

Swanley Town Council

Civic Centre, St Marys Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BU

Tel: 01322 665855

www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

ESTATES AND FACILITIES

Date 10th October 2019

A meeting of the above committee will be held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on **Wednesday 16th October 2019 from 7:30pm** or at the conclusion of the public participation session.



Mr S Nash
CEO / Town Clerk

Committee Members: (Chair) Cllr S Andrews, (Deputy Chair) Cllr L Ball,
Cllr C Barnes, Cllr J Domigan, Cllr M Foster, Cllr J Griffiths,
Cllr T Searles, Cllr J Tuckfield

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

If required, the meeting will be preceded by a public participation period of up to 15 minutes in total at 7:30pm. Members of the public are also entitled to speak, during the meeting, on agenda items only and with express permission from the Chairman / Mayor. Those wishing to speak on an Agenda item must indicate this during Public Participation.

RECORDING (AUDIO AND / OR VIDEO OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

During this meeting the public are allowed to record the Committee and Officers from the front of the public seating area only, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. Any items in the exempt Part of an agenda cannot be recorded and no recording device is to be left behind. If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) recording must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted, but all members of the public are requested to switch their mobile phone devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

MOBILE PHONES

Member of the public are reminded that the use of mobile phones (other than on silent) is prohibited at Town Council and Committee meetings.

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2019

4. PARKS DIRECTOR

To comment on the report and ask questions of the Director – Report A

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

5. TO CONSIDER THE LOCATION OF THE NEW HEALTH HUB

The CEO to report

6. RESIGNATION OF SENIOR STAFF

The CEO to report

7. OFFERS ON PROPERTIES

To consider housing offers - See attached

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 22nd January 2019

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Mr Steve Nash, on 01322 611663 or snash@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

To: Estates & Facilities Committee

From: Ryan Hayman Park Director

Date: 16 October 2019

Subject: Estates & Facilities update

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To inform the committee of any new projects, bookings or changes to operations.

2. Recommendations

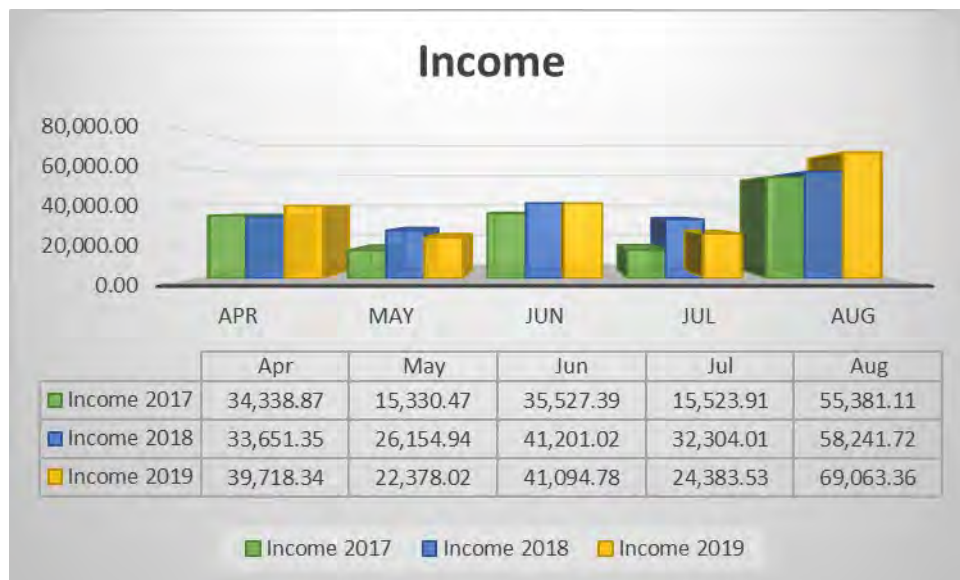
2.1 To accept the update report and note any new bookings/changes to operations.

