

Dunstable Town Council
Grove House
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Paul Hodson Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Date: 26 May 2023

Dear Councillors

A meeting of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee will be held on **Monday 5 June 2023 at the Council Chamber, Grove House commencing at 7.00 pm**. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend, either online via Teams or in person. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to notify their intention to attend by emailing democratic@dunstable.gov.uk by 2 June 2023.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hodson
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To agree the minutes of the meeting of 13 March 2023 as a true record (copy previously circulated)
4. To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Plans Sub-Committee meetings held on 7 March, 28 March, 18 April and 2 May 2023 (see page 3)
5. Creasey Park Community Football Centre and Bennett's Splash Park – information report (see page 12)
6. Grounds - Information Report (see page 16)

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

7. Purchase of Electric Pedestrian Sweeper – decision report (see page 23)
8. Reports from Outside Organisations:

CBC Development Committee – Cllr Nick Kotarski
9. RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.
10. Lawn Cemetery Policy – decision report
11. Verbal update on Creasey Park management arrangements
12. Date of the next meeting – Monday 11 September 2023 at 7.00 pm.

To: All Members of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Louise O’Riordan (Deputy Town Mayor), Matthew Brennan (Chairman), Richard Attwell (Vice-Chairman), Trevor Adams, Alex Butler Philip Crawley, Mark Davis, Kenson Gurney, Michelle Henderson, Matthew Neall, Johnson Tamara and other Members of the Council for information

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE
ON TUESDAY 7 MARCH AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), John Gurney (Vice-Chairman), Wendy Bater, Lisa Bird and Greg George

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Becky Wisbey (Head of Community Services)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

-
- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | CB/23/00318/FULL: 4 High street North |
| | Proposal: Alterations to the external building, all fascia and projecting signage to be removed. ATM and night safe to be removed and infilled. All marketing to be removed. |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2 | CB/23/00011/FULL: 12 Frenchs Gate |
| | Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension & loft conversion with rear dormer windows |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 3 | CB/23/00475/FULL: 17 Kingscroft Avenue |
| | Proposal: First floor side extension and loft conversion |
| | Comments: No objection |
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|----------|--|
| 4 | CB/23/00402/FULL: 51 Capron Road |
| | Proposal: Demolition of an existing single storey side and garage and erection of a single storey side extension. |
| | Comments: Objection- Concerned about limitations of parking |
-

5 CB/23/00463/FULL: 44 West Hill
 Proposal: Single storey rear extension
 Comments: No objection

6 CB/23/00429/FULL: 291 Luton Road
 Proposal: Two storey side and single storey rear extension
 Comments: No objection

3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None received.

The Meeting Closed at 19:15

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE
ON TUESDAY 28 MARCH AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), Lisa Bird (Vice-Chairman), Greg George and Matthew Brennan

Apologies: Councillors Wendy Bater (for whom Cllr Brennan was substituting), John Gurney and Cameron Restall

In Attendance: John Crawley (Head of Grounds & Environmental Services)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

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|----------|--|
| 1 | CB/23/00573/FULL: 55 Jeans way |
| | Proposal: Demolition of attached garage and erection of two storey side and single storey front extension |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2 | CB/23/00581/FULL: 12 Radburn Court |
| | Proposal: Demolition of side garage to accommodate a two storey side extension (granny annex) and rear single storey extension infill. Changes to front entrance door. |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|--|
| 3 | CB/23/00563/FULL: 7 Kingsbury Avenue |
| | Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension, garage conversion into a habitable room and alterations to front porch roof |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|--|
| 4 | CB/23/00436/FULL: 11 Readers Close |
| | Proposal: Single storey rear extension with associated internal and external works, pitched roof to existing side extension and proposed render finish to external walls. |
| | Comments: No Objection |
-

