



Wokingham Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1AS
Tel: 0118 978 3185 www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: K. Hughes

This Council Meeting is open to the Public and Press
Please notify the Officer or Chairman if you wish to record the meeting

Wednesday, 01 November 2023

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** to be held in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Wokingham** at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 07th November 2023** for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the subjects and matters set out in the agenda below.

Yours sincerely

K Hughes
Town Clerk

Contact Officer: F Sleaford, Amenities Officer
Direct line: 0118 974 0886; mobile: 07592 579112; email: amenities@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive any declaration of interests from members on the business about to be transacted.

3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC

The Chairman to answer questions raised by members of the council or public.

This is an opportunity for the people of Wokingham to ask questions of, and make comments to, the Town Council. Members of the public are requested to restrict their questions and comments to three minutes. Questions which are not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question. To ensure an informed response, please send your questions to the Town Clerk at least three working days prior to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive and resolve the minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of this committee held on: 12th September 2023 (pages 16819 to 16822, copy attached) as a true and correct record.

5 AMENITIES SERVICE AREA – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

To receive the Amenities Officer's Briefing Notes – October 2023, dated 30th August 2023 (copy attached).

6 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

To receive and resolve upon the Amenities Officer's Report, 04/2023-24 dated 24th October 2023 (copy attached).

7 GRAFFITI UPDATE

- To receive an update from Cllr Lack regarding graffiti removal (photo report attached).
- To discuss the potential for additional murals across the town centre.

8 RISK REGISTER

To note that:

- a) There are no recommended changes to the risk register (relevant sections attached).
- b) WTC's overall Health & Safety policy is being reviewed and any recommended changes will be brought in March 2024.

9 COUNCIL'S UPDATED VISION AND PRINCIPLES

To consider how this can be embedded in the work of the amenities committee (copy attached).

10 MONITORING REPORT

To receive and consider the monitoring report dated 24th October 2023 (copy attached).

11 AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION

To receive information raised by members for possible inclusion on a subsequent Amenities Committee agenda:

- a) Wokingham in Bloom results (report attached).
- b) The resurfacing of Leslie Sears play area was completed 20th October (photos attached).
- c) Repair to the burnt section of rubber mulch at Elms Field (photos attached).
- d) The new trampoline at Elms Field has filled with water, a solution is being investigated.
- e) In October a tent encampment appeared in Howard Palmer Gardens. The Housing Needs, and Homelessness teams at Wokingham Borough Council have, as of 1st November, placed the occupants in alternative accommodation.
- f) Balfour Beatty are due to commence works to replace the Network Rail Tanhouse footbridge (adjacent to Ormonde Road and Latimer Road allotments) on Monday 4th December 2023. Work is expected to be completed by the end of March 2024.

12 MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING

To receive and consider a verbal report from the Chairman.

Amenities Committee: Cllrs R Bishop-Firth, S Cornish, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, T Lack (Chairman), M Malvern (Vice-Chair), A Medhurst, N Nagella and H Richards

Copy: Cllrs S Gurney and I Shepherd-Dubey

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, all persons attending this meeting are hereby notified that this meeting will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is that it acts as an aide-memoir in assisting the clerk of the meeting in the compilation of minutes. The recordings are held in a secure location and deleted once it has been resolved that the minutes are a true and correct record.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014, persons attending this meeting may make their own recordings of the proceedings subject to the Council's Policy on Filming, Recording & Reporting on Council and Committee Meetings (copy available on request).

DRAFT

12th September 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COMMITTEE ROOM, WOOSEHILL COMMUNITY HALL, WOKINGHAM** 7:32 pm to 9:00 pm.

Prior to the meeting Councillors received a 15-minute tour around Woosehill Community Hall. Councillors were given an overview of these areas; this included: some of the uses and hirers, some recent upgrades, and the areas of focus for the Buildings & Market Officer, with ongoing maintenance requirements.

PRESENT

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, S Cornish, A Fraser, M Fumagalli, T Lack (Chairman), M Malvern (Vice Chair), A Medhurst, and N Nagella

IN ATTENDANCE

Amenities Officer (AO) – Fiona Sleaford
Town Clerk (TC) – Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr H Richards

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr Bishop-Firth, and it was

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 11th July 2023 (pages 16786 to 16788) be received as a true and correct record, and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES SERVICE AREA - BUILDINGS & MARKET (Agenda Item 5)

Cllrs received the Buildings & Market Officer's report 01/2023-24, dated 18th August 2023:

It was confirmed to Cllrs that:

- Within the Town Hall demise, Piccolo Arco, RYND and Timpson have maintenance leases and are responsible for their ongoing maintenance and compliance.
- Wokingham Borough Council have agreed to compensate the town council for work required to reinstate the damaged electrical utility box on Market Place, adjacent to the Town Hall.

