



# Environment & Amenities Working Party

**Report Date:** 11 APRIL 2022  
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## PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT:

Our Groundsman removed the old swings from site on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Setting out of the A frame to incorporate safety fall zones and installation of the A frame commenced on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March and completed Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The earth extracted from the swing area has been distributed around the back of the scout hut, the concrete extracted has been added to the new pile of rubble for removal under licence.

Once the play bark area has been extended by 5m to incorporate all play equipment within one continuous safety zone and the bark topped to the required level, the swing seats will be hung, but not before. We had hoped to have the new swings in place and operational in time for Easter, however, our Groundsman has other commitments which may delay the works.

## VILLAGE RECREATION GROUND:

Necessary hedgerow tidy-up and reduction of holly trees, left untouched last year due to nesting birds and squirrels, was completed at the end of February.

Hedgerow, gap filling and planting of an inside line of whips at 5-6 per metre to establish a dense healthy hedge along both Martins Hill Close and Martins Hill Lane was completed during the first week of March.

The tree specialist has advised keeping weeds, grasses, scrub and brambles to minimum by strimming or spraying herbicide as necessary aftercare for a couple of years to promote growth. Once established this replenished hedgerow will provide the diversity, habitat and varied food for wildlife that we would like to encourage.

Contractors also reported lots of positive conversations with supportive residents all appreciative of the improvements to recreation ground undertaken so far.

As previously agreed, BWPC has arranged for sufficient tonnage of graded topsoil to fill the crater behind the scout hut. This work has been slightly delayed due to Covid staffing issues – hopefully the soil will be delivered, spread and seeded in the next ten days. Scout chairman has been informed.

## TREE REPLENISHMENT & QUEENS GREEN CANOPY PROJECT

Affirming the Parish Council's commitment to protect native tree cover and enhance our environment, the first phase of tree replenishment in Martins Hill Recreation Ground was completed on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Of the 25 dead and dying trees felled and removed from the recreation ground in 2020 at the start of the rejuvenation project, seventeen standards have been planted with the intention of planting more later in the year when tree supplier stock is available and we have optimum ground conditions (September-December).



This springtime planting programme is in support of the Lord Lieutenant's initiative to increase tree planting and commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. BWPC is happy to be involved in creating this special gift for Her Majesty The Queen

### Martins Hill Recreation Ground - Tree Planting Plan, March 2022



#### TENANT DRAINAGE:

As previously reported, following a BWPC commissioned survey of tenant drains, the old pitch fibre foul drains had collapsed and required replacement. A large amount of concrete had to be removed from the ground requiring the hire of a mini digger and increasing the final invoice by £200. This necessary additional cost should be split equally between the Scout Group and BWPC. The drainage work was completed on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Work on drains revealed that the run from scout hut in addition to being in a collapsed state, had a blockage due to blue paper hand towels being disposed via a sewer system. These towels are non flushable and the problem was reported to Scouts Executive Committee to prevent future problems.



It was noted in February that the football club had still not replaced the damaged external wastewater pipes initially reported in 2020. Following an informal chat with the tenant, the Clerk was asked to write to the tenant requesting the repairs were undertaken in line with the terms of the underlease and without further delay. The repair was finally completed on 3 April 2022







## CAR PARK REINSTATEMENT

Burton Scout Group agreed at a meeting on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September the outstanding works that formed the Grant of Full Approval will be completed, this is in line with terms of their Underlease.

The local scout group acknowledged at this meeting and at subsequent meetings the financial responsibility for the provision of the bike stand is theirs and forms part of the conditions of planning approval. At the same meeting on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September the reinstatement of the car park was also discussed. Similarly, the construction of the car park to plan is also a planning condition as referred to in the terms of the Underlease. Given the scale of the works required the parish council is prepared to undertake these works and accept a financial contribution towards the cost from the local scout group.

Majority agreement was reached at the January parish council meeting to proceed with the car park renewal quote of £8,100 presented by BPC Environment Service. E&AWP recommend scheduling the work without further delay. – Clerk to confirm instruction to proceed has been provided to contractor.

Clerk to obtain confirmation of financial contribution to these grant of approval planning conditions.





AFTER CONSTRUCTION – September 2021



JANUARY 2022

## MEMORIAL BENCHES AND TREES

We received another enquiry for a memorial bench on Martins Hill Recreation Ground. The Clerk has discussed details with resident and agreed costs. The order has subsequently been placed.

