

# Clerk's Report – July 2021

## **COVID – 19:**

No requests for collection of prescriptions were received since the last PC meeting in June 2021.

## **Update on stolen post box – Edmondsham**

I have finally managed to get through and talk to a representative! I have been given a reference number and told this will now be looked into. I explained that the PC would like a new letterbox installed to replace the stolen one as it is the only letterbox in the area. They assure me they will get back to me once this has been looked into and a decision made.

## **Update on playarea – Cranborne**

I attended a site visit with Elite Playground Inspections for the 1/4rly review on 07.07.2021. The overall appearance of the area is improving and as you can see from the latest inspection report, the PC is finally getting on top of the outstanding issues that were raised on the Annual Inspection Report.

One area that is a cause for concern is the matting by the slide, this has now become a trip hazard due to so much rain running down the slide hill and children treading on the dirt – this has now exposed the matting edges and in places raised it – this will need repairing.

Other matting issues that will need addressing once summer is over, includes the roundabout and one of the entry gates. These will be inspected in October when footfall to the area is lighter. The gate area will need to be locked for approximately 1 month.

Lastly, as has been discussed before, the two sets of swings will need to be looked at in around a year with a view to being replaced. There is rot in the wood and the swings have really seen better days, with the seats splitting in places.

## **Update on eroding riverbank**

I have been in contact with Dorset Wildlife Trust who in turn has been in contact with Rivers Trust & Wessex Chalk Stream to help with the project. A site visit is being arranged for all partners to assess the situation with a view to detailed costing designs being drawn up. I have been invited to attend this meeting. Funding is still being sought by Dorset Wildlife Trust on behalf of the PC.

**Update on issue with River Crane, Water Street, Cranborne**



Photographs taken 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 before the “tidyup”



Photographs taken 01 July 2021 after the “tidyup”

I sent the first set of photographs to Dorset Wildlife Trust for their advice and guidance. Please see below message:

Please please leave that vegetation in the stream. Its a wonderful habitat and will be teaming with life. Do not go anywhere near it with a mechanical device - at least this would be very bad practice, at worst it would be damaging a SSSI legally protected site. I have attached my Dos and Don'ts for vegetation management in Chalk Streams.

### **Looking after Chalk Streams - Do's and Don'ts.**

Chalk streams are extremely rare habitats and the UK holds over 80% of all the worlds chalk streams. They support diverse and often unique wildlife. Many chalk streams are protected by law because of their wildlife value. As the streams are fed by ground water from the chalk aquifers they tend to behave less “flashy” in response to rainfall. Flooding with chalk streams tends to be associated with prolonged periods of rainfall once the ground is saturated. Chalk streams require sensitive management to conserve the wildlife and not impact on flood risk.

**DO leave some vegetation in place in the channel and along the banks.** If you can see the stream bed you don't need to do anything to it. The flow (or conveyance) of water through the channel will not be affected.

**DO aim to have about half the channel open.** If saplings or brambles are beginning to establish on the stream bed or encroaching from bank they can be cut back and removed. Likewise, large fallen branches or other debris can be removed from the channel.

**DO NOT pull the plants** – this will loosen sediment and destabilise the bank. Cut the plants instead.

**DO leave cut channel vegetation on the bank for 24-48 hours** to allow for invertebrates to crawl back into the channel. (Top Tip – double check the weather forecast – if a heavy rainfall is expected don't leave the vegetation on the bank).

**DO NOT leave cut vegetation and removed debris indefinitely along the bank** as it could get washed back causing a blockage.

**DO check culverts, drains and bridges are clear from blockages.** These are pinch points along the stream – reducing the conveyance.

**DO NOT dig up, modify, repair the banks etc..** without first checking what permissions you may need. You may require Land Drainage Consent. Dorset Council can advise on this.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/flooding/managing-flood-risk/land-drainage-consent.aspx>

**DO sign up for flood warnings** <https://www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register>

**DO be prepared for floods** <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>

A few other things:

Watch out for non-native invasive plants like Himalayan Balsam and Japanese knotweed as the removal and management of these will be different. <http://www.nonnativespecies.org>

Want to learn more about invertebrates that live in your stream and help monitor for pollution incidents, then find out about Dorset's Riverfly Monitoring Scheme. Email:

[riverfly@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:riverfly@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

If you have section of the stream running through your garden please be sympathetic for wildlife.

Encourage wildlife into your garden and help it thrive by providing food, water and shelter. Try to avoid chemicals like weedkillers and pesticides. Use alternative methods of control. See what you can do for wildlife in your garden <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-dorset-buzzing>

Use water wisely. Efficient use of water reduces the amount of water taken from our ground water and rivers and therefore leaves more water for our wetlands and wildlife.

I have been in contact with Dorset Wildlife Trust after receiving the above email and information sheet and they will be looking at the area when they meet to inspect the eroding footpath/riverbank.

### **Bollards – outside Cranborne Middle School**

I have been informed by the headmaster that the proposed new mobile classrooms which are being installed at the school may include new additional car parking spaces. If this is the case, bollards may not be needed as the teachers would be able to use the new spaces which would free up the car park for parents to drop children off/pick up in the mornings and afternoons. The headmaster is going to keep me updated on this project.

### **Queens Green Canopy – Update**

In order for the PC to receive 2 x free trees, 1 for Cranborne and 1 for Edmondsham, an exact location must be given. The Queens Green Canopy uses website What3Words to map where all the trees are to be planted this is then goes onto a nationwide map.

## Chairman's report July 21

I have had several conversations with Wendy in regard of the river Crane. I have photographed the Edmondsham sign post in regard to their up keep and we have discussed Edmondsham SSSI and hedge problems in the village. I will take photos of this and sent them to Highways. The notice board has been repainted but the hedge need cutting back and I have asked for the estate to do this, which has been agreed. I will be attending the DATPC meeting on July 19th

Esme Isaacs 2021