REQUEST TO F&P – PLAY PARK RESERVE REQUEST (Agenda Item 6)

Cllrs received the Amenities Officer's Report, 02/2023-24 dated 06th September. It was confirmed to Cllrs that:

- Leslie Sears junior play area is the only town council play area without any sub-base beneath the playground surface, and so this issue will not affect any other site to the same extent.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30707**

DRAFT

**RESOLVED
30708**

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr Fraser, and it was

to submit an in-year request to F&P for up to an additional £35,000, from the Play Park Reserve fund, to cover the cost of the more comprehensive surfacing replacement in Leslie Sears junior play area.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / TOWN CLERK

GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 7)

- a) Cllrs received an update from Cllr Lack regarding graffiti removal.
- b) Noted commercial graffiti removal was completed on 10th and 13th July 2023.
- c) Noted, following the significant graffiti across the whole town, removal will not take place until students return to college and university.

Discussion points included:

- The cost of commercial graffiti removal versus the existing budget.
- The value of wrapping cabinets, and of having art and murals on walls.
- From previous CCTV footage the perpetrators are most likely college age.
- That two to three days of commercial work is required to clean recent graffiti.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

SPENDING PRIORITIES 2024-2025 (Agenda item 8)

Councillors discussed the shortlisted projects and prioritised their requests to be proposed to F&P for approval.

Discussion points included:

- Removal of a significant capital investment item, that could be brought back for discussion and possible inclusion in the next annual budget.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that a significant number of items have been removed from the list, since July's meeting, as they can be investigated / completed within the current financial year.

**RESOLVED
30709**

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Fumagalli and it was

to request the following funding from the F&P Committee in this prioritised order for 2024-2025:

Priority	Project	Request
1	Woosehill – Fire alarm upgrade	£1,000
2	Play Parks Reserves Request: Replacement of aged and defective equipment	up to £40,000
3	Town hall – Defibrillator	up to £3,000
4	Budget uplift – New grounds maintenance contract	£15,000
5	New budget line – Market Place parking permits	£1,050
6	New budget line – Park Yoga	£1,400
7	Allotments – Waterless toilet cleaning	£4,500
8	Budget uplift – Graffiti budget	£2,000

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / TOWN CLERK

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 12th September 2023

16820



DRAFT

LOCAL GREEN SPACE NOMINATIONS (Agenda Item 9)

Cllrs received the Amenities Officer's Report, 03/2023-24 dated 01st September 2023, and the Town Clerk gave a verbal update in support of the report.

Discussion points included:

- Consideration that, as with TPO's, ownership by WTC confers sufficient long-term protection from the development of WTC's green spaces.
- Objecting, to the protection of WTC's own spaces, could be a difficult concept for residents, as it may appear that WTC are trying to be underhand or dishonest about the future of these spaces.
- The decision, for designation of WTC land as a Local Green Space (LGS) will be taken as part of the Local Plan Update, following an independent examination, over which WTC has no influence or control.

LANGBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOM (Agenda Item 10)

The TC provided a verbal update on recent research and the current situation.

Points raised and discussed included:

- No football has been played on the site since 2022, with the goals to be moved to King George V playing field, for informal games use.
- From a commercial perspective the location is compromised, parking is very restricted, it is adjacent to the play park, and it's bound on two sides by a residential neighbour.
- The building itself is not ideal, having only a single skin, with no insulation, no heating and limited natural lighting, and so it has limited potential.
- If it is demolished WTC could save the running and maintenance costs.
- If WTC retains the building, it's believed it may be best used for WTC's own storage needs.
- The planning use class is currently unclear, and so WTC would have to apply to for a change of use, to ensure the building can be used for storage.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 24th 2023:

Item 174: Defibrillator for Woosehill Community Hall, FY2023-2024: Final installation is expected by the end of September 2023.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 12)

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Vandalism to the "tgermulch" rubber surfacing at Elms Field play park.
- b) Vandalism to the roundabout at Joel Park.
- c) Wokingham in Bloom, Thames and Chilterns, regional results are announced on 27th September, with National results announced on 23rd October 2023.
- d) A Cllr brought up a significant problem, seen recently, of vapes being littered around town, a WTC social media campaign around Recycle Week (16th-22nd October) is being planned to promote appropriate recycling of vapes.