## VANDALISM AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

Hedgerow whips have been recently planted to fill the gaps created by the removal of brambles and fly tipped materials. Unfortunately, some of these gaps are being used to access the recreation ground and the young plants are being damaged. The Clerk has contacted both tenants requesting patrons use the gates and pathways and refrain from taking short cuts into the recreation grounds. The E&WP members have wrapped hazard warning tape across favoured gaps to discourage future transgressions.

Regrettably, there have been several complaints from residents following this weekend's football matches. During a warmup session prior to the match, it seems the away team players were using the Whitehayes flank as a urinal. Of even more concern was the same group of players crowded around a newly planted copper beech tree and one of the players snapped it at the base. BWPC has spent a great deal of time and money on the upgrade of the recreation ground and this tree was one of a group planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy an initiative to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. This behaviour is disappointing and



unacceptable. Clerk to write to football club and BDFA to register displeasure, formally complain and seek compensation. A replacement tree cannot be planted until September at the earliest.

Separately, on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, an elderly gentleman was assaulted by a fellow dog walker following an incident between their two animals, one on a lead one not.

All of these incidents were reported to the Clerk and have been reported to the police via email to our PCSO

## FOOTBALL:

Whilst the T&Cs are largely being complied with AFC Burton are slow to notify us of their fixture list.

There have been requests for midweek evening fixtures, but AFC Burton have been reminded that in 2018 it was agreed there would be no more than two teams with weekend fixtures only. The requested midweek matches were quickly relocated to Watermans Park without issue.

## VILLAGE GREEN:

The first wave of field poppies was sown around the newly reset Luke Taylor memorial bench and silent soldier silhouettes at the beginning of February. Parish Councillors Mussell and Howland will repeat the exercise in regular intervals throughout late winter/early spring.

## BUS STOPS

As previously reported, bus shelters in poorest condition have been earmarked for replacement with good condition nearly new. BCP failed to communicate a works schedule with dates to the parish council, however, when contacted by E&AWP for update on 9 January, Nick Phillips of BCP Transportation & Engineering, immediately confirmed the shelter at Martins Hill Lane nearing Salisbury Road had been removed by BCP, and the installation of the replacement would follow, three months have passed and still no sign of the replacement shelter. We continue to chase repeatedly pointing out this particular shelter was removed from an exposed location during winter months, that the majority of regular bus users are elderly and asking for its replacement to be given priority. Most recent chaser was sent 4<sup>th</sup> April, copied to Graham Farrant, CEO of BCP and we await a response.

BWPC leases the land this bus shelter is sited on from Meyrick Estate. Out of courtesy BWPC/E&AWP has kept Meyrick Estate informed throughout, we are disappointed BCP did not keep the parish council or Buses for Burton in the loop.





Bus shelters listed for replacement

- Martins Hill Lane
- Martins Hill Lane junction of Sandy Plot
- Salisbury Road junction of Campbell Road.



## FINGERPOSTS:

The fingerpost at the end of Preston Lane requiring maintenance has been repaired. Similar issue has been noted with the Staple Cross fingerpost.

Pending approval, the final fingerpost to be reinstated is the Winkton Green fingerpost – historic photos have been previously supplied.

## BOCKHAMPTON LAND OCCUPATION: AKA HOLFLEET GREEN –

Further report made to Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) during the first week in April. General area is now an unsightly, filthy mess of churned earth and rubbish, attracting fly tipping and vermin. The pigs continue to spook horses and pose a risk of injury to riders and other road users should a horse rear up or bolt.

*As agreed at last meeting, Parish Councillors Howland and Mussell met with concerned resident at stables close to Harpway Lane to discuss and gave them assurance that the BWPC continue to pursue the matter and asked to let us know if there any changes to the site.*

*Parish Councillor Howland contacted Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) again to report that the pigs are now over 12 months old, do not appear to be registered and expressing general concern about the welfare of the animals. The agency was asked to confirm that the occupier of*



*the land has obtained a County Parish Holding (CPH) number from the Rural Payments Agency, an executive agency of DEFRA. This administrative unique land identifier is essential and to be used in conjunction with any livestock that the occupier possess. The number is used by the UK government for reporting on the location and movement of livestock. This is essential for monitoring and management of outbreaks of disease. Unfortunately, despite making follow up calls to APHA, which is part of the BCP Trading Standards team, no response has been received. Next step is to make a Freedom of Information Request to the Rural Payments Agency.*

