

## Open spaces Report During Lockdown

The Open Spaces team have been continuing to work throughout the pandemic albeit in a limited capacity.

The team are currently working on a flexi furlough basis which has proved challenging at times, although during the first initial lockdown the team worked on normal hours throughout.

Cemetery – The cemetery had its annual tree survey in late summer, this identified areas of concern regarding Ash die back. This has been an ongoing issue for several years but the majority of infected Ash have been felled and a replanting project will be started this coming year.

The cemetery is also planning a more bio diverse environment to encourage wildlife as well as plants.

The cemetery office has been open on restricted hours and this has had no detrimental effect on the arrangement regarding funerals.

Wells in Bloom – the decision was taken to plant out the City as normal, due to the Pandemic the planting out was carried out without the help of the volunteers for the first time ever. This was incredibly well received and it brought a positive feeling to the city throughout the summer months with an abundance of colour.

Allotments - Very successful year albeit no judging took place due to the Pandemic. Huge interest from the public wishing to place their names on the current allotment waiting list. All allotments are let and we have approximately 60 people on the list.

Barnes Close allotments now have access to water for the first time after a mains water trough was installed in December. The feedback from allotment holders has been very positive.

Skate Park – The annual safety inspection was carried out, certain areas were highlighted that required improvements. This work was put out to quotes and repairs were carried out in accordance with the report's findings. The skate park is well used by the community and improvements were well received.

Cycle racks - These were installed in the high street in the summer replacing damaged racks and were also installed at the front of the Town Hall. There are further plans to place cycle racks on other suitable sites around the City.

Christmas Lights - The Christmas Lights were once again well received by the public. These were well received by all, and plans are to replace and upgrade some of the frames this coming year.