

Environmental Report – March 2023

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

The Parish Warden has continued with shrub and hedge management in the early part of the month and assisted in organising the pond event this month. He has also completed a range of training courses in the last couple of months, including management of invasive species, weed spraying, use of a cherry picker and working at height. Grass mowing will commence again this month, date to be confirmed.

Jake and his team planted new shrubs and laid bark chippings to suppress weeds and retain moisture, at the mini roundabout in Hastings Drive near Stafford Ave.

Reports from residents

A neighbour of cottage (No 3) in Trotshill Lane, contacted Cllr Rudge re works taking place on some mature trees. Their concerns were that this work was being carried out with the correct permission. It was found that the trees were conifers situated in the garden of the cottage and they were being reduced in height. I understand the Tree Officer from WCC was due to attend site.

SLA Services

The costs for additional services 2023/24 was confirmed by email from the WCC on 15/3 and circulated to all Councillors. This will take into consideration the changes to the Parish Warden's hours as discussed at the March meeting. Costs will be increase to £29,835 (4 days Mon- Wed & Fri) with the remaining day (Thurs) charged to St Peter's PC. This is to be approved at the parish meeting and will then be included in the SLA.

Lengthsmans Claim

Report received Thurs 30/3 from WCC for period Jan- Mar (Qtr 4) now passed to Clerk for submission to Worcestershire County Council.

Play areas

Brecon Ave play area contractors are almost finished on site.

Volunteer Activities in the Parish

Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)

Details of all activities can be found on WEG Facebook page or people can sign up to receive a monthly newsletter.

Progress is being made with installation of signage and way marking along the new 12 mile Wild Worcester Way which is due to officially launch at Worcester Woods County Park later this month. Another carved bench has also been installed along the route.

Warndon Villages Ponds Group (Friends of Warndon Villages)

The group, assisted by the parish Warden continued to work on improving the ponds in the parish. This month they were at Topham Pond, off Dugdale Drive and despite the awful weather there were a large number of willing volunteers.

On Mon March 27th students, teachers and assistants from Regency School, Blackpole spent the afternoon at the pond. Cllr John Rudge and some of the students started to create a hibernacula with logs and branches, whilst the rest of the students spent their time 'pond dipping' under the guidance of Andrew Tillson-Willis from Worcestershire Reptile and Amphibian group, which was arranged by the Parish Warden.

The 'Friends' group finished the hibernacula as well as removing some of the shrubs and small saplings along the edge of the pond, particularly on the eastern side to allow light in, as suggested by Andrew (WRAG). Good news, there is evidence of great crested newts in this pond. A juvenile newt was found to be resting in a discarded can and also newt eggs were found deposited onto pond vegetation along with lots of other active pond life.

The Volunteers 'Thank you' event took place at Guildhall, Worcester in the evening of 15th March. I attended as a member of Friends of Warndon Villages. As always it was very inspiring to hear how many people volunteer their time to help the Worcester community.

Trotshill Orchard Group

As all works are completed at Trotshill Orchard currently, the volunteer event on Sat 18th March moved to Perdiswell to assist with orchard tree management there.

Future meetings will be held on the third Saturday of every month. Follow on Facebook for more details.

Warndon Wombles Litter Pick group

Information can be accessed via their Facebook page. Last event took place on 25th March and volunteers collected 12 bags, a shopping basket, an old tyre and a car wheel trim from Wainwright Road. A large amount of rubbish considering it is only 1 month since the group picked the same area. Date of next event is being polled – majority vote wins!

Big thank you to the many volunteers for litter picking in their spare time. It makes such a big difference to the area.

Youth Shelter

The structure installed many years ago at the side of the Lyppard Hub was finally removed on 21st March, with assistance of funding from Cllr Lucy Hodgson in her capacity as District Councillor.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)

2nd April 2023