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## ENVIRONMENT & FACILITIES

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### NAME OF DEPARTMENT / WP

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NewquayCouncil

**To:** Environment & Facilities

**CC:**

**Date of Meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2022

**Time of Meeting:** 7 pm

**Location:** Council Chamber

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#### 1 General update on any activities since the last meeting

**Environment Service Team** – The team continue to maintain all open spaces to a high standard working towards the service's seasonal maintenance schedules. The team is now at full strength and have subsequently split into two teams to better maintain all the town council's open spaces and assets.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – A meeting between myself, and the Eden Projects Stephanie Knights and Fern Carroll-Smith took place to discuss a wildflower sowing event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The meeting was held to see if we could facilitate a local school to sow seeds on the Killacourt, including the cost and the coordination of the event.

A meeting was then arranged with Karl Fice-Thomson of Kernow Learning to discuss the event and the coordination of the event. The outcome was Trenance School are over the moon to be considered and have liaised with the Eden Project directly, to iron out the timings, coordination etc.

Melissa and I have completed all the relevant paperwork for Cornwall Council and the town council's risk assessments. An interpretation board has been suggested to allow visitors of the site to see what the area is used for, who it was created by and the importance of wildflowers for biodiversity.

See attached PDF for rope fence and interpretation information.

The wildflower event will be taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, between the hours of 09:30 and 14:30.

The Events Coordinator Melissa has secured funding for a tree or several trees to be planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Melissa and I worked together to produce a document that showed several species of tree suitable to be planted in Newquay. This document was emailed to all relevant members for their viewing.

**The Killacourt** – A detailed report outlining improvements to the Killacourt was emailed to all relevant members, outlining issues and potential solutions. The report indicated several events, tasks and schemes that are currently in the planning phase, as well as jobs that are currently been carried out by the ES team and Enforcement Officers.

A meeting took place between me and Oltco to discuss the cracking of the recycled path near one of the benches. The outcome was that the damage is not covered by warranty. A quote has been provided.

Permission has been granted by Cornwall Council to paint the top street light to help it blend in with its surroundings. I would suggest green and blue to mimic the grass and sky. Alternatively, CC has offered to paint the post-black.

Assisted with the NHS pop up Covid-19 clinics.

Liaised with the Events Coordinator to organise a free crazy golf day. The event company used the central space of the Killacourt to layout several holes for passers-by to use. I opened the site at 09:00 with Mellissa closing the site at 16:30.

The four beds to be used for the wildflower event have been cleared of all weeds and planting, of which has been transplanted to other beds within the site. The area is now ready, for a low rope fence and interpretation board if required.

**Concrete Waves** – A meeting took place with Maverick's maintenance contractor to discuss the maintenance needs of the skate park. Issues that may arise and have been picked up by the enforcement officer's weekly inspections will be brought to my attention, which will then be looked at in detail. If necessary, Maverick's will be contacted to assist with any repairs.

The Enforcement Officer's weekly inspection of the skate park highlighted a damaged tile on the main swimming pool area. This was reported and Mavericks were contacted. A repair was then carried out, by their accredited contractor.

**South Fistral Car Park** – An audit of the existing parking signage was carried out. The aim was to assist with any potential new signage, and parking charges. The new wording, logos and information has been emailed to the town council's preferred supplier for creation.

Old, damaged posts and signs have been removed from several areas within the site, in preparation for the new signage.

**Tesco Rear Lane** – Permission was given by the property owner, of the Tesco building located on East Street, to erect a camera. Its sole purpose is to shed light on the illegal fly-tipping in the rear lane behind the Tesco building. The footage will be monitored by the enforcement officers who will report their findings in a later report.

**Mount Wise** – The removal of unwanted items, Christmas lights and waste with the two unused shipping containers has been completed by the ES team, assisted by the Facilities Manager. Most of the waste was taken to the tip, with several items used by Facilities and Events being recycled.

There are two items left, a splat board belonging to one of the Lions Clubs and the old, damaged marquee. I have spoken with a local charity, Friends of Newquay Hospital who are happy to take the old, damaged marquee.

The team installed seagull spikes above the basement door on the flat roof wall of the Mount Wise building. This was due to the area below, having frequently been defecated on, by birds perching on the wall. On several occasions, members of staff have unfortunately been hit.

**Polwhele Road** – A meeting took place between me and Tristan Holmes to discuss the front of the permaculture garden. Tristan produced a design showing the potential layout of the space.

**Newquay in Bloom/Hanging Baskets** – 110 hanging baskets have been ordered and will be ready for the summer season.

A meeting took place with me, Barbara Hannan, Bob Ollier, and Cllr Creek to discuss the potential locations of new hanging basket brackets and street furniture. Several locations were agreed upon and a detailed report was created.

The report was then used to inform CC and BID of their locations and quantities and to seek approval from all parties. Unfortunately, CC has not replied with any costs, or approvals for the repair or replacement yet. However, I have contacted several local fabricators to provide quotations for the creation of new brackets and posts, and several contractors for their installation.

Ace Group have supplied one quote for the hanging basket brackets and is looking at supply post and installing them, a quotation will follow in the coming weeks. Cornwall Council are also looking at providing the town council with a quotation. Once I receive both quotations, I will notify all relevant members.

