

Open Spaces Report September 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 La – verges	Highways respond that no funding available for verges -
1 & 2	Upper Greens:	Still awaiting 'Do not drive on the grass' signs, should have been installed 2 weeks after last PCM – not happened (13.9.24)
1 & 2	Main Street	Rotten post further down Main St - Awaiting replacement – or awaiting a 'Do not drive...' sign to be put here
1 & 2	Leic La	Can we place 'No Fly Tipping sign?' on gate? May need RE to request from HDC Environmental Services
1 & 2	Main Street	Grass bank remediation, wait until work complete?
4	Welham Road	Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying, been an issue for a year
5	Mud wall capping	RE Chased AB, no response as 13/9
8	Horseshoe Lane	Needs a sign, and enquiry to County Highways. RE to contact Street Signs at HDC
1 & 2	Leics Lane	Three White Horse Chestnut trees will be planted winter 2024/25
1 & 2	Old Sawmill Development	Public right of way – gate removed, who approved?
1 & 2	Main Street veges	Verge by railway bridge - boundary bushes on open land – did chair discuss with residents?

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Route 4

Hursley Park.

Nothing to report.

Welham Lane.

There is no fly tipping, just the occasional bit of litter.

Welham road.

The temporary entrance to the building site still needs to be cleared up.

Route 5

Apologies, no report available

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Route 8

The Berry Close SUDS scheme is a bit overgrown but not impacting on the working of the system,



Group 3 and 6

1 I don't think the bollards between Langton Road and Sutton Road have been fixed. I assume these are to stop any risk of vehicles - so it would make sense to repair.

2) ivy in the trees - not sure if this is a concern to the health of the trees - but on our park we were advised to cut a section away one each tree.

3) in the same areas (there are 2) it all looks quite overgrown. There is a certain charm and wildlife value in wild spaces like this but a little tlc such as a litter pick and mown path through the middle would make it look deliberate rather than neglected.

4) there is a house undergoing development where the public footpath meets Langton Road. The pc should keep a close eye on this to ensure there is no encroachment or restriction of the public footpath.

CA

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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 – 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; the number/size of 'water-cleaning' reeds over the whole area continues to increase; most are a long way from the water pooling area.



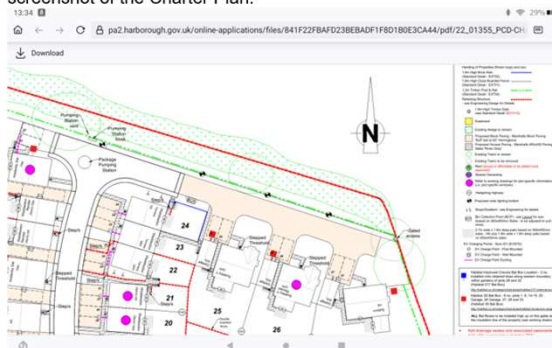
Quite a few dead trees around the SUDs...**Some new shrub plantings noticed 13.9.24.**

As reported last time, even after a ROSPA inspection, the red gate on the play area (one nearest to LLane) still refuses to close correctly and blows open onto parked cars.



Old Sawmill development – for information not action

Surprised to find the **gate allowing residents access onto the adjacent ProW (Public Right of Way) has been removed and fenced over...** seemingly by the tenant farmer of the adjacent field. In my understanding, that part of the fence is estate boundary fencing (see for the approved charter plan 22/01355/PCD | Discharge of condition 11 (landscape scheme), condition 13 (landscaping management plan) condition 16 (boundary treatment); the original planning application is 19/01902/FUL. There was discussion/consideration re the access to the nearby ProW during the lengthy planning process - which discussion/planning decision is why you have a gate but no laid path (in the field) to the PRoW. See this screenshot of the Charter Plan:



My question to residents: who approved the closure of that planning-approved gateway?

Leicester Lane verge southside



Ditch and the drainage issues (see photo on left from last several reports). Given that LCC will not take action until the ditch water overflows onto the road, the only way forward on this is community action - for which there little appetite at the present time - most of us have other major personal concerns. However, as LCC agreed that the underground, buried part of the drainage to the Burnmill culvert was installed by and is LCC's responsibility, we are assured that when it does overflow funds will be found. Should it overflow onto the road I will report it to LCC's Customer Services and we will see what happens!

Upper Greens

- There were a number of issues with the erection of a stable block at the gated entrance to the A50 footpath; at my request, John Gray the PRow Officer for Harborough has carried out an inspection and added new 'direction' signs to the yellow way marker posts. I also understand that John's boss gave advice to several of the residents badly affected by the excavations for the stable block - as far as John knows, none of the residents followed up with HDC Enforcement Team.
- On other footpaths, the **bottom rung of the stile on the A63** exit onto Green Lane **is dangerous**; John Gray has recently repaired it but it needs looking at again. [Sigh]
- **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). ***This is still the case 13.9.24***



Other Footpaths

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Main Street itself

- our grass bank outside of 92, 94, 96 remains un-repaired; seems the developer is banking (pardon the pun) on grass regrowth covering the dents, divots and eventually the damage from spilled cement. PC doesn't appear to be following up on the written assurance re remediation?



Also on Main Street – the Old Hall drain junction of Main St and Upper Green Place is becoming blocked again (see left) – can this be reported please?

The 'Other Open Spaces' verge that thinks it's a garden continues to cause concern (right). The Mountain Ash / Rowan? between the two large trees continues to strive for light and curves out toward the road; the oak at the west end is enjoying life among the telephone wires;



the boundary bushes (which are on Highways land without a Licence) now form a forbidding fence, and so on. Was the Chair able to discuss this with residents after the last meeting?

Route 7

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