

## Environmental Report – March 2024

### Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

It has been another busy month for Jake and the team, including the Parish Warden. Moss clearance has continued using the weed ripper on footpaths in the Chepstow Avenue, Blair Close and Barrass Avenue and Plantation Drive. Parish Warden has also carried out reduction work to shrubs which were encroaching onto the footpath at Cartwright Avenue, Swallowfields, Brecon Avenue and Chepstow Avenue, Woolmead Row and Dover Avenue. The hedge at Brecon Ave was reported by Cllr L Hodgson, the resident was overjoyed with the work and said it had saved her a day of her Easter break, which was when she had planned to do the work.

Marsh Avenue roundabout planting has now been completed and the team have also created some new wildflower beds adjacent to Millwood Drive by Tesco roundabout.

Jake and his team have also been edging up the footpath along Millwood Drive and cutting back vegetation overhanging footpath at Wainwright Road. The footpath which runs from the Barn Owl pub to Wainwright Road was identified as in need of some work and has now been cut back and tidied.

In early March the laurel hedge adjacent to the footpath which runs from Ankerage Green to Mapit Place was reduced by two thirds and has made a big difference to the narrow well used footpath, it being a route to the school and community area and Tesco. After putting pictures on social media the following comments were posted. 5 responses 3 x 'thank yous' and these two comments, which say a bit more about how a well-managed area can make people feel,

GB - ' My 10 year old daughter has commented on this saying it feels so much nicer and safer going to and from school'

DJ - ' Thank you. I walk home down this path and it has made me feel much more confident.'

This has been fed back to Sandra Green and Doug Henderson.

James has been on leave w/c 2/4, but on his return he is due to focus on the moss and debris which has collected around the barriers in Millwood Drive near to Tesco and Brecon Avenue, Hastings Drive and also Cover Green and Snowberry Avenue, the latter residents reported the footpath to be very slippery.

**Corfe Ave Pond** – No 2 x Lifebuoys were installed at Corfe pond as requested for safety purposes, however due to resident complaints I understand these have currently been removed. Grass seed has been provided to replace the turf which was removed when buoys were installed.

### Benches

No progress has been made on the installation of the benches, due to the wet conditions.

### **Hedge management /Mowing programme**

With the weather experts announcing that Worcestershire has had double the amount of rainfall in March than is usual and with yet rain more predicted, it will be a while before any mowing takes place.

### **Ash Dieback**

No further updates on this.

### **Anti-Social behaviour**

On Mon 1<sup>st</sup> April I understand children 12 and under were throwing stones/rocks at vehicles, causing damage to paintwork on Parsonage Way. The police were notified and are aware of the perpetrators. It was also reported that similar actions were happening with stones being thrown at windows of properties in Barrass Avenue area.

### **Play areas**

The work due to take place, cleaning the surface of the play areas is still outstanding, but again I expect this has been delayed due to the poor weather and man-power needed riverside, due to flooding. The outstanding repair to the play equipment at Pirie Avenue was completed on 19/3/24. Caister Avenue is still awaiting replacement play equipment, however a new gate at one of the entrances to the play area was fitted on 5/4/24. The replacement equipment will be chased and reported on at May meeting.

Debdale Avenue play area has also had No 2 x new replacement gates fitted (21/3/24).

### **Fencing**

The 'kick fencing', which was approved by Councillors at the March meeting, is now on order and delivery is expected to be approx. 6 weeks.

### **Lengthsmans work**

A claim was submitted to Worcestershire County Council on Tues 26<sup>th</sup> March for £595.21 for Lengthsman's work carried out in the last financial year.

The Parish Warden has now received his Lantra ID Card which is valid for 5 years, when he will need to apply to renew his training.

**Apex Ponds** (See separate item on the Agenda)

## **Divorced footpaths - Sudeley Avenue greenspace**

The condition of this footpath has been poor for some years. It is muddy and is flooded at times. This is a footpath through the greenspace, but it is not a public footpath therefore not the responsibility of the County Council. This area is subject to land transfer. Could the Parish Council consider funding work to improve this footpath? This is to be considered and costed in May/ June following elections.

## **Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)**

You may remember at the Annual Meeting last year our guest speaker was **Rebecca Lashley** from **Worcestershire County Council** who explained the new strategy which she would be working on. The county wide LNRS Consultation finished 10<sup>th</sup> March and they are now working through the data that was submitted.

Rebecca has a group of students on an exchange with the University of Worcester who are going to be doing some community consultation work for her this month, which will support the LNRS preparation.

One of the geographical areas the students will be focusing on will be Warndon Villages and wondered if the Parish Council could support the consultation by either meeting with the students and answering some questions 'face to face', or alternatively if councillors could be encouraged to submit responses to a short online questionnaire.

Rebecca and the Students will be at the Lyppard Hub next **Tuesday morning (April 9<sup>th</sup>)** between around **9.30 and 12pm** if parish councillors would like to pop by and speak to them. Alternatively, the online questionnaire the students have developed can be accessed via this link below.

[https://wpi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eWNIXYaOh4aFxQy](https://wpi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWNIXYaOh4aFxQy)

## **Resident's complaints**

4.4.24 Pippinfield - Grassed area : A residents has requested for area to be managed by Parish Council. Cllr Merriman to follow up.

## **Volunteer Activities in the Parish**

### **Volunteers thank you event at the Guildhall - March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Members of Friends of Warndon Villages and Warndon Wombles attended a Thank you event which is organised by Worcester City Council annually to show their appreciation to the many volunteers who give up their time to make Worcester City a great place to live.

### **Worcester Environmental Group (WEG)**

The group have been very active during March. At Aconbury they have been painting the new storage container, mulching the edible hedge and at Perdiswell the pole maze has been extended, 300 more trees planted, the existing trees have been mulched and fruit tree cages cleared. They have organised a Family Nature Walk and installed 12 swift nesting boxes.

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

### **Friends of Warndon Villages**

Further weed management took place on 19<sup>th</sup> March at 'Bearcroft Rockery' at the entrance to Bearcroft Avenue. Although with the ground being so wet and sticky progress was very slow. More bark was spread to suppress the weeds.

### **Warndon Wombles Litter Pick group**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March a litter pick of Wainwright Road, Stanier Road and footpaths off took place, with 10 bags of rubbish removed. More information can be found on the groups' Facebook page.

**Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2024