

Environmental Report – Jan 2023

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

The continued stormy weather this month has brought down a few more trees in the Villages, due to the high winds. The Parish Warden has now completed the work on all of the flights of steps which provide access to Warndon Wood and on both sides of Parsonage Way (A4440) providing safer access. He has also been busy keeping the footpaths clear by trimming back the encroaching shrubs as well as litter picking in the parish.

Jake and his team have started clearing the moss and debris from the block paved areas which are found at the side of the roundabouts.

Jake has also been working on the roundabouts in the parish and now started on the redesign of the roundabout at Marsh Avenue, which previously had been planted with wildflower seed. It will have a tree planted in a central bed and underplanted with shrubs and in addition some beds around the edge, planted with low growing shrubs, to ensure there is good visibility and for ease of maintenance. There will also be some additional planting of wildflower seeds in beds created in the grass verges in this location.

Sandra Green Head of City Services, **Kevin Haines** and **Doug Henderson** have all expressed an interest to attend our parish meetings. Order of attendance is currently being confirmed. Likely to be Sandra and Doug, who will report on Ash Dieback at our March meeting and Kevin at April meeting.

WCC have advised there will be a 6% increase in their service costs for 2024/25, which includes the Warden and Mowing costs.

Harlech Close/ New Plantation Footpath Flooding following heavy rainfall. Further update from City Councillor Murray- Initially it was suggested remedial works could be carried out by volunteers, however WCC have advised due to level of work required equipment will be needed on site. Await further update.

Hedge cutting

Hedge maintenance is now mostly completed.

Ash Dieback

Cllr Cross has forwarded a copy of the Ash Die Back strategy which was presented to WCC Environment Committee on 30 Jan 2024.

Contractors working for Taylor Wimpey have been removing a few Ash trees to the side of the footpath which runs from Hastings Drive to Berkeley Way, following a concern by a resident. Sadly, following the work the area has been left with deep tyre ruts and mud on the footpath. Whilst I appreciate it is difficult not to cause some damage, when using heavy equipment, but the area should be made good. Cllr Cross advised he feedback to WCC.

Anti-Social behaviour

Not aware of any issues this month.

Play areas

Nothing to report

Lengthsmans work

A response has been received from Worcestershire County Council, they have a cancellation on their Lengthsman's Training Course for 1 March awaiting confirmation from City Council for Warden to attend.

Apex Ponds (Separate item on the Agenda)

The issue with the padlock to the access gate has now been resolved, apparently it was changed by Worcester City Council.

The clerk has been researching Public Liability Insurance, but currently we do not have cost. Cllr Merriman made contact with Salwarpe Parish Council who we understand have also similarly taken over ownership of land and it was suggested we speak with them to find out if there was anything we have not considered. Their Chair will call w/c 5/2/24.

We will finalise our research in Feb and put a proposal together, so this can be decided on by all Councillors at our next meeting in March.

Resident's complaints

18.1.24 Otley Ave (Heron Grange) - Resident reported concerns regarding the trees on the greenspace in front of their property. Advised to report to Worcester City Council.

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.

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 – *still ongoing*.

Volunteer Activities in the Parish

Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)

There have been events throughout January at Cherry Orchard Nature Reserve, Aconbury Orchard, Perdiswell and Perry Wood and Trotshill Lane East.

There is a Blossom Day picnic planned for 20 April 12 noon at Trotshill Community Orchard, this is part of a national event UK Blossom Week. There is a photo of spring blossom

competition running with a prize of a bird nesting box for the winner. Full details on WEG facebook page.

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

Friends of Warndon Villages

An early spring tidy up took place on 30th January at the 'Lost gardens' plot at the corner of Snowberry Ave supported by the Parish Warden.

Warndon Wombles Litter Pick group

On 27th January the litter pick took place at Offerton Lane Nature reserve, off Wainwright Road. Further information can be accessed via their Facebook page.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)

3rd February 2024

Outstanding issues

- Tolladine Wood - The boardwalk which forms part of the footpath in the wood is damaged and in need of repair. It has been reported to the City Council. – *progress to be followed up.*
- Subsidence reported along the culvert adjacent to the footpath running alongside Huxley from Trotshill Lane East junction with Millwood Drive and Plantation Drive - 13/6 – *to be followed up.-no further information*
- Gate at Damaskfield- damaged and fenced off- passed to County Councillor Cross who is discussing this with Worcs County Council. – *ongoing*
- Carisbrooke Ave & Egremont Gardens ditch - congested with branches and debris, which again is causing concern following heavy rainfall. Cllr Murray is speaking with WCC legal team, regarding responsibility, as this land is subject to land transfer and has not yet been completed. The works involved are too much for the Place Team to carry out -*no further information.*
- Flooding to the footpath through New Plantation to Harlech Close, which for some years now has been affected following heavy rainfall. Cllr Murray met with an officer from WCC and WEG to see if a solution could be found. I have contacted WCC on many occasions, however made no progress. It was agreed work would be carried out by WEG volunteer members, but this will have to wait until the flooding has subsided and the water table has lowered. – WCC advised due to level of work required equipment will be needed on site. - *ongoing*
- Play areas where equipment is still awaiting replacement- Pirie Avenue, Threshfield Drive – *to be followed up.*