

## HIGHWAYS REPORT - Fault Inventory June 2020

Red shows progress during the last month

LOCATION	Postcode	Fault	Reference	CCC Status	Notes
Near Castle View		Pothole	W1980984248	Future Work	Submitted 2019
Raines Hall Farm		Pothole	W1980984249	Future Work	Submitted 2019
Pavements between aqueduct and Sedgwick House		Manhole cover Pavements defect	W1980956164 W1980956165 W1980956166	Further Assessment	Submitted BH February 2019 after 2 residents complained – update March 2019 assigned for future work <b>Technical Team to investigate in next 4 weeks</b>
Castle View Pavement	LA8 0JL	Repair all pavements	W1980958222	Further Assessment	Re-submitted March 2019 BH/ <b>Technical Team to investigate in next 4 weeks</b>
Junction Carex Farm Junction Aqueduct/Back Lane		No Slow Sign No Slow Sign	W1980977463 W1980977462	Problem Logged Problem Logged	<b>Submitted September 2019</b> <b>Submitted September 2019</b>
Back Lane J by Aqueduct		pothole	W2081002813	Problem logged	<b>Future work</b>
A590T- A65T Sedgwick to Crosscraze		?	W2080993209		<b>Reported 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020- Completed</b>

Updated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 – S Roberts

### Canal Inspection 19/05/20 Alistair Hearne Treescapes.

1. Our regular inspection regime (ie Richard's ongoing inspections) met with approval
2. Apart from ADB, the entire area is doing well; good recovery and quality of the habitat is improved
3. Generally, Ash Die Back is proving unpredictable and highly cyclic, even within the same season. Alistair was pleasantly surprised by the general condition of the ash and the late spring spurt some trees are putting on. Sick trees try to compensate for crown die back by pushing out lower

vertical shoots which are not adequate for the tree's long-term survival so there is often a second phase of die back in July/August when these leaves fail and the tree deteriorates rapidly.

4. **Immediate term;** There are no hazards requiring immediate action and although almost all ash trees have got ADB and will die eventually- only those that would reach the path (about half) will need felling when they deteriorate - those on the far side bank will fall into the field and are very low risk. Those that would reach the path are more likely to fail by branches dropping in situ rather than base failure so the risk is lower but still sufficient to require felling as they fail.
5. **Short term (Phase One)** - there is a significant number that need felling September 2020 - March 2021
  1. **Along the path;** either side, small dead/dying trees need simple cutting
  2. **Aqueduct end north bank;** a significant number of spindly, small trees that will need dropping - they can be left in the canal and could be cut up - it may be prudent to tackle some larger specimens sooner so branches can be lopped and a shorter stump be left safely to rot - this reduces costs as the whole tree doesn't need to be felled but it needs to be done before branches are fragile.
  3. **Stoker Seat End** - Opposite bank has several large trees that will require felling September 2020 March 2021
  4. **Back Lane embankment** - there are about 6 large ash along Back Lane in that will require felling September 2020 - March 2021 - will probably need traffic control for this and they are not as straight forward to fell as the others which can drop into canal basin. The Elm trees along back lane are very healthy.
  5. There is some regrowth of stumps that need the usual trimming - some dead hedge and a dead elder that need removing. It would be a good idea to identify sycamore sprouts on the north embankment to leave so that grow to fill the gaps left by felling ash. Some of this could be carried out by a work party after lockdown?
  6. The short term aesthetic impact of the initial felling will not be as severe as it might have been, because those requiring felling in phase one are interspersed amongst more resistant trees that will last a bit longer or maybe even survive.
6. **Medium Term -(Phase 2) 2021-5** further felling will be required as more trees fail but it is still not recommended to pre-empt this by felling all ash now. These are mainly larger trees so could be lopped rather than felled depending on how things progress.
7. **Long term** - the above action will effectively thin out the areas that would have needed attention under the old plan and so once ADB is managed the woodland should be low maintenance in the long term.

Because of the likelihood that there will be further deterioration in July, Alistair recommends that he concludes the inspection in August and marks trees for phase one felling then rather than now (felling would take place after leaf fall anyway). This will assist in costing and give a bit of flexibility for the contractor. He felt that there is about 3 days' work.

- orange marks will indicate felling definitely required before Spring 2021
- green marks will indicate not urgent but could be done if funds allow

He will advise on a date for reinspection 2021 onwards and provide a written report in August and also advise on whether a tree license is required. So, we will have time to acquire quotes September/October and fell asap after then. This will give us opportunity to explain to residents via summer newsletter too.

