

Town Managers Report

Congratulations to Cllr Sue Gerrard on her election to Borough Councillor for Syston East.

East Midlands in Bloom

The Presentation evening on Friday, 27 September was held at the Syston Bowling Club clubhouse. Attendance was a few down on the numbers that said they were attending but the evening was well received and the Awards for Front Garden Competition and thank you's were all presented.

Any Town Councillors with an interest in keeping Syston blooming are encouraged to join the East Midlands in Bloom Panel. Meetings are most likely to be held in the day time.

Councillor Vacancies

There are six vacancies at the Council in wards:

- Merton Ward
- St Peters West Ward
- New Barkby Ward

I have received a few enquiries and one definite application that will be considered at this meeting.

Skate Park Flood Lighting until 8 pm

Planning permission has been granted. I am now submitting the official application for S106 monies.

CCTV Melton Road

LCC are currently considered our application to locate the CCTV box on the highway by the lamppost on Melton Road.

CCTV Central Park

Following two lost connections last month, this month it seems to be operating well.

Remembrance Parade 3 November 2019

Notice has been submitted to Syston Town News. Bus companies, affected businesses and residents have been informed. Notices provided for Aldi and Tesco.

Skip for Barkby Road Cemetery

Skip has been filled and emptied during w/c 14 October.

Contractor currently looking at ensuring the one metre gap along the boundary between the cemetery and Quenby Crescent is maintained.

Allotments

I attend the monthly allotment meeting – minutes will be presented to Amenities for information (after approval by Syston Allotment Committee – so will always be one month behind). Last meeting attended was 10 October.

Replacement fence now been ordered.

A new sign required – will be discussed at October Amenities.

I also attend the quarterly allotment inspections with members of the allotment committee and keep on top of allotments that are becoming neglected.

Winfield Park

Complaint received about overgrown hedge/shrubs on the boundary of home-owner. Different solutions currently being considered. Resident attended Amenities meeting on 8 October. Committee agreed to flail along the whole boundary.

Ridgemere Close

Amenities agreed to reverse their decision to leave the hedge growing along the boundary of Ridgemere Close and Syston & District Cemetery. A petition received signed by ten residents requesting that the hedge be height reduced to six metres with just one person objecting. I have now written to all residents advising that the hedge will now be height reduced to six metres high.

Panels

Tree Panel

Panel members currently assessing tree work requests. Next meeting on Friday, 25 October. I now have a re-print of the Tree Surveys that will be analysed at the Tree Panel meeting.

Syston and District Cemetery

Columbaria and ash interment vaults and ash vases have now been orderd. A children's bench with squirrels each side has also been ordered.

Pedestrian gate has been ordered and delivery awaited.

The supplier has agreed to look at adjusting the vehicle gates closing mechanism and to powder coat paint them.

A quotation for the new pathway shown on the adopted Cemetery Plan has come in at circa £8K. (Amenities/Cemetery Panel)

A quotation for Peg and Tube Anchor for the plinths has come in at circa £1K (Amenities/Cemetery Panel).

The system is constructed from stainless steel tubing as opposed to a solid bar. This makes it is easier to drive into the ground than a solid rod system as the tube cores the ground instead of compacting it and pushing it aside. Less physical effort is required and it is quicker to drive into the ground. There is less chance of hitting an obstruction and of the tube being deflected out of the vertical during the driving process than with a solid rod system. Should a stubborn obstruction be encountered a mandrill or percussion drill can be driven down the centre of the tube to break it up, something not possible with a solid bar system. More information to go through Amenities Committee/Cemetery Panel.

Land Transfer is being arranged by Rich and Carr hoped to be concluded in November 2019.

Weed killer (selective) was not applied by Glymptons due to the weather condition. Landscaping has taken place to ensure the cemetery is in a good enough condition for the first burial this month.

Outreach sent out a technician this week to connect Broadband but for the third time in succession have sent the final connection technician out before the penultimate work has taken place. The Outreach contact is on holiday this week, I should have an update ready for Full Council.

Cemetery – Barkby Road

Meeting held on 9 October to review what actions had taken place, what needed to be done and new actions. Updated Action Sheet to be submitted to Amenities.

Pavilion

Meeting being re-arranged with myself, the FA and the football teams, one of the football managers was on holiday which delayed the re-arranged meeting. Should have amended date for meeting.

Computer Work Station Upgrades

Order has been placed for new workstations x 3 and UPS upgrade.

Ursula and I spent a morning hand push testing the memorial stones in Barkby Road cemetery. A number of memorials need some re-inforcement and Ursula will be seeking out owners/relatives. Two stones had to be laid to the ground as they were considered to be too unstable.

Precept 2020/2021

We are currently working on the draft budgets for 2020/2021. The budgets will be brought through committees until December. Please scrutinise and raise any queries with myself or Ursula before they are finalised in December. In addition, if you think we need to plan expenditure for something not included in the budget, please do raise this with Officers or at the relevant committee meeting.

Syston Bowling Club Awards Ceremony

Cllr Ken Pacey represented the Council at this event and handed out several awards to members.



