

# Open Spaces Report May 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? <a href="#">Reported to LCC</a>             |
| 1 & 2 | Main Street      | <a href="#">Grass bank remediation, P Claxton has followed up and as a result contractor compensated with 150 plant plugs</a>                               |
| 4     | Welham Road      | Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying, been an issue for a year. <a href="#">Ongoing</a>                                                    |
| 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, <a href="#">still to be followed up</a> |
| 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 <a href="#">Completed</a>    |
| 5     | Welham Rd        | <a href="#">Old bench being consumed by hedge, anything we can do?</a>                                                                                      |

### Route 3 and 6

Not much to report on my route. Generally everything is fine.

I noticed we could still do with some bollards on Langton Road and the footpath which joins the start of Langton Road is quite overgrown which is making access difficult.

Also I'm not sure who owns the land but it's obviously been disturbed by recent works so although the footpath is reinstated the state of the ground there is a little questionable



### Route 5

The grass has been cut throughout the route and the verges in general look neat now that Spring is here. The trees are all looking magnificent with their new growth. We walked into the gated open space at the corner of Nether Green and Welham Rd at 15.45 to note that it seems to be well cared for, grass cut and trees looking healthy. The path around the church looks smart and tidy.

The remains of the old bench, reported on last month is now being consumed by the hedge on Welham Rd and the old wall on the footpath along the boundary of the church land/Limetree Place is still minus some tiles and the water damage is worsening.

Apart from this all is well and no changes have taken place.



### Route 4

Nothing to report

### Route 7

Nothing to report

## Route 1 & 2

### Leicester Lane

- Avenue of White Horse Chestnuts, three replacement trees – these trees are being carefully tended by their ‘watering’ owners and are thus thriving despite the dry spell.
- Re two benches – mysteriously... disassembled and disappeared without trace during the early hours of 16 September 2023 - information about this mystery slowly emerges. It’s still on my ‘find out about these’ list. *[I leave this here as a reminder of the dates/details so that when I finally track down the original installers...]*
- The verge edges are still suffering damage - mostly by people parking to walk their dogs - the folks at GB Hall have taken matters into their own hands and are slowly filling-in the deepest ones nearest to them.
- Ash dieback in hedgerow trees - looks to be an increasing issue for Leicester Lane - if they all die about the same time the landscape will completely change. I’m talking to LCC about a similar issue on the Green Lane Byway - I hope to get some resource docs to share in due course. Useful video introduction from the Tree Council here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vdOstCGRO1Y>

### Heathcote Grange for information, not action



- The SUDs now has the addition of a lump of concrete at the outflow end!
- Quite a few loose tree guards blowing about - rescue and use for the community’s new plantings?



### Green Lane

Degrading and dangerous stile exit from footpath A63 onto Green Lane (BOTAT A51); following approval by the PC for a match funding project with LCC (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 the ProW Officer and our Clerk. The gate is now installed and an invoice from LCC should arrive with the Clerk shortly. A positive outcome for the many villagers who walk this path to the canal. One comment from a regular walker of the path: “makes such a difference to my enjoyment - no longer fearful of slipping off the stile



### Upper Greens

Promising signs! The owners of the Old Stables, whose construction traffic caused significant damage to the Upper Green adjacent to and opposite their property, have repaired the worst of the damage and reseeded the area. Very welcome improvement



**Main Street**The grass bank... Still being used as storage space for garden make-over materials.

**The verge that thought it was a garden...** The issue of the tree(s) growing into the telephone wires remains to be resolved, again action previously agreed by the PC. Spendlove Contracting have cut this verge today (Thursday 15 May).

**The windflower verges..** At the end of March our triangular windflower verge on Main Street suffered a major unplanned and unwanted haircut at the hands of the village’s mowing contractors. As Sod’s Law dictates, the triangle is the verge that hosts our only patch of Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) - a patch that has taken much care and attention from March 2021 until the spring last year to fully establish. As you might imagine, and to put it politely, there was much gnashing of volunteers’ teeth!

As a result, the Parish Council made a formal complaint to the contractor, Spendlove Contracting. Spendlove inspected the site, accepted fault, and have compensated us with 150 Yellow Rattle plug plants which the available verge volunteers - Jacqui, Muriel, Trish and myself - have planted, and we are now busy watering those every two days to ensure they establish. As further compensation, we should receive a number of Cowslip (*Primula veris*) plant plugs later in the year. If all the plugs establish well, throughout next spring and summer the triangle should be a sea of yellow.



## Route 8

Knights End Road Verge doing well after remedial work has been carried out.



Photo 2



Photo 3

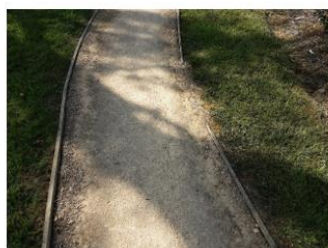


Photo 4



Photo 5

## Berry Close

I reported last time that a number of the wooden edging boards to the footpaths have been damaged or are missing. This is still the same situation as is shown on photos 2 to 5

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

## SUDS

Photos 6 shows significant green algae growth at the culvert outlet. There is no blockage in the culvert so I think it is standing water that has been affected by the recent hot weather.

Photos 7 and 8 show a lot of dead bulrushes and the new growth is just coming through, so I would expect this should help the algae issue to clear up over the next month.

There are no other changes to report.



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8