The regular council meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, took place before the lockdown began, but by the following Friday, local government elections had been postponed for 12 months and upper tier authority meetings were beginning to be cancelled; it had become clear that actions were becoming necessary. After consulting with councillors, the Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled on 13/3/20.

Despite the absence of any formal guidance to councils, the clerk and chair felt it important to establish a neighbourhood resilience group - which they did on 17/3/20 via a separate facebook group "Sedgwick Neighbours and Friends". Its aim was to coordinate peer support and disseminate information. Almost immediately, 5 volunteers signed up.

A High Consequence Infectious Disease Policy recommended by NALC was adopted by agreement by email on 18/3/20 to establish a legal basis for the Council to function remotely and to change regulations about decision making and communication with the public. Information was circulated by website from then on.

As the media circulated more information, a leaflet was composed and circulated prior to lockdown on 23/3/20. Sufficient volunteers came forward to allocate every part of the village a volunteer.

Arrangements were made in case we had to close the playground, and these were activated within minutes of the lockdown announcement on the evening of 23/3/20.

As information about Safeguarding for volunteers etc was received, it was shared to the group. Requests for help were collated by the clerk and people needing help were allocated volunteers.

As time went on, official advice began to trickle through, and the clerk was contacted by NHS etc. A huge number of emails have been dealt with by the clerk and circulated to councillors.

At the onset of the lockdown, the main concern of residents was the availability of basic foodstuffs. Many residents either couldn't do or didn't want to risk a supermarket shop to get bread, milk, eggs etc and so Graham Wadsworth was approached - he agreed to widen the range of items available in the egg shop - this has been a lifeline to many residents.

The lockdown has been widely observed by residents, but cyclists using the village have upset people - a sign in a resident's garden with a notice about cycling was stolen and the kissing gate requiring cyclists to dismount and carry cycles onto the canal footpath was pulled out. Our PSPO has been informed. PC Boak also visited immediately after we reported adults disregarding the closed signs on the Millennium field and advised us to lock the gate.

During the lockdown the Resilience Group continued to offer support to people who required it. The system has worked well and the facebook group has enabled information to be shared quickly.

In the absence of clear guidance about how decisions could be made, an informal virtual meeting of councillors was held via a series of emails in April to note actions and discuss end of financial year arrangements. Since we have received advice that only publicly accessible meetings are valid so March minutes will need formal approval in June. On May 10<sup>th</sup> Government advice changed to Stay Alert, but even though residents began to return to work, the issues of lockdown remained, and the Resilience Group continued as before.

The Clerk and Chair have continued to work from home so that the council's functions largely as before. The clerk completed the annual financial returns and passed them to the auditor.

The May meeting did not take place but guidance regarding holding remote monthly meetings with public was received later in the month. The chair completed online training from "Lawyers in Local Government" and NALC. Councillors agreed to the purchase of a monthly subscription to Zoom Pro and a remote meeting was convened for Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Amendments to standing orders, new financial regulations, remote meeting protocols and other reports were prepared for the June meeting and all information was added to the website within the 3 day notice period.

We have received two resignations (JO and DW) SLDC have provided the correct legal notices which were posted on 14/5/20 and by 28/5/20 we are able to co-opt members to maintain a quorum.

**Return to work arrangements:** As everyone moves tentatively towards the future "new normal" we are beginning to receive information about how a Safe Return to work can be achieved. Currently, almost all activities required for Sedgwick Parish Council to operate can be continued remotely, with our clerk, officers and volunteers continuing to work from home. Contact by email and telephone will be supplemented by remote Council Meetings from June.

An exception to this is the work of our contractors:

- Continental Landscapes UK who have resumed grass cutting - we are satisfied that they have all necessary arrangements in place and social distancing is maintained at all times.
- Our Woodland Management Consultant has provided his COVID safe working policy and a site visit was conducted on 19/5/20, adhering strictly to social distancing.

The Millennium Field will remain closed until government guidance allows playgrounds to open. Relevant advice will then be followed.

When advised by NALC/CALC, the current remote way of working will be superseded by a gradual return to normal. It is anticipated that social distancing could be observed at all times:

- Meetings could take place, when the time is right, with attendees sitting 2m apart.
- Inspections of Millennium Field and Canal are taken by individuals
- Contractors and consultants would only carry out tasks when their work arrangements are in place.

**Further guidance is expected and will be discussed at our June meeting.**