Diary Dates

25 October – Fund Raising Fashion Show – proceeds to Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Air Ambulance – 7 pm for a 7.30pm start – **ALL WELCOME**

2 November – Councillor Surgery, Community Centre 10 – 11 am

10 November 10.45 am Remembrance Parade – meet at Melton Road car park – **ALL WELCOME** – please wear your medals if you have any

1 December 1 – 6 pm Syston Christmas Event – **ALL WELCOME – volunteers needed!!**

Please remember to join up to our Facebook page for further developments at Syston Town Council. social@systontc.org.uk

Website: www.systontc.org.uk

Twitter: @Syston_TC

Catherine Voyce
Town Manager



Front Garden Winner – Lorraine O'Brien



Front Garden Runner Up – Darren Chamberlain



Front Garden Runner up – Mr Pipes



Thanks to U3A Gardening Group



Thanks to David Smith



East Midlands in Bloom Ceremony, Chesterfield

Deputy Town Manager's Report

Christmas Event

A Panel meeting was held this week to finalise plans for the event which is only a few weeks away.

49 stalls so far have booked including a wide range of food and drink. Most of the relevant documentation has now been received from stall holders; letters will be shortly sent out with timings and information of the event. Communication letters to residents and businesses have now gone out.

Leaflets and posters have now been printed and will be distributed next month.

The skip for the car park has been ordered along with a 20ft Christmas tree for Park Square.

The entertainment programme is fairly full with just a couple of spaces available.

Only nine businesses have entered the Shop Window competition so far which is a bit disappointing.

The licence from Highways has been granted to erect the Christmas lights in the town.

Churchyard Panel

Investigations into extra lighting at the Churchyard are still ongoing and a letter will be sent to local churches who have floodlights to see how they have funded this. An advertisement for volunteers to form a group, 'Friends of Syston Churchyard' is being looked at.

STC Groundstaff are maintaining the Churchyard with some strimming to be carried out in the winter months.

Precept 2020/2021

Draft budgets for 2020/2021 are currently being worked on and these have been presented to the individual Committees for discussion. The budgets will be reviewed again in November and will be concluded in December for submission to Charnwood Borough Council in January 2020.

Safety Testing of Memorials

Testing of Memorials in Barkby Road Cemetery was carried out on 11 October 2019 by the Town and Deputy Town Manager. A few memorials were found to be unsafe and we will attempt to contact the owners. Two were considered to be very unsafe and were laid flat.

Energy Renewal

I have been working with an Energy Broker to obtain quotes for our electricity contracts which are due for renewal next year and this report has been presented to Resources.

Fashion Show

A charity SOS fashion show is being held on Friday 25 October at Syston Community Centre, School Street. The proceeds will go towards this year's Chairman's charity which is the WNDLR Air Ambulance. A big effort has gone into sourcing prizes for the raffle and I have obtained about 18 in total.

New Signage

New signage has been ordered for along the Brookside to try and discourage people feeding bread to the ducks which is attracting vermin; a sign for the New Cemetery is ready for installation.

Food Gusto – Food Festival

A debrief meeting will be held at the end of the month with Food Gusto to discuss what went well, to consider complaints and to establish how to improve the event. It has been approved by Council for the event to take place again next year on Sunday 30 August 2020.

Senior Administrator

Allotments

An allotment inspection was carried out on 17 September, there were some plots that the Allotment Society were keeping an eye on to see if work had been carried out. As a result of the inspection, I sent out two warning letters, a final termination letter was sent to one person. The plot has now been accepted by the next person on the waiting list. One of the plot holders has responded and is working on it. The other has not responded and will receive a final letter if no work has been carried out.

Christmas Event

I have hand delivered approximately 200 letters to residents and businesses to inform them about the event and the road closure. I am continuing to log details of certificates held by the food stalls, as required by Charnwood Borough Council.

Quotations

I have been arranging quotations for the flail cutter and cordless angle grinder.

Broadband Connection

I have been liaising with our IT Support provider regarding a former supplier that has notified that they will 'stop' a service in June 2020, however we had already cancelled this 18 months ago and have a different supplier now. IT Support are investigating to clarify that this will not affect our existing broadband connection.

Civic Invitations

The proof for the Civic Invitations has been approved, I have now ordered them.

Assistant to the Town Manager Report

Remembrance Parade Preparations

I have sent out letters to all residents and businesses who will be affected by the road closures during the Remembrance Parade on 10 November. I have also started to print out the service sheets ready.

Syston Town Council Newsletter

I have been working on the "Syston Topic" newsletter which we hope will be a good source of information for local residents and businesses in Syston. The newsletter will have updates on projects that the Council are working on and any other information about the Town that we feel the public should be aware of or informed about.

East Midlands in Bloom Presentation Evening

The east midlands in bloom presentation evening was held at the Syston Bowls Club on Friday 27th September. I assisted with getting the presentation boards ready as well as portfolios and preparing a powerpoint presentation to show the people in attendance at the celebration evening.