

Open Spaces Report Nov 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
4	Welham Road	Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying, been an issue for a year. Ongoing
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
3 & 6	Langton Rd	Bollards on Langton Road have been suggested
1 & 2	Main Street	Fly tipping on grass bank - report and write to HA
1 & 2	Main Street	Trees shedding leaves, oaks branches and telephone lines – action?
1 & 2	Main Street	PC report of 50 cowslip plugs
8	Horseshoe Road	Sign damaged and propped against fence

Route 3 and 6

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

Bollard check and all are ok

Route 5

Not much to report this month. All is looking tidy and Autumnal around the village.

The wooden fence around the enclosed field on Welham Rd (West end) is collapsing in at least places and the upright posts are failing.

The mud wall has not been repaired and is still suffering from water damage.

We noted the planning notice on a post by the field on the South side of Dingley Rd before the cemetery. (three self build houses)

Otherwise all looking good.

Route 4

Nothing to report

Route 7

Nothing to report

Route 1 & 2

Leicester Lane

- - Avenue of White Horse Chestnuts: the three replacement trees – these trees have been carefully tended by their ‘watering’ owners since planting. All of the saplings are now leafless and becoming dormant for the winter. Watering will resume in late spring.
- - Note: we may have to mount a serious tree protection campaign to include all of the white chestnuts on the inbound/north side if 25-01492-OUT is successful.
- - [Re two benches – mysteriously... disassembled and disappeared without trace during the early hours of 16 September 2023 - information about this mystery slowly emerges. [I leave this here as a reminder of the dates/details so that when I finally track down the original installers...]]
- - Wet weather is again causing verge-edge degradation. Things will deteriorate dramatically if we’re blessed with another two-year period of fully laden 44-tonne lorries over-running the already broken road edges.
- - Ash dieback in hedgerow trees - is an increasing issue for Leicester Lane and Burnmill Hill. If they all die at the same rate the landscape will change dramatically. Some thought needs to be given to mitigation

Heathcote Grange for information, not action

The majority of the SUDs area is evolving into a pleasant naturalised space for residents and visitors. The outflow end again looks restricted (by Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), and matted grasses) thus it is green and brackish and appears not to be discharging cleaned water as intended.

Missing fencing on the the west side by the A48 kissing gate onto Frank Burditt, and at the northwest corner of the SUDs enclosure (see right) may pose a risk to residents if development goes ahead in the adjacent field.



Old Sawmill development, not action

Quite a bit of disruption and bad feeling caused - certainly on Leicester Lane and the LL allotments by Cora’s removal without prior consultation or notice of the retained Leylandii trees on the estate’s southern/allotment’s northern border. HDC Enforcement have been involved. Things have improved a touch in the ‘goodwill’ department and residents on both sides of the boundary are expecting a screening hedge of bare-root Beech hedging (1.7m) to be planted any minute now.

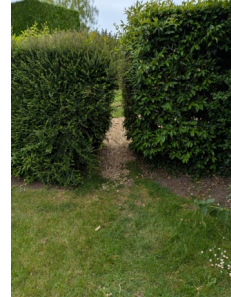
Green Lane

As reported last time, the Ash Tree adjacent to the Kissing Gate (A51 BOAT) is completely dead. Despite the efforts of Stewart Marshall (Forestry LCC) and John Gray (LCC's PRow Officer) to get the landowner to simply remove the dead limbs and retain the full trunk as a standing 'bug hotel' the owners' contractor had different ideas. So we have lost a potential habitat for many of the 600+ flora and fauna species that are endemic to common ash, some which only inhabit the trunk area. Grim.



Green Lane

•**Reminder** Please will all PC Members and OS Wardens who walk the Upper Greens and bridleway (A51 BOTAT) walk the correct footpath through the 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 the north end (Upper Green Farm end) is... not passable without turning sideways.



Upper Greens

The era of driving directly across the green has returned! Van drivers may learn the hard way not to do this now that PvH (RIP) is no longer around to tow them off



Main StreetThe grass bank... The grass bank... is now used for fly tipping. Craig @ 92 reported the last lot. **Richard could you please report this fresh .**

And can the PC please write the housing association/management company and request they tackle the problem by issuing their tenants with a dire warning. (Paul has the contact details)



The verge that thought it was a garden... The trees that need to be cut down are shedding leaves; it is very clear how much the Oak's branches interfere with the telephone wires. Can this be actioned please

The windflower verges... We are awaiting news via Paul re the arrival of the 50 cowslip plugs from Spendlove; whereupon the two verges can be finally tidied and put to bed. Ends

Route 8 Knights End

No changes to the verge outside The Barn.

The Horseshoe Lane sign has been hit and damaged and is now propped against the lighting pole (see photo 1). This will need either to be repaired or a new sign made and re-installed



Berry Close

The damaged wooden edging boards to the footpaths have all been replaced.



SUDS

The green algae growth at the culvert outlet has now gone. The outlet is clear but there is some debris from the grass and reed cutting (see Photos 6 and 7) but it is not causing any flow problems at the moment.

