

Feedback from site visits to Belle Vue Park and Sparrows Nest

Tuesday 16 January 2024

In attendance:

Cllrs Sonia Barker, Wendy Brooks, Janet Craig and Deborah Ray

Paul Connew (Facilities Maintenance Officer), Jonny Hawes (Parks and Community Officer), Damon Hickinbotham (Grounds Maintenance Officer) and Lauren Elliott (Project and Committee Clerk)

Belle Vue Park

Porch entrance:

- Planting of the two small beds as you enter the porch from Yarmouth Road. This would require removal of a tree stump. Pollinator plants preferred.
- Paul is obtaining quotes for overall redecoration of the porch. If possible, it was suggested the pillars could be painted green to match the redecoration of the Jubilee Bridge.
- Lauren will be liaising with the Marina Theatre regarding their advertising posters, which will be removed for the redecoration, along with seemingly redundant wooden boards which may have historically been used for advertising.
- Officers would like to gain access to the building to see what remains within.

Belle Vue Park general

- Tree roots are lifting the tarmac in places. It was suggested that grass could be laid around the trees, as per work recently undertaken at the Triangle Market.
- A small circular area of soil (possibly where a tree was removed) has been planted. Whilst it still needs to establish, we know that some of the plants did not survive and so may need to be replaced. Buddleia was suggested as it could be kept contained and is attractive to butterflies. It was suggested a very small fence could be erected around this bed to identify it as a planted area, whilst it is still establishing.



- Crown reduction works are due to be undertaken on the trees bordering Yarmouth Road.
- A quotation has been received for block paving of the area near the thatched cottage and the entrance at the top of Cart Score.
- The roof of the thatched cottage should be completely replaced with new thatch later this year, a date has not yet been confirmed.

- The rose garden was examined, and whilst it is difficult to tell this time of year, the roses seemed to be in reasonable health, but will need to be monitored, and pruned back at appropriate times.
- Lauren will be contacting a stonemason for advice and costs for refurbishment of the elephant statue, and it was suggested that the stone container attached to the elephant could be planted.



Sparrows Nest

- Fence panels either side of the old ticket office entrance on Yarmouth Road are due to be replaced in the coming year (this work can be carried out in-house)
- The old ticket office entrance on Yarmouth Road was examined and it was noted that works to the timbers and facades had been carried out recently. No other required improvement works were identified.



- A section of the path is currently fenced off as there is a tree obstructing the path, which is due to be felled shortly.



- Some plants had been stolen from the Sensory Garden but have been replaced. What is there now needs to be established and will be monitored. Planning permission is being sought for a weather vane type structure (as approved by the AID Committee) for the centre of the garden.



- Benches for the tops of the banks surrounding the sensory garden were discussed but will not be progressed until the steps up to them have been improved.

- It was suggested a set of steps near to the Whapload Road entrance could be changed to a ramp to improve accessibility.



- An ornamental tree, such as a weeping silver birch, was suggested as a centrepiece for a recently improved area of planting near the memorial rose garden.



- The fence panels bordering Whapload Road are in a reasonable condition overall, but are due to be decorated this coming year (this work can be done in house).