

Environmental Report – April 2024

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

Jake and his team and Parish Warden have continued with their work on footpaths with moss removal and light trims of the adjoining hedging, at the following locations, Cover Green to Fly Alley, Broadfield Gardens alleyways, Powderham Avenue, Stanier Road & Brindley Road, Wirlpiece Ave & White Castle to the MUGA, Corfe Avenue, Puleigh Avenue.

Now the spring growth has started James is monitoring the road signage as part of his Lengrhsmans' duties, ensuring they remain visible.

As agreed at the April meeting. The outgoing Parish Council agreed to thank Jake and his team and the Parish Warden for their hard work. It was logged on WCC website and acknowledged. Response '*Your thanks will certainly be passed on to all involved*'.

Corfe Ave Pond – Amendment to the March report – One Lifebuoy remains at Corfe pond.

Benches

The Parish Warden is due to re-install a bench at Sterling Avenue which was removed some time ago due to vandalism. He has also been tasked with sanding and painting a wooden bench situated in Aconbury play area which is in need of some TLC.

I am arranging to meet with one of the local walk leaders to discuss ideas for bench locations.

The Parish Warden and I met at Sudeley park to review the condition of the benches, which were installed by the developers and are made up of metal frame with wooden slats to the back and seat. 5 of the original 7/8 benches which have remained in a usable condition. The frames are still in good order and have lasted well. One of the wooden slats has broken and as it is hazardous and has been removed. These are well used benches particularly by the walking groups. A resident also took the time to report their condition to the Parish Clerk. Some 18 months ago I sourced a quote for a refurbishment kit, but we chose not to proceed at the time, however it would appear to be time to now refurbish them. I have requested an up-to-date quote and will submit a proposal at a future meeting.

Footpaths

Whilst out litter-picking I noticed an uneven footpath caused by root growth in Brindley Road, it was at a crossing point which could cause a mobility scooter, wheelchair user or children's pram/pushchair to tip over. It was reported to Worcestershire County Council who have carried out a site visit and they have confirmed it is now scheduled for repair.

Divorced footpaths -Sudeley Avenue greenspace

Following on from my report last month, I have discussed the practicalities of the Parish Warden taking on the work to the lay aggregate in the worst affected area of this footpath.

The next step is to cost the work, hopefully this will be reported on at our June/July meeting.

Hedge management /Mowing programme

Mowing commenced in mid-April and will continue until the end of September/early October, depending on growing conditions.

Ash Dieback

No further updates on this.

Anti-Social behaviour

I understand from social media that a pedestrian was sworn and spat at after challenging a young motorcyclist riding by Lyppard Grange school, whilst there were people out walking their dogs. The person who posted was advised to report it to the local policing team.

Play areas

Grass Kick about space (Bodiam Place/Castell Place) I suggested to the Parish Warden that he may, once the weather had improved re-paint the single metal goal post on the play area. The City Council do not have the appropriate paint. Please see proposal to purchase materials.

Threshfield Drive Heron Grange - I have been notified this week the damaged play equipment has been repaired.

Caister Avenue It was discussed at the last meeting that the Parish Council may fund replacement equipment at this play area, since it was removed 2 years ago and the City Council confirmed they were not in a position to replace it currently. City Councillor Sarah Murray spoke with the play team and they confirmed they are willing to fund half the cost of a replacement rocker equipment suitable for age range 2-6 yrs. The full price of the equipment is £1,154.40 inc VAT therefore leaving the **Parish Council to fund £577.20 - Councillors to vote on this at our meeting.**

Fencing

The 'kick fencing' funded by the Parish Council has now been installed by the Parish Warden at Bearcroft Avenue adjacent to the pond and at Chepstow Avenue. Screws to complete the job were purchased, hence the 'receipt' from Bradfords submitted to the Clerk for reimbursement. Cllr Merriman is to meet with WCC to discuss repair work at Newark Green.

Lengthsmans work

Cllr Merriman investigating the best way to collect the information needed to submit via the new system set up by Worcestershire County Council. To be reported at June meeting.

Apex Ponds

Following on from our agreement at the April meeting, I contacted Mike Webb acting on behalf of the Duckworth Trust Trustees. He responded confirming he would need to put together some information to satisfy the Charities Commission, which will include a valuation report (at their cost). He will also need to put together an 'offer' letter, to cover off our intentions and plans for looking after the site. He suggested a further video call to discuss once in a position to progress.

Resident's complaints

4.4.24 Pippinfield - Grassed area : A residents has requested for area to be managed by Parish Council. Confirmed WCC do not have responsibility for this Area. Cllr Merriman still following this up.

Volunteer Activities in the Parish

Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)

The group have been very active during April with more mulching at Aconbury and at Perdiswell.

A picnic was organised to coincide with Blossom Day on 20th April at Trotshill Orchard. Fortunately, the weather was good and the event was supported by approximately 20 people.

The group will celebrate the first anniversary of Wild About Worcester Way on 12th May with invites going out to all to join a stroll along the way starting from Lyppard Hub at 10 am, with lunch at the Community Gardens and ending at the Lyppard Grange pub at 6pm. For all their event details follow them on Facebook or sign up to their Newsletter.

Friends of Warndon Villages

There was no event in April the next event is planned for May 28th and will take place at 'Bearcroft Rockery', Bearcroft Avenue.

Warndon Wombles Litter Pick group

On April 20th due to the number of volunteers, the group split into two groups whilst one team covered Wainwright Road, the other group went to Homestead Avenue, where they found a significant amount of Nitrous Oxide 'laughing gas' canisters and other rubbish in a drainage ditch. This had obviously collected over some time, the local residents joined in and were delighted with the result. In the region of 14 bags of rubbish were collected. More information can be found on the groups' Facebook page.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)

11th May 2024