

**For PC Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**BROOM HILL, MILL HILL AND ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY REPORT**

**BROOM HILL**

**Contractor works w/c 9<sup>th</sup> January.** The quote for these works was obtained and accepted in January 2022 and circulated to current PC members last December. The quote included clearance of bramble and bracken from a number of areas, cutting of the lower hedge and tree safety works. Cllr Groom remembered that the tree works had been highlighted on a previous safety survey. Cllr Groom was the initial contact with the contractor T C Tree Services and has continued with liaison and meeting the contractor on site. He therefore will be able to give a verbal report on the works completed at the meeting.

As volunteer working groups are planned to take place in February, Cllrs Soanes & Groom agreed that the amount of bramble clearance by T C Tree Services should be reduced considerably and confined to the upper section on the LHS of the path leading from Love Lane and the growth adjacent to the boundary of the grassland at the Hemingstone end. This action should result in a reduction of the final invoice.

Working party members acknowledge that the method of bramble and bracken clearance employed by the contractor was more aggressive than had been envisaged. However, with the considerable reduction of volunteer work on Broom Hill over the past 2 years the bramble tangles and thickets and bracken were dominating these areas and choking out all other species.

Cllr Soanes has contacted parishioners who have raised concerns to explain the works. The working party acknowledges that in future there needs to be better communication to parishioners regarding any works on our green spaces.

**Tree Planting**

Cllr Gregory has offered some oak saplings with stakes and protectors to be planted on Broom Hill. Cllr Soanes will arrange for them to be planted as soon as possible on the areas now cleared of brambles.

**Volunteer Working Group**

Two Broom Hill working group mornings are planned for February. The provisional dates being Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The aims being for volunteers to dig out the small bramble growth on the middle section, mend the steps down from the top of the grass slope and check on the owl boxes. Due to health and safety considerations volunteers will be asked not to use power tools. Refreshments will be provided.

**Annual Grass Cut**

As the PC had difficulty getting a contractor to do the annual cut last year the working group request that quotes are now obtained, and the works booked in as soon as possible.

## **County Wildlife Site**

The SWT survey stated that due to the unusual species found on the grassland of Broom Hill it may be possible for it to be considered as a candidate for a "County Wildlife Site." The working group will report more on this at the next meeting.

## **MILL HILL**

CLr Groom will be installing the "Traffic Warning" sign at the bottom of the footpath leading to School Road.

The dangerous tree will be felled by Eastwood on 24<sup>th</sup> February. CLr Soanes will deliver a letter from the clerk to the residents adjacent to Mill Hill advising them of the works.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

There are two people on the allotment waiting list. The Allotment Tenancy Agreement part 7 states "the tenant shall keep the Allotment Garden Clean and in a good state of fertility and cultivation."

Most of the allotments are kept in good order with the occasional lapse due to tenant illness etc. However, as there is a waiting list for allotments the PC does need to consider how long it can accept an allotment remaining in poor uncultivated condition and what action should be taken.