



CIL PROJECTS REVIEW

With current CIL monies allocated and recent awards from NFDC, the following is a brief review of projects status.

Carrick Wood – Phase 2:

This award from 2025 was to construct a new gravel footpath on the western side of the woodland, this was a follow on from the phase 1 mitigation scheme carried out by NFDC on the eastern side. The work is now complete although some additional works have been identified that didn't form part of the original project, but which will see improved access to the site from Carrick Way. This work will be completed shortly and will still be within the £40k CIL awarded.

NFDC will also be invoiced for the full amount as soon as this has been completed.



The completed gravel footpath at Carrick Wood

Moore Close/Fawcetts Field

This was part of last year's CIL bids submitted in August 2025 and was for the construction of a Modular BMX Pump Track. The award was made on 15th December 2025 and was for the full bid submission of £38.8k.

The construction of the pump track forms part of the overall Fawcetts Field Vision Plan.

The exact location for the track at the site is still to be decided but work is programmed to take place later in 2026 or possibly early 2027 and will take around a month to complete.

Quotations will be sought from approved installers when the exact type and construction of the track (Loop or Free Form Track, built from existing spoil heaps, concrete, macadam or recycled modular material).

It is planned to engage with potential users to ensure that the track is suitable but compliant. We have until the end of November 2027 to have fully completed the project.



CAPEX AGREED PROJECTS 2026-27

The 2026/27 CAPEX Project expenditure of £250k (including contingencies) endorsed by members is by far the biggest since our rolling improvement programme commenced in 2018. The budget covers a wide range of improvements across the town and shows the Town Council commitment to ensuring our assets are maintained and managed to the highest standards.

Fawcetts Field – Car Park

Resurfacing of the existing gravel car park, minor drainage and upgrade of the car park lighting. It is planned to carry out the work in two phases, Phase one in 2026/27 FY (drainage, lighting and surfacing to half of the car park) and Phase two full completion in the 2027/28 FY.

Allocated Budget £57k – Work planned for May/June 2026 (out of the main football season but still allowing for other weekend activities at Fawcetts).

Fawcetts Field – Training Pitch

The existing training pitch floodlight are long overdue for upgrading with the current ones being sodium which are subject to regular failures and are not energy efficient. The training pitch is used three evenings a week during the football season Tuesday to Thursday and is well used. This lighting will be upgraded to a full LED system which provides improved lighting quality but most importantly will reduce energy costs significantly.

Allocated Budget £17.5k - Work planned for August 2026

Fernhill Sports Ground – Pavilion upgrade

Phase two of the pavilion upgrade which includes toilet refurbishment and improved changing facilities which will include separate changing for the ladies and youth teams.

Allocated Budget £48k – Work Planned for late September after the main playing season.

Fernhill Sports Ground – Roller shutters

The external roller shutter security doors are now over twenty years old and are starting to be a maintenance issue. The main shutters will be replaced with updated and more reliable ones.

Allocated Budget £12.5k – Work planned for July 2026 (weekdays only).

New Milton Recreation Ground - Outdoor Bowls, High Level Fencing

Over the last few years there have been issues with missiles being thrown over the hedge from the skatepark and on to the lower green. The incidents have now increased and has now become a serious health and safety issue with users of the green at risk of being hit by one of the missiles. During spring/summer of 2025 a temporary high-level netting system was installed to prevent this re-occurring. This structure was successful and prevented further incidents. The permanent high-level fencing will be an aesthetically pleasing structure in place of the temporary one.

Allocated Budget £15.75k – Work planned for May 2026.

New Milton Recreation Ground - MUGA upgrade, including Fencing

The current MUGA equipment has now been in-situ for ten years and is to be upgraded as much of the existing equipment damaged or worn out. The high-level perimeter fence which was part of the original tennis courts has been there much longer and is now beyond economical repair, having been identified as an H&S issue following the annual safety inspection. This fencing will be removed and replaced with a lower and suitable type of fencing (except for the outdoor bowls lower green boundary which will remain at the same height)

Allocated Budget £30.25k – Work Planned for September 2026.

War Memorial Recreation Ground - Outdoor Fitness Equipment

One piece of the outdoor fitness equipment has been removed for safety reasons, and others are no longer functioning as intended the safety surfacing is also beyond repair and is to be removed.

The equipment was installed in 2016 as part of the play area upgrade and has proved popular with all ages and families. The plan is to replace the existing equipment with updated versions and provide a more appropriate surfacing.

