

AMENITIES WORKING GROUP (AWG) NOTES 15/10/15

Present: Angie Goodwin, Karen Ripley, Anne Wells, Nick Greenfield

Bishops Meadow

Annual cut/hay cutting: Done, and 20 good tight bales remain - Anne will chase (if necessary) Max to remove them.

Jubilee Gardens/Pipers Meadow

Martin Brockman will trim the rather bushy, sprouted willow sculpture soon.

Pocket Park

Brambles near the entrance and sign have been cleared.

Notice board: Max is meant to have reminded his father about doing this - Karen will talk to him direct (Mick Lansley).

Graffiti: it is understood that Nick Brown has spoken to someone from RVR about the graffiti on the walls under the bridge; he will be asked for an update.

Sign for dog waste bin: it was suggested that a sign would be useful at the exit of the Pocket Park, indicating the nearest dog waste bin (end of the cricket path, at the Clappers) e.g. 'Dog Waste Bin ←100 yards' - on Correx board.

Wire mesh on bridge: this is peeling up and causing a trip hazard - Sean to be asked whether he could tack it down.

Recreation Ground

Fencing: (between Rec. and car park) Max still needs to finish the fencing; the gap has been taped up for now. The stock wire (to keep dogs out) is also still outstanding. Anne has spoken to him.

No Dogs sign – the 'Children's Play Area - No Dogs' sign at the entrance to the enclosed playground (from the path along the edge of the car park) had been bent, where people were going through the gap in the fence instead of using the gate; Anne has straightened it and moved it on to the gate (over an old blank sign) and also taped up the gap (see 'Fencing' above).

Dogs on Leads signs - some of the new signs that were attached to the fences have gone missing. Karen still has one of the three temporary Correx signs that were put up previously, advising people why dogs must be on a lead *throughout* the Recreation Ground; Anne or Karen will find a suitable stake to put it on, and place it in the walkway to the football field – in the open playground area.

Entrance to the field: The Darvell Community has generously offered a grant of £3000 towards the drainage and ground reinstatement works required. They will pay the money once the work is ready to go ahead; two more quotes are required.

Robertsbridge Utd Junior Football Club: the AWG agreed to recommend that the Council permit the Junior team to use the football ground *free of charge to the end of the 15/16 season*. The Club has insurance, and require only toilets & storage, not changing facilities.

Children's Play Equipment - the annual inspection has taken place and the reports received - no high risk issues were identified, only 'low' or very low'. The report proposals will be amalgamated with the list done by Anne/Nick/Karen, and a full list of works and parts required will be drawn up; quotes will then be obtained to present to full Council for approval.

Bench plaque: Karen has reminded Eric Epps that the brass plaque still needs to be fitted to the yellow bench.

Picnic table: the old one has been repaired - the only issue with it raised during inspection is some graffiti. The Darvell Community has kindly offered to donate an additional picnic bench.

Gate latch: Karen has replaced the part missing on the gate between the fenced and unfenced play areas, so this is now shutting properly.

Pavilion: there does appear to be a leak from the immersion heater in the changing room - Karen to contact a plumber. The football Club has confirmed that one of their members is an electrician; they will ask him to contact Karen about replacing the light switch in the entrance area, which is sticking and very difficult to operate.

Pruning: When Kevin attends to the recreation ground car-park hedges and saplings that need removing, he will be asked to look at the trees that need pruning near the zip wire.

Rights of Way

Cricket path (S&R 16a): Anne has asked Martin Bates whether this could be widened to alleviate the muddy centre and he has agreed to do this with the Volunteer group. The gap in the fence close to the corner of the field (by the Cricket boundary) was discussed, and it was decided to obtain a quote to fence it off; it was agreed that a stile

would not be appropriate as it is not actually an access, and people should go to the end of the path to access the Recreation Ground / Pocket Park.

Mill Stream Path (S&R 8b): this has been cut back.

Rotherview twitten path to Church Lane (S&R 7): Nick Greenfield agreed to walk the reported overgrown stretch at the top end, to see if it is still an issue, and check whether the streetlight is clear of foliage.

Pipers Lane (S&R 43a): the Steward to be asked at the SLR meeting about whether a post/bollards could be installed near the Willowbank end (near the Village Stores rear access), to prevent large vehicles reversing too far and churning up the ground.

Broken stile: the stile into Andy Hoad's field from The Clappers (footpath S&R 30c) , opposite the cricket field is broken and the field gate there is wired up and unusable. It was agreed that Andy Hoad will be asked to provide new posts for the farm gate, and whether he would be prepared to replace the stile with a kissing gate; if he isn't, Martin has a stile kit that he could be offered (he would have to fit it, as volunteers are not allowed to do those adjacent to the highway).

Highway Matters

Willowbank: Angie to look at the area in Willowbank mentioned by Ross as having overgrown hedges obstructing the pavement [*post note: Angie showed Jon Copp (Highways Steward) after the SLR meeting - he will find out ownership of those close to the parking bays. In addition, there is one in a resident's front garden that is becoming obtrusive*].

Grit Bin Heathfield Gardens: replacement of the broken one is still outstanding

Bus Shelters: still heard nothing re accessibility measures. [*Post note: a response has been received from Brian Banks, ESCC Highways - pavement works and dropped kerbs on both sides would come to around £16,000. No comment was made as to whether the works were actually a requirement, or just an ideal.*]

Repainting of railings etc: Community opinion was sought in the recent parish-wide Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire about whether having a Village Steward would be supported - they would perform jobs such as this, and sign washing etc. [*Post note: this proposal WAS well supported, so will be considered by full council*].

Trees and hedges

The Cricket Club hedge has been done once, but needs doing again.

Christmas Lighting: the application for a grant from Rother District Council's Community Grant Scheme was rejected. Possible alternative funding is being looked into.

New Dog bin in Church Lane: has been ordered, and addition to the waste collection round has been agreed. Nick agreed to look for a suitable location so that the application for a license can be submitted to ESCC.

Litter bin at bus stop: the bin removed from the old bus shelter is stored at Ripley's Forge. Nick to check whether there would be space across the road (preferred location) without obstructing driveways - if so, then Karen to ask RDC permission to relocate it there (it would also need to be a suitable place for the contractor to stop his vehicle to get out and empty the bin).

War Memorial: David McGovern (the clock-winding man) has asked someone else to quote for the face to be re-gilded, as he says he would do a much better job of it; we are waiting to hear from him. David would replace the glass at the same time.

Parish Office signs: laminated ones have been made, and are in use. Nick suggested an 'A' board, or a board on posts.

Scouts planting bulbs: The Scout group is liaising directly with RVR about planting on their bank in Station Rd. At the current time there's no plan to plant bulbs at the 2 village entrances.

AOB:

The light in the Station Road car-park light keeps flashing - Anne to report this to Cllr Sue Prochak, so she can report it to RDC.