
GREENS AND FOOTPATHS REPORT – BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

APRIL 2021

The pandemic hasn't affected the work of this particular committee.

Over the past year we've unfortunately had to have 3 large trees removed from The Green due to disease. However, we have replaced 2 with young oak trees now known as the Covid Oaks. We've recently had to undertake work to another horse chestnut and there is a further sycamore to be removed, again due to dieback. We will, again, look to plant another tree in it's place space permitting.

We applied for funding towards a new zebra crossing to go near to the Hare on The Green to make it safer for children crossing to the school. This was via the Local Highways Initiative scheme and we were successful in being allocated £10k towards this. We're not sure when the work will take place as the County Council are some way behind with implementing the LHI's but hopefully it won't be too long.

Footpaths and Borrow Pits

As you're all aware there have been several new footpaths created due to the A14/A1 improvement works. The Parish Council is looking to have a formalised map of these produced which can perhaps be incorporated into the welcome pack usually provided to new residents, although that service has been thwarted due to Covid. Again, when things get back to normal such services will again get off the ground.

Largely due to the determined campaigning of former councillor Jacky Homer, the A14 Project has provided a much needed link to Brampton Hut. The project has also provided a well used bridleway from West End to Park Road and a new link to Brampton Park. The latter suffered from flooding in the Winter but work this month has hopefully rectified the problems. These new paths have been made available by the Highways England but they are not yet adopted by Cambridge County Council as official rights-of-way. There is still an outstanding issue with the traffic light controlled crossing at Brampton Hut and the surface of part of the path connecting Brampton Hut to Grafham Road.

Later this year the land surrounding the waterbodies in the Borrow Pits to the west of the A1 and new A14 and south of Brampton Park will be planted with trees, shrubs and wildflowers to create habitats to compensate for some of the land lost to the new A14. It will take a long time for the areas to mature but it should be good for wildlife. Unfortunately there will not be any public access unless future owners allow it, but there will be opportunities to see the areas from the new and existing rights-of-way.

Unfortunately the Parish Council receive several complaints about leaves on the footpaths which can become hazardous in wet and icy conditions. This is not a Parish Council responsibility rather more the District Council's. We do, when able, instruct our groundsmen to clear what they can time permitting but we're unable to get to all areas where this is a problem.

The committee usually does a walkaround of certain parts of the village during the year. Unfortunately this didn't happen in 2020 so we do rely on residents to inform us of trees/hedging that's getting out of control whereby we'll visit the offending foliage take a photo and report it to the owners of the property upon which it stands. Most residents oblige by tidying up but please let us know if you spot anything when out and about.

Unfortunately litter is always a constant problem. Our grounds men clear up what is our responsibility on daily basis but it just appears to get worse. It doesn't matter how many bins we install, so much of the litter appears to 'MISS' the bins. It's a worry when broken bottles are found on the new skate park and it would really help if parents could instill the danger of this into their young people. There's always broken glass around the dug outs on the playing field again a danger to our football clubs, walkers and dogs. Dog faeces on the playing field again always a constant problem and time and time again we have to appeal to owners to clean up after their dogs. There are plenty of bins on the field and it's easy to get distracted by your phone or meeting up with others but please be vigilant.

The Parish Council has instructed a local contractor to provide and install fencing along the footpath leading from Thrapston Road to Hinchbrooke Park to keep cattle and pedestrians/cyclists separate. Once the weather improves this work should get under way.