

PC Environment Group Notes, meeting held on Wed 8th June 2016 at Oakbank.

Present: Claire Maclaine, Tony Cousins, Julie Waddington, Mary and John Chapman

Apologies: Hermann Moisl, Jane Venet

Dog fouling

Hermann reported having bio-d paint sprayed two offending objects. The two target areas in Mealbank are next to the noticeboard and around the ash tree. More spraying needed. More cans of spray to be deployed. No flyers to be sent out just yet.

Agricultural spraying

There has been spraying of the hedge bottoms and verges along parts of Helme Lane, Kiln Croft entrance, the A6, around the Community Hall and Paddy Lane with an unknown herbicide. This is a repeat of actions in 2013 after which there were several representations to the farm concerned. The verges contained bluebells, stitchwort, buttercups, red campion etc in flower. There were no invasive weeds or significant populations of 'agriculturally injurious' weeds such as docks. Wildflower rich verges are a vital natural resource enjoyed by many local residents. DEFRA rules on Cross Compliance for Boundaries state that herbicides should not be applied to land within 2 metres of the centre of hedgerows. No permission was sought from CCC Highways. Public authority managed land must show regard for conserving biodiversity.

Action:

On behalf of this group a letter will be submitted to the PC for approval, to be sent to the farmer involved, requesting his assurance that CCC highways' verges will not be sprayed in future and asking which herbicide has been used.

Copies to be sent to DEFRA, Environment Agency and Carter Jonas.

A separate letter to be sent to CCC Highways (D.Huck) to inform them about the PC's concerns. Will they take action against individuals who disregard The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000?

Footpaths survey

Mary distributed parish maps and PRoWs to be surveyed by volunteers:

Tony, Julie, Mary and John. Other volunteers to be approached: Jane, Hermann, Phil Rigby.

This is a general survey to note any problems with fingerposts, missing direction arrows, faulty stiles, overgrown brambles and bad drainage. Results to