

Key points at a glance

- **Festive wishes** to all residents, with recognition that the season means different things to different people
 - **New grounds maintenance contractor** to be appointed in the New Year following the end of the existing contract
 - **Priority work** will focus on clearing accumulated leaves from the amenity areas
 - **Tree safety review completed**, including the removal of a hazardous silver birch near Deadwater Nature Reserve
 - **Risk assessment matrix** now in place and available to view on the website
 - **Historic administrative and accounting issues resolved**, allowing clearer future financial planning
 - **Woodland Trust support secured**, providing free tree and hedgerow saplings from spring
 - **Plans for re-wilding and biodiversity**, alongside routine maintenance, across both amenity areas
 - **Residents invited to contribute photos** of scenery, wildlife, and skies for the website
 - **Ongoing communications planned**, with newsletters and an AGM expected in spring or early summer
-

Festive wishes

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to wish all residents a peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year. We also recognise that Christmas may not be a time of celebration for everyone, so whatever you find yourself doing over the festive period, we hope it brings you comfort, happiness and peace.

Amenity areas – year-end update

We would like to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on activity over the last four months since assuming responsibility for the running of Formalsecure.

During this period, our ability to make immediate changes to the two amenity areas has been limited by the existing grounds maintenance contract, which runs until the end of December. We are aware that some residents have previously raised concerns about the scope and delivery of this contract, and we apologise that, despite several attempts, we were unable to make changes before its expiry.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we will be appointing a new grounds maintenance contractor. Once the tender process is complete, the first priority will be the removal of accumulated dead leaves that have collected within the undergrowth. Following this initial work, we are confident that the maintenance plan we have developed will allow these areas to recover and flourish.

We recognise that there has been dissatisfaction in the past with maintenance standards. These concerns will be specifically addressed within the new contract. For this reason, we kindly ask that no work is undertaken within the amenity areas other than by the appointed contractors. If you feel that work is not being carried out to an acceptable standard, please contact us and we will investigate and address the issue as soon as reasonably possible.

Safety and tree management

Behind the scenes, considerable work has been undertaken to review safety within the amenity areas. A comprehensive risk assessment matrix has now been completed and is available on the website for anyone who wishes to view it.

As part of this process, we consulted the Green Spaces team at East Hampshire District Council, who confirmed that a silver birch near the gateway to the Deadwater Nature Reserve required urgent removal. This work has now been completed.

Formalsecure is responsible for approximately 15 mature trees, together with a larger number of smaller trees and shrubs. While it would not be cost-effective to commission full arboricultural surveys for every tree, we intend to monitor the larger trees annually. If residents notice any trees that appear to present an obvious risk, we would be grateful if you could let us know so that the situation can be assessed and, if necessary, remedial action taken.

There are also some historic issues relating to the amenity areas which remain under review. Further information will be shared in due course where appropriate.

Maintenance fees and administration

Since taking over, our Treasurer, John Spence, has worked closely with the accountants to address a number of historic administrative and financial matters that required urgent attention. These have now been resolved, and our procedures have been aligned with current Companies House requirements, including the move towards increased digitisation.

With these matters in hand, we are now in a much stronger position to plan accurately and responsibly for the future.

Future plans

Our long-term aim is to enhance and protect the two amenity areas while supporting local wildlife and biodiversity. A key element of this plan is the planting of new trees and hedgerows.

We intend to designate different sections of the amenity areas for routine maintenance and for re-wilding, allowing natural regeneration and encouraging biodiversity. We are delighted to confirm that the Woodland Trust has agreed to provide an ongoing supply of tree and hedgerow saplings at no cost. We expect to receive our first delivery in the spring.

Further details will be shared nearer the time, including opportunities for residents to assist with planting if they wish.

Community contributions and the website

We now have space on the website to showcase photographs taken around the Chase. These might include scenery, wildlife, plants, or even the skies above us. If you or your children would like to contribute, please email photographs to [Formalsecure](#) for possible inclusion.

Communications and meetings

As discussed at the EGM, we intend to maintain regular communication with residents so that you are kept informed about how funds are being used and what work is being undertaken. We will continue to issue newsletters at intervals to share updates, highlight any concerns, and stay connected as a community.

We also plan to hold an AGM in the spring or early summer, with details to follow. We can reassure you that costs will be kept firmly under control — and there may even be biscuits!

Closing

Finally, thank you for your patience and understanding as we have worked through the transition to new management. Much of the groundwork has been necessary but unseen. As we enter the New Year, we look forward to working with you to deliver our plans and continue improving the amenity areas for everyone.