

For PC Meeting Thursday 14th March

Agenda item 7a, GREEN SPACES

Broom Hill Trustees report

The Trustees thank all volunteers who have already generously given many hours of their time to work on Broom Hill this year.

Councillors and their spouses have planted a further 6 oak saplings donated by a parishioner in the western open wooded area. The kissing gate post was also replaced, and the Natural History Trail sign installed adjacent to the footpath on the grass slope. The Natural History Trail is a Community Project funded by County Councillor Locality Budget and the Gardemau Trust.

The volunteer work morning held on 17th February was well supported with 11 volunteers achieving the following: -

Cutting back all growth encroaching the path to the top of the grass slope,
Cutting back bramble growth on the upper section of the western wooded area and to the western edge of the grass slope,
Digging out of brambles in the middle section of the bluebell area,
and Litter Picking the site.

Work also revealed an owl box which had fallen from a tree in the densely wooded middle section. A decision is needed as to whether it should be repaired and reinstalled as there are 2 other owl boxes in the woodland.

An estimate of 120 hedging plants will be needed to replant the lower hedge on the western section and before they can be planted the sparse existing hedging will need coppicing. The aim is to complete this project over the next winter if the hedging plants can be sourced free of charge and volunteers are able to give the necessary time.

The original black sign at the entrance to Broom Hill from Love Lane is damaged and parts of the text is missing.

Another volunteer work morning will be held in the autumn to continue the battle of reducing the bramble growth.

Trustees would also like to complete the following before the next meeting: -

Coppicing of all snowberry on the site as recommended by SWT.
Replacing of broken and missing slats on the kissing gate.

Meeting Actions

- 1. Decide whether to reinstall 3rd owl box.**
- 2. Request clerk to contact MSDC to source hedging.**
- 3. Request clerk to obtain a quote to replace the damaged sign.**
- 4. Plan councillor work group to coppice snowberry and replace slats on kissing gate.**

Agenda item 7b

Report from Mill Hill, Three Cocked Hat and Allotments working Group.

Mill Hill

A small work group of councillors and spouses planted 4 oak saplings, donated by a parishioner in the wooded area where the dangerous tree was felled last year. They also repaired the public footpath steps and installed the Natural History Trail sign.

Bramble and other sapling growth is gradually encroaching the small grass area at the top of Mill Hill which will need cutting back in the autumn.

Three Cocked Hat

Councillors planted 2 Lime Trees given by MSDC to replace the ones that died during 2021.

Allotments

The 2 water catchment stations built by councillor Burton were installed by councillors on site in January. They have filled more than once, and an allotment holder has been moving the excess to other tanks around the site. A suggestion has been made that should funds be available a third tank could be installed between the 2 stations to take the overflow.

Councillors should be aware that as the allotment site can be accessed from the Love Lane footpath by gates at the top and bottom it is being used by parishioners as an alternative footpath route.

Meeting Actions

- 1. Council to consider whether funding is available to install 3rd water tank as extra storage.**
- 2. Council to consider whether any action is necessary to deter non allotment holders from walking through the site.**