



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE 2022

The Town Council's Environmental Sustainability Policy has now been in place for around 3 years, and much has already been achieved and reported on to committees. We have continued to make progress and the following highlights our latest achievements.

Rainwater Harvest Tanks: As part of our ongoing programme, 3000 litre harvest tanks will be installed at Fernhill and Ashley in early 2023. This enables the Town Council to increase its capacity to utilise rainwater to assist in watering floral displays, sports pitches and cleaning its vehicle fleet!

Electric/Cordless Equipment: 95% of all our handheld mechanical tools used by the estates team are now cordless, the latest having gone into service recently. This means less emissions, reduced noise levels and much lower hand arm vibration values for those using the equipment. Our first cordless pedestrian collect mower will be arriving in January 2023.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Though most of this type of equipment is being rolled out by HCC/NFDC, it is planned to install at least one EVCP at Ashley Recreation Ground in spring/early summer next year as part of the Ashley improvement project.

Fawcetts Field Solar Panels: Solar panels were installed on the south and west elevations of the changing pavilion as part of the Fawcetts Field enhancement Programme in 2020. These panels were commissioned in December 2020 and to date have produced 37 MWh (37000 KWh) - reducing CO2 emissions by 9300kg.

Fawcetts Field LED Floodlights: Also, as part of the Fawcetts Field programme the old energy inefficient sodium type floodlights were replaced with new highly efficient LED lights in October 2021. These lights create 200 lux of lighting compared with 160 lux produced from the old ones. They can also be turned down to 100 lux before kick-off and during half time periods to reduce energy usage even more. The LED lighting is not only more efficient but the running costs to run are around 70% lower than the sodium type.

Fernhill Sports Ground Pavilion: The planned LED lighting upgrade of the cricket pavilion was carried out in March this year with all the existing lighting (including emergency) replaced by LED lights. The changing rooms are all on zoned motion detectors to ensure even more efficient use.

This completes the town council's LED upgrades to its three main sites with further improvements planned at Fernhill through the 2023/24 FY. These improvements will include water efficient showers and toilets along with more efficient ventilation.

Town Hall: Following requests from the Town Council, NFDC have recently completed an LED lighting upgrade to the Town Council offices and the other main areas at the town hall including the front desk area.

Tree Planting (NMTC replacement & residents plant a tree initiative): The residents plant a tree scheme was introduced in 2020 with the first tree (an elm) planted at Ashley Recreation Ground in November 2020 as part of the National Tree Week.

The scheme has continued with over 140 new trees planted so far. For this planting season (winter 2022/early spring 2023) it is planned to plant 100+ new trees around the town as part of the Town Council replanting policy, the plant a tree initiative and the Queens Green Canopy, the trees planted are of a reasonable size and good quality.

In addition, there will be 16 heritage apple trees planted adjacent to the proposed Community Garden at Moore Close.