Environmental Report – June 2026

Environment Maintenance & Parish Warden

During the w/c 22/6/26 The City Place and bin teams were asked to start earlier and finish earlier to try and reduce the risk to health during the heatwave conditions. The Place Team and Warden were starting work at 6am and finishing at 1.30 pm leaving before the hottest part of the day. The Warden was also told to limit use of tools, work in the shade were possible and was unable to work alone, so he was buddied up with a member of the Place team. All teams should be congratulated for keeping things going under extreme conditions.

The warden continues with shrub/hedge management and low hanging branches interfering with our foot and pedways. Litter-picking is carried out every Monday and mowing weather dependant as and when required. Grass growth is now slowing down again due to the dry conditions.

The tidy up at Great Oaty play area remains to be done, as the Warden is still awaiting his training on tools which will make the removal of the fencing easier.

This week the Warden and member of the Place Team have started clearing the remains of the items originally used by the Children's nursery at the rear of the Hub building. It had become very overgrown and is now looking bare but tidy! Neil will continue with tidying up the area around the Lyppard centre in preparation for the Summer fete.

I met with Anthony, a member of the City Council Tree Team who has kindly volunteered to attend on the day of the Fete to assist Lauren's team with setting up, dismantling and litter-picking, as Neil is unavailable.

I understand some work has taken place, to reduce the shrubs overhanging the footpath to Tesco prompted by City Councillor Andrew Cross. There are still concerns with the height of the shrubs, but it is not the right time of year for harsher pruning. Hopefully this can be discussed later in the year.

More staggered gates on the foot/pedway in Millwood Drive/ Ankerage Gree junction have been replaced with bollards.

Wild flower beds

The wildflower seed was flowering well until the heatwave hit, we desperately need some rain otherwise I have asked Neil we can look into using a water bowser for watering the flower beds.

Continuing with the above project of enhacing our environment and continuing the work WEG have done at Aconbury/Woodgreen drive, I have suggested we carry out some addtional native daffodil bulb plantingin the Autumn, providing spring colour and nectar for insects. Many villages in Worcestershire have a display of daffodils in the spring. I have spoken with Warwick Neale and provided a map of different sites in the Parish and wondered if other Councillors would be in agreement to support this. I have yet to receive any costings but I am suggesting we spend up to £400 this financial year from Budget 4250 Misc Initiatives – Environment.

Lengthsman's duties

I have requested a report from Worcester City Council for the first quarter to enable the Parish Council to submit a claim to the County Council.

White Gates replacement signage

The Parish Waden arranged for the white gates to pressure washed and now look gleaming. No further progress re replacement signage, but I noted a resident had commented on a Parish Facebook post suggesting we should have more white gates on other roads. I am aware we touched on this subject before **What are Councillors views on this?**

Benches

The bench schedule and plan is still to be finalised. Hopefully this will be completed by the end of the summer recess.

Attachment of new asset tags still to be applied to each bench. – aim to complete end of the summer.

Play Areas

Awaiting further update on work to play area at rear of Lyppard Hub.

Footpaths - Divorced footpaths

A resident has contacted the Parish Council in connection with the condition of the footpath surface between Harlech Close and Saltwood Avenue**.** The surface is very muddy and is slippery in wet conditions. Harlech Close we are aware is prone to flooding issues which I suspect is contributing to the problem. This area is still in developer ownership, so the City are unlikely to action, but I will look into it!

Ash Dieback & Tree Management

No further update.

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. – *Still awaiting a response from the Developer - Persimmon.*

Deal Crescent.
A request for help with an overgrown tree received from a resident. This was reported to Worcestershire County Council and passed to County Councillor Cross, as ownership is still still unresolved!

Knotts Avenue
Resident is concerned about the hedge and trees adjacent to their garden which are damaging their fence. They have contacted the City Council who have advised it is not their responsibility, so I suspect this is developer owned land. To be actioned.

Apex ponds
Still awaiting response from our solicitor.

Lyppard centre and Brindley Road retail centre car parking areas
No further update since my report last month.

Fencing
Repairs to fencing at Newark Green – still awaiting further update from the Works unit.

Meeting with Worcester City Council .
Meeting took place 23.4.26. We have received notification that we will receive a response to our queries shortly.

Councillor Dawn Merriman (Environment)
1 July 2026