

Environmental Report – Feb 2024

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

The Parish Warden has been busy using the weed ripper to remove moss which is accumulating on our many footpaths, made worse this year with the constant wet weather and mild conditions.

Jake is due to complete the planting at Marsh Avenue roundabout w/c 4/3/24.

Sandra Green Head of City Services, **Kevin Haines** and **Doug Henderson** will all be attending our March Parish Meeting.

Hedge management /Mowing programme

Hedge maintenance will now cease due to bird nesting season. Mowing normally commences at the beginning of April, however it will depend on the level of rainfall we have in the next month. We are all fully aware of how sodden the ground is currently and water tables are high, therefore it will take a long time for the ground to dry out sufficiently to stand any heavy equipment.

Ash Dieback

Doug Henderson (*Bereavement & Greenspaces Manager*) will be attending the March Parish Meeting to discuss the Worcester City Council's Ash Dieback Strategy. Copy attached to this report.

Anti-Social behaviour

Not aware of any issues this month.

Play areas

A programme of cleaning our play area surfaces is due to commence shortly. A resident raised concern on social media about an outstanding repair to play equipment at Pirie Avenue play area. Cllr Cross is following this up.

Lengthsmans work

The Parish Warden completed his training on 1st March 2024. So hopefully if we can get his accreditation through in time it will allow us to submit a claim before the end of the financial year.

Apex Ponds (Separate item on the Agenda)

Having spoken with the Chair at Salwarpe Parish Council, it was evident there was nothing unexpected relating to this land, that we had not already anticipated and considered.

Regarding the Public Liability Insurance cover, the Clerk spoke with our insurers and they confirmed the PC already have £10 million cover for any or all activity wherever we apply it, in our current policy. It is a standard item for the type of local council policy. So, no extra cost to consider

This decision is being deferred to our April meeting.

Resident's complaints

8.1.24 Barass Ave- met with resident (31.1.21) They are unable to manage the shrubs planted in the grass verge at the side of their property, adjacent to Plantation Drive, which is unadopted land, although the City Council manage the hedge further along this boundary. Met with WCC officer and advised to speak with Greenspace Manager to future management.

30.10.23 - 2 residents of a household in Saltwood Ave attended the Parish Surgery, with some concerns about an overgrown hedge, fly tipping and another tree & hedge. This is currently being followed up by Cllrs Forrest and Merriman, as there are issues over land ownership – The hedge which has been encroaching over access road to parking area has been trimmed this month.

Volunteer Activities in the Parish

Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)

There have been events throughout February at creating a natural play playground at Perdiswell, coppicing blackthorn Hillwood Meadow, pruning and clearing fruit cages near Lyppard Grange school, mulching the edible hedge at Aconbury Meadow and tree planting at Upton Snodsbury.

For all their event details follow them on Facebook or sign up to their Newsletter.

Friends of Warndon Villages

Weed management and tree pruning took place on 27th February at 'Bearcroft Rockery' at the entrance to Bearcroft Avenue.

Warndon Wombles Litter Pick group

On 24th February a litter pick of Wainwright Ave and footpaths off took place. 10 adults and 3 children picked 11 bags of rubbish. Further information can be accessed via their Facebook page.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)

1st March 2024