Cllrs requested that a special mention, and their thanks, be passed to Jim, the Elms Field Groundsman, for keeping the field and play area looking so good throughout the summer.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 12th September 2023

16821



DRAFT

MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 13)

- Recycle Week 2023, which will take place between 16-22 October 2023, with a campaign focusing on the local issue with discarded vapes.
- Further to the agreement from F&P, the work to resurface Leslie Sears junior play area.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 12th September 2023

16822





Wokingham Town Council

Amenities Officer's Briefing Notes - October 2023

To: Amenities Committee

Date: 30th October 2023

Subject: Christmas lights

To inform Councillors of the upcoming Christmas light installation:

- This is the first year of a new four-year contract, running from April 2023 – March 2027.
- In February 2023 the contract was awarded (resolution 30587), for the third consecutive time, to Lighting & Illumination Technology Experience Ltd, referred to as LITE.
- All lighting is expected to be installed and switched on before the Winter Carnival, 26th November.
- The lights are requested to be turned off on twelfth night (or as close to), and for all lights to be removed by the end of January, this is usually achieved by mid-January.
- The scheme retains a cool white colour scheme, inventory attached (Appendix 1).
- The scheme includes:
 - Real trees:
 - Main 10m tree on Market Place, installation due on Monday 13th November
 - 3m tree installed outside Old Row Court, on Rose Street
 - 26 x 1m trees for flag holders, around the Town Hall and Market Place
 - Lamp column motifs and "Merry Christmas" coloured signs
 - Icicle lights, approximately 300m
 - 19 x trees bound with lights
 - Catenary wire "arch of snowflakes" across Broad Street
- Last season we received a couple of questions/comments from residents regarding the lights being lit permanently, considering the cost-of-living crisis.
- Here are some points as to why we have the lights on permanently (with exceptions):
 - Most lights are wired into the lamp post columns, and that power is continuous, and so the lights are either on or off, and they cannot be controlled remotely.
 - We do not use timers as these are costly to install, maintain, survey and test. Timers are also the most frequent cause of failure of Christmas light motifs.
 - An alternative would be to employ a qualified/authorised person to visit each individual column twice daily to turn lights on/off, which would be prohibitively costly.
 - The lights are all LED, using up to 90% less energy than traditional filament lighting.
 - Several of the lighting installations are powered by local businesses, and so do not incur running cost for the taxpayer.
- During the season, it is appreciated if you can:
 - Report any issues.
 - Consider any additions / areas to be considered for additional lighting in future years.
 - Icicle lighting is a cost-efficient way of extending the scheme



Wokingham Town Council

Amenities Officer's Report 04/2023-24

To:	Amenities Committee
Date:	24th October 2023
Council Principle:	Being sustainable, fostering town pride & enriching community
Amenities Service Area:	Grounds
Subject:	New grounds maintenance contract

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. To inform Councillors of the upcoming tender for the grounds maintenance contract.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. The current three-year contract is due to end on the 31 March 2024.
- 2.2. For contracts valued over £25,000 the council must use the Government's Contracts Finder website, to advertise the contract nationally.
- 2.3. This process will begin in the next month, and the contractor will be selected by the Amenities Committee in the March 2024 meeting.
- 2.4. In an effort to increase efficiency, and the cost effectiveness of the contract, the allotment grass cutting was incorporated into this current contract. This has proved to be less than satisfactory, and so the contracts will be separated.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1. A three-year contract does not provide as much security, work stability, and flexibility to the contractor, or the council, as a longer contract.
- 3.2. To reduce the effects of increases in contract value, at every renewal of the contract, it is proposed to increase the contract length to a five-year contract.

4. CONSIDERATION

- 4.1. The proposal to increase to a five-year contract needs to be considered by the Amenities Committee.
- 4.2. An extended contract, from previous experience, has kept annual costs lower.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. It is believed that this will reduce the cost of the contract over the five-year period.
- 5.2. There is a possibility that a new contract will require an annual Consumer Price Index rise. This is becoming more prevalent due to recent financial instability.
- 5.3. WTC apply a standard to CPI rises, with subsequent years rising by the CPI rate, as published by <https://www.ons.gov.uk/>, in the month prior to the contract anniversary.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1. Councillors are asked to consider and resolve upon increasing the contract length to a five-year term.