5	CB/23/00680/FULL:	180 Chiltern Road Proposal: Hip to gable loft conversion with front and rear dormer windows Comments: No objection
6	CB/23/00562/FULL:	134 Aldbanks Proposal: Two storey side extension Comments: No objection
7	CB/23/00487/FULL:	86 Wilbury Drive Proposal: Construction of a new dwelling attached to an existing dwelling Comments: Objection-Over development and not conducive to the Street scene.
8	CB/23/00775/FULL:	267 Poynter's Road Proposal: Erection of a single-storey front extension Comments: No objection
9	CB/23/00354/FULL:	10 New Woodfield Road Proposal: Erection of a single storey side/rear extension and new front porch, additional parking bay, drop kerb, and brick boundary wall to front garden. Comments: No objection
10	CB/23/00575/FULL:	20 King Street Proposal: Ground floor side and rear extension and internal alterations Comments: No objection
11	CB/23/00842/FULL:	161 Poynter's Road Proposal: Single storey lean to rear extension with pitched roof and rooflights, loft conversion with front rooflights and rear dormer. Comments: No objection
12	CB/23/00843/FULL:	22 Royce Close Proposal: Single storey side extension and part garage conversion Comments: No objection
13	CB/23/00574/FULL:	Chiltern Park Industrial Estate Proposal: Construction of an elevated goods tunnel to connect Units C and D. Comments: No objection

3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

Members considered one application received.

- Street Trading Licence (Ref 32625) – Grove House Gardens

RESOLVED: that the Licensing Authority be informed that this Committee has no objection to the application

The Meeting Closed at 19:15

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE
ON TUESDAY 18 APRIL AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), Wendy Bater, Greg George, John Gurney and Johnson Tamara

Apologies: Councillors Cameron Restall and Lisa Bird

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk & Chief Executive)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | CB/23/00903/FULL: 22 Calcutt |
| | Proposal: Two storey side extension, single storey front porch extension and single storey rear extension. |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|--|
| 2 | CB/23/00549/FULL: 2 Ridgeway Avenue |
| | Proposal: Demolition of bungalow and garage. Erection of 2 no chalet bungalows with a widened crossover and proposed new crossover. |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 3 | CB/23/00854/FULL: 28 High Street North |
| | Proposal: Replacement of existing windows with new double glazed UPVC windows, new external doors and refurbishment of roof terrace to rear. |
| | Comments: No objection |
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- | | |
|----------|---|
| 4 | CB/23/01001/FULL: 7 West Hill |
| | Proposal: Erection of single storey side and rear extension including garage conversion with raised roof |
| | Comments: No Objection |
-

5	CB/23/00816/FULL: 100 Ridgeway Avenue Proposal: Demolition of detached garage and erection of detached outbuilding Comments: No objection
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6	CB/23/00841/FULL: 81 Ridgeway Avenue Proposal: Single storey rear extension with internal door to converted garage Comments: No objection
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3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

Members considered one application received.

- Street Trading Licence (Ref 32625) – Grove House Gardens

RESOLVED: that the Licensing Authority be informed that this Committee has no objection to the application

The Meeting Closed at 19:10

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PLANS SUB-COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE, DUNSTABLE
ON TUESDAY 2 MAY AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillors Phil Crawley (Chairman), Lisa Bird, Wendy Bater, Greg George, Liz Jones (substituting for Cameron Restall)

Apologies: Councillors Cameron Restall and Johnson Tamara

In Attendance: Lisa Scheder (Head of Finance)

Public: Nil

1. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

2. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Sub-Committee considered all planning applications submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of Dunstable since the last meeting of this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: that the following comments be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of the applications indicated:

1 CB/23/01088/FULL: 15 West Parade

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Comments: No objection

2 CB/23/00254/FULL: 17 Victoria Street

Proposal: Retrospective installation of two air conditioning compressor units, new air vent ducting 650x 650mm x 4m and a 600/600mm Air Duct inlet. Installation of a new rooflight window in hip part of the parish house facing rear garden.

