We have had a reasonable run in regard to machinery break downs over this period, the Batwing mower had a tyre blow out while cutting Minety Rec last Thursday (01/08) which required a low loader to recover, the tyre was sorted the following morning and the machine was back out with minimal downtime. We had another issue with our tractor which took slightly longer to repair than hoped, the hydraulic pump failed and had to be replaced, and unfortunately there wasn't a pump in the country so we had to wait for delivery, this has now been sorted and the tractor is back out on the contract.

The dates for previous cuts are as follows,

Cut 1

11/03/24 to 05/04/2024 total of 18 working days to complete.

Cut 2

09/04/2024 to 07/05/2024 total of 20 working days to complete. During this cut we had to pull off for 2 days so we could plant the trees at Mannington Rec.

Cut 3

13/05/2024 to 05/06/2024 Total of 17 working days to complete. We were a couple of days late starting this cut as we had numerous tasks to get completed at Penhill Gardens ready for the Green Flag assessment.

Cut 4

07/06/2024 to 02/07/2024 18 days to complete, held back by team members being on leave.

Cut 5

03/07/2024 to 23/07/2024 15 days to complete, as mentioned above the weather has been on our side which in turn has made this cut run well.

Cut 6

26/07/2024 to 15/08/2024 (Est) the team are currently finishing Penhill at time of drafting this report and will be due in the Pinehurst ward during the 7th of Aug. Again, this cut is running reasonably well, and I am confident that we will finish on time.

Street Scene

As mentioned in previous report we have now set up a new mobile street scene team and I am hopeful that Cllrs have seen the benefits this change in service has provided.

The guys have now completed a full cycle and are back at the beginning (Penhill).

The Parish has been actively posting a lot of this work (before and after) over social media.

As mentioned in the grounds update, in previous years we have been inundated with hedge cutting requests during July and August, having these guys in post has reduced the pressure of trying to pull guys off their rounds to resolve. A good example of this would be the epicormic growth sprouting from the tree bases along Pinehurst Road and Limes Avenue, all of these were completed during the week the team spent in Pinehurst.

The Ops manager and myself visit the area due to be visited the following week with a view to highlighting tasks that need to be sorted, a prime example of this would be the pedestrian areas along Morris St and Percy St. the guys spent close to 3 days on these areas in the hot weather scrapping up weeds, edging the grass panels.

As mentioned previously I'm more than happy for Cllrs to forward areas which require attention. I see comments on the Parish FB page asking for certain areas to receive attention but never anything specific.

The general litter teams are super busy this time of year, the School holidays always mean an increase in litter around rec spaces and the streets in general, as part of the restructure to the street scene operation we had to move new guys on to the bin rounds, in the most part this has, and is going well. However, there have been a few occasions of late where they have had to be picked up regarding not completing litter picking thoroughly enough.

This is being managed by random site inspections by Mark (Supervisor) and where issues are discovered the relevant team is called back to rectify.

Some example photos of works completed by Sparkle Team

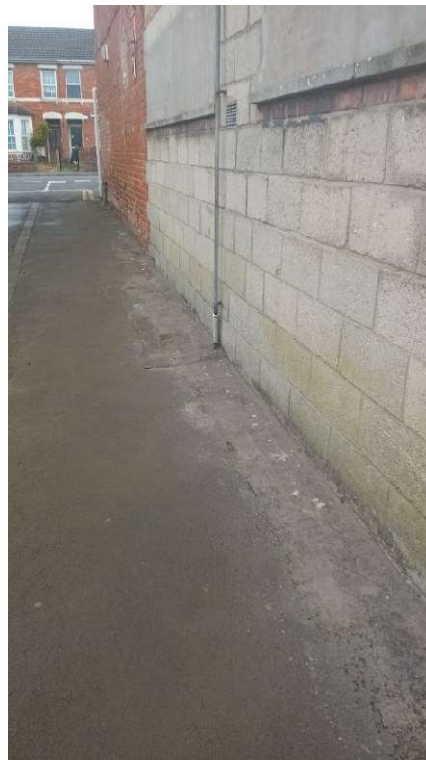
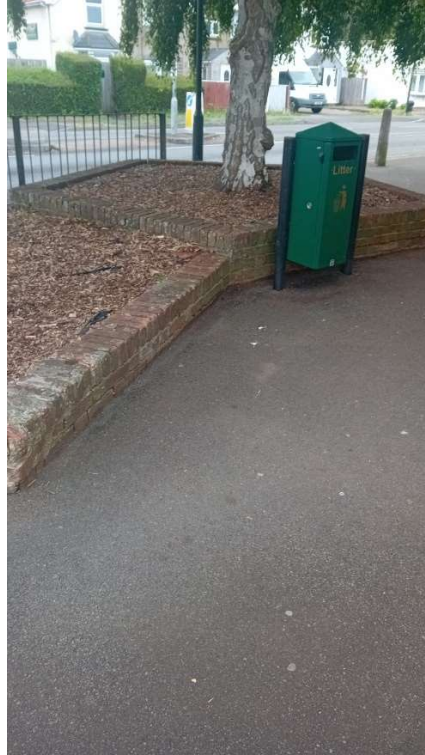
St Marys Church, Akers Way – cut back shrubs and remove brambles



Percy/Morris St Pedestrian area – general tidy up including weed removal.



Cheney Manor Road – General tidy up including weed and moss removal.



Ad Hoc works completed and upcoming.

There have been very few ad hoc works. However, we do have a few key tasks to get sorted through the month of August. The main task is getting the Football pitches reconfigured and set up ready for the new season starting in September. We are also due to sort shrubs and hedging in the old Bowls Club (Penhill) in preparation for the skate park works due to commence in September.

Later in the month we are planning to create beds ready for sowing wildflower seeds, the seeds were delivered to us right at the end of planting season, so the decision was made to hold off sowing until autumn, the risk of failure was high if we went ahead earlier.

At the end of this month restrictions end in regards to hedge cutting, I am planning to have the flail attachment out on a few occasions to cut back hedges in areas where ground conditions become an issue during autumn and winter, the headland s around Minety Rec and Mannington are two of the areas I will be addressing.

The booking has been placed for the 2nd weed spray application on the footpaths and hard surfaces across the Parish, once the date has been confirmed I will advise the Ops Manager, but we need to be minded that this task is weather dependant so therefore the dates could change.