

**NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR W FORSTER – GREEN FLAG AWARD**

**Executive Summary**

At its meeting on 8 April 2021, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor W Forster

“This Council notes that more people than normal have enjoyed spending time in Woking’s parks since the first national lockdown was ordered due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Council acknowledges that one of the Borough’s open spaces, Brookwood Cemetery, has been granted a Green Flag Award, whereas in neighbouring Guildford Borough, ten of their parks have Green Flag Awards. The Council notes that our parks could be better managed for the residents who use them, the environment and future of our Borough.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to ask Officers to investigate how to improve the Borough’s parks and open spaces so more would be eligible for a Green Flag Award and enable local people to enjoy their leisure time in better public spaces.”

Officer Comment

“It has been pleasing to see how well used and appreciated Woking’s parks have been over the course of the past year, a trend that we hope to see continue. Despite some of the maintenance challenges that have resulted from this, there are also opportunities.

Officers continue to work with the Council’s environmental maintenance contractor to explore areas for improvement across our parks, both in terms of individual enhancement works and through management practices. These ongoing discussions will make use of the Green Flag Award criteria as a guide for assessing and identifying areas for improvement, so that we can work towards more of our parks meeting the requirements in the future.

With the current environmental maintenance contract coming to an end in March 2023, there is also an opportunity to prepare the new tender specification with the Green Flag Award criteria in mind. This will help ensure that the appropriate standards required for Green Flag are maintained.”

**Background Papers:** None.

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**Date Published:** 9 June 2021