Comments: No objection

3 CB/23/00769/FULL: 1 Lancot Drive

Proposal: Retention of existing outbuilding in rear garden

Comments: Objection as Members expressed concern on the accuracy as size shown in plan does not match drawings

4 CB/23/01104/FULL: 98 Ridgeway Avenue

Proposal: Pitched roof to existing detached garage

Comments: No Objection

5 CB/23/01096/FULL: 14 Duncombe Drive

Proposal: Single storey rear / side extension.
Comments: No objection

6 CB/23/01272/FULL: 77 Poynters Road

Proposal: Installation of an outdoor play GYM ancillary use of main house.
Comments: Objection as concerns build looks like a new habitable space and overdevelopment

3. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Sub-Committee noted the decisions of Central Bedfordshire Council in respect of recent planning applications.

4. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

None received.

The Meeting Closed at 19:13

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023

**CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND BENNETT'S SPLASH
UPDATE**

Purpose of Report: To provide a progress report on operations at Creasey Park Community Football Centre and Bennett's Splash Park and a review of options for the Splash Park café.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides the Committee with a summary account of performance to date.

2. ARTIFICIAL TURF PITCHES (ATP) & GRASS PITCHES

- 2.1. The winter block bookings have now ended and enquiries for off season bookings are being accepted which are already at 80% capacity.
- 2.2. AFC Dunstable (AFC) & Dunstable Town FC (DTFC) have now finished their respective seasons. AFC Dunstable were placed a credible 13th in their league and Dunstable Town FC achieved an impressive 4th in the league below.
- 2.3. Congratulations to AFC Dunstable Ladies who won their league and achieved promotion to the Eastern Women's Premier Division.
- 2.4. On the youth front, there was much success across both clubs with numerous teams winning leagues and cups at many age levels.
- 2.5. AFC Dunstable's new club owners, Soccer Assist Academy, are now overseeing the running of the club. Soccer Assist Academy is a football and educational programme based in Milton Keynes.
- 2.6. Over the Easter holidays the centre was very busy hosting Luton Town FC holiday camps and four days of football festivals, which saw 64 teams competing from all over the country.
- 2.7. The table below shows the monthly ATP player usage and total monthly usage in hours:

Month	Players	Usage (hrs)	Month	Players	Usage (hrs)
Apr-21	4,155	356	Apr-22	5,473	371
May-21	4,653	374	May-22	4937	399
Jun-21	4,175	451	Jun-22	4040	345
Jul-21	5,316	586	Jul-22	4880	424
Aug-21	4,776	499	Aug-22	5366	456
Sep-21	5,131	474	Sep-22	5131	348
Oct-21	5,776	444	Oct-22	6150	413
Nov-21	5,132	368	Nov-22	4106	328
Dec-21	3,802	275	Dec-22	2587	191
Jan-22	4,429	314	Jan-23	2867	270
Feb-22	5,597	385	Feb-23	3577	316
Mar-22	5,552	402	Mar-23	3867	389
TOTAL	58,494	4,928	TOTAL	52,981	3,794

3. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

3.1. Creasey Park Bar & Catering takings comparison EX VAT

	2019/2020	2021/2022	2022/2023	Variation-2022/23 19/20 or 21/22
April	£16,930.69	£5,777.67	£26,214.44	£9,283.75
May	£12,645.83	£6,550.14	£11,707.16	-£938.67
June	£8,409.83	£4,275.74	£11,719.35	£3,309.51
July	£9,609.22	£12,461.16	£15,778.52	£6,169.30
August	£10,065.36	£7,393.47	£14,258.79	£4,193.43
September	£11,255.73	£12,279.17	£17,253.67	£5,997.95
October	£17,084.33	£24,398.98	£27,633.45	£10,549.12
November	£13,010.83	£14,722.55	£21,242.31	£8,231.48
December	£7,384.00	£14,013.20	£10,095.39	£6,628.80
January	£10,813.40	£14,247.17	£15,339.01	£1,092 (20/21)
February	£9,557.72	£16,781.51	£19,040.88	£2,259.37 (20/21)
March	£5,597.01	£13,191.95	£12,650.73	-£540.92 (21/22)
Total	£132,363.95	£146,092.71	£203,158.04	

- 3.2. The table above shows that at year end the bar & catering income exceeded over £200,000 for the first time. Secondary spend trade has been very positive and this year has highlighted the impact of the additional ATP2 and the increased footfall it has brought to Creasey Park. The challenge going forward is to keep prices attractive amidst the rise in stock costs.