3. Background and information

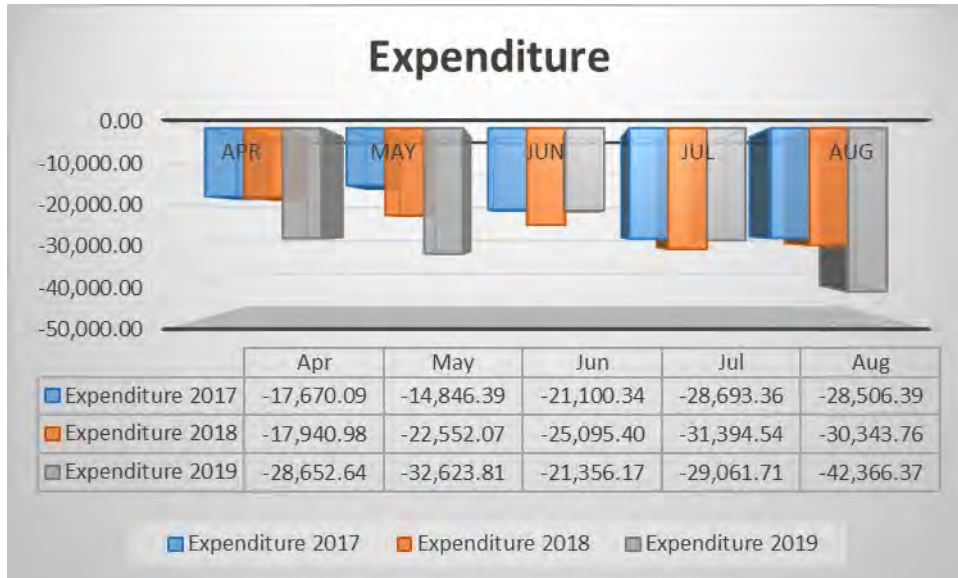
3.1 Swanley Park

3.1.1 Performance –

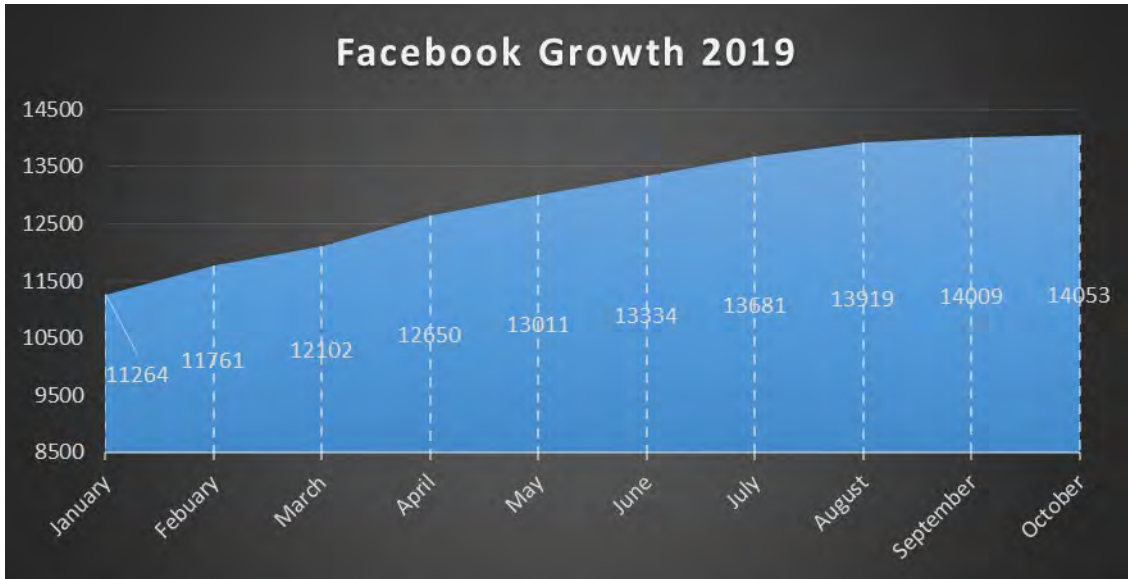
- 2019 for Swanley Park has seen improved income in April and August compared to 2018. When compared to 2017 each month has seen a considerable increase in turnover.



- Expenditure has risen sharply in three months of the season to date. This is fundamentally down to the repair of the pool in April (£ 9,251.29). The purchase of a truck in May (£ 5,355.34). The absorbing of 1812 expenditure for the first time in August (£12,040.37). In total these exceptional costs account for £26,647.00 of spending.



