

PARKS REPORT  
RLA – 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

The programme of Children's Summer Entertainment put on by the council throughout the school holidays this year was very popular and well attended.

- Swanscombe Park:

We have had problems with the bowls green playing surface this season. The green never fully recovered from disease infestation during the winter months and has not looked at its best although staff have worked hard to achieve an acceptable playing surface. Hopefully the autumn renovation work at the end of the season will result in an improved surface next year.

Shrub and tree pruning is underway.

- Manor Park:

Shrub and tree pruning will be undertaken during the autumn.

- Broomfield:

Another cricket season has ended and the cricket square has stood up well throughout. Swanscombe and Greenhithe 1880 Cricket Club won their league this year and have written to the council to thank the parks staff for their efforts in producing excellent wickets. Autumn renovations to the cricket square are due to take place.

The free open air cinema screening at the end of August was well attended and a great success.

Two of the concrete fence posts on the perimeter of the park have been replaced. All football pitches have been measured, squared up and marked out and the football season is underway.

The Japanese Knotweed that was creeping over our boundary from a neighbouring property seems to have been dealt with by the property owner, staff will continue to monitor the situation.

The damaged mesh on one of the kissing gates has been repaired by a contractor.

- Knockhall:

The first free open air cinema screening event in early August was extremely popular and very well attended.

Work to replace the slide on the junior multiplay unit has been completed by contractors.

The Parks Staff have replaced a broken gate spring.

Both football pitches have been measured, squared up and marked and have already been in use for a month.

The changing rooms are due to be deep/steam cleaned by a contractor and the paintwork will be freshened up by the Parks Staff

Issues with the new swing set have been resolved by the installers.

- **Heritage Park:**

A post supporting the rolling log section of the play equipment has been broken by ASB and we are awaiting its replacement by contractors.

Reports of motorbike nuisance have dropped off over the summer months.

- **Saxon Court:**

Issues with the new swing set have been resolved by the installers.

Trees and shrubs will be pruned over the coming weeks.

- **Valley View:**

Trees and shrubs will be pruned as part of our autumn/winter schedule.

- **Equipment:**

Both vans are due for service in October.

- **Staff**

Unfortunately Employee 7 was required to undertake 2 weeks (10 days) of jury service during July 2017 and Employee 63 was absent due to ill health for 14 days during August 2017.

Nb.

To minimize the negative impact these absences had on the work schedule a contractor was used to undertake the daily site checks and litter picks during these periods as well as assist with the bowls green preparation.

**Recommended:**

To note.



EXTRACT OF MINUTES

**78/17-18. BENCHES IN PARKS/PLAY AREAS.**

Members considered the installation of additional benches at the Swanscombe Heritage Park and also a bench at Valley View Play Area, Greenhithe as this was the only play area that did not currently have a bench in it.

After discussion it was agreed the Friends of the Heritage Park should be consulted for their views on the location of x2 new traditional benches in the Swanscombe Heritage Park (football training area).

It was also agreed that the current yellow metal bench in Broomfield Park, Swanscombe should be replaced and that the ATC/RFO should submit a funding application to the Kent County Council Members Grant Scheme for this replacement bench and the new traditional bench at Valley View, Greenhithe.

**Recommended:**

1. That, after consultation with the Friends of the Heritage Park, x2 traditional benches be installed at the Swanscombe Heritage Park and these be located around the edge of the football training area.
2. That a traditional bench be installed at Valley View Play Area, Greenhithe.
3. That a traditional bench replace the old yellow metal bench in Broomfield Park, Swanscombe.

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- Leisure Center

A large section of the small wooden fence around the Leisure Centre was damaged by ASB in January. Members are asked to consider whether they wish the parks staff to replace this fencing or leave it as it currently is.

- Spring Vale

Fly tipping has taken place in the area adjacent to the builder's yard and has been reported to DBC.

- Valley View

The work highlighted from the Annual Safety Inspection to remove the old rubber tiles under the swings and replace with wet pour has been completed by a contractor.

- Saxon Court

The old wooden and chain-link fences have been removed and have been replaced with powder coated, steel, bow top fencing, Park's staff are due to top up areas around manhole covers with soil and seed.

- Equipment

We need to acquire a new backpack sprayer to replace an old one at an approximate cost of no more than £150.00 + VAT.