3.3. **Creasey Park End of Year Summary of Forecast and Actuals vs Budget**

Service Area	Budget 2022/23	Actuals to Date	Year-end Forecast	Forecast Year-end Variance
Income: Creasey Park - Football	201,022	258,441	258,441	57,419
Costs: Creasey park - Football	-75,528	-110,113	-110,113	-34,585
Income: Bar & Catering	210,000	250,156	250,156	40,156
Costs: Bar & Catering	-349,118	-398,790	-398,790	-49,672
Sub Total	-13,624	-306	-306	13,318

- 3.4. The 2022/23 financial year end resulted in a positive £13,318 surplus, which will be added to the Creasey Park Reserve. This is a variance of £26,942 from a budgeted -£13,624 outturn. An excellent result considering the unforeseen rise in expenditure costs, poor winter weather which caused significant disruptions and cancellations thus impacting income both against pitch hire and secondary spend.

4. **OPERATIONAL & BUILDING UPDATE**

- 4.1. When forecasting a financial surplus, the opportunity was taken to replace the vast majority of internal and some external lights with LED bulbs. The site is now 90% LED covered, with plans afoot to replace the final 10% this year.
- 4.2. All centre changing rooms have benefited from redecorating to give fresh new look.
- 4.3. The Older Peoples' Lunch Club continues to attract good weekly numbers currently between 27 and 30. The club recently held a splendid Coronation party.
- 4.4. Dunstable Town FC held a family fun day in partnership with Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS raising money for various charities. It was a great event with football matches and a quiz night enjoyed by over 400 people.

5. BENNETT'S SPLASH & SPLASHSIDE CAFE

- 5.1. The Splash Park and café opened on Monday 1 May and will now be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm, 7 days a week until Sunday 3 September.
- 5.2. The first few weeks has seen minimal use during weekdays, but improved usage at weekend when there is sufficiently good weather. New recycled plastic seating has been installed all with parasol shades available.
- 5.3. Additionally two 5m x 5m static parasols have been commissioned to provide further shade to users. These new, large parasols will be installed during June.
- 5.4. Currently there have been no parking issues, although this will be monitored on neighbouring streets and all Council media will continue to advise users to park in CBC's Ashton Square car park.

6. AUTHOR

James Slack - Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager
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DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL**GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE****MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023****CEMETERY, ALLOTMENTS, RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS,
RANGER SERVICE - INFORMATION REPORT**

Purpose of report: - To update the Committee on the management and maintenance of the town's cemetery, allotments, recreation grounds, town gardens, floral displays, play areas and Ranger Service.

1. DUNSTABLE CEMETERY

- 1.1 Burial activity has remained ongoing, and the table below provides a comparison for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 May 2023 against the same period for the previous year:

	March 2022 – May 2022	March 2023 – May 2023
New earth grave	11	9
Re open earth grave	17	8
New ashes	11	8
Reopen ashes	17	11

- 1.2 At the time of writing this report, 394 burials will have taken place in the lawn section of the cemetery extension since February 2016.
- 1.3 The Friends of Dunstable Cemetery continue to meet on the first Tuesday and third Friday of the month to carry out light grounds activities and assist with clearing graves. The Friends also had an opportunity in April to meet with the Green Flag Judge. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.
- 1.4 The Council has recently completed resurfacing works on the entrance and the car park as well as some footpath sections where tree roots were lifting the surface. Paving slabs have also been relayed and replaced in some areas. More work is planned for later in the year.
- 1.5 The grass cutting season has now commenced and grounds maintenance is ongoing. The low crescent wall at the front of the cemetery was



recently cleaned by the Ranger Team. This compliments the recent stonework repairs and cleaning to the chapel.