Cleaned on 23/10/23

Reading Road – Slew bridge



Denmark Street

Blueberry Toys, Characters, Market House, Wellington Jewellers



Red Lion



Peach Street



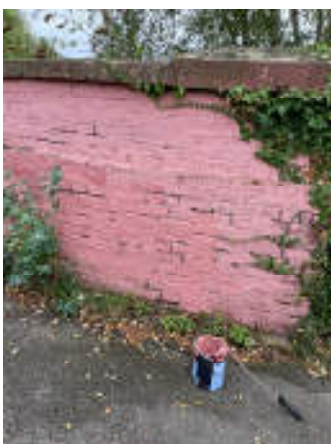
Cabinet outside Pizza shops



Oliver Bonas



St Pauls Gate to St Pauls Church



Cleared on 24/10/23

Woosehill Spine Road



Milton Rd / Jubilee Ave and Matthews Green Road WTC Bus Stop





Old Forest Road / Reading Road



To be done by contractors:

Waterford Way

Large wall area, some cabinets (and bins)



Peach Street

Phone box plus 2 other cabinets – gold paint



Yellow Wall Goatley Way
(no photo)

Grey wall at Millets



Holt Lane



Wokingham Town Council

Operational Register

Allotments

Oct-23

Risk	Risk No	Responsible Officer / Committee	Impact and effect on deliverables	Probability	Impact	Total	Controls in place	Risk Response	Actions
Allotments / Amenities Committee									
Tenancy agreements not in place or adhered to	A 01	ALO	Lack of control and potential lack of income	1	2	2	Tenancy agreements to be signed before taking up plot, Agreements in line with various allotment Acts and local requirements are renewed every year, Robust program of inspections to prevent eg unworked plots, fire hazards and contamination	Treat/Monitor	
Contamination of 'spring clean' skips and fly tipping	A 02	ALO	High increased costs if skips contaminated with dangerous waste (eg Asbestos)	2	3	6	Skips provided. Clear notices to advise on acceptable waste. Sites secured with coded padlocks. Monitored by ALO.	Treat/Monitor	
Vermin/Deer	A 03	ALO	Risk of inundation, disease possible claims against the Council by tenants and local residents who live near allotments. Poor public image.	3	2	6	Regular programme of inspections by ALO raises any concerns about untidy plots, potential for vermin etc. Proactive notification by tenants. Prompt action re vermin control carried out when required. Boundary fences to be maintained in sound condition without gaps or breaks	Treat/Monitor	
Vandalism	A 04	ALO	Damage to infrastructure and crops. Possible additional expenditure. Tenants unhappy	2	2	4	Site to be as secure as possible. All incidents reported to police.	Treat/Monitor	
Water - Supply and Casual	A 05	ALO/BMO	Damage to crops and potential legionella risk.	2	2	4	Water tanks maintained, regular monitoring and proactive response to any issues. <i>WTC owned water receptacles have been treated with an Aquamid tablet. All tenants advised annually via newsletter to empty and clean their water butts with a proprietary disinfectant e.g. Jeyes Fluid.</i>	Treat/Monitor	
Security	A 06	ALO	Possibility of damage to plots and tenants' property or theft of property and crops	2	1	2	Fencing monitored by ALO and tenants and repaired as and when necessary, gates locked by tenants on entering and leaving. Liaison with tenants.	Treat/Monitor	
Poor site management	A 07	ALO	eg Tree and ditch maintenance, Japanese Knotweed - Expensive remedial work required; some plots become unusable with consequent loss of rental income	2	3	6	Vigilant monitoring by ALO & tenants. Use of approved contractors to address any issues chemicals by approved qualified staff member.	Treat/Monitor	