Allocated Budget £14k – Work Planned for June 2026

War Memorial Recreation Ground - Performance Pavilion

The performance pavilion was opened in 2013 as part of the overall Recreation Ground Vision Plan and has been used for many events over the last thirteen years. It is now in need of some refurbishment. The works will consist of re-powder coating the mainframe, replacing the high-level vent mesh and replacement of damaged soffit panels along with upgrading to more energy efficient lighting.

Allocated Budget £15k – Work planned for June 2026

NMTC Facilities General

Replace existing fire doors at various facilities identified on our fire risk assessment and subsequent inspection and report Phase two. This work needs to be carried out in 2026/27 to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire) Safety Order 2005.

Allocated Budget £9k – Work Planned for August/September 2026

Station Road - Metropolis Benches

The French Metropolis benches (33 in total) that form part of the Station Road Street Scene furniture have been in place for nearly 20 years and are becoming a costly maintenance issue with most slats now at “end of life” and the steel uprights becoming corroded. The Estates & Facilities have team have - as part of the maintenance programme - removed slats and treated them with new coats of timber preservative but the slats are now not responding to this treatment and are becoming worn.

The Metropolis benches are no longer available nor are the slats. It is therefore agreed to carry out a phased replacement programme commencing in the 2026/27 FY. The new benches would still fit in with our current Streetscene but would be low maintenance. Along side this and working with NFDC it is hoped to replace the green litter bins in the Town Centre which were installed in 2015 and are now past their best.

Agreed Phase 1 Budget £14k – Work Planned for June 2026

Agreed CAPEX 2026/27 £233k
Plus £17k (7.296%) Contingency
TOTAL £250k



NMTC – Current Operational Risk Assessments (including COSHH) Applicable to all activities including the Town Hall

Our Risk Register is updated on a regular basis as new assessments are required frequently. They are also reviewed and updated after any incident or changes in regulations.

There are forty-five Safe Systems of Work (SSoW) in place alongside our 100+ Risk Assessments.

The Estates & Facilities Team are all trained to carry out Dynamic Risk Assessments (DRA) if there is a change in circumstances when they are about to carry out a task (changes in the weather or wet surfaces) for example.

By moving to non-hazardous products where possible, we have reduced our COSHH product assessments substantially and will continue to do so where possible.

These risk assessments are reviewed regularly and at least annually.

General Risk Assessments

Adverse Weather Conditions

Aggressive and Challenging Behaviour

Allergic Reactions (General)

Animals at Public Events

Annual Act of Remembrance

Ashley Hub

Attending to Broken Windows/General Glazing

General Office

Bird Fouling & Cleaning

Breaking out Manhole/Gully Covers & Resetting

Car Parks & External Areas

Cash Handling

Cleaning & Maintenance of Machinery

Controlling Noise in the Workplace

Diabetes at Work

Digging of Holes & Trenches by Hand

Display Screen Equipment

Driving at Work

Emptying Litter/Dog Bins (Town Wide)

Electrical Contractor (Testing)

Electrical Contractor (New Works)

Electrical Contractor (General Refurbishment/Minor Works)

Electricity at Public Events

Emergency Lighting Inspection, Testing & Servicing

Erection & Dismantling of Marquees & Gazebos

External & Interior Painting & Decorating

Facilities Management (Internal Areas)

Facilities Management (External Areas)

Fire Management

Fire Risk Assessments (all Facilities) – Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety)
Order 2005

First Aid

General Building Maintenance

General Workshop Activities
General Excavation Work
General Cleaning Activities
General Groundworking Activities
General Plumbing Works
Snow/Ice Clearance & Gritting – Car Parks & Access Areas
Hand - Held Power Tools – Angle Grinder
Hand - Held Power Tools Electrical
Hand - Held Power Tools Hammer & Rotary Drills
Hand – Held Tools Jigsaw
Hand Harm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)
Hazardous Substances Spill & Clean Up Operations
Homeworking - NMTC Staff
Inspection & Use of Outdoor Play Equipment
Installation of Litter Bins & Benches Including Concrete Bases
Laying of Cold Lay Macadam
Legionella (General)
Legionella Specific (all facilities)
Litter Picking & Disposal
Loading & Unloading of Vehicles
Lone Working – General
Lone Working – Out of Normal Hours
Manual Handling - TILE (Task, Individual, Load, Environment)
Maintenance of Highway/Roadside Verges
Maintenance of Sports Pitches & Surfaces

Martyn's Law (Standard Tier)

Martyn's Law (Enhanced Tier)

Mounting & Installation of Floral Baskets Using a MEWP (Mobile Elevated Platform)

