

Footpaths

I've still heard nothing from the NNC Path Warden Scheme.

I've received more complaints about the state of the footpath at the end of Newton Way past Appin House. Ed Mills said that he would cut the hedges again and Appin House said that they would clear it up. Fix my Street (2961055 and 3612873) replied on 25.8.22 that it was now clear!

The bridge over the stream at the western edge of the parish was reported over 18 months ago as being dangerous. I learned that a villager had been injured and hospitalised by a fall from the bridge. She had later made a compensation claim to NNC and was told that no one had reported a damaged bridge. All the relevant documentation was sent and the bridge has now been repaired.

On 22nd August I reported to Network Rail the overgrown nature of the footpath which goes under the railway bridge between Plant Man and the large bridle way bridge over the railway. On 30th August I had an email for me to confirm the exact position of the footpath. It's not been cleared yet.

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On 21st July a 'footpath closed' sign went up at the southerly end of the path. I've now had a report that it has been cleared. (not checked)

Trees

There has been no action with regards the large trees on the boundary of the play area in Mapletoft. It was scheduled to have phased new planting and removal last Autumn.

The very hot weather in mid-July and prolonged drought meant that some major branches were lost on some of our trees. On 20th July, one of the TPO Horse Chestnuts lost a branch which hung over Griffin Road. This was safely removed by a tree surgeon that day. Many small trees within the village have now been lost or sustained heavy branch loss.

The churchyard has a dead cherry and one of the lime trees from the avenue leading up to the door has recently been removed although I have seen no paperwork or heard anything about why.

The Red Maple on the green is not looking good. It still needs a lot of professional pruning. This was reported a couple of years ago when dead

branches fell on to the green in high winds. NNC have attempted it a couple of times (Since last meeting - 1.9.22) but there are many still needing to be removed.

Some dead or leaning trees have been tidied up/made safe in the spinney alongside Newlands Street /Oxendon Lane.

Network Rail have thinned a lot of healthy trees along the embankment and beyond. Are they allowed to do this and what about the designated wood?

Drain blocked

In October 2020 on the Harborough Road, opposite Wantage House, I reported a blocked drain causing a puddle to form regularly and was told it would be tackled by routine maintenance. In May 2021 I reported it again (2704338) as the problem still existed. I had a Fix my Street message on 7th September, 2022 (16 months later!) saying that it was checked and no further action was needed. It rained heavily a few hours later and the puddle immediately reappeared. I reported it the same day (3810215) and on 9.9.22 was told it would be cleaned with routine maintenance. It is not closed.

No Mow May

This has been very successful. Although going south up Griffin Road was first cut as per last year's plan, the revised plan has now been followed. Hopefully an end of summer/early autumn cut will happen shortly.