

CSNPC Contract report

September 2024

Grounds

Since the last report was sent over we have been super busy, cut 7 was completed and we are now out on cut 8, this cut is going well as grass is easing up the weather is proving to be a bit difficult these past few days but we are pushing on, when we have heavy rain I will be suspending grass cutting and working on shrubs and any outstanding odd jobs/resident requests

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 reasonably smooth

Cut 6

26/07/2024 to 20/08/2024 total of 18 days to complete.

Cut 7

23/08/2024 to 17/09/2024 total of 18 days to complete

At the beginning of the grass cutting season we did have some quality issues which have been ironed out through inspections and changing a few team members, the standard of finish improved from mid may onwards. We had massive issues with Mannington Rec at the beginning of the season where we couldn't get on to cut due to waterlogging, as areas dried out we went on and got them sorted. The area near to the play area side of the field didn't dry out sufficiently (to take the weight of our machines) until early June. Once we was able to cut we had the issue of cuttings left on top, and each subsequent cut after brought them back up.

As Cllr Small remarked during the last meeting the site didn't look its best and as a result we received a lot of complaints, for this I apologise. On the 18th and 20th of September we brought in a tractor with a large collector attachment to cut and collect the arsing from previous cuts, and we are now looking at carrying scarifying works to remove any deep thatch, I'm hoping that we can address this during October but we will have to see what the ground conditions are like as at the time of writing this report the field has started to flood after the heavy rain over the weekend and in to Monday.

As mentioned in previous report we have carried out work reconfiguring the Football pitches at Seven Fields and Mannington, the works went well and the pitches are looking good. As part of this exercise we had to move the youth pitches from the top of Mannington to the area adjacent to the GWW, unfortunately one of the pitches was due to be marked set out in the area we have struggled with, rightly so the Football club raised a complaint regarding this (and other issues) On the back of the complaint a site meeting was held with the Parish Clerk, Ops manager and myself in attendance, we discussed the issues which lead to this point and what could be done now to improve conditions (pitch playing surface) I have committed to cutting the pitches weekly going forward for as long as the ground allows, this shouldn't be an issue with Seven Fields but I do have concerns over Mannington as it doesn't take a lot of rain for it to become a problem. I will be keeping a close eye on this and will report back to the Ops Manager as and when any problems arise.

Street Scene

The mobile street scene crews have been busy over this period carrying out litter picking and bin emptying, at the time of writing this report they have taken 11,140kg of general waste (bins, litter and small fly tips) and 2,520kg of green waste to the tip, these figures are taken from the weighbridge receipts and are a combined total from all 3 teams. During the last meeting Cllr Small mentioned the issues with litter in the Rodbourne ward area, I took a walk around the area the following morning and highlighted areas which were in desperate need of attention. I instructed the mobile crews to attend on Thursday the 5th of September and hit the high profile/worst areas which they did. The following week we had the Sparkle team in for a full week with the instruction to carry out a thorough cleanse, I did pop round periodically through the week and could see an improvement, the Ops Manager and I also took a walk around briefly on the 16th of Sept and I was pleased to see minimal litter.

We are now in the process of auditing the bins across the contract (condition and location) with a view to reviewing the rounds to see if any efficiencies can be made, the main reason for this is the start-up of the sparkle team as they have taken a few high profile bins on (High Streets and some play areas) so I need to ensure the other 2 rounds are balanced, I aim to have this completed over the next few weeks.

The Sparkle team have been super busy as always, most of the photos posted on the CSNPC Facebook page showing grounds works have been completed by this team. The areas they have worked in since the last meeting are as follows

- Rodbourne – Litter was the primary focus
- Ferndale – litter, Southbrook road footpath cleared and sided out with hedge cut (School hedge but overgrowing the path) Brooklands and Harvey Grove footpaths
- Rodbourne Cheney – Litter is the primary focus this week

The team are due in Moredon week commencing 1/10/2024 and their work will be a combination of litter and footpath clearances.

I would normally add photos of their work but as they have already been posted (Parish Facebook page) I thought I would add photos of work completed by my grass team completed when the weather was bad (preventing safe working while grass cutting)

Hilmarton Close footpath clearance





The Gardens shrub encroachment





Bremhill Close Hedge encroachment





Ad Hoc works completed and upcoming

We are now entering a quiet period for ad hoc works, the next task in this regard will be creating wild flower beds in various locations around the contract, and sowing the seeds ready to germinate in spring of next year. We also have the 2nd road sweep due to commence, this is booked to start in the second week of October for a period of 15 days, we will then pause the hire for a week or two and allow leaves to start dropping then commence the leaf sweep (most likely in early November)