Moving Furniture & Equipment

NMTC Street Trading

NMTC Summer Afternoons of Music

Pest Control (Rodents)

Pest Control (Wasps)

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

Pressure Washing Activities

Preparation & Laying of Kerbs/Paving Slabs

Public & General Events

Outdoor Working in the Sun

Open Water & Watercourses

Removal & Disposal of Sharps/Needles

Removal Of Hogweed

Reversing/Manoeuvring of Vehicles & Machinery

Safe use of Generators (Petrol/Electric)

Safeguarding

Servicing & Maintenance of Fire Alarm Systems

Servicing & Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers

Servicing of Gas Boilers

Servicing of HVAC (Heating, Cooling & Air Conditioning) Units

Servicing & Repair of Roller Shutter Doors

Tree Planting

Use of Cordless Hedge Cutter

Use of Petrol Hedge Cutter

Use of Hand Mowers (Petrol)

Use of Hand Mowers (Cordless)

Use of Cordless Strimmer

Use of Hand Tools

Use of Petrol Strimmer

Use of Cordless Leaf Blowers

Use of Compact Tractor & Attachments

Use of Electric Paper Shredder

Use of PTO Drive Shafts

Use of Office Photocopier

Use of Knives, Scissors & Sharp Hand Tools

Use of Ride on Flail & Rotary Mowers

Volunteers (General Assessment)

Waste Management Collection & Removal

Working at Height Using Hop Up's or Step Ladders

Working at Height Using Podium Steps (3m Maximum Height)

Working at Height Using Ladders

Work Placements at NMTC Facilities/Town Hall

Working Safely on Flat Roofs

COSHH Assessments

Aerosol Line Marking Paint

Antifreeze

Adblue (Diesel Additive)

Blackfriar Anti-Clime Paint

Bowcom Supreme Sports Pitch Marking Paint

Bradite Floor Paint

Cellulose Thinners

Cement (Ordinary Portland)

Cementone Aquaprufe Waterproofer

Cleenol Hard Surface Cleaner

Cleenol Toilet Cleaner

Cleenol Multi-Surface Cleaner

Cold Lay Macadam

De-icer

Diesel Fuel

Dulux Stabilising Primer

Dulux Trade Emulsion

Dulux Trade Gloss

Epoxy Grout

Epoxy Resin

Engine Oil

Evo-Stik Contact Adhesive

Expanding Foam

Fairy Washing Up Liquid

Flashband

General Fertiliser

General Sand & Aggregates (non-limestone)

Graffiti Remover

Hammerite/Rustoleum

Hydraulic Oil

Miracle Gro All Purpose Soluble Plant Food

Mould Remover

Mr. Muscle

Multipurpose Grease

Screen Wash

Petrol (Regular, Unleaded)

Pine Disinfectant

Postcrete & PVA

Ready Mixed Concrete & Mortar

Rock Salt

Silicone Sealant

Toilet Duck

Type 1 Aggregate

Ultimate Wood Stain

Viakal Limescale Remover

Water Based Fence Paint

White Marine Salt

White Spirit

Wood Glue



Revised Tree Work Policy A Guide for Residents

1. We are in a very fortunate position to live and work in the New Forest area, with thousands of visitors flocking to the region each year to appreciate the lush, picturesque landscapes that surround us. New Milton, Barton-on-Sea and district also benefit from many specimens of trees that have been standing for hundreds of years, far outdating some of the housing in the town. Thankfully proposed new developments are mindful of the value of trees, in particular native species, often significantly adding to the biodiversity for a site and bound by **stricter** planning conditions **than in the past**.
2. Significant changes in our environmental responsibilities have occurred since this policy was first issued, not least the widening actions needed to combat the effects of climate change. Furthermore, the Town Council has been proactive in managing the environment and seeking ways to encourage others to appreciate biodiversity. In recognition of this, the authority has enshrined within the Neighbourhood Plan a Biodiversity policy that is part of the review ~~taking place in 2025~~ **due for adoption in 2026**, stating developments will need to 'maximise the opportunities available for tree canopy cover including tree retention and planting'. There are several areas in the town, including Barton Common and Ballard Meadow that are Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (S.I.N.C.). These sites support an estimated 20,000 trees.
3. The Town Council is a major landowner in the town. As landowners responsible for trees, we have a duty of care to manage the land in the best interests for nature conservation, to support and encourage public access whilst taking reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm to people or property. To fulfil this, Town Council trees are proactively assessed on a cyclical basis, through a Tree Management contract with New Forest District Council. We have prioritised categories of sites as below (para. 9), and their Arboriculturist inspects the sites and advises us of the work necessary which is then instructed.
4. Pruning may reduce a tree's amenity value and cause damage which might lead to decay or disease. A tree's value is not only aesthetic, collectively they also
 - control storm water, reducing the risk of flooding
 - conduct the capture & storage of carbon dioxide
 - increase sense of well-being
 - the presence of trees can add 5-15% to the value of property, up to 27% to the value of undeveloped land
 - buffer cold winds therefore lower heating costs
 - remove air pollutants
 - provide invertebrate, bird and bat habitats

Many of these can be reduced when non-essential pruning takes place.

