

Open Spaces Report March 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Individual reports conducted by Jim Culkin, Cllr Bob Hooper, Lynn and Gordon Mayer, Chris Attenborough and Carolyn Ford and collated by Cllr Richard Emery –

This report will be annexed to the minutes of the PC meeting and available on the website. This report will summarise the individual reports compiled by our open spaces volunteers. In the table below we have here is a task list of new issues and outstanding issues, which will be revisited at the next meeting.

Once again, on behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to express our thanks to our dedicated volunteers.

Summary and Issues

Route	Topic	Comment
1&2	Leicester La Benches	Any update on ownership
1 & 2	Leicester La – verges	Any response from Hghways
1&2	Leicester la Kissing Gate	HDC raised purchase order
5	Welham Road	Has fence been removed by PC?
1 & 2	Upper Greens:	Still awaiting 'Do not drive on the grass' signs.
1 & 2	Main Street	Rotten post further down Main St - Awaiting replacement – or awaiting a 'Do not drive...' sign
1&2	Leicester La	Damage to drainage ditch, who to backfill and make good?
1&2	Main Street	Permission to park on the grass?

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Route 4

Hursley Park.

Nothing to report.

Welham Lane.

The wooden bollard at the junction with Nether Green needs to be replaced and the Nether Green Road sign has been damaged.

The fly tipped car tyres and other waste at the passing point at the approach to the over bridge have been removed and generally and there is only a small amount of litter elsewhere.

Welham Road.

The temporary entrance to the building site still needs to be tidied up, this is an ongoing issue.



Great Bowden, Route 5 report for the Parish Council March 2024 meeting

We walked the route on 10th March.

Muddy tyre tracks on the verge along Dingley Road opposite the houses are particularly bad

One of the areas of standing water along Welham Road mentioned last report has sunk and will need filling in at some point.

The footpath section along the mud wall is very muddy and unfortunately the damage reported last month to the mud wall has not been repaired. See attached photographs of this and the previous two reports.

The gap between the mud wall and the building works off Lime Tree Place is being observed by the builders.

The wooden fence surrounding the Common land off Welham Road has been replaced. Was this undertaken by the Parish Council or a local resident? We noticed that the old gate, capable of allowing a wider grass mower entry has been replaced by a single width gate suitable only for domestic mowers.



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Route 8

Knights End Road

Photo 1 shows the grass verge at the top end of the road starting outside The Barn. It still shows signs of vehicle damage and a weak road edge. This has been like this since the first report in April 2021



Photo 1

Horseshoe Lane

Photos 2 shows the verge at the side of No 68 Station Road. It is being well maintained by the property owner.



Photo 2

Berry Close

Footpath

The footpath linking Station Road to the Berry Close estate had a lot of weed growth that was encroaching onto the footpath.

This has now been cleared and some planting has been done (see Photo 3), I presume by the property owners, and is a great improvement which I am sure will be appreciated by all those who use this footpath.



Photo 3

Verges and Play Area

Photos 4 and 5 show that the verges, planting and the "green" children's play area are in good condition and are being well maintained.



Photo 4



Photo 5

SUDS

Photos 6 to 9 show that the SUDS provision is being well maintained and looks in very good condition



Photo 8 shows the bulrush growth is very healthy. Photo 9 shows the outlet area where the water is clear apart from the grass cuttings and there is no blockage in the pipe outlet



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Route 1 & 2

Heathcote Grange:

I have still some concerns the build-up of silt a few metres from the **SUDs** outflow grille which is slowing the surface water egress, however due to the increased level of water in the SUDs and the slowly increasing reed density, the previously noted stagnation has cleared. **Leicester Lane Play Area:** The small waste bin close to the fence and charging points was empty on this visit; hopefully that means it is no longer being used as a dumping ground for bags of dog mess – will continue to monitor.

Barwood Homes (now Cora) – Old Sawmill development

On behalf of Lane residents I have asked Cora to remove the various direction signs which are littered over the verges on Leicester Lane and at the top on Main Street – will chase again.

Damage to Leicester Lane Verges by Contractors

NRSWA Compliance officer report: National Grid PN still off sick (6th Feb)



As previously reported... the additional damage to the verge by a farmer's contractors (photo on right):

As mowing season is about to start, I'll highlight again my concern: this level of damage (right) makes mowing by Spendlove impossible. Also, this damage is right in the sightline, so we shall have complaints from Highway's Operations Control, not to mention a resident - if it isn't mown.

As I have no idea which farm contractor caused the damage, do we need to backfill this ourselves before Dave starts mowing? Or ask Spendlove to backfill?



Upper Greens

Still awaiting the Keep Off/soft verges signs – have these arrived yet, please? (white van) traffic still crossing the common land and churning it up. (Leftmost photo)

But of course worse was to come with building works at The Stables, Upper Green Place followed by the erection of a stable block at the gated entrance to the A50 footpath and contractor's access being via BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) A 50. (Otherwise known as the end right-hand section of Upper Green Place)

What a mess now – with road edges broken down etc.



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Main Street itself

'On grass' parking outside of 92, 94, 96 – now worse. Almost certainly the worst of the damage is done by the contractors working on the house there. They may have asked Paul Claxton for permission to store building materials on the bank, but I doubt they asked for permission for daily parking? Given we own this bank, surely the PC needs to take some action with the home owner having the work done? Including gaining a written commitment to full remediation? Mowing is about to start



Main St, Wildflower verges

- All that can be said about progress on Main Street is: rain-soaked ground!
- I am meeting with LCC Highways re installation of the so-called 'way markers' on Friday 15th March. After installation I will reinstate the Blue Hearts and our Parish signage.
- Further verge news in due course

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Route 7

Nothing to report

Route 3 & 6

Nothing to report