

## **SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL**

Meeting	Place-making & Protection Committee Item 2.7
Date	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2021
Author	Paula Robertson, Assistant Town Clerk (Planning & Amenities)
Subject	Operational Updates

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update councillors on the progress of the recent round of bin requests.
- 1.2 To update councillors on the flagpole at the Cenotaph.
- 1.3 To update councillors on matters affecting the allotments & skatepark.

### **2.0 BIN REQUESTS**

- 2.1 At the PMP meeting on 13/10/2020, councillors requested that all of the seven bins that were agreed to install should be a combined litter/dog waste bin. In some locations it is not possible to site a combined bin, as they are generally much heavier and prone to splitting when carried across open land.
- 2.2 At the time of writing this report, contact had been made with all landowners (SCC and MDC) and permissions are awaited. It has also been necessary to seek permission from the developer and a management company that manages the land within Tadley Acres.
- 2.3 The bin that was damaged at Victoria Grove/Kidd's Lane has now been replaced. The original bin was damaged by a vehicle reversing into it so it has now been moved slightly to hopefully prevent this happening again.
- 2.4 The office received a report recently regarding a bin that appeared to have not been emptied and was overflowing. Investigations revealed that someone had placed an empty carrier bag into the bin, leaving the handle sticking out. This made people assume that the bin was full and instead of taking their waste bags home with them, they placed them on top of the bin.
- 2.5 All dog waste bins are emptied three times per week and at least one day of the weekend. At national level there have been reports of a significant increase in the number of people owning pets. This has had a big impact on people's behaviour with many more enjoying the great outdoors, however, this has also led to an increase of dog waste in public areas with many bins overflowing. It doesn't always follow that providing additional bins solves the problem of overflowing bins.

### **3.0 CENOTAPH FLAGPOLE**

- 3.1 The Cenotaph requires an inspection every 5 years by experts in the field of stone monuments, that will include a maintenance, cleaning and repair schedule. This was last undertaken in 2016/17. We are seeking quotes for a new inspection and will need to present these findings to a separate meeting of the charity of the Cenotaph once received. To update at the next meeting.

- 3.2 There is currently an intermittent issue with the mechanism in the flagpole which means that the flag isn't always flying at full mast.
- 3.3 Arrangements are being made with a flag pole company to undertake an inspection and recommend any repairs. It will also be necessary to undertake an annual inspection of both flagpoles (Cenotaph and Collett Park). Costs are being sought for these works.

#### **4.0 ALLOTMENTS**

- 4.1 There are currently no vacant plots and there are 14 applicants on the waiting list – 11 new applicants and 3 current plot holders.
- 4.2 There has been no update from the S106 officer at MDC on our application for funds, nor have we been able to progress the proposals to improve the sites and move to self-management, due to the pandemic.

#### **5.0 SKATE-PARK/BMX TRACK INSPECTIONS**

- 5.1 It is a requirement to undertake monthly and a more thorough annual inspection of the above. These reports have been received and there are no issues with these assets.
- 5.2 There is a gift of funds to extend the tarmac on the BMX track which will be progressed by the Project Officer in due course.

#### **6.0 CONTRACTOR RELATIONS**

- 6.1 Officers have regular meetings with the contractor and MDC to discuss and progress a range of ideas, issues and improvements, including matters that are brought to our attention by members of the public and councillors.

#### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 Councillors to note the report.