

PARKS UPDATE REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 10

MEETING: RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 27TH MAY 2026

REPORT BY: WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring Members up to date with issues relating to the parks.

2.0 Current Situation

2.1 St Oswald's Park

Winter bedding plants has been stripped from the beds and prepared for the summer bedding arriving during the first week in June.

The entrance hedges have been trimmed along with the general ongoing maintenance around the site.

2.2 Moore Lane Park

The fun fair arrived on site 18th May and will be in situ until Tuesday 26th May.

The football pitch was overseeded in late April as the grass coverage was particularly poor following last summer's drought.

2.3 Town Park

The wooden surrounds of the ramps within the skate park have all been painted and new signs installed in preparation for the summer.

The surround to the sand pit has been renewed and additional sand added.

The five new picnic benches have now been placed within the park for the public to use.

The winter flower beds have been stripped ready for new bedding plants.

Officers have been working with the Neighbourhood Police team and CCTV supplier to attempt to get the redeployable camera operational within the Town Park again. Remote checks and power checks have all been completed and the camera is still not operational; the next option will be to arrange for the camera to be removed and repaired under warranty.

2.4 West Park

Park Patrol Operatives were able to gain dashcam footage of off-road bikers using West Park and the surrounding road system illegally, and this footage has been submitted to the police as evidence.

2.5 Simpasture Park

General day to day maintenance across the site, including grass cutting, litter collection and maintenance of the pavilion changing rooms.

The football season is complete on this site and so goals were removed week commencing 18th May in preparation of annual pitch maintenance.

2.6 Woodham Park

General day to day maintenance across the site, including grass cutting and litter collection.

2.7 Aycliffe Village Play Area

Work to install the infant play area commenced on the 18th of May.

Officers will organise an official opening with the local school children when completed after the school half term.

All the flower beds have been stripped and prepared for summer bedding.

2.8 Horndale Park

Officers have attended a school assembly and worked with St Francis Primary School and Livin Housing Association to seed the wildflower area opposite the school.

There has been significant damage to the safety surfacing within the play area, with youths lifting and tearing sections of the surfacing out of its structure. Works operatives attended within hours of being notified and carried out substantial repairs.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Members: -

- i) Receive the report for information.

Contact Officer: Steve Cooper
Works and Environment Manager