- Social Media has grown by over 25% since the beginning of the year. We have also received over **64 Thousand 'Check In's'** to date and our posts have reached in excess of **2.23 Million Facebook Users** this year alone



- Visitor satisfaction is around the 90% mark across all three major reviewing platforms. Trip Advisor has had a 10% percentage point increase in satisfaction from 80% - 90% this year. Furthermore, this led to us being awarded a certificate of excellence, an exclusive award only given to 1% of businesses on Trip Advisor.



3.1.2 Developments –

The Splash Pool project is well underway with a new wider path and extended fenced area being built. The Park Manager and Park Rangers have installed these elements ensuring the project remains on track. The Pool has now been shut down ready for contractors to come in and start the on-site works.

The Soft Play planning submission has gone into the authorities and is awaiting approval. In the meantime specific internal changes are being made as per recommendations from a structural engineer. For instance the first job was to replace the stud wall which will eventually lead into the party room.

Finally, fencing has been purchased which will be used to extend the allotment plots available at Swanley Park. The grounds team will be fitting these.



3.1.3 Green Space and Other Improvements –

In addition to normal assigned duties, the grounds staff have assisted in further improvement projects. Various work has been undertaken to help clear excess growth at the Woodlands site, prior to handover. This has been appreciated by the home owners along the fence line of the site. The improvements can be noted between the before and after photos below.

Before



After



All the netball court surfaces have now been; repaired, cleaned, line marked and covered with an anti-slip (blue) safety surface. New posts have also been purchased by Swanley Town Council and installed by the grounds team.



A number of improvements to allotments which were unkempt have been made by the team. The team have also helped out at all Council events over the past three months. Grass cutting has been the main focus for this quarter and cuts to former Kent County Council (KCC) responsible sites have been increased from 4 by KCC to 7 by our grounds team. The team will soon undertake the last grass cutting of the winter. After which, tree work and hedge work is scheduled in. This will include the removal of all the dead trees within the circular formation of trees at the lower field of Swanley Park.

3.1.4 Park Events –

The summer season commenced with the outside cinema experience, which showed The Greatest Showman and Mamma Mia 2. The former grossing £7,834.12 at the box office and the latter £3,505.60. Meaning the park received £1,653.71, with additional income being received from the car parks.



The second major event saw the return of Happy's Circus. 3 days and 6 performances delighted the crowds who had come out despite terrible weather. We once again gained income from the car parks for hosting this event.



The August Bank Holiday weekend saw the return of 1812 Night and the second Folk Festival. 8000-10,000 people attended the 1812 show which was an almighty success with particular positive comments about the; ease of car parking, fireworks, lighting and stall choice. It was generally considered to have been the best 1812 event to date. The next day the Folk Festival returned, this was much better attended event than 2018 with 1000 people throughout the day enjoying the various artist perform. Financially, the cost of running these events has become substantially less of a burden to the Council. In total there has been a 35% percentage point reduction (2018 = £15,784.12 & 2019 = £10,327.51) of the overall loss in running both events, this is despite some big spends this year which will not be repeated in 2020.



3.1.5 Park Winter Closing – From October 27th 2019 Park activities will be closed until spring 2020. Although a select few could potentially open in Mid-February if weather and the project works allow. The Inflatables, Hand Boats, JCB Digger, The Plunge, Battery Cars and Lake Boats will be placed in storage by 1st November to minimise winter damage.

3.1.6 Swanley In Bloom –

Swanley Park won two of the four awards that Swanley Town Council received in Brighton at the South & South East in Bloom ceremony. The nature reserve, ran by Swanley Wildlife & Nature Group won Silver Gilt award the 2nd highest accolade. The park won a Silver Gilt award for ‘Large Park for the Year’, scoring the highest marks within the category.



3.1.7 Doggie Day Care – The Park Director and leading Park Ranger on the project, have undertaken a Pet First Aid course to ensure that they are fully qualified to open a dog day care drop of centre. The project will allow park visitors to use all the park activities when normally they might be restricted by bringing a dog into the park. Located next to The Great Outdoors, a fenced area and reception building will be constructed to ensure a secure site for all dogs. All relevant paperwork and licence terms have been drawn up. The project is now awaiting for the fence to be installed so a licence representative can agree the project is compliant to the licencing terms.

5. Conclusions

5.1 As highlighted in this report, we continue to aim to maximise the use of our facilities, whilst also generating additional income for the Council.

Ryan Hayman

Park Director