Wokingham Town Council

Operational Register

Play Areas

Oct-23

Risk	Risk No	Responsible Officer / Committee	Impact and effect on deliverables	Probability	Impact	Total	Controls in place	Risk Response	Actions
Play Areas / Amenities Committee									
Potentially unsafe play areas	PA 01	GBO	Risk of accidents due to vandalism or inadequate inspection regime. Possible claims against the Council.	1	3	3	Recorded inspection of play areas carried out weekly via ROSPA trained WTC staff. Regular grounds meetings held, to highlight any new and ongoing issues, allowing for repairs to be undertaken in a reasonable time scale. Play equipment purchased from companies EU1176/77 industry approved. Staff have received Visual Inspection Training, and Operational Inspection Training. New electronic inspection app has been introduced. Equipment made safe as soon as possible. Yearly annual independent play area inspection carried out. Incidents reported to Police.	Treat/Monitor	
Litter/Dog mess	PA 04	AO/GBO	Unightly, health and safety issue resulting in complaints and poor image, time consuming to check and remove	2	1	2	Play areas fenced off and dogs not allowed in. Dog waste bins provided in parks with regular collection. <i>Review signage.</i>	Treat/Monitor	
Play areas not inclusive	PA 05	AO	Lack of inclusive facilities resulting in possible contravention of DDA.	2	2	4	New play equipment tenders to include requirement for design to be inclusive. On renewal of playparks inclusion of accessible play equipment requested.	Treat	
Vandalism	PA 06	GBO	Lack of facilities, not providing expected levels of service to users	3	1	3	Regular inspections by trained groundsman, earmarked budget available for remedial works.	Treat/Monitor	

Wokingham Town Council

Operational Register

Municipal buildings

Oct-23

Risk	Risk No	Responsible Officer / Committee	Impact and effect on deliverables	Probability	Impact	Total	Controls in place	Risk Response	Actions
Municipal buildings / Amenities Committee									
Vandalism	MB 01	BMO	Loss of bookings, additional expenditure, poor image.	2	4	8	Town Hall and Woosehill alarmed. Woosehill external CCTV, TH internal and external CCTV. Daily inspections. Insurance reviewed annually with broker. Repair damage/remove graffiti as quickly as possible. Steel doors in place. New CCTV equipment installed to the Town Hall providing external and up graded internal recorded imaging. CCTV now accessible from web based service - improved reporting ability. On line reporting to Thames Valley Police.	Treat	
Significant damage to building	MB 04	TC/BMO	Interruption of democratic function of Council, interruption to income streams.	1	4	4	Rigorous H&S regime. Robust security of buildings. Financial reserves in place. Emergency Action Plan in place. Additional fire detection added 2019. Fire alarm linked to monitoring station Controls in place deemed satisfactory by Berkshire Fire Safety Officer 2019. External CCTV at both TH and WH. Internal CCTV at TH.	Treat/Monitor	
Asbestos Management	MB 05	TC/BMO	Danger to health. Disruption to services. Loss of income. Possible injury claims	2	4	8	Asbestos Management Plan updated in 2015/2016/2019 <i>Keep plan under review particularly before/after/during any major works.</i>	Treat/Monitor	Staff training in Asbestos awareness management an ongoing action

Wokingham Town Council

Operational Register

Open Spaces

Oct-23

Risk	Risk No	Responsible Officer / Committee	Impact and effect on deliverables	Probability	Impact	Total	Controls in place	Risk Response	Action
Open Spaces / Amenities Committee									
Vandalism - including illegal encampment	OS 01	GBO	Loss of provision for residents, unable to gain access additional expenditure and poor image.	3	3	9	Difficult to control in this area, physical barriers in place, weekly inspection regime, effective liaison with local police and relevant partners. Appointment of additional staff to monitor Elms Field and HPG. <i>Additional security measures put in place during the Christmas & new year period to monitor EF & HPG, the area, and any ASB.</i>	Treat/Monitor	
Poor maintenance regime eg dog fouling, poor infrastructure	OS 02	GBO	Health and safety issue, resulting in potential reputational damage.	2	2	4	Robust inspection regime, dedicated staffing provision. Regular grounds meetings held, to highlight any new and ongoing issues, allowing for repairs to be undertaken in a reasonable time scale.	Treat	
Falling damaged trees	OS 03	GBO	Disruption to services, highway, damage to property and personal injury resulting in legal claims etc.	2	2	4	Weekly inspection, annual independent tree inspection. All trees registered by GPS. Specialist tree consultants brought in where necessary. Annual budget in place and reviewed annually. <i>Tree inspection, register and maintenance regime in place. Additional tree surgeons engaged. Review annually.</i>	Treat/Monitor	



Wokingham Town Council

Vision 2023 to 2027

Mission statement:

Wokingham Town Council embraces our past, celebrates our present and builds for our future.

