

## Update on Estates Issues

This report sets out progress on a number of estates issues raised by the committee or reported to the clerk.

### **1. Overgrown hedgerow between Meeting Green and Nunnery Green**

This issue has been reported three times through SCC on-line Report a Problem with no progress. The clerk has spoken to a member of the highways team, and the three reports have now been linked to try and raise the priority. The matter has been referred to SCC Highways records office, with a requirement for action by 5<sup>th</sup> October. Once highways have established the owner of the hedgerow, a hedging notice is likely to be issued, requiring the land owner to cut back the hedgerow. The clerk has been advised that this is an SCC Highways function.

### **2. Poor Drainage of Footpath 25 at the Coltsfoot Green End**

The clerk has reported this issue to the public rights of way team and requested an update, specifically asking whether this can be dealt with as a priority due to risk to walkers of trips and falls in winter and wet weather. The Public Rights of Way team has acknowledged the logged problem but advised that they currently only have one of three persons in post, with ongoing recruitment, and that the matter is not likely to be dealt with until new recruits are in post. No timescale has been given.

### **3. Handrails at Coltsfoot Green and the footbridge by the sewerage works.**

Following a meeting with David King, Cllr Barton and Roger Merry in late August, the need for a handrail adjacent to the culvert at Coltsfoot Green, and on the footbridge by the sewerage works was identified, to improve safety of walkers. A quote has been obtained to install these handrails:

Price for Oak Post, Rail and Kick Board at Coltsfoot Green  
Post and Rail at Bridge near sewage works.  
£490 + VAT

There is currently £670 in the Greens budget, and a further £450 in Earmarked reserves. The Parish Council has powers to provide and maintain land for open spaces in or outside of the council's area (Open Spaces Act 1906 SS9&10).

### **4. Overhanging Branches by Memorial Bench at Genesis Green**

Branches overhanging the Memorial Bench at Genesis Green have been reported a number of times this year and a quote has been obtained to lift crowns to trees to leave 2.5 clear, remove all arisings and also shape up large shrub, at a cost of £460 plus VAT. There is currently £670 in the Greens budget. The Parish Council has powers to provide and maintain land for open spaces in or outside of the council's area (Open Spaces Act 1906 SS9&10).

### **5. Land Slipping into Drainage Culvert at Coltsfoot Green**

The clerk asked for advice as to how to resolve this problem from the Environment Agency, who advised that it is the land owners responsibility. At the clerks request this has now been referred to the Environment Agency's Local Partnership and Strategic Overview Team for guidance. Awaiting a response. The Parish Council has power to carry out works for their maintenance or improvement or to pay others to do this under the Public Health Act 1936, s.260.

**Cont'd.**

**6. Overhanging Branches from land at rear of Croft Close.**

Once it had been established that the land was theirs, Anglian Water have now completed the trimming back of the boughs. Because there is a restriction on the Title Deed preventing the land being used for anything other than drainage, Anglian Water will retain it in their estate.

**Recommendation**

**To authorise works to install handrails over a culvert at Coltsfoot Green and at the footbridge by the Sewerage Works at a cost of £490 plus VAT, and to lift the crowns of trees at Genesis Green adjacent to the memorial bench, at a cost of £460 plus VAT.**