

Full Council Meeting – 5 July 2022

Report of Councillor Derek Perry – Deputy Leader, Sports, Parks, Leisure and Phosphates

Parks and Open Spaces

Green Flag Awards and in Bloom

1. All of the Green Flag judging has taken place in early June with some additional blind judging to be completed. The results will be announced later this year. Minehead, Wellington and Taunton have In Bloom judging in July. The team have been working with the BID in Wellington, Taunton and Minehead, and with the Wellington and Minehead Town Council, both have invested in additional bedding plants and new planters.

Park Improvements

2. The fountains in Vivary Park and Wellington Park have been repaired and are all working well now. The Vivary Park footpath replacement programme works are underway. All works are due to be completed before the end of June. The contractor is working around all of our event dates programmed with regular updates to the public being completed.

Leisure

Leisure Centres (Everyone Active)

3. The contract has surpassed the 5,000 members total for the first time since the start of the covid pandemic which is a positive sign of recovery. The contract continues to face substantial financial challenges whilst it recovers after the Pandemic. This situation has been compounded by rising utility costs.
4. The recent traveller incursion at Blackbrook Sports Centre created challenges for the effective management of the facility. This latest incident involved significant anti-social behaviour both inside the Centre and in the grounds where the caravans were located.

5. The replacement of the pool drainage gullies at Taunton Swimming Pool is scheduled to start at the end of August and will take 10-days to complete – the pool will be closed during this period.
6. The Bi-Annual Everyone Active report will be presented at Community Scrutiny on 27th July 2022.

Leisure Projects

7. Ongoing discussions are taking place between the Council and the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) to agree funding to refurbish the Tennis Courts at Vivary Park and Taunton Green, Cheddon Road.
8. A project group continue to progress the feasibility of a Decarbonisation Project at Wellington Sports Centre. This proposal involves replacing the Roof to the Sports Hall and Swimming Pool, replacing the Air Handling Systems and replacing the existing gas boilers with Air Source Heat Pumps and a Combined Heat and power system. Whilst there are internal capital funds available external funding would be required to fulfil the objectives of the Project. At time of writing discussions are ongoing regarding an application for Salix funding.

Norton Fitzwarren Playing Fields

9. A contract has been awarded to Carrick Leisure to deliver a new playing field at Norton Fitzwarren using S106 funding. The detailed design has been developed by the Sports Turf Research Industry. Whilst the project has outline permission, we are now awaiting detailed planning permission before the project can begin. The overall cost of the scheme is £500,000 and will include the creation of a full sized adult football pitch, a tennis court, multi use games area and car parking