

# CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

## Leisure & Amenities 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

### An update on Facilities in Cambourne since 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

#### 7.1 BURIAL GROUND (Cambourne Cemetery)

There have been no internments since the last report.

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received.

#### 7.2 ALLOTMENTS

Allotment inspections were carried out at both sites on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Most of the plots were well maintained and cultivated. Following the eviction policy, those with unmaintained plots have been sent a first or second warning and 3 eviction notices have been sent to those who have not improved their plots after the previous warnings.

Once the evicted tenants have cleared their items from the plot, they can then be relet to those at the top of the waiting list. The ground staff are also going to try and make time to strim the overgrown vacant plots before new tenants take them on, to help with the reletting process.

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received.

#### 7.3 PLAYGROUNDS, OPEN SPACES, SKATE PARK AND FOOTPATHS

##### Playgrounds

Work has continued on researching the appropriate replacement equipment and grants that are available to support the replacement equipment and changing the safety surfaces.

##### Open Spaces

Following the successful 'No Mow May' the Council has been asked if it is possible to leave some areas that are not cut as frequently as the verges to promote wildflowers and wildlife. The committee should consider if this is an approach that the Council wish to adopt.

Example of requests from residents to reduce mowing-

- 1. I just thought I would drop you a line to say I was really impressed with the success of leaving the margins uncut through May. As one resident I was very pleased to see them being able to flower. I counted many bee orchids (photo enclosed) growing within the grass margins beside pavements, which are an orchid that flower well in May. I don't suppose I could ask that the practice of spraying around trees could be reviewed as these small areas can provide taller grass through the year creating greater structural diversity in these areas as well, which are for a large part of the year kept short. Currently I think it looks a bit odd at present seeing the longer grass, then the dead grass round the trees (see photo). This practice has been stopped in other countries and the sale of glyphosate is being withdrawn from sale from certain shops in the UK. So now would be a good opportunity to consider its use in Cambourne. Thanks for all the good work*

2. *It was great to see CTC taking part in #nomowmay which has undoubtedly enhanced biodiversity in Cambourne. It's been a shame to see floristically rich verges/ swathes mown already (for example: //roof.diets.economics) There are numerous areas where Bee Orchids are now growing.*

*Could I ask that only selected areas are mown where visual splays are needed i.e 2m of spine roads and pre-checks are taken before cutting other areas? If it looks colourful or contains orchids perhaps mowing and even collection of cuttings could be done in late summer/early autumn (changes in cutting regime). Wholesale cutting of everything doesn't achieve anything for biodiversity and can sometimes look worse. I'd rather see our grasslands become more diverse which in turn could reduce cutting frequency and make significant savings.*

*Good to hear the Council will be discussing it. It might be worth reminding Councillors that the Environment Act 2021 strengthens 'Biodiversity duty' on local authorities. Therefore any mowing regime must consider the opportunity to enhance biodiversity. Sad to see that the majority of Bee and Pyramidal orchids have now been mown on School Lane opposite Brookfield Way! I think it's about balance.*

Example of requests from residents to increase mowing-

1. *Hi, I filled in your webform over the weekend but think I may have made an error with the details when completing. I wanted to ask why the grass area on Greenhaze seems to be deliberately left. My young children are unable to play in this area as it is so overgrown.*

*Thank you Ellie, appreciate the update, please let the Councillors know that I have two disappointed children that are complaining to me daily!*

2. *Hi,  
Can I enquire why the green area close to the dentist has not had the grass cut or at least partially cut only. This is valuable space that the community uses. What was the reason for this?*

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received, and consideration be given to adopting a policy of reduced mowing to some open spaces.

### **Skate Park**

The Skate Park has been well used by residents. There was anti-social behaviour at the skate park over the Easter holidays, however this has settled down and the police are making regular visits.

### **7.4 PREMISES**

The premises continue to be well used by regular and private hirers.

**The Sports Pavilion:** Following the incident at the Sports Pavilion, the door has been repaired with new glass. At the same time, we were also able to repair all the windows in the hall of the Sports Pavilion that were no longer opening and the door to the balcony, which was unable to be closed.

**The Hub** – The Hub Meeting Room is to be hired out by a boxing club who have requested to install a cupboard to store their punch-bags. They have proposed the cupboard to be placed where the large map of Cambourne is currently situated. They have also requested for mirrors to be placed on the back wall of the meeting room as well as pictures. They have been given a preliminary agreement to install the cupboard and have use of one of the cupboards already in the meeting room.

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received, and consideration be given to the installation of the cupboard.

## 7.5 CAMBOURNE SPORTS FACILITIES

Please see below for a brief commentary.

- Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre is still developing it's gym setup with new to site equipment being shipped in from Wigston Leisure Centre over the summer. We are confident that the changes will be a big success. The changes include two more FTS Glide (cable cross over) machines, more free weights and barbells.
- Group exercise classes are set at seven live classes per week alongside many virtual classes per week. These support the main USP of the advancing gym setup and membership.
- Our hours have extended to a 6am open on weekdays, thus supporting the pre-work membership base. Sports hall usage is strong with badminton proving as popular as ever.
- Our children's parties have returned with a vengeance and are still very popular - we are one of the leading sites in our companies region for the volume of parties we run.
- WW (rebranded Weight Watchers) use our facility twice a week in a partnership that extends across the estate.
- We are offering free annual memberships to Ukrainian Refugees. More details attached.
- Everyone Active thanks Cambourne Town Council and the L and A Committee for their continued support.

Regards,

**Simon Clasby** | General Manager  
Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received.

## 7.6 TRAILER PARK

The Trailer Park currently has 2 vacant plots and there are 0 people on the waiting list.

It is:

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be received.