A failure with the park's Truspred machine has occurred. This piece of equipment is an essential tool in the autumn reparations to the Bowls Green and Cricket Square and we are looking into the possibility of repair or, if necessary, replacement at around £900.00 + VAT.

- Staff

Employee 63 successfully completed his probationary period on 7 May 2017 and Chemical Spraying training is now being arranged for him to complete. This will obviously enhance the amount of work able to be undertaken and help spread the load amongst the parks team.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted and the purchase of equipment, if required and as detailed, be authorized

Summary

EXTRACT OF AGENDA

**AGENDA**

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.
2. Substitutes.
3. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.

***At the Chairman's discretion the meeting will be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.***

4. Items as Deemed Urgent by the Chairman / matters arising from previous minutes and their position on the Agenda (for discussion/information only, not for decision).
5. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017 (*Town Council 27 April 2017*).
6. **SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENER'S REPORT (p).**

Please see the attached report.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted and the purchase of equipment, if required and as detailed, be authorized

7. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

- 7.1 **FOOTBALL PITCH ALLOCATION (p).**

Please find attached a copy of the suggested football pitch allocations for the 2017 - 2018 football season. A paragraph will be included to the allocation letter thanking teams for their patience and co-operation whilst we undertake the work on the roof and ceilings in the changing rooms and surrounding areas.

**Recommended:** To approve the pitch allocations for 2017 – 2018.

- 7.2 **AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT CONFIRMATION (p).**

Further to minutes 317/16-17 and 16/17-18 the Action Plan 2017 – 2018 included "Introducing new equipment within parks and play areas".

With this in mind the ATC/RFO has successfully applied to Awards for All to have new play equipment, for 10-16 year olds, installed at Broomfield Park. Members now need to decide which of the attached specifications/designs they would like this funding to be used for.

**Recommended:** To select which of the 6 options to use the grant money to install.

74/17-18. **SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENERS REPORT.**

The Senior Groundsman/Gardeners report updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and also the work planned for the future which included:

Swanscombe Park, Manor Park, Broomfield Park, Knockhall Park, Heritage Park, Leisure Centre, Spring Vale, Valley View, Saxon Court, equipment (including the need to purchase a new chemical back pack sprayer and a new "Truspred" machine for use on the bowls green and cricket square) and staff.

The Senior Groundsman/Gardener advised members of the approximate cost of the 2 new pieces of equipment and also asked members to consider whether the low wooden fence at the Leisure Centre (damaged by ASB in January) required re-instating.

**Recommended:**

1. That the item be noted.
2. That the Town Clerk be delegated to purchase the 2 new pieces of equipment if they were found to be beyond repair.
3. That the damaged low wooden fence at the Leisure Centre not be re-instated at this time.

*Having already declared a prejudicial interest Councillor K G Basson left the chamber and took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.*

**VICE- CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR P M HARMAN IN THE CHAIR.**

75/17-18. **FOOTBALL PITCH ALLOCATION.**

Members noted that the Swanscombe Tigers FC may require an additional junior pitch to those contained in the report.

**Recommended:** That the football pitch allocations for 2017 – 2018, as detailed in the report, be agreed.

76/17-18. **AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT CONFIRMATION.**

The ATC/RFO detailed the amount of funding that had been successfully applied for and also detailed the location and type of equipment that the funding was awarded for.