Principles:

Being sustainable

Working to reduce our negative impact on our local environment and use our financial resources and physical assets as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Involving everyone

Striving to ensure the council's events, activities and democratic processes are open, accessible and welcoming to everyone in our community.

Fostering Town Pride

Protecting, enhancing and celebrating what's good about our council, our community, our town and our heritage. We will learn from our past, acknowledge where there's room for improvement, and prepare for the future.

Enriching community

Creating and supporting opportunities to bring our community together and help it to thrive.

Wokingham Town Council Strategic Principles 2023-2027

Being sustainable

Working to reduce our negative impact on our local environment, use our financial resources and physical assets efficiently and effectively

Involving everyone

Striving to ensure the council's events, activities and democratic processes are open, accessible, and welcoming to everyone in our community

Fostering town pride

Protecting, enhancing and celebrating what's good about our council, community, town and heritage

Enriching community

Creating and supporting opportunities to bring our community together and help it to thrive

While not exclusively, the prime contribution of the Amenities Committee is towards "being sustainable"

• Amenities

• Grounds & Bloom

• Buildings & Market

• Allotments

Ref	Date Active	Item for Action	Action by	Proposed Completion Date	Status Previous Progress Progress Update
174	30.05/23	Defibrillator for community use at Woosehill Community Hall	AO / BMO	End June 2023 End Sept 2023	FY23-24 Budget: £3,000 Defibrillator and external heated cabinet purchased Full installation was to be complete on 23 May 2023, then 25 July 2023 Replacement clip required, now expected to be installed in September 2023 Defibrillator installed in October 2023

Wokingham Town Council's vision:

Wokingham Town Council embraces our past, celebrates our present and builds for our future.

Fiona Sleaford

From: Marianna <mpentek@wokingham-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 October 2023 13:17
To: Fiona Sleaford
Subject: National and Regional Results 🌸🌻🌼

[View this email in your browser](#)



Good afternoon, fellow bloomers

I would like to share all the accolades we won this year due to your fantastic work, tenacity and enthusiasm. I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart, as I know everyone made a massive effort this year to be ready for judging – not once, but twice! So, without further ado....

RHS National Britain in Bloom Results

Our first-time entry in the national finals achieved an overall **Silver Gilt**. This is a fantastic achievement, as we had a very tough competition, and other large towns have huge resources behind them. We have used our creative thinking, inventiveness and out-of-the-box thinking to compete with the “big boys” on a shoestring budget.

In addition, Wokingham was awarded a **Certificate of Achievement for Innovation in Community Engagement**. Only four other entries had the privilege to be nominated for this discretionary award.

I received an award as a community champion, which I would like to share with all of you. I believe our work is for the community and our environment for the greater good, and we cannot achieve this in silos, only by working together, inspiring each other to do better.

At the **RHSThames & Chiltern Regional Bloom Competition**, we won the overall 'Best Town' and accompanying Silver Gilt award.

A number of local projects showcased as part of the entry all received high praise and their own individual awards, with some receiving national recognition. Accolades were:

In the 'Large Town' category: **Silver Gilt and overall regional winner.**

In the **‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’** category, the following projects received:

- Friends of Howard Palmer Gardens – Thriving
- Langborough Wildlife Garden – Thriving
- Wokingham Community Fire Station –Thriving
- Cockpit Path Community Garden – Thriving
- Link to Nature – Outstanding

(Awards run from ‘Establishing’ through ‘Improving’, ‘Advancing’, ‘Thriving’, and ‘Outstanding’ as the top award.)

In the ‘Thames and Chiltern’ awards across all entries in the area, we received:

- Regional award– Conservation and Wildlife (across all project and specifically Holt Copse& Joel Park)
- Regional award- Doing more with less – Wokingham Fire Station (for their reuse and recycle focus)

In the ‘Parks’ category:

- Elms Field – Silver Gilt
- Holt Copse and Joel Park – Gold

In the ‘Other’, national recognition was given to:

- **Joel Park and Holt Copse –National Certificate of Distinction for Parks**
- **Link to Nature – 2023 It’s Your Neighbourhood National Certificate of Distinction**

Huge congratulations to all volunteers, supporters, partners and sponsors. I hope you are as proud of all these achievements as I am. Please do a little “happy dance” tonight and raise a glass to our collective achievements. On 7th December we can celebrate together! Details are coming soon!

Best regards, and thank you for keeping me and everyone motivated to better every day.

Marianna



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BEFORE - AFTER



Elms Field Arson



Before / After