5. There is a presumption against pruning or felling of any tree on Town Council land unless it is
 - As part of our Tree Management contract with New Forest District Council;
 - To prevent foreseeable injury to persons (assessed by Town Council with NFDC);
 - To prevent foreseeable damage to property (Subsidence concern must be first addressed to your house insurance company who will contact us directly. The safety of a tree will be assessed by NFDC, and their decision is final);
 - Statutory works to maintain clearances for paths and roads;
 - Necessary on designated S.I.N.C. as part of an agreed management policy where nature conservation interests require minimal tree removal to create a mosaic of habitats for wildlife;
 - To improve the growth of other trees;
 - To reduce or prevent the spread of disease or other works in the interests of good tree management.

The Town Council will ensure that at least 2 trees of native origin are planted for each tree felled on Town Council land. (Separate policy document applies).

6. This policy supersedes any previous arrangement of tree maintenance of Town Council land. If the advice is to fell a tree for one of the above reasons, the Town Council will adhere to its own Tree Replacement Policy.
7. Circumstances where the Town Council **will not** prune or fell trees include
- Overhanging branches
 - Loss of light
 - Loss of TV reception
 - Nuisance from fallen leaves, twigs, cones, Honeydew drip, deposits e.g. bird droppings etc.
8. Things you can do

Trees that are covered by Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area

Neighbours must seek consent for the work from the Local Planning Authority. Most of the town is covered by the New Forest District Council tree team, contactable on 02380 285345. The northern part of Bashley ward is covered by the National Park Authority, contactable on 01590 646620. The Town Council Planning Committee is advised of all applications for works to these protected trees and will comment accordingly.

Trees that are **not** covered by a Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area

Neighbours have a **right in common law to prune overhanging growth back to the boundary line, ensuring those actions do not unbalance the crown.** Height reduction is not permitted in this common law right. Please see next paragraph regarding the arisings from such pruning.

In both circumstances

Although the land we own is public open space, residents nor their contractors can enter the land to conduct works to trees without Town Council consent. If employing the services of a contractor for pruning, the tree surgeon will only be able to prune from your side of the boundary. If they require access to the Town Council side, they must contact us to provide a copy of their Public Liability (£5m), Health & Safety and Environmental Sustainability policy documents, as we have a duty to safeguard others using the land. If a resident's actions/instructions leave a tree in such a condition that works are needed to make it safe, or damage or injury is caused, they are likely to be liable. Any works should be kept to an absolute minimum. Arisings remain the property of the tree owner and by law should be offered back. It is the Town Council's policy to decline their return and therefore any arisings should be disposed of appropriately and not be deposited over the boundary. This can damage trees (preventing root access to air and water), can make tree assessment more difficult (important defects may be invisible beneath piled up arisings) and can also lead to damage of boundary fences. In most cases it is acceptable to appropriately dispose of arisings, by being taken off site to the green waste area at your local amenity site or removed by your contractor.

9. Tree Management Cyclical Inspections

The highest risk areas will be subjected to annual inspections. We will conduct in-house inspection of the same sites the next working day following a storm event as advised by the Met Office, as case law has determined appropriate (Whitley Parish Council vs Cavanagh 2019) All other sites will be inspected as indicated below, **on a 4-year rotation.**



