



---

The Town Wardens have been carrying out their usual duties:

- Looking after public toilets, emptying bins around the town
- Litter picking, sweeping and clearing dog waste in the town centre and elsewhere
- We have cleared allotments for new tenants, and there has been some turnover with new tenants at Sladesbrook and Frome Road
- Preparing interments at the cemetery
- Carrying out maintenance of the Town Council's green spaces and buildings
- Assisting with council activities such as the Town Market and BOA Youth
- Supporting volunteers including CluB. With the seasonal approach, between the end of January and July, vegetation should only be cleared for safety, drainage or obstruction, or referred to the Town Council for advice. They've helped clear detritus from Bridge Street and the Library car park as well as litter, graffiti and more. CluB are also helping with keeping Millie's Garden tidy.
- We are preparing planting plans with a sustainable approach for our green spaces this summer, including Westbury Garden, Millie's Garden and the Library Car Park, which we hope to show off during the South West in Bloom judging.
- Supporting the Nature Volunteers, who have been working on the Willow Labyrinth, laying a third of the structure each year. We benefited from a corporate away day from Binnies' employees. The group also spent a day caring for trees in our tree nursery.

In addition, recently they have:

- Completed winter works, such as hedgerow work, in time for the bird nesting season
- Planted trees in Barton Farm country park – including beaver guards and watering bags
- Installed benches at Barton Farm, Riverside, by the Town Bridge and at Victory Field.
- The approach at Barton Farm, is to reinforce 'Barton Lawn' as a picnic area, with a circular design of planting and benches.
- At Poulton Park, cleared one new path through the main dividing hedgerow (following consent under the Hedgerow Regulations) and used material to block some informal breaks in the hedge. And, similarly, rationalised the breaks through from the CRT car park to the meadow, to create fewer, but improved paths. This work was done in February before birds are most likely to nest, and we will continue with these paths over the spring and summer. This follows the consultation carried



out for Poulton Park. This will provide a sustainable route to Fitzmaurice school and the Youth Centre.

- At Becky Addy Wood, the town wardens cleared vegetation along the pathway (before the expected bird nesting season) and cleared litter in the woodland. We called in contractors to deal with some very large ash trees that had fallen across the public footpath, to make them safe. This follows the Becky Addy Wood Woodland Management Plan. Our Arboricultural contractor will be carrying out a survey soon, to inform the delivery of the plan over the next year.
- We have needed to carry out some emergency tree safety works at The Strips, Barton Farm, the Cemetery and the field opposite the Cemetery. Timber and woodchip from these works are retained for use on the Town Council estate. For example, we have placed logs and woodchip on the path in The Strips to reduce water erosion.
- For safety we removed dead elm trees alongside the footpath by St Aldhelm's play area, and left the fallen trees and stumps for habitat, with the intention of planting new trees in this area next season.
- Carried out repairs to play equipment – we have serviced and repaired the zip wires at Barton Farm and Sladesbrook, and planning improvements at St Aldhelm's play for this year.
- Assisted at events including the pancake race, and sports and other bookings on and in town council facilities

We are planning a session on Beavers with Avon Wildlife Trust, training people who manage land, such as Highways Engineers, and demonstrating the Town Council's approach in the Country Park to working with Beavers.

We have also worked with the Girl Guides and Climate Friendly BOA, and with Christchurch school. At Bearfield the Guides helped look after orchard trees and build a mud-scraper for House Martins and school children at Sladesbrook planted wildflowers.