

Radford Semele Parish Council Environment Report – April 2024

Village pond

I am liaising with Tim Precious from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to fix a date for September to continue with the pond clearance. WkWT will provide one or two members of staff and possibly a couple of volunteers.

Playing field wildflower meadow & hedge

Cllr Dempsey and I met up with Duane Wagstaff on 5th April to discuss the mowing schedule for 2024. Duane could remember how the meadow sections were cut last year, which was extremely useful. Thankfully the wind dried the grass during that week and he was able to cut the whole playing field, leaving the meadow sections at 3 inches (no need to remove the cuttings this time). It was agreed that the meadow will remain uncut until September.

Overgrown drainage ditch in the Valley

I need to liaise with Sam Gibbs regarding a date for the ditch maintenance. Do we request September or do we ask him to add the ditch to his usual schedule for January? (the ditch will be full of berries for birds in September, but this needs to be weighed up against the need for it to be an effective flood defence for The Valley).

The jitty maintenance

I attended a general councillor training session with WALC on 16th April, which gave me the opportunity to ask J'Neen whether the fence problem in the jitty was under the remit of the PC or WCC; she confirmed that it is definitely WCC. Judy Steele from FoRGE has contacted Richard Barnard again to ask him to take action regarding both the fence problem and the overflow pipe on one of our footpaths.

Canal & River Trust: Canal access project planning application

Meeting between engineers and project managers from Active Travel England, Sustrans, the Canal and River Trust and WCC held on 29th March to investigate solutions to space constraints caused by recent legislation regarding mobility ramps. The outcome was positive - Sustrans' engineer has recommended some design modifications to CRT's engineers. CRT is now considering whether the design can be made to work around existing BT services, and also whether it will require a revision or resubmission of planning consent.

No Mow May

FoRGE has publicised this event on its social media platforms; Cllr Friar will post the following WDC link on the PC's website: <https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/nomowmay> (excellent information on why it's important and how easy it is to get involved); The PC Chairman has placed the official Plantlife 'No Mow May' poster in the village bus stop shelter on Radford Rd to raise awareness and Cllr Sanderson has completed the Plantlife survey to express the PC's support for the event, and to register our playing field meadow.

FoRGE activities

Footpath Group

Met up in April to install a new 'no dogs please - wildlife pond' sign by the village pond. Also widened the footpath that leads from the footbridge by the pond, which had become very narrow due to the excessive rain carrying mud onto the sides of the path. Also cleared the footbridge of mud. We will look at the permissive path in The Valley next month.

FoRGE News

Cllr Roe is in the process of setting up a meeting between the Social Club and FoRGE to discuss how to combine our newsletters.

Parish Assembly

FoRGE will attend the annual Assembly to talk about the work that they do in the village, and hopefully recruit new members. Judy Steele has designed a bus survey to find out what improvements the villagers would like to see to the current service. FoRGE will also be asking people for ideas on the repurposing of the refurbished telephone box, after which the results of both surveys will be submitted to the relevant parties.