- 1.6 The Green Flag judge visited the Cemetery on 26 April for a full inspection. The results of the judging are to be announced at an awards ceremony in Peterborough on the 19 July 2023.
- 1.7 The Cemetery team has retained its silver status for the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved. The Council signed up to the Charter in 2013 achieving bronze status in the first year and has held Silver every year since. The Charter defines the rights of individuals who experience bereavement and also sets standards of service relating to burials, cremation and funerals.
- 1.8 Wooden section markers are in the process of being installed across the Cemetery. These will assist visitors with locating graves.
- 1.9 Cemetery expenditure and income as at the end of March 2023 is provided at Appendix 1. The overall positive variance can largely be attributed to over achievement on income for 7 of the 12 months in the year and some underspending on expenditure.

2. ALLOTMENTS

- 2.1 At the time of writing this report there are a total 286 people on the waiting list, as detailed in Appendix 2, which is comparable to figures reported to this Committee in March 2023.
- 2.2 Allotment inspections were carried out on the 19 April where 75 notice to cultivate were issued. Re-inspections took place on the 17 May and 6 notice to quits were issued.

3. RECREATION GROUNDS

Play Areas, Grove Skate Park and BMX

- 3.1 Since the last report to this Committee there has been one incident of vandalism to play equipment. One of the self-closing gates has been vandalised for a second time since Autumn 2022 at the Ridgeway play area. Arrangements are in hand to replace the opening mechanism again.
- 3.2 New outdoor gym equipment has been installed at Olma Rd and Downs Road Recreation Grounds. The work was part funded by CBC Ward Councillor Grants. Signage is still required at both sites and is currently under consideration.
- 3.3 The new play equipment has now been installed at Mentmore Recreation Ground play area.



- 3.4 The lighting at Grove Skate Park has been serviced and a new replacement light will be fitted in June.
- 3.5 New metal bow top fencing has been ordered for the landscaped area along Frenchs Avenue to replace the now damaged chain link fencing.

Sports Pitches and General Grounds Maintenance

- 3.6 The 2023 grass cutting season is ongoing across all parks and recreation grounds. The Council is again undertaking some planet friendly mowing in the parks and recreation grounds. Some areas of grass have been left uncut to promote natural wildflower development and support pollinating insects. These areas will significantly improve the biodiversity of the Council's open spaces. Lessons learnt from last years trial have been taken into account and in most places the longer grass areas have been created as islands set in close mown grass.
- 3.7 The 2022/23 football season has come to an end and football pitch renovations are ongoing at Creasey Park. Once these are completed work will begin to renovate the park and recreation ground pitches.
- 3.8 A planning application has been submitted for the kickabout MUGA planned for Kingsbury Recreation Ground. The Council is currently awaiting a decision which should be received no later than 13 July 2023. An order has been raised with the contractor to secure the new play equipment to refurbish the play area. This part of the project is not subject to planning consent.

4. TOWN RANGER SERVICES

- 4.1 The Rangers have been undertaking various tasks across Dunstable over the last few months including cutting back overgrown vegetation, cleaning of road and information signs, watering new planting and removal of graffities. All these activities were addition to their other routine maintenance works such cleaning the Aston Square toilets, litter bin cleaning and maintaining the Eleanor's Cross shopping area and Maypole Yard.

5. TOWN CENTRE

- 5.1 Bedding plants and floral displays will be delivered and installed during the second week of June. All the container displays will be red, white and blue to compliment the coronation banners around the town centre.
- 5.2 Work is currently ongoing with CBC officers to finalise arrangements for the Council to take on the maintenance of all the Urbis planters and rain gardens in the town centre, which were installed as part of the High Street improvement works. CBC have offered a contract running until 31 March 2025.
- 5.3 Seasonal works are ongoing in Priory and Grove House Gardens in preparation for In Bloom judging which will take place during July.

