

Open Spaces Report July 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Individual reports conducted by Jim Culkin (Route 4), Cllr Bob Hooper (7), Lynn and Gordon Mayer (5), Chris Attenborough (3&6) and Carolyn Ford (1&2), John Coombs (8) 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 (Updated items in [blue](#))

Route	Topic	Comment
1&2	Leicester Lane Benches	Any update on ownership? No, how do we moved this on? Can we replace using S106 funds?
1 & 2	Leicester La – verges	Any response from Highways?
1 & 2	Upper Greens:	Still awaiting 'Do not drive on the grass' signs, should have been installed 2 weeks after last PCM – not happened (9.7.24)
1 & 2	Main Street	Rotten post further down Main St - Awaiting replacement – or awaiting a 'Do not drive...' sign, can we do at same time as above?
1&2	Leicester La	Ditch issues not resolved, - streetworks Inspector and LCC draining to carry out onsite inspection and report to Barry Champion as to who is responsible for what
1&2	Main Street	Permission to park on the grass?
1 & 2	Leic La	Can we place 'No Fly Tipping sign?' on gate? May need RE to request from HDC Environmental Services
1 & 2	Heathcote grange playpark	Gate needs adjustment
5	Church Hall	Bricks that have fallen, BH to investigate
4	Welham Road	Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying, been an issue for a year
4	Wooden Bollard	Gate and gateway still in need of tidying
5	Mud wall capping	RE Chased AB
8	Horseshoe Lane	Needs a sign, and enquiry to County Highways

Open Spaces Report March 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Route 4

Hursley Park.

No significant issues to report. The Park is looking good. A minor observation is that the grass trimmer is damaging the wooden posts around the greens and this could become a longer term problem.

Welham Lane.

The wooden bollard at the junction with Nether Green needs to be replaced.
There is no fly tipping, just a small amount of litter.

Welham Road.

The temporary entrance to the building site has been an on-going issue for over a year now and needs now to be addressed sooner rather than later. The verge looks as though most if it has recovered but the greenery is growing over the rubber matting and disintegrated plywood sheeting that was put down to protect the verge from vehicle damage. The rubber matting can only be found now by scrapping the top surface. The plastic sheeting is still visible but will soon be lost. The people responsible should be reminded of their responsibility to the environment and the attractive green spaces of our village and be required to repair the damage. I think this is becoming an urgent issue.



Plastic Sheetting



Rubber Matting

Route 5

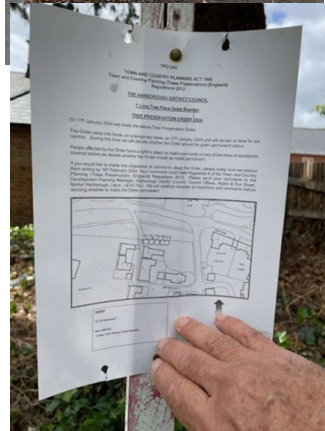
On Dingley Road, new blocks have been placed across the entrance to the paddock, complete with horses.

The water damage reported for several months to the mud wall behind the church is still evident.

The building works entrance off Lime Tree Place is tidy.

Tree work has been undertaken at 7 Lime Tree Close off Nether Green. TPO 260 is posted and the six month temporary preservation order runs out on the 17 July 2024. It appears that two trees have been felled and five trees remain. At present there is no fence.

The resurfacing of Dingley Road and Sutton Road have covered up the drain work reported in the last report and the entrance to the new house on Sutton Road, along with its new grass verge, looks neat. The damage reported last month to the mud wall has not been repaired. As we understand that this wall is 'Listed' whose responsibility is it to make repairs?



Open Spaces Report March 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Route 8

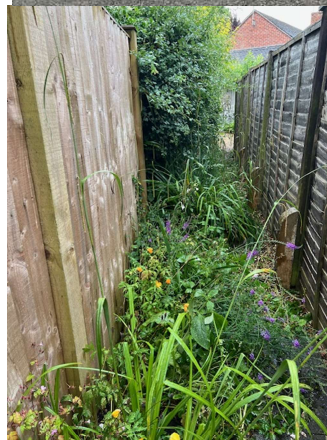
I am fairly sure that there used to be a street name sign at the Station Road end of Horseshoe Lane. I think it was in front of the hedge shown on the photo below.
I am not sure if the Parish Council knows any more about this but I think it needs to be replaced as this lane is easy to miss if you do not know the area.



Group 3 and 6

Nothing much to report

I would just suggest PC keep an eye on this development to ensure no encroachment of the footpath and also note that it's currently quite overgrown and hard to access.



Open Spaces Report March 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Route 1 & 2

Leicester Lane

The road edges on LL continue to deteriorate (see below) causing hazards for unsuspecting motorists and cyclists. As all but the deepest potholes are drying out, now would be a good time for LCC to patch the road edges to stop further deterioration. Clearly not making any impact on LCC as a Parish Council therefore I've asked Cllr Champion to see if these holes can be fixed, even temporarily, before winter.

New fly-tipping? (Or is this the batch Bob reported?)

