



Parkers Farm Community Centre
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Item 10 (2) – Maintenance Team Updates

Stephen Johnson – Senior Maintenance Operative (SMO)

- **Staff** – We are currently recruiting for two new Maintenance Operative positions. Applications close on **31st July 2026**. In June, our staff assisted at Birchwood Carnival.
- **Litter Picking** – We recently trialled litter picking on Mondays and Fridays only, so the team could spend more time on hedge cutting, which was usually carried out on Wednesdays and Thursdays. After three weeks, we found that all three areas were starting to look untidy due to the build-up of litter. As Birchwood Town Council is the only organisation carrying out litter picking in the area, staff were also not visiting each area as often, meaning they weren't spotting issues they would normally identify. We have now returned to our previous schedule. During the trial, visual inspections and litter removal around parks, shops and schools continued as normal, and these remain the first tasks the team completes each morning.
- **Cutting Jobs** – Since my last report, the team has completed **34** additional cutting jobs. With reduced staff numbers and the variety of other tasks we carry out, it has been difficult to keep on top of all the cutting work. We have therefore decided to prioritise safety-related jobs, such as improving sightlines and clearing overgrown footpaths near roads. We are only able to carry out work on shrubs owned by WBC, as YHG has its own grounds maintenance team. However, where there are safety concerns involving YHG shrubs, we will always try to help where we can.
- **Flytipping** – Since my last report, the team has removed **7** flytipping incidents and reported a number of others to the relevant landowners where they were outside our responsibility. Since January 2026, we have filled three or four large shipping containers (provided by YHG) with waste collected from YHG land. Flytipping found on WBC land can be disposed of through WBC's usual waste facilities.

Most of the flytipping we deal with is on YHG land. However, we have recently noticed an increase in waste from house clearances being dumped on WBC land. There were two recent incidents on the footbridge at Warrington Road, Locking Stumps. A resident reported the first incident, which our team cleared, but more waste was dumped in the same location the following day. We referred the matter to WBC so they could investigate, and they were able to recover identifying information from some of the rubbish.



- **Working for the Community** – The team recently took part in a community clean-up day on the Redshank Estate in Oakwood. We were invited by YHG, who organised the event, and they provided several skips for residents to dispose of unwanted items that may otherwise have been flytipped or left around their homes. The full maintenance team, along with the Deputy Clerk, attended the event and spent two hours helping. The skips arrived at 10:00am and were full by 11:30am. It also gave us a good opportunity to work alongside YHG staff and speak with local residents.



- **Planters** – We are now in full swing with our summer planters and 8 hanging baskets (located at Birchwood Shopping Centre). All plants are watered 2-3 times per week and with the recent hot weather we have been experiencing, some planters are taking up to 250 litres of water.
- **Rubbish Bins** – All bins are emptied twice a week, although some require an additional empty during the week. We have noticed an increase in residents using public bins for household waste, which causes them to fill more quickly and makes them much heavier for the team to empty.



Areas

- **Gorse Covert** – The main issues in Gorse Covert continue to be grass cutting and overgrown shrubs. As there are several different landowners in the area, we first need to establish who owns the land before we can carry out any cutting work.

We do not deal with many litter or flytipping issues in Gorse Covert.

- **Oakwood** – One of the main issues in Oakwood continues to be flytipping, particularly around the YHG container on the Redshank Estate.

We also regularly deal with litter and flytipping around the High School, Asda and Chatfield Drive, especially around the bin stores serving the flats.

Flytipping on green spaces also remains an ongoing issue.

- **Locking Stumps** – The main issue we continue to see in Locking Stumps is the maintenance of green spaces.

There are occasional problems with litter and flytipping, although these are mainly on YHG land.