

CLERKS REPORT MAY 2021

This interim report informally updates Members on operational matters during May/early June 2021 whilst the Council is unable to meet physically due to Covid restrictions and can no longer meet virtually.

It will form part of the document pack for the Council's next formal meeting.

1. DOGS...

- a. The EDDC PSPO to require dogs to be on leads at all times whilst on the Broadclyst recreation ground has been publicised by on-site signage and a front-page article in the Summer broadsheet (for distribution wk/com 7th June), along with a map showing the location of the dog exercise area.
- b. There has been a noticeable increase in dog walkers using the dog walking field area, leading to an overflowing dog waste bin at the Elbury lane entrance. EDDC Streetscene has been asked to work with us to relocate two of the recreation ground dog bins to the Elbury-Sandy Lane area to ensure adequate bin provision.
- c. There has been an issue with the grass in the dog walking field not being cut in accordance with the contract. This has been raised with the contractor for rectification.

2. BOWLS GREEN

Our Groundsman has carried out an intensive scarification and aeration of the green before applying a liquid feed. The reduction in the maintenance programme during Covid allowed a deep layer of organic matter (thatch) to build up on top of the surface, preventing water and nutrients filtering down through to the root zone. It will take a fair bit of work to bring it back up to full health, but this was always going to be a danger when reducing its maintenance whilst it was not able to be used. The cold/wet spring has helped from a drought point of view, but has kept ground temperatures below good grass-growing conditions for longer than usual.

3. PAVILIONS

- a. Usage remains low whilst restrictions on the number of people that can meet indoors remain, however we have had bookings come in for family parties during the summer which we hope will be able to go ahead.
- b. The fob entry system has been installed with fobs issued to staff, contractors, and current user groups. Master cards are used to cancel individual fobs should one be mislaid or not returned. Acceptance of the quote for the intruder alarm has been sent to the company, which hopes to install in the next 4 weeks or so.
- c. Of the regular user groups, only Bowls and Youth Club have returned, with the Craft ladies and Toddlers preferring to wait until restrictions are fully lifted. As a Covid-secure venue with robust sanitisation regime, we have picked up some extra temporary hire

from an antenatal group who have run two blocks of 6-week courses, however we are unlikely to retain them once their usual venue re-opens as Broadclyst is a little too far out for the city-based group.

- d. Storage: we need to have somewhere to store the ride-on mower. We have identified an area next to the tennis court hut that is currently 'dead land' and would like to look at putting a small (10' x 10') shed there. Whilst a small storage shed is unlikely to require planning consent, we ought do a pre-app with EDDC to ascertain the planning position. The last time we did this was to covert the Clyst room into a works compound; the cost was around £75 (we pay a reduced fee as a public body).

Please could I have feedback on this unbudgeted expense.

4. PLAY AREA / PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

- a. Tree house ramp/slide vandalism: An estimate has been received of £4,150 plus VAT for the replacement of the ramp/slide. A claim has been submitted to council's insurers, which in turn has resulted in an increase to premiums.
- b. Police have advised we cannot claim for the cost of officer time to process vandalism reports or council staff time to make safe the damage through restorative justice. There is an argument for seeking reimbursement for these costs (£280.25) through a private claim on the families involved, but this needs to be weighed-up against the likelihood of spending yet more officer time / public money without any guarantee of success.
- c. Westclyst open space: The bin provision in the big play area near the Co-Op is insufficient to hold one weeks' worth of rubbish; we have been "topping up" the EDDC weekly bin emptying with two further visits during the week. We discussed this with the Management Company during a site visit, and it has been agreed to install another bin. For ease and speed, they have asked if we can purchase and install, recharging the cost to the M/ment Co. [These](#) are the bins and installation will cost c.£100 (materials and labour), so looking at a total project cost of c£600, all of which will be reimbursed.

Please could I have feedback on this unbudgeted but recoverable expense.

- d. Wildflower verges around the parish have been sown and are starting to grow through. We have been given some grass seed by DCC to re-sow the verge at Westwood where spoil from ditching works was placed and we have also provided wildflower seeds to mix in with the grass. Residents will do this themselves with Andy's support. Various options for the newly-created verge were discussed with the community earlier this spring, including "some shrubs, a bench, a patch as a herb garden? Fruit trees? Westwood campsite?" and the consensus was for grass and wildflowers.

5. FOOD BANK / SUPPORT

- a. User numbers have settled again, with c.40 adults and 35 children being regularly supported and other households who drop in and out as needed. The Foodiverse app stats record 204 collections to date providing the equivalent of 12598 meals and making an estimated CO² saving of 16,751kg.

- b. Grant funding: the food bank referred qualifying families to the DCC Local Support Scheme Early Help fund. This has resulted in families being awarded a total of £3,750 for food vouchers, utilities, and white goods.
- c. End of grant monitoring report for the £1,341.69 April 2021 “top-up” Community Food Programme Winter Support Fund has been submitted.
- d. **For discussion and informal feedback:**

A new initiative called FareShare Delivered scheme is due to be launched soon. One of our main worries is the lack of surety of any quantity of food, which I hope this scheme will address. I have emailed Karl for his advice if we should buy in to the scheme and he agrees we should trial it. He has also suggested we talk to Clyst Caring to see if the two organisations can partner to provide food for the elderly. The initial application form has been completed; we will hear next from Bristol to create our ‘food profile’ which will determine the type(s) of food we are eligible to receive. The following is copy/paste explanation about how the scheme works; it is likely we will collect from marsh Barton on a Wednesday rather than Honiton.

FareShare Delivered:

The waste food collections from supermarkets are part of the FareShare Go scheme, so FareShare Delivered will not affect the waste from supermarkets at all as it comes from a different waste stream, but we do expect the waste from supermarkets to reduce over the next 5-10 years as they have signed up to various government agreements. The food is sourced from the wholesale level of supply chain and can include dairy, meat, fish, fruit, veg, bakery.

Providers will be signed up individually and go through a food profile where you can choose the foods you want to receive from a list. The list will be limited by the kind of provider you are – for example raw meat cannot be given to those who provide food parcels for health and safety reasons, but it can be given to groups who provide food they cook.

The food will come in crates handpicked, packed, and labelled for each provider. There will be a collection window for each provider on delivery day. One person in each project must have a food hygiene level 2 certificate.

The charge is £20 per 50kg of food, and you can buy in multiples of 50kg. Typically, if you buy 50kg every week at a cost of £1,000 you will receive £10,000 worth of food over the year.

Providers will be invoiced monthly, but you can pay monthly or quarterly. The first 2 weeks are free, and you can cancel at any point, you do not have to buy in for any length of time.

If there is a surplus in the warehouse, orders will be topped up free, and that happens on a regular basis. It will include seasonal fruit and veg and sometimes random things.