

Environmental Audit November 11 2024

By A. Millerchip

Overview Our overall visual appearance continues to be maintained to a high standard. This audit did identify a small range of individual issues and the solution to these has been scheduled as follows:

Open grass land Overall our open spaces look very neat. The annual flailing of Foxfield country park has been completed. The flailing of Wootton Brook Meadow is half done. Because we missed it last year it is taking longer than we allowed for this year so we need to get the equipment back on hire to finish the job. This will be done by the end of the month. The verges around Grange Park are still growing. As the weather is so dry and mild we will get another mow in over the next few weeks which will leave us looking our best over the winter months.

Shrub beds Of our 34 separate shrub beds, 30 of them scored 7 points or more which means that they look good and no action is needed. Two beds scored 6 points and two 5 points. These are bed Nos 15, 18, 18A and 17. They will be attended to over the next 3-4 weeks.

Hedgerows All bar one of our hedgerows look very nearly perfect. The offending hedgerow, No2, is a big job involving the use of a chainsaw and as it is only a short length it keeps getting re-scheduled. It will be done this winter.

Woodlands In the Spinney there are still 60 trees to fell before we begin coppicing to control re-generation and before we begin our community projects. The felling is scheduled to be complete by this time next year. In Wootton Brook woods we are due to run a community planting event to plant 300 trees to replace the 70 poplars felled two years ago. This action is overdue. In Alamein woods our consultant has marked up the trees to fell and the planting coops. This felling and re-planting will commence after we have finished in the spinney. In the structural belts we have scheduled to clear the 3m strip this month. This will allow access to get at the 6m strip where there are still around 30 nuisance trees to fell. We aim to complete this this winter.

Litter There is a cot which has been discarded on Wake Way, a bicycle in Wootton brook and a mattress which has been chucked over a garden fence onto public property. Such shoddy behaviour which has to be cleaned up by the PC team. There is also a lot of litter around the Coop.

Other Issues

- Fallen fence post outside GXO – notify warehouse management
- Fallen security fence in Grange Valley Greenway – notify responsible maintenance company.
- Cut logs on the greenway – order placed, expect completion this month
- Concrete rings look scruffy – schedule some remedial work