**Pesticide Usage** – I researched the use of pesticides in other council areas around Cornwall. The aim was to learn how each different council manages their weeds and the control methods used. The findings indicated a 50/50 split of councils that use glyphosate and those that do not. The findings are also included within the Deputy Town Clerk's report on the Weed Control Contract.

Many councils had positive feedback when an alternative product was used, however, the costs associated with using alternatives was higher.

A brief summarisation of my findings is available if requested.

**Marcus Hill** – During routine site maintenance, one ES operative noticed several overflowing drains and with one having severe odour coming from it. This drain was directly underneath the library kitchen and office. The drain was subsequently flushed and no longer smells, to the joy of the library staff.

The ES continue to recycle unwanted items and have installed a new bird feeder created by Charlie Palmer and placed it in a suitable location near to the wildlife corner outside of the library, as shown in the below image.



**Trencreek Allotments** – The topographical survey of the site has been carried out. However, I have been paying for and using my own personal software up to this period. The license for this software has now expired, which means any further work will need to be carried out using pen and paper. This is not an issue, it just means certain tasks, calculations etc will take longer than using computer software.

With the above in mind, the final design is complete, and materials identified, ready for ordering and for contractors to begin work.

The team cleared a rotten fence that had fallen due to severe weather, the fence was in Carpmael Avenue. Whilst removing the fence the team also cleared all debris, vegetation, and overgrown hedging from the turning circle, as it had become overgrown. The site is currently part of phase two of the allotment project, however, two plots are currently being tended two by two allotment tenants.

**Polwhele Road Permaculture Garden** – The ES continue to assist the permaculture garden and Tristan as and when needed.

**Gover Lane Planter** – Repaired and replanted the large wooden planter on Gover Lane.

**Storm Damage** – During one of the many storms, the team and I were patrolling all open spaces, when we assisted a member of the public with her blown down fence located near Doorstep Green. James Marriott, Charlie Palmer and I spent 15mins helping the lady and several other members of the public, to remove and safely store her fence into her back garden.

During the same storm, the team and I returned to Mount Wise, where we found the cover for the events trailer had become loose, with several tears in the cover and on several straps. These straps had failed which meant the cover had become loose. It was subsequently taken off to limit the potential damage if blown free. The Cover is now in the basement of Mount Wise but is unlikely to be used again due to the damage caused by the storm.

A tree had fallen at Trencreek Allotments onto a neighbouring property's fence. A report of the incident has been emailed to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for assessment. Overall, the tree caused minimal damage to the property and was removed by the ES team with no further damage caused.

One of the black bins at the skate park was damaged due to high winds. The team replaced the bin and disposed of the damaged one.

**Signs, Interpretation, and Information Boards** – Work has begun to schedule in the cleaning and maintenance of all the town council's boards and signs. The work will be carried out by the ES and the Events Coordinator.

2	<b>Specific update on any actions allocated in the previous meeting</b>
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N/A
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3	<b>Any key issues the Manager/Working Party/Lead Member wishes to draw to the committee's attention</b>
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<b>South Fistral Car Park</b> – An inspection of the zip-wire located at South Fistral Car Park has highlighted a potential hazard. The rubber matting that separates the concrete foundation
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from the open-air has become damaged and worn, exposing the concrete. This is a potential hazard to human health as the location is at the foot of the launchpad to use the zip-wire.

Several site visits with play park inspectors and contractors indicated that the current surface material is inadequate and an alternative solution is needed. Therefore, I have provided several quotations suggesting the creation of a ramp to eliminate the wear and tear of the rubber surface currently in place.

#### 4 Any suggestions for improvements

**Concrete Waves Benches** – I have produced a basic report with several solutions to install benches at the Concrete Waves skate park. The reason for this is there is currently a lack of seating for the users of the park to sit and relax. There have also been numerous times users of the park have brought their own seating, such as old sofas, which over time become unsightly and then needs to be removed by the ES team at a cost to the service.

#### 5 A look forward to making the committee aware of any up-and-coming issues to be planned for

**Gannel Car Park** – An order of three tonnes of Mot Type-1 and the hire of one plate compactor has been placed. The team and I will be repairing the potholes in the car park of the Gannel. The start date is the 28<sup>th</sup> of March, with notices going up on posts located on-site on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. One entrance shall be always open so the car park can still be used, and all work should be completed in one day to limit the disruption to any car park users.

#### 6 Any decisions taken under delegated authority by Officers or WP

N/A

#### 7 Any new decisions requiring committee resolution including options and costs where possible

**New Marquee** – With the purchase of a new events marquee where would the committee like it to be stored? The ES has cleared two containers and is available if needed.

**Old Marquee** – Is the committee happy for the old marquee to be donated?

**Remaining Site Visits** –The following is a list of the remaining Newquay Town Council owned sites to visit in no order:

- Marcus Hill and Library
- Concrete Waves Skate Park
- Crantock Street Garden (Small plot of land behind the cinema)
- Priory Woods
- The Gannel Car Park & Picnic Area

#### 8 Any recommendations to the committee on the above decisions

N/A