

The City Council were delighted to see our beautiful Churchill Gardens used to such good effect as a backdrop for Wiltshire Creative's stunning production of *The Tempest*.

Our first grass cutting round of the season took 30 working days to complete. The spring weather was ideal for grass to grow quickly, and we have had new team members to train, various bank holidays and some staff vacancies to contend with, and our grounds operation supervisor has got stuck in and helped whereas he would normally be more office-based. But our team are aiming for 5 grass cuts this year, whereas under the old idVerde contract there were three, so that's good news.

On the events front, following a busy Coronation weekend, our themed street sellers' markets continue to be very successful, offering family fun without the need to spend a lot of money. Last month's dog show-themed event was particularly popular, and this month's theme of dinosaurs was causing excitement among younger residents at the time of writing. Our Motor Show, featuring more than 100 vehicles of all ages, is coming up on Sunday (18th), and Armed Forces Day follows on the 26th. Our staff work extremely hard over these summer weekends to put on such a range of events and we are very grateful for their professionalism and enthusiasm.

Our accessibility and inclusion task group is off to a great start, working in conjunction with Wiltshire highways officers on identifying where metal barriers across paths make life difficult for wheelchair users and parents with buggies, so that these obstacles can be removed or altered to make them more easily negotiable.

The council leaders have begun a conversation with the Conservative group about consultation over future budgets. The city now has to meet the bill for the Parish Poll which was just under £40,000.

The leaders have also had a positive conversation with the Police & Crime Commissioner about anti-social behaviour issues and about the location of the new policing hub. They were pleased to hear that the city will have 10 new officers by September, and that recruitment of PCSOs is continuing.

We continue to build relationships with our neighbouring parishes and to participate in the Place Partnership, looking forward to the impact of Bradbeers and Primark on the city's economy.

We have taken part in a consultation organised by Wiltshire Council about how the planning system is working for parishes. Our own Neighbourhood Plan is progressing slowly. It is currently with a designer, being prepared for submission to Wiltshire Council for their further comments.