This is the first inbound gateway after the Waterways, so northern side of LL towards the hump-back bridge.

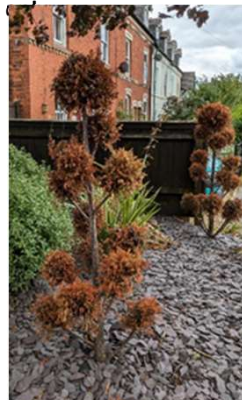
If new, can this please be reported to HDC at the same time can we request a No Fly-tipping sign to be affixed to the gate.



Avenue of White Horse Chestnuts

as reported to Chairman in the interim, Cllr Champion has confirmation from Stewart Marshall, Forestry LCC, that the three replacement White Chestnuts have been ordered and will be planted this winter. We await the precise schedule. A team of volunteers from the Lane have undertaken to water these saplings to ensure their survival

Heathcote Grange – information



Nothing to report other than our surprise that the ghastly pom-pom bushes at the entrance have survived this long! The grey slate and other attractions are not exactly in keeping with Navvies Row.

Heathcote Grange – for information not action

There remains a silt build up a few metres from the SUDs outflow grille which appears to be slowing the surface water egress, however there is a further increase in the number of 'water-cleaning' reeds over the whole area but most are a long way from the water pooling area? (I still believe the floor of the SUDs has a 'hump' in the middle of it right where the floor should be graded towards the outflow.)



Quite a few dead trees around the SUDs – presumably to be replaced by Mulberry/Ground Solutions in the autumn?

After all this time and a ROSPA recent inspection, the red gate on the play area (one nearest to LLane) still refuses to close correctly and blows open onto parked cars. Thus I thought I would mention again – I believe it's a simple matter of adjusting the spring on the gate; needs to be a fraction tighter?

Severe Damage to Leicester Lane Verge – remaining issue

I met with the NRSWA/Permit Compliance Inspector on Wednesday 24 April when he signed off the grading and reseeding work. While Phil was on site we looked at the ditch and the drainage issue (see photo on left from last report). Phil agreed to take this issue up with his colleague who is responsible for drainage in this area. Phil reported to Barry Champion and myself on 12 June:

- The ditch that is blocked is the responsibility of the landowner despite the rubbish causing the blockage having been deposited there by various contractors operating under licences granted by LCC; LCC will not take action until the ditch water overflows onto the road; if we want action meanwhile we have either to ask the landowner (and we all fell about laughing at that notion) or DIY-it using volunteers, skip, etc.
- LCC agreed that the underground, buried part of the drainage to the Burnmill culvert was installed by and is LCC's responsibility; there are no funds to rod this though to ensure that it is draining correctly or at all (clearly it is not draining correctly but again...) we are assured that when it does overflow funds will be found. Should it overflow onto the road (unlikely) we should report the matter to LCC's Customer Services and they will pass to the responsible drainage person.

At present, school holiday season, there is no appetite to manually clear the section of ditch causing concern; if Laners decide to tackle this we will come back to the PC for a) approval for volunteer action (because insurance etc) and b) funds for the skip hire



Upper Greens

Keep Off/soft verges signs – see opening comment of this report. What can I say after 3+ years of trying to get the installation of appropriate signage to prevent the majority of harm from white vans trashing the upper greens? No apparent action despite having signs in stock and a commitment to install by the end of May. Photo on left shown as an example of damage caused by delivery traffic.

There are a number of issues with the erection of a stable block at the gated entrance to the A50 footpath, plus the contractor's access being via BOTAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) A 50 and doing damage. The main issues are non-existent

There are a number of issues with the erection of a stable block at the gated entrance to the A50 footpath, plus the contractor's access being via BOTAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) A 50 and doing damage. The main issues are non-existent footpath signage and failure to comply with some of the planning conditions. **Update:** some of the original signage has recently been propped up by the landowner/tenant but still inadequate in my opinion. Thus still on this case with John Gray the PROW Officer for Harborough.

Other Footpaths

On other footpaths, the bottom rung of the stile on the A63 exit onto Green Lane is dangerous – I will mention to John Gray.

A reminder please! Will all PC Members and OS Wardens who walk the Upper Greens and BOTATs please walk the correct footpath through the Lewington's garden and note that they have done so, date time, photo record. The entrances are being closed down again – historically it should be a cart track width and currently at both ends entrance is... barely passable without turning sideways (see photo above; looking south west from the common at the bottom of Green Lane).



Open Spaces Report March 2024



Great Bowden Parish Council

Main Street itself

Moving from one set of grass damage to another – our grass bank outside of 92, 94, 96 is still used (as of 9 July) for parking and as general dump for builders' supplies and rubbish. (I leave the photos for Paul's use if the main contractor does not complete the correct remediation work as confirmed to PC in writing.)



Meanwhile outside No 100 Main Street – a different contractor is using the bank as van park and delivery spot (kitchen replacements at a guess). **Does this contractor have premission to park there** – each time I've seen him parked on the bank there has been ample, safe, parking on the road.

Route 7

No changes to mine
Just also to note I've reported the fly-tipping on Leicester Lane to HDC