Environmental Report – April 2026

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

The Warden and members of the Place Team have continued to remove substantial moss growth from the Oaklands play areas and the lower part of Dugdale Drive, due to the wet winter and overhanging tree growth in both areas. The block type road splitters have been receiving attention as have the roundabouts, being mown and shrubs trimmed.

Following the emergence of leaves and flowers combined with windy conditions there has been a lot of tree debris around the footpaths and Neil has been blowing and clearing the areas worst affected. With the spring growth emerging on the shrubs and hedges this is also now starting to affect some footpaths and alleyways, as well as our street signs. Neil and the Place team are keeping on top of this. Recently, Neil was asked to remove overhanging growth from the shrub beds on route to Tesco from the Lyppard centre as it was becoming impassable. The Parish Council will remind Tesco of their responsibilities.

The footpath through New Plantation and from Trotshill Lane East to Tesco has had overhanging branches removed particularly focused around Lyppards School, as they have reported their fences were being damaged.

The Warden has been mowing around Aconbury orchard and meadows and Hillwood Meadows, to create walking strips and also mowing the various greenspaces/sports pitches, a matter that was raised with WCC.

The Warden is doing a great job and there continues to be appreciative comments of the work he and the place team are doing in the parish, both on Facebook and by residents directly to the Warden.

Wild flower beds

The wild flower seed which was sown a few weeks ago is now beginning to emerge following recent rainfall. Those of you who have recently visited either the doctors, pub or school may have noticed the seed bed under the oak tree opposite the car park this has not been resown but is currently putting on a very colourful show from the seed remaining from last year.





Lengthsman's duties

The Warden is still awaiting his second Traffic Management ecard qualification and will provide a copy as soon as it is received, so that he can receive his LANTRA accreditation

from Worcestershire County Council and we can submit our claims this financial year. The Clerk has received the annual Lengthsman's contract and will sign and return it once reviewed.

White Gates replacement signage

Following recent contact with the supplier I have their assurances that they will attend and fit the signs shortly, as they have another job in the area.

Benches

A schedule and plan of 'all' of the benches in the parish is currently being created showing for example when they were purchased, installed and who is responsible them. When completed this will be shared with the Clerk

I have asked the Parish Warden to take on the responsibility of monitoring them on a monthly basis and any issues will be reported back to the Parish Council Clerk via Cllr Merriman. This will include maintaining the area around them, removing litter, overgrown shrubs, weeds and long grass and ensuring the bench and the ground around the benches remains safe for public use. Once new asset tags are issued these will be applied asap.

Play Areas

Following the meeting with Worcester City Council lead for children's play areas on 21 April. The following was discussed. The piece of equipment at rear of Lyppard Hub was installed in 2007 and although it is still in relatively good condition, one of the wooden treads on the steps leading onto the equipment is starting to rot. It is recommended for decoration to freshen it up and add some weather protection. **See Quote** provided for the costs of the work under Item 7(v).

We also discussed employing the Parish Warden to tidy up the play area removing the weeds around the perimeter fencing and moss and debris from underneath the equipment.

The re-siting of the goal post removed from Bodiam play area was discussed. The officer advised that due to the footpath running alongside the greenspace it was not ideal for the goal post to be sited there for public safety reasons. The greenspace at Trevithick Close has a tall hedgerow which runs alongside of the footpath thus protecting the public from stray balls. The officer is going to investigate costs to remove the failing sleepers and install the goal post.

Footpaths - Divorced footpaths

No further update

Ash Dieback & Tree Management

A number of trees have fallen due to the windy conditions in April. A fallen tree obstructed the footpath in Woodgreen Drive (near the Middle Hollow roundabout) this was reported to Worcestershire County Council who attended within 48 hours.

Resident Complaints

Awaiting further action

Woodgreen Drive - hedge reduction opposite Woodgreen church (rear of Broadfield Gardens). This has been left due to in accessibility by the tractor and flail and the position of a road sign. I have contacted the Tree Officer reminding him this is still outstanding and he confirmed it would be done before the end of March. *- remains outstanding*

Homestead Avenue – resident has concerns regarding a tree on the boundary of their property. Resident advised they are able to trim back the overhanging foliage to their boundary. Ownership being investigated- *remains outstanding*

Falmouth
Resident in Falmouth is concerned about a tree close to their property. Following contact with WCC Tree Officer, he suggested it was likely to be the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council however after following that route, it would appear to be another case of unadopted land. Cllr Merriman to engage with developer.

Apex ponds
Still awaiting progress update from solicitor.

Lyppard centre and Brindley Road centre car parking areas
The condition of the car parking surface at both of these locations is very poor. I understand the managing agent is now G Herbert Banks and I will be contacting them for an update on when repairs will be carried out as this is becoming dangerous to users of the Hub and the retail businesses.

Fencing
Repairs to fencing at Newark Green – further meeting with WCC Works Unit and Parish Warden took place 17 April to discuss our proposals with relation to the replacement and re-siting the fencing. The works unit confirmed they are willing to assist the Parish Warden with the work. A list of materials has been provided and these and costs are being reviewed.

Meeting with Worcester City Council .
Cllr Forrest and I met on 23 April with Guy Powell (Technical Team Supervisor) (Street Scene & Waste) and Warwick Neale - Bereavement and Greenspace Manager (Worcester City Council). Items discussed were Hedge Cutting, Mowing, Parish Warden and Place Team, SLA. The meeting went well and we await follow up responses on some of these items.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)
7 May 2026