

Chair's report Sept 2024 v3

Kirk Hill, Kneeton Road, Main Street & highways issues (G1)

Drainage repair works of Kneeton Road began on schedule on 18th August, during the school holidays when parking is less of an issue, but at the time of writing is still ongoing as the school term begins. The provision of bollards to discourage vehicles from driving on pavements has not happened yet, and NCC has been informed of a further incident when a resident was confronted by a vehicle moving along the pavement, with a request to update the PC on when this work will go ahead. Cllr Yates reported to VIA during the summer a large number of potholes on Main Street, most of which have been filled, but with autumn and winter weather to come, the likely condition of Main Street will be a great concern again. No sign of Magdalen Drive being resurfaced as per the published programme of works.

Planning: Butt Lane South and North, including Springdale Wood (G2)

G2: Works have begun on both the north and south sides. Despite winning the planning appeal for 59 houses, Redrow have gone with the 42 house plan, which is good news. Problems from dust have already been reported by neighbours, and some correspondence circulated to Councillors. Monitoring of this type of negative interaction, and subsequently putting pressure on contractors to minimise it, is going to be important. Already it is abundantly clear that the South site is better organised in this respect.

One pleasant surprise has been the news that both Redrow and Peveril are due to pay CIL to the PC in stages, beginning this financial year, rather than on completion which was our expectation. Hence, we need to produce a plan for its use which meets the infrastructure criteria for the use of CIL. The Clerk will verbally report on another less satisfactory CIL situation elsewhere in the village which the PC needs to investigate.

Footpath 24: the temporary closure and subsequent diversion order is of major interest. Fortunately, we do now have some time to submit our views on the new route after it is considered at the meeting.

Butt Close, play area and pavilion matters, including the Sports Club (G3,G5, G6)

G5,G6: The mowing of the field at the summer height specified in the contract is back on track after issues arose in mid-summer, mainly due to the mowing equipment needing adjustment and maintenance. Autumn verti-draining can be programmed and a plan for better drainage investigated (with CIL potential). Further issues regarding access to the field have arisen recently, and will be detailed at the meeting.

The Clerk & Cllr Bancroft will report on the Play Area planned upgrade and any current issues needing attention in the meantime. **(G3,G5,G6)**

Allotments (G6)

New tenants are taking on vacant plots, and all tenants have been asked by the Clerk to put a plot number on display. As there is still some significant rubbish on the vacant allotments, particularly old

carpet used as weed suppressant, this has been allowed to be left by the gate and will be disposed of at the PC's cost.

The water meter has developed a leak which has been inspected and is still marked up for repair at the time of writing.

Trees (G4)

Cllr Storr will update the meeting about the Little Allotment Wood, and progress with the nature reserve status for Springdale Wood. The Redrow development being based on the 42-house plan is a relief in respect of the impact on Springdale Wood, but will still need to be kept under review. Elsewhere, the works identified in the existing 5-year survey not yet carried out, mainly due to very wet conditions on Butt Field last winter, will need to be scheduled for when the trees enter their dormant period.

Remembrance Sunday

The annual parade prior to the act of remembrance and service in November will take place on 10th November. The volunteers who act as marshals for the road closures need to be covered by our insurance so we need to resolve that the PC is acting as the official 'sponsor' of the activity.

FOR REFERENCE

Goals index

G1. Minimise and alleviate flooding on Kneeton Road.

G2. Butt Lane South and North - Ensure appropriate development.

G3. Play park upgrade to be completed.

G4. Protect Springdale Wood/Existing trees in the Parish and develop additional woodland.

G5. Support Youth Activities

G6. Maintain and improve Parish Council owned/leased assets