

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 9 December 2021
Information Report

This report will not form part of the meeting. The contents are intended for information only. Should any member have questions or want further information about the items, please contact the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in the first instance.

1. Allotments

The NCC Neat Team have been working to clear the vacant plots on Beatrice New Gardens in the past few weeks and these will be offered to applicants who are currently on the waiting list.

Following recent changes in DEFRA Regulations BTC were contacted by Northumbria Water who wished to conduct an inspection on the Bebside site. This inspection has resulted in some necessary work to be conducted above and below ground so that the system complies with current regulations. Quotes were obtained and once the work is completed it will be reinspected by Northumbria Water.

The water meters on all sites continue to be read at the beginning of each month and those readings are forwarded to Wave to produce as accurate as possible billing for the water usage on each site.

A request was received from the tenants of Tenth Ave Allotments for a skip. This was delivered in early November, and we are waiting for it to be picked up by the supplier at this time.

2. Play Areas

The Play Area inspections are all up to date. We continue to have some vandalism at sites resulting in replacement parts being ordered from the previous play area supplier Kompan. Costs have been met from the spare parts budgets which was included in the price of the refurbishment schemes for the play areas that Kompan refurbished.

The first Inclusive Carousel, installed at Chase Farm, was found to have water underneath the platform. This was only discovered whilst the NCC Inspectors were lubricating the bearings and we requested Kompan get their team back to investigate. This site had drains installed as it suffered badly from flooding prior to refurbishment and there have been no flooding issues since. It was found while the investigation work was being

conducted that the because of the liner that was installed water could not escape. To allow water to get away a hole was made in the concrete pad and through the liner which was filled with 20 mm gravel making a soakaway which would allow the water to filter to the drains and correct the problem and at this time that is the case.

3.Bins

We have in the past few months experienced incidents where bins have been set on fire and destroyed and these are in specific areas, and the others are isolated incidents. Where it has been possible, we have only had to replace outers but in others it has resulted in new pads being installed and brand-new bins or alternative bins being installed as the level of vandalism has gone as far as to the frame for the bin being rocked till it has come out of the tarmac.

The bin at Gallagher Field has been installed as agreed by the Committee at September's meeting with a 180Ltr bin.

A request was received for a bin to be installed against the Buffalo Centre and one of the Derby Double E bins from the Quayside was used. We have had two bins damaged by fire in the Isabella Ward and these will require bigger pads to be installed and the remaining two bins from the Quayside will be installed one being against the Olga Potts Play Area and the other near to the Pavilion heading towards the Isabella Heap.

4.Bus Shelters

The vandalism that was reported to the September meeting which had not been carried out because of supply issues this has now been resolved. The shelters are now having the panels installed, by the time of the December meeting all those requiring panels to be installed should be completed including the roof section of the shelter on Ogle Drive which was damaged by fire.

5. Defibrillators

The defibrillator that Committee approved at the last meeting was ordered and was delivered to the office week commencing 1 November 2021. The owner of the shop contacted their energy supplier to get the necessary work carried out and to date has still not being allocated an appointment by the energy company despite being told what this is for. Additionally, the Ambulance service are chasing up the delivery of the cabinet that the defibrillator is housed in as we have not received that yet.

Members asked at the last meeting how often the systems have been used. The Council have 4 defibrillators as shown in the list below and to date there has only been one occasion where the defibrillator has been used for its intended purpose (Blyth Market Place):

- Blyth Market Place
- Arms Everytne House
- Ridley Park
- Dave Stephens Centre

We are aware of the location of other defibrillators that have been installed throughout Blyth but at this time are not aware of the number of times they have been used.

6. CCTV Systems

A request was received from the Croft Ward Cllrs to have a system relocated to Maddison Street. This was following a few thefts from the diesel storage tank belonging to the Railway Medical Group where the Covid 19 inoculations are being given. After approval from the Isabella Ward Councillors the system behind Broadway shops was moved to the new location in 48 hours thanks to the help of the NCC Street lighting. The change over from Wireless Logic to Cellular has now taken place but we have encountered issues with the routers in a few systems and they will need to be changed to allow the new sims to work. The delivery of the routers will obviously impact on how quickly the systems can be viewed on the PC's.

7. Flag

The flagpole base was installed the last week in September and following the pole being attached the Blyth Town council flag has been flown. The Submariners raised the Union Flag on the Sunday before Remembrance Sunday, and the Union flag was flown on Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. Officers have a list of all the notable dates that the Union Flag should be raised.

8. Sculptures

The sculpture that former Cllr G Webb had commissioned was completed and installed in mid-November to remember the industries that revolved around the staithes. A plaque is being produced for this work and will be installed in the coming weeks.

The Shipyard Corner sculpture which has been commissioned by Cllr S Davey will be finished and installed by the end of November 2021 and the

Bates Sculpture which has been commissioned by Cllr G Davey will hopefully be completed and installed by the 17th December 2021.

9. Seats

A request has been received from a member of the public if a seat could be installed outside the bus shelter on Briardale Road on the junction with Tynedale Drive. The contractor that BTC use was instructed to install the seat at the required location at his earliest opportunity and this has been completed.

David Clough
General Services Officer

25 November 2021