

**CABINET – 30 October 2018**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**Public Questions**

**Question 1: Mr David Beaman, Waverley Borough and Farnham Town Councillor**

At the meeting of SCC's Cabinet held on 27th March in a response to a question from George Hesse, a local resident (and since May 2018 an elected Farnham Town Councillor) Tim Oliver (then Cabinet Member for Property & Business Services) gave details of proposals for the Library Gardens in Farnham of a major project to rebuild and repair the wall which was badly ageing and major landscaping works that were planned to create new flower beds and additional planting throughout the Summer of 2018 but there is little visible evidence of this work taking place. I would, therefore, be grateful to be updated on the following matters regarding Farnham's Library Gardens viz: -

- What progress has been made in repairing the wall?
- What landscaping to create new flower beds and additional planting was undertaken during the summer and is any further landscaping proposed?
- What progress has been made in eradicating the Japanese knotweed in the tennis courts and when is it planned to resurface the tennis courts for which Mr Oliver reported maintenance money had been set aside? and
- Are any discussions planned with Farnham Town Council regarding the taking over the contract for the maintenance of the gardens when the contract with the present provider ends in January?

**Reply:**

I am pleased to report that the contract to rebuild the wall within the Farnham Gardens has been let. This work is running approximately three months behind schedule and as such we are working with the appointed contractor over a revised timeline. As the wall is to be repaired with a lime-based mortar this needs to be undertaken in temperatures above five degrees to enable it to set properly. Therefore the work is now to be held over until the Spring 2019 when the weather is likely to be more compatible. The landscaping improvement works will be undertaken at the same time as the major wall build as it does not make sense to separate these works.

After several seasons of treatment, the Japanese Knotweed in the tennis courts has been eradicated and the courts are now open in line with the library opening hours. We will evaluate the surface of the courts and the repair as part of the next cycle of planned maintenance programme.

There are no current discussions with Farnham Town Council – the last correspondence of the matter was back in February 2018. However, we are happy to continue dialogue with the Town Council on this matter.

**Mr Colin Kemp  
Cabinet Lead Member for Place  
30 October 2018**

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