

# groundbreakers

Working in partnership for you:  
**QUADRON** **MENDIP**  
ENVIRONMENT DISTRICT COUNCIL



Issue 3: Spring 2006

**QUADRON** ENVIRONMENT

Quadron Services provide grounds care services to Mendip District Council

## What's happening in your parks?

Welcome to the third Groundbreakers newsletter that aims to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in the parks and open spaces in your area.

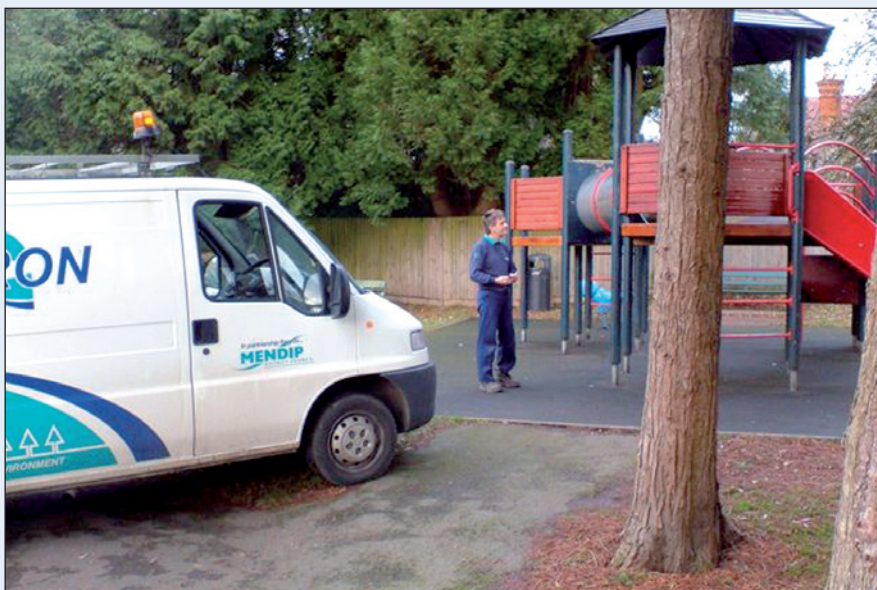
Quadron's role, on behalf of Mendip District Council, involves the maintenance of various horticultural

features within your area. As well as including the obvious tasks such as shrub bed maintenance, Quadron also cuts the grass, maintains the playgrounds and skate parks and looks after the street furniture and street name signs.



▲ LOCAL PARKS: There for you

## Taking play seriously



### ▲ SAFE PLAYGROUNDS: Safe staff

Quadron takes the maintenance of Mendip's playgrounds very seriously. With 49 play areas, 2 basketball courts, 7 kickabout sites with goalposts, 3 kickwall areas and 4 skate parks to look after, it is important that there are dedicated staff and properly equipped vehicles – all available 365 days a year.

The key to safe playgrounds are the inspections. Every time a playground is inspected it is recorded on a PDA on site and the results downloaded onto

“We make sure that all our staff are CRB checked because of the sensitive nature of working in playgrounds and with children,” said Jerry Cole, Contract Manager.

a dedicated software package called Play Safe. This keeps records of all inspections and outstanding work and creates work lists.

## Look for the sign

Look for the sign of the “smiley clown” displayed in all play areas that give details of emergency action, location of public telephone boxes and emergency contacts.

But do not just take our word for it. Every year an independent inspection is made by a specialist consultant to make sure that everything is in order.



▲ INSPECTING PARKS: Keeping them safe

# Keeping street furniture up to scratch

A survey has recently been completed of all Mendip District Council's street furniture.

These items include bollards, bicycle racks, grit bins, manhole covers as well as seats and litter bins.

Here's a few statistics. In Mendip there are:

- 415 seats
- 22 stiles
- 818 signs
- 2097 tree guards.

Street furniture is an important area of the contract for the council. This is because of concerns for the health and safety of residents when there is so much vandalism and public litigation.

Because of this, inspections are made monthly in towns and bi-monthly in rural areas and emergency work is undertaken at the time of the inspection.



▲ Monthly inspections and emergency work

## Happy to help!

Quadron is glad to have helped Wells, Shepton Mallet, Glastonbury, Street and Frome with their In Bloom during 2005!

Other contributions from Quadron:

- Quadron's Jerry Cole is a member of the Mendip In Bloom Committee and local In Bloom Judge.
- Quadron sponsor "In Bloom" each year. So far this has been through providing formal flowerbeds to design and specification of individual "In Bloom" committees
- Quadron provide free advice to In Bloom" committees on their entries
- Quadron can provide additional service through the Grounds Care arrangement with Mendip such as supplying and maintaining seasonal bedding displays like hanging baskets.
- If you have a design idea or a location you think should be tackled, then your application would be welcomed. Get in touch with your local committee and get them to put your idea forward.



▲ Mendip in Bloom

## Eyes and ears

Mendip is a very large geographic area and we are not always aware of problems or maintenance requirements. You can help by giving us your feedback and help us by being our "eyes and ears" when you are out and about.

## Tell us what you think...

The partnership delivering the Grounds Care for Mendip involves all stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils.

What you think of the service is important to us and from your feedback we can determine customer satisfaction levels. We will review our standards against your feedback and, guided by your comments, strive for continuous improvement. Please let us know what you think by clicking on the following weblink which will take you to our online customer satisfaction survey.

Thank you.

[www.quadronservices.co.uk/questionnaire.php](http://www.quadronservices.co.uk/questionnaire.php)

## CONTACTING US

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