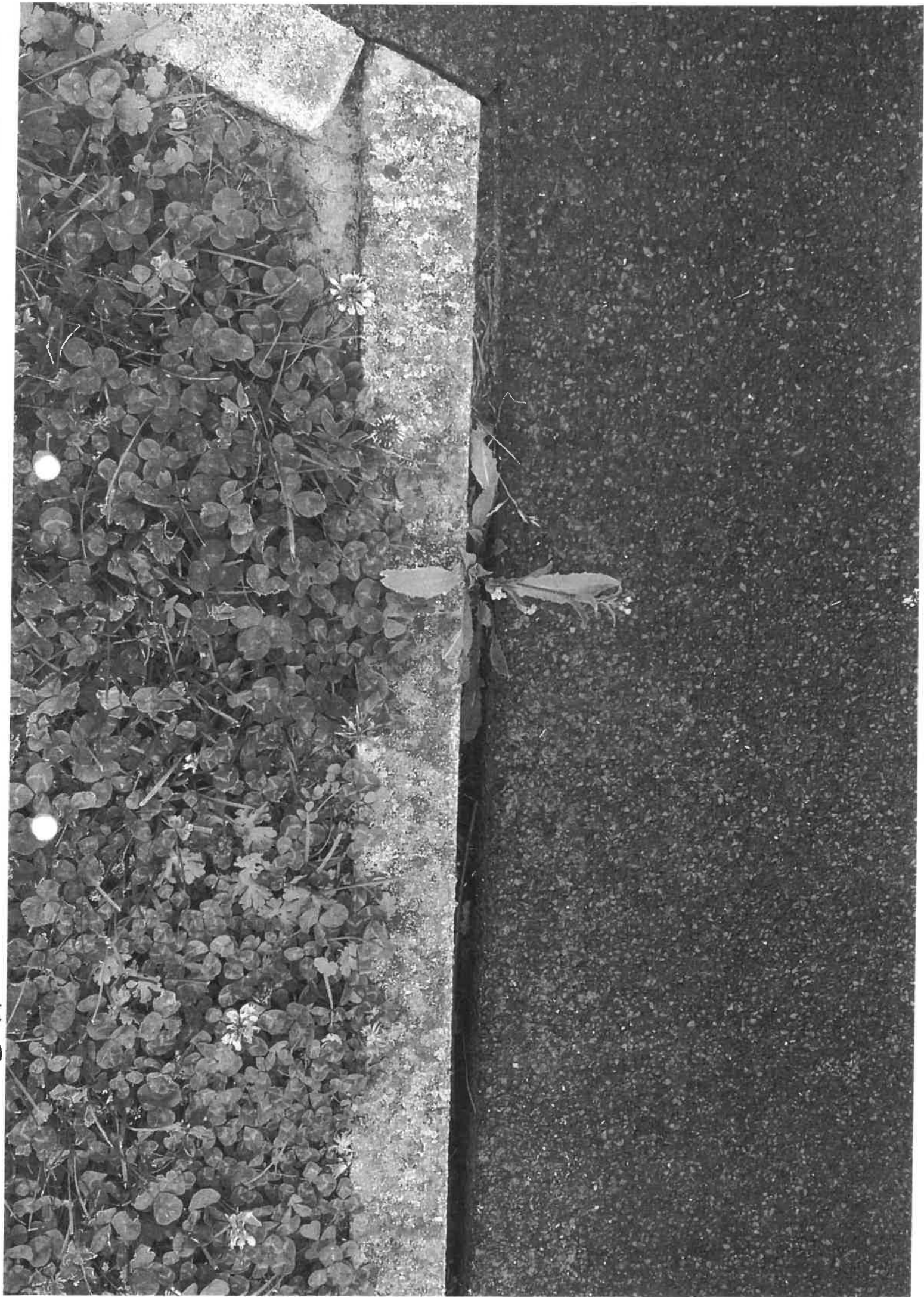
Members were provided with 6/7 options of play equipment/designs to select from as well as a diagram to show the area of Broomfield Park suggested that the new equipment should be located in.

Members agreed that the location indicated on the diagram should be used for the installation. After discussion it was agreed that Options 1, 2 and 6 were the most suitable choices and that these should be sent to the Ebbsfleet Academy requesting that students



05-9-17





1-8-11



**6. BALL GAMES IN BROOMFIELD PARK – UPDATE (p).**

Further to the Vice-Chairman meeting with one of the two residents, that had raised this matter, on 4 June 2014 and also further to minute 59/14-15 a site meeting was held on 3 July 2014 which was attended by Cllr's Mrs S P Butterfill, J A Harvey, P J Scanlan, one of the two the residents, the Town Clerk and Senior Groundsman/Gardener. At this meeting it was agreed that the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee be asked to consider replacing a Prunus (Cherry) tree that had died with a similar variety and sized tree but that this replacement be located between two other trees to discourage these being used as a "goal" by children playing football in that area of the park.

Since 5 July 2014 the Parks Department have been monitoring this area and the data collated is attached for members' consideration.