- 5.4 The planting works for new six perennial beds to replace annual bedding is ongoing and will be completed in the coming weeks.
- 5.5 The Green Flag judging was completed in Dunstable Cemetery on the 26 April and will the judging for Bennett Memorial Recreational Ground has been arranged for 29 June.

6 DUNSTABLE IN BLOOM AND VOLUNTEERING

Shops Floral Display Project

- 6.1 Officers continue to work with Dunstable in Bloom to deliver floral displays to shops and businesses in the town centre. The project is in its third year and was funded by the CBC Ward Councillor Grant Scheme. This year officers have been assisted by visiting American students from the COM Church in Dunstable to save plants and clean baskets and tubs. The floral displays will be replanted by volunteers, and the displays will be delivered to the shops and businesses taking part in the project during June.

Anglia in Bloom 2023

- 6.2 Dunstable in Bloom are working closely with the Council to coordinate this year's Anglia in Bloom entry. The Anglia in Bloom judges will be visiting Dunstable during July. The date of the judge's visit will be confirmed by Anglia in Bloom during June. This year's Dunstable in Bloom theme is 'Grow Your Own' inspired by King Charles' love of organic gardening and growing.

Sustainable Perennial Planting

- 6.3 Several beds that have traditionally been planted with annual bedding are being replanted with perennial drought tolerant plants as part of a move towards more sustainable planting. The plants in the new scheme will also be beneficial for pollinating insects.

Dunstable Urban Gardeners

- 6.4 The Council's Parks and Green Space Development Officer has created a volunteer scheme called Dunstable Urban Gardeners (DUG). The DUG volunteers are helping to maintain beds, borders, and newly planted areas in various places around the town. The scheme is in its early stages but is working well so far, and the volunteers are enjoying the opportunity.

7. AUTHORS

Mary Dobbs, Cemetery Manager
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Dimitrisz Sopisz, Grounds Operations Manager
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Katherine Doyle, Parks and Green Space Development Officer
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Appendix 1 – Cemetery Income and Expenditure

Cemetery Profiled Income and Expenditure Report as at 31 March 2023													
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	TOTAL
Budgeted Expenditure	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£9,846	£118,146
Actual Expenditure	£19,457	£6,773	£6,664	£8,517	£8,027	£5,914	£5,776	£12,649	£7,614	£5,008	£11,479	£34,238	£132,116
Variance	-£9,612	£3,073	£3,182	£1,329	£1,819	£3,932	£4,070	-£2,804	£2,232	£4,838	-£1,634	-£24,393	-£13,970
Budgeted Income	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£15,425	£185,100
Actual Income	£15,135	£24,814	£21,195	£17,254	£25,339	£29,986	£7,792	£19,864	£11,205	£27,173	£14,484	£15,053	£229,294
Variance	-£290	£9,389	£5,770	£1,829	£9,914	£14,561	-£7,633	£4,439	-£4,220	£11,748	-£941	-£372	£44,194
Overall Variance	£30,224												

Appendix 2 – Allotment Waiting List

Waiting list	Total	Resident	Non-Resident
Willing to accept any plot/site	58	51	7
Specific plot/site requested	221	218	3
Second plot requested	6	6	0
Offer made - not yet accepted	1	1	0
TOTAL	286	276	10
Added to list since last report (included in above total)	17	17	0
On list but do not want plot yet (included in above total)	0	0	0

Site	Catchacre	Hillcroft	Maidenbower	Meadway	Pascomb Road	Westfield	ALL SITES
Total available plots on site	21	19	24	112	15	86	277
Vacant plots	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Notice to Cultivate	6	4	12	33	4	16	75
Notice To Quit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plot under offer	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Plot Given up	1	0	1	4	0	0	6
Inspection Dates	Next inspection to take place in July 2023						