ANNUAL (High Risk)					
1	War Memorial Recreation Ground	High use year-round	35	Fernhill Lane	Matures near primary road
7	Great Ballard Lake (SINC)	High use year-round	37	Carrick Way/Caird Avenue	High use path to supermarket
16	Fernhill Lane	Matures near primary road	41	Ashington Park	High use path to supermarket
21	Danewood Estate (SINC)	Matures near primary road	42	Forest Oak Drive	Matures near primary road
24	Rear of Western Avenue	High use, predominant			
				2027/28	
	2026/27		1	War Memorial Recreation Ground	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>
2	Ashley Sports Ground		4	Chaucombe Green	
3	Lower Ashley	Former playground	5	Barton Common	SINC
12	Willowdene Copse		6	Long Meadow	
15	Lower Ashley allotments		20	Fawcetts Field	Including football club
17	Faircourt, York Avenue		24	Rear of Western Avenue	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>
18	Lymington Road allotments		25	Becton Lane allotments	
37	Carrick Way/ Caird Avenue	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>	30	Moore's Close	Part of Fawcetts Field
41	Ashington Park	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>	32	Carrick Way Woodland	
49	Fernhill - northern field		46	Fawcetts north field	Part of Fawcetts Field
50	Youth & Family Hub, Gore Road			2029/30	
			8	Brook Avenue	Opposite Ballard
			11	Oakwood Avenue	
	2028/29		13	Upper Ashley allotments	Allotment site
7	Great Ballard Lake	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>	14	Middle Ashley allotments	Allotment site
10	Ashley Crossroads		16	Fernhill Lane	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>
27	Chatsworth Park		19/21	Danewood estate	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>
35	Fernhill Lane	<i>Annual site – detailed inspection year</i>	26	Hollands Wood Drive	Part of Danewood estate
36	Fernhill Lane Sports Ground		28	Cull Lane	Part of Danewood estate
43	Ballard Meadows	SINC	33	Fernhill Lane	Same area as 16/42
44	Stem Lane	Plus 38 on deeds	42	Forest Oak Drive	
			45	Earlwood Park	
			48	Ashley Lower Field	

Christmas Lighting Display 2025-26

Despite continued challenges this year including frequent poor weather, once remedied the display took on a glorious life of its own! It's so lovely to see the town come alight and feature one of the New Forest most incredible features; its trees. The three mature trees close to Boots, Toys and what is now Grape Tree were stripped of the old strings and new 'Boa' lights were fitted. The same was done for the two Silver Birch outside the empty Vision Express unit. This change gave a welcome boost to the display, purchased for their greater flexibility at the roadside with passing larger vehicles. The panels at Tesco were beyond repair and after a brief time, the one above Oakhaven also failed, so the contractor loaned us some that were in keeping with the display.

Once lit, the Old Milton tree was resplendent and the same can be said for the Oak by the Fire Station! These are so impactful and give a well appreciated lift. Once again Station Road roundabout was complimented by a lit tree, Ashley Infant School beautifully decorated the cut tree at the crossroads, and the Barton tree managed to withstand the battering from frequent wind and rain thanks to its firm fixing.

DPR Home Improvements took on the sponsorship for the Fire Station tree and a small street tree by Marks & Spencer, with Hays Travel covering the cut tree at Ashley crossroads. It's always exciting when new sponsors see the value in this community project. Many thanks go to all local organisations and businesses that understand the huge positive impact this project has to wellbeing, and its supportive element for the towns shopping experience. We do not underestimate the efforts these sponsors make to ensure the display gets the necessary support, enabling us to deliver quality illuminations as the backdrop to the Lions event and beyond.

	<p>NECESSARY FOR 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsorship for 10 smaller street trees• Sponsorship for Ashley cut tree• Repair/replace 2 x panels at Tesco Express / 1 x Oakhaven• Replace timers from analogue to WIFI	
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INCOME				PAYMENTS		
	Amount	Net		Service	Net	
Approved budget	25,500.00	25,500.00		Installation contract	8,550.00	
Sponsorship deals	3,515.45	2,021.00	received	1. Infrastructure	2,059.38	
				includes trees, electricity and wall brackets		
Donations		0.00		2. Safety Tests	3,248.00	
				3. Replacement and repairs	11,602.80	
				includes banners, bulbs, plaques, icicle replace		
				4. Sundries – Cable ties etc.	256.25	
						Balance
TOTAL		27, 521.00		TOTAL	25,716.43	1,804.58

SPONSORS LIST			
Advertiser & Times	BAKE	Bethel House Care Home	Bradbeer's
Charles Nobel	DPR Home Improvements	Dixon Stewart	A Harris & Co.
Hays Travel	House of Hair	Kimber's Carpets	Lions Club of New Milton
New Forest Stationers	New Life Church	New Milton Pharmacy	NM Residents Association
New Milton Sand & Ballast	Sullivan Lawford		
Cllr G Blunden	Cllr D Hawkins	Cllr A O'Sullivan	
DONATION	(Electric) Brewers	(Electric) Hardy's Electrical	(Electric) Bradbeers
	(Electric) Euronics		(Electric) Heppenstall's