**Recommended:**

That the dead Prunus (cherry) tree be replaced with a similar species and size and that the replacement be located between the two trees as was agreed and marked at the site meeting held on 3 July 2014.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES

**16/14-15. BALL GAMES IN BROOMFIELD PARK.**

Further to the Vice-Chairman meeting with one of the two residents, that had raised this matter, on 4 June 2014 and also further to minute 59/14-15 a site meeting was held on 3 July 2014 which was attended by Cllr's Mrs S P Butterfill, J A Harvey, P J Scanlan, Mr Jepp, the Town Clerk and the Senior Groundsman/Gardener. At this meeting it was agreed that the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee be asked to consider replacing a Prunus (Cherry) tree that had died with a similar variety and sized tree but that this replacement be located between two other trees to discourage these being used as a "goal" by children playing football in that area of the park.

Since 5 July 2014 the Parks Department had been monitoring this area and the data collated was considered by members.

After discussing the matter with Mr Jepp it was proposed that the recommendation contained in the report be agreed.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked Mr Jepp for attending the meeting.

**Recommended:**

That the dead Prunus (cherry) tree be replaced with a similar species and size and that the replacement be located between the two trees as was agreed and marked at the site meeting held on 3 July 2014.

Planted in 2014/  
2015.



76/17-18. **AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT CONFIRMATION.**

The ATC/RFO detailed the amount of funding that had been successfully applied for and also detailed the location and type of equipment that the funding was awarded for.

Members were provided with 6/7 options of play equipment/designs to select from as well as a diagram to show the area of Broomfield Park suggested that the new equipment should be located in.

Members agreed that the location indicated on the diagram should be used for the installation. After discussion it was agreed that Options 1, 2 and 6 were the most suitable choices and that these should be sent to the Ebbsfleet Academy requesting that students in the age range the equipment was designed for should select which of these 3 options they preferred.

**Recommended:**

1. That the location as indicated in the diagram be used for the installation of the new equipment.
2. That Options 1, 2 and 6 be sent to the Ebbsfleet Academy requesting that students in the age range the equipment was designed for should select which of these 3 options they preferred.
3. That the results of the students choices be reported back to the September or November 2017 Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.



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## Results for: New Equipment 2017

### New equipment for your local park - what would you choose?

The Town Council have been awarded funding to install some new equipment in Broomfield Park in Swanscombe to appeal to older children.

We need your help choosing what you would want to see installed. The Town Council have contacted various play space specialist and the final 3 designs are summarised here for you to choose from.

- 1) Design 1: Agility Multi Play Unit – Single piece of technical climbing equipment incorporating ropes, ladders and climbing holds. Design 2: Florida Calisthenics Unit – Multi activity centre aimed at agility, strength and mobility exercises (popular with free runners) Design 3: Rota Glide, City Adventure Trail and Air Rider – The City Adventure Trail will consist of the trapeze walk linked to the swinging steps by a single rubber step. The area will contain the challenging Rota Glide hand swing and Air Rider. Now the choice is yours, click below for your favourite design.

		Response (%)	Responses
Design 1		11.96	11
Design 2		28.26	26
Design 3		59.78	55
		Answered Question	92
		Skipped Question	0

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59.78%



Rota Glide, City Adventure Trail and Air Rider – The City Adventure Trail will consist of the trapeze walk linked to the swinging steps by a single rubber step. The area will contain the challenging Rota Glide hand swing and Air Rider. (Height 2.5m, Floor Area 80m<sup>2</sup>)

**Recommended:**

To select which of the 6 options to use the grant money to install.



EXTRACT OF MINUTES

75/16-17. **STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S BUILDING PORTFOLIO.**

Members considered whether they wished to form a Working Group to carry out a review of the Town Council's building portfolio. Members felt that this would be a useful exercise taking into the account the caveat that the council's halls were not the only ones in the community and also that, once disposed of an asset was gone and could not be retrieved.

After further discussion it was agreed that this project should begin after the Café Working Group and Ingress Park Community Centre Working Group had completed their work and therefore the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee should reconsider this at an appropriate meeting in 2017.

**Recommended:**

That this project should begin after the Café Working Group and Ingress Park Community Centre Working Group had completed their work and therefore the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee should reconsider this at an appropriate meeting in 2017.

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December 2017				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY			

?

• TC (3)

• PTE (8)

BANK HOLIDAY

BANK HOLIDAY

# January 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

• FGP (4) & Special TC

• PTE (9)

2.7