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

GROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023

PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC PEDESTRIAN SWEEPER

Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to request authorisation from this Committee to purchase an electric Eco City Sweeper using allocated reserves.
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1. ACTION RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 That the Committee recommends to Finance and General Purposes the release of up to £16,878 from the earmarked Vehicle and Equipment Reserve to purchase the Eco City Sweeper 2 as detailed in this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Town Ranger team currently uses a Karcher MIC 34 road sweeper to sweep hard landscaping surfaces across Dunstable.
- 2.2 The Road Sweeper is nearly 8 years old, and the maintenance costs have significantly increased in the last 24 months. In addition, it has been proving difficulties to source replacement parts for the machine because it is now a discontinued model.

3. MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The maintenance of the newly paved and landscaped town centre areas and many of the park and recreation ground footpaths form a significant part of the day-to-day activities of the Town Ranger team. The Karcher MIC 34 road sweeper was originally purchased using Market Town Regeneration Funding (MTRF) provided by CBC to support and supplement the cleaning works already undertaken by the CBC street cleaning contractor. It has proved invaluable for the cleansing of difficult to reach areas across the town.
- 3.2 The effectiveness of the existing road sweeper is now poor with the suction system regularly failing, the sweeping mechanism continually breaking down and the team are experiencing problems with hydraulic and oil leakage and electric systems blowing.
- 3.3 The Council has been independently advised that the optimum time to retain a machine of this type would be 4 years, if used daily, so it is not unexpected that at the 8-year mark consideration should be given to replacing the sweeper.
- 3.4 The Ground Operations Manager has therefore reviewed options for replacing the machine taking account of the current allocated reserves available to the Council.

- 3.5 The need to replace the equipment provides an opportunity to consider lower carbon electric alternatives to assist in reducing the Council's carbon footprint and carbon emissions. The Town Ranger team have therefore trialled a number of electric motorised pedestrian machines.
- 3.6 The preferred machine is the battery powered electric Eco City 2 pictured below. The compact size and manoeuvrability of this machine would be beneficial for accessing narrow spaces especially around street and park furniture. The proposed machine is better suited to working around the new street furniture on the high street than the current one.
- 3.7 Based on a usage of approximately 24 hours per week the lifespan of the sweeper would be in the region of 6 to 7 years. The maintenance costs for the sweeper will be considerably lower than the maintenance costs for the existing machine.
- 3.8 The Grounds Operations Manager has obtained two quotations for the Eco City 2 Sweeper and the lowest quotation, including the optional chariot seat and various spare parts, is £16,878.



4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of purchasing the Eco City 2 Sweeper 2 is £16,878 based on the lowest of two quotations obtained. There are only two suppliers of this make and model in the UK and it has therefore not been possible to obtain a third quotation in line with the Council's financial regulations. However, a similar sweeper that was trialled was some £10,000 more than this model.
- 4.2 The Council's Vehicle and Equipment allocated available reserve currently stands at £36,295 which includes existing commitments. A commitment of £16,877 would reduce the balance of the reserve to £19,418.

4.3 Following the delivery of the new sweeper, the Ground Operations Manager will investigate the possibility of selling the existing Karcher MIC34 road sweeper and any monies received from the sale would be transferred back into Vehicle and Equipment reserve.

4.4 If Members are minded to approve the expenditure, the Ground Operations Manager will place an order, arrange the delivery, and organise appropriate training for the grounds staff.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The new Eco City Sweeper 2 comes with full highway kit including chevron bars and flashing beacons which will assist with safe operation of the machine in public spaces. Staff will be trained in the safe and competent use of the machine.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Purchasing the Eco City Sweeper will contribute to reducing the Council's carbon emissions. The machine is powered by rechargeable batteries.

7. POLICY AND CORPORATE PLAN, HUMAN RESOURCE, LEGAL AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Quotations obtained.

9. AUTHOR

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