

Clerk's Report:

Environment and Leisure Committee 10 October 2022

1. Power on the Hill

- 1.1. Doyle Electrical will repair and test the power outlets on the Hill during October. The top power outlet will be a twin standard plug socket together with a twin USB

2. Lighting on the Hill

- 2.1. Doyle Electrical will check the transformer unit on the southern plane tree and repair if possible
- 2.2. The failed lights in the plane trees cannot be repaired as the Chinese transformer units provide no indication of power output. The lights will be low voltage but there is no indication of what this is. An internet search for replacement transformer units has been unsuccessful. Doyle Electrical will not replace them with similar because of the unknown power output and any replacement could therefore not be certified for safety.
- 2.3. Replacement lighting for the Plane trees therefore needs to be considered and should be synchronised with any tree work. Doyle Electrical have said they can replace all lights and controllers if required. To be discussed at agenda point 11
- 2.4. Value for money; While Doyle Electrical are a trusted regular supplier, the replacement of all lights is likely to be over £300 and therefore additional quotes will be required
- 2.5. The possibility of replica trees for the wall sockets has been investigated in order to reduce the environmental impact of using then shredding real trees. There are replica trees available and there are light systems that are battery powered, programmable and suitable for outdoor use. However, there do not appear to be any pre lit trees that meet these requirements. To be discussed at agenda point 10.2

3. Allotments

- 3.1. Allotment rent is being collected using cashless payments this year as agreed with the Allotment Association. A new allotment register has been developed in conjunction with the Allotment Association and all except 13 rent letters were sent by email.
- 3.2. Allotment tenancy agreements will be reviewed before next September to ensure that all allotments holders have the latest agreement.
- 3.3. Rats at Simons Cross continue to be an issue East Suffolk Pest Control have put boxes down, however, there are still issues:
 - Chicken food is still available to rats, so they are not taking the bait.
 - It should be noted that there is no completely effective rat proof chicken feeder, however, most of the feeders at the SX allotments provide little of no impediment to rats eating the food
 - Chicken food has been put in the box entrances, so rats don't take the bait
 - East Suffolk Pest Control recommend that chicken owners only put sufficient food out for each day so there is none available for rats
- 3.4. A poultry keepers audit is being arranged to ensure poultry food is not available to rats as an attraction
- 3.5. Pedestrian gates for Glebe have not yet been ordered as these are low priority compared to safety and environmental health issues.