

WIPC - Environment Report, Nov 21

I am hoping the slot has not been lost for dredging the pond as we have had difficulties communicating with our chosen contractor. As the water level builds up again, it produces an increase in costs due to this either being pumped away or held back with shuttering. Maintenance has again been limited by the weather, however the conservation volunteers have had another session for us and will visit again at the end of this month, (Friday 26th) when I hope to have a group to join them. Jane Reeve is now supported by a grant from the Woodger Trust, obtained by the MWHG continuing her work on ditches, drainage and associated issues. As a neighbouring parish that share some ditch runs, we are lucky to enter her brief and gain continued help from the conservation volunteers.

You may have seen the post from CDC to encourage Parishes to help biodiversity by planting wild flowers on verges. I would like to think that we led the way in this. This is more than abandoning the cutting programs and active cultivation needs to be undertaken to get the flowers established. Our verges have been noticed, commended and photographed far and wide and will be expanded next year.

The July report identified 4 areas of verge to be cut in the WSCC program. None of these were cut on the 3 planned occasions despite machines working at the end of Itchenor Road. 2 of these areas have not been cut by a resident or land owner - the other 2 (opposite Shielings and Oak Tree Cottage) remain uncut and limiting water flow in the ditch. Additional verge damage is occurring outside & beyond 'Little Thatches' where building vehicles where up to 5 construction vehicles may be parked, which should be within the curtilage of the property. Also outside Gramercy, again 4-5 vehicles are often present along with a pile of mud, rubbish and another skip. It is now over 6 months since this was first raised !

Again in July I commented on the mud on the road from farm vehicles. While we live in a farming community, there has been a problem once more between 'The Barns' and Glebefield Road. I have received a number of complaints, not just from residents in that area. It has resulted in most of the associated 'Gully Drains' (for which weepy to be cleared) being blocked.