*The piece of land is the triangle formed by Harpway Lane and Burley Road near the Lamb Inn. It has been fenced in, further to the last Meeting more trees have been cut down and we have been advised by Ward Councillor Simon McCormack the matter is in the hands of BCP legal department and may take some time to resolve.*

*This is of concern and causing great distress to many residents. The Parish Council and villages alike are concerned if the wheels of bureaucracy are permitted to turn slowly without interest from the unitary council it could result in the land being misappropriated by those who have no right to it.*

*The situation is having a detrimental effect on the local residents and the area has become an eyesore. The keeping of a pigs on this site is impacting on the enjoyment of the private land opposite which is used as horse paddocks. Ponies and pigs do not mix, many horses are afraid of pigs. Ponies using the road are spooked by the pig/s and are suffering distress, this is a busy road, riders, animals and pedestrians are all being placed at risk by one person's actions to attempt at a land grab.*

*Pressure to be kept up else BWPC will be accused of complacency – we would like BCP to explore all avenues of non compliance as a matter of urgency and report back.*

*Specifically can BCP investigate the following:*

- 1. OWNERSHIP OF LAND: Has the historic ownership of this land been established in order to consider whether the triangle is manorial waste? **UPDATE: The Clerk wrote to the assumed landowner's agents but so far without response.***
- 2. PIG MOVEMENT: Our understanding is all pigs must be registered and all pig movements have to be reported and recorded. Could BCP investigate whether the pigs owner is complying with these rules and update the Parish Council as a matter of urgency.*
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PIG KEEPING: It is recommended an area of ½ acre is required to keep two pigs. There are strict rules concerning rodent control, hygiene and spread of disease. **UPDATE: It has been established that the site has been inspected by Animal and Plant Health Agency. The local Animal Welfare Officer was advised that one of pigs was 7 months old at the time of their visit in May. The pig is now 12 months old and will require tagging and additional documentation.***
- 4. USE OF CCTV: There are several signs warning that CCTV is in use, this is overt filming. Has this been registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and the necessary data protection fee paid or is this simply intimidatory behaviour? BCP to investigate and update the Parish Council as matter of urgency.*





## BURLEY ROAD – Swans, Power outages

Following a further power outage last week, BWPC registered an on-line complaint with SSEN. This was the third three lengthy outage in recent months and the result of swans taking flight and striking overhead power cables on Burley Road. BWPC has requested additional Swan deflectors be fitted to this stretch of overhead cables.

Councillors have also received complaints from residents about excessive mud and stones dispersed by heavy plant vehicles being deployed at a construction site on Burley Road. These vehicles are also destroying the verges, creating dangerous road conditions for drivers and pedestrians alike. More research is required regarding the conditions of planning approval before drafting a letter to be sent to all appropriate parties.

## STAPLE CROSS: – NO FURTHER UPDATE

*Taylor Wimpey provided the following response to question raised by Alinda Howland relating to the proposed development of Roeshot Hill and the impact on Staple Cross*

***QUOTE: Re the Scheduled Ancient Monument, again the plans have not yet been finalised. A Heritage Management Plan has to be prepared by Taylor Wimpey and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of any works in this parcel of land. The Outline Planning Consent stipulates that the developer has to undertake an archaeological investigation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, repair the cross (resetting and repointing the stone by specialist stonemasons) and fund landscape works, but again no detail has yet been prepared. UNQUOTE***

*We previously expressed concerned that this historic landmark and scheduled monument is being overlooked and has no maintenance schedule. More recently Christchurch History in Pictures, a local social media history group has been in touch regarding the condition of the metal markers and Staple Cross. We have responded to confirm that we have already carried out a village survey of assets and items of interest and mapped and photographed. We advised them the condition of the metal mile markers and the requirement for maintenance has already been put to the Parish Council for consideration and we hope to carry out this work when the weather improves. The base of Staple Cross appears to be sinking into the ground and we will need to seek out specialist advise on restorative work and how to it should be funded.*

*They have also sent through some information about an archaeological dig carried out within the parish boundary at Clockhouse Barrow in 2019, this early Neolithic long barrow has been entered into the Historic Environment Records. We said we will investigate further. Max and I have both joined the Christchurch History Society as this will assist us with further research into the history of our parish.*