

Open Spaces Report March 2025



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	Main Street	Blocked drain: Old Hall drain junction of Main St and Upper St Green place, to be reported to county hall. Who?
1 & 2	Leic La	Can we place 'No Fly Tipping sign?' on gate Clerk to to request from HDC Environmental Services, still not appeared 14/1/25 ,
1 & 2	Main Street	Grass bank remediation, P Claxton to follow up
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 Chased, no response 19/11 Looks like more damage has occurred, have chased again, still to be followed up
8	Horseshoe Lane and Langton Lane	Needs a sign, and enquiry to County Highways. Highways signs contacted, they are investigating tis and Lancton Lane, RE replied to HDC
1 & 2	Main Street Open Space	Completed
4	Welham La	Bollards have rotted, on list to be replaced
1 & 2	Green La	Style on A63 rotten, quote received , £1250, 50% to be paid by PC. Landowner given permission– will be installed after lambing
8	Berry Close	Footpaths responsibility of their Estate Management Team?

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Route 4

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Hursley Park. The newly created pond has been fenced with a natural fence with gated access and seating area within. The park is otherwise well managed

Welham Lane. There is no fly tipping and only a small amount of general litter. Otherwise nothing to report.

Welham Road. The long length of cable that was hanging from the BT telegraph pole has been cut back and removed. Otherwise nothing to report

Route 7

Nothing to report

Route 3 and 6

Nothing untoward to report

Route 8

The reeds in the Berry Close SUDS are growing well,

Nothing else to report

Route 5

Not much of concern to report bar:

The broken bench on Welham Rd

Part of a brick detached from the church wall on Dingley Rd (see photograph)

The disrepair of the mud wall in the footpath by the church which has been reported before



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Route 1 & 2

Leicester Lane

- Avenue of White Horse Chestnuts, three replacement trees – at long last these are planted (sorting this has taken almost as long as getting the mixed waste bin installed at the end of the A48!). The saplings are of a decent size, very health looking; and unusually well planted and supported for an LCC installation. Please may it be minuted (for PC Public Liability Insurance purposes) that three of the environment team of volunteers from Leicester Lane (Lynn Mayer, Caroline McCartney and Jacqui Lewin) have each adopted a tree to monitor and water it finds its roots and establishes. They will, of course wear 'hi viz' while attending the trees.
- Re two benches – mysteriously umm... disassembled and disappeared without trace during the early hours of 16 September 2023 - information about this mystery slowly emerges. Still on my 'find out about these' list.
- No fly tipping signs on gateways - two out of three installed thus I'll call this completed until the next episode of fly tipping.
- The verge edges are suffering increasing damage - mostly by people parking up to walk dogs - nothing we can do about this at the moment.



Old Sawmill development – for information not action

Not visited on this occasion.

Green Lane

Degrading and dangerous stile exit from footpath A63 onto Green Lane (BOTAT A51); following approval of match funding with LCC at the last PC Meeting (15 January 2025, see Minute 01/25/12 Report from the environment focus group) on behalf of the PC I have liaised with John Gray our ProW Officer and our Clerk. John suggested the installation of a Kissing Gate in place of the stile; subsequently he emailed (27 January 2025) an estimate for the work to the Clerk; total cost of installation £1250 match funding portion to be met by PC is £625. On 12 March 2025 John confirmed that he had received landowner permission for the installation - that information was forwarded to the Clerk. I expect installation to take place after lambing has completed; I have asked John Gray for a rough estimate of the installation date and will advise the Clerk in due course. A positive outcome for the many villagers who walk  the paths.



see left./

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 – historically it should be a cart track width and currently at both ends entrance is... barely passable without turning sideways (see photo [left](#); looking south west from the common at the bottom of Green Lane). ***This is still the case in March 2025 -***

Heathcote Grange – for information not action

- The vegetation at the outlet end of the SUDs looks as if it has had some attention - the Rosebay Willow Herbs cut back? The water near the outlet is clearer but isn't as I would expect it to be, however I am not expert on these things.



- See photos. [Still](#) what looks like an abandoned glass fish tank (right) which is now joined by rubbish, cans, paper coffee cups, etc (left) - in the wildlife corridor between Heathcote and Walnut Drive.



Main street

The bank - previously (27 January 2025) I shared with Cllrs Hooper & Claxton a photo of the damage being done by visitors to one of the properties on the bank - a neighbour at number 94 confirmed that this mess (see photo right) was caused by a white BMW believed to be visiting number 90. Placing on file as a matter of record.



Upper Greens

Still some attempts by vans to cross the main Upper Green - skilfully avoiding the newly installed and well sited signs. At the May 2024 PC meeting it was agreed to install two of the new 'Do not drive on the grass' signs either side of [he](#) Green - it seems that the second pair are in fact needed further back on the Green - see photograph for location. Can these be installed please?

Route 8

Knights End Road

Photo 1

On my previous inspection, I reported that some crushed stone has been put at the edge of the road to provide a bit of strength. Photo 1 shows that further work has now been done and turf has been laid along the damaged section to restore the grass verge. This looks much better and hopefully drivers will respect this work effort.



Berry Close

Footpaths

Photos 2, 3 and 4 show a number of the wooden edging boards that have been damaged or are missing.

I assume this is the responsibility of the Estate Management Committee rather than the Parish or District Councils?



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

SUDS

The reed growth was good on my last inspection. There seems to have been some work done on the reed bed since and I assume this is in accordance with the SUDS Management Plan as I do not have a copy.

Photos 5 and 6, show that the middle section has been cut right down to water level and only the ends left with full reed growth.

