

Leisure Report for Council on 12th December

Watersmeet

- The Pantomime (Sleeping Beauty) VIP night Friday 15th of December at 6:30pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Leisure

Sports Development

Supporting several clubs with enquiries around CIL including Rickmansworth Cricket Club (facility improvements), Sarratt Tennis Club (floodlights and surfacing), and Oxhey Jets Football Club (3G pitch). Clubs informed of new application process and criteria. Possible applications to be received in the new year.

Arts Development

Artistsmeet

- Nov-Dec exhibition is Chorleywood based artist Jackie O'Keeffe.
- Jan-Mar 24 exhibition has been assigned to Rickmansworth Arts Society.

Arts on Prescription / Wellbeing The current programme is being run in Croxley Green by local artist Sian Fenwick.

Plans continue to develop for the Spring 24 project in Leavesden Country Park.

Rickmansworth Aquadrome

Aquadrome Bridge: Planning approval granted for the bridge at October Planning Committee. Meeting with Sustrans held on 14th Nov. Initial conversations were unclear regarding funding and timings. Will provide a further update in 2024.

Leavesden County Park

Widening of the entrance:

Timetable:

Submission of Planning Application (up to 12 weeks) - 21 October 2023

Planning Committee Meeting: dependent on application. Either: 14 December 2023 or 18 January 2024.

Commence works on first site, TBC, February / March 2024.

Croxley Common Moor

Noticeboard installed. Only part of it is new - the main structure which holds the panel and noticeboard. The legs remained in place, and we were able to reuse the actual panel which cleaned up pretty well.

South Oxhey Playing Fields: Construction work has completed on the tennis courts .

[South Oxhey tennis courts reopen following £50k revamp | Leisure, parks and culture | Three Rivers District Council](#)

The Bury Grounds Biodiversity Project

Aiming to enhance the biodiversity/habitats present (including a section of river channel), protect the heritage and improve the accessibility year-round. Working in partnership with Batchworth Community Council and Colne Valley Regional Park, to secure external funding has commenced and a broad public consultation is live to aid understanding the site usage. - [The Bury Grounds Consultation | Have Your Say Three Rivers](#). The consultation runs until the 20th December.

Biodiversity Opportunities Audit (BOA) delivery

- **Woodland Creation** at Cheshire Drive Open Space (Cheshire Dr, Leavesden, Watford WD25 7GP) & Barton Way Playing Fields (Barton Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3QA): Creating small areas of woodland by planting approximately 100 whips (very young trees) at each site, the trees are then protected with guards and mulch mats to give them the best chance for success. The area of planting will be temporary fenced, without completely restricting access, to reduce the risk of trampling or crushing of the trees. The planting will take place this winter, with more detail to follow nearer the time. There are many benefits to woodland creation for local wildlife, for physical and mental health, and for the environment.
- **Standard Tree Planting:** Planting of 2-3m tall trees with adequate protection in appropriate locations. Trees will be planted through the Winter within council owned greenspaces and along within roadside verges. Where there isn't the space for woodland creation, or where it would be inappropriate, the planting of individual large standard trees is a fantastic opportunity providing many of the same benefits.

Play Area

Denham Way Playing Fields: Lease finalised – 6 months defects inspection on 19 October 2023. Project completed.

South Oxhey Playing Fields: Snagging list and defects period, - 6 months defect inspection due on 9 Feb 24

Lincoln Drive: meeting to takenplace with Ward Cllrs to gather ideas for play area. Proposal to make this a play space and remove fencing and work with Community Biodiversity Officer to make play space natural with planting for habitats. Working with external partners to

gather external funding for garden transformation for 38 TA residents in Lincoln Drive. This will tackle the ASB spike in the building.

Fearney Mead: Meeting took place with Ward Cllrs to gather ideas for play area. Proposal to make this a play space and remove fencing and work with Community Biodiversity Officer to make play space natural with planting for habitats. Ward Cllrs whole heartedly agree. Consultation to take place online with residents through Thrive. Will be promoted through Shepherds Primary, Shepherds Nursery and After School Club.

Management Plans

South Oxhey Playing Fields, Carpenters Wood, Croxley Hall Woods and Pheasants and Solomons Woods Plan (new plan) being updated for 2024 – 2029. Some local objections to grazing at South Oxhey is noted.

23/ 24 Projects at early stages

Strategic analysis on play areas – this piece of work is ongoing and is currently being reviewed. Annual inspections carried out by an external consultant are now complete. Team along with grounds will be reviewing any actions coming from the inspections. This will be monitored alongside resources and available budget.

Swimming Pools

Swimming Pool Support Fund Officers have submitted bid for £ 341,800 for solar panels at William Penn and South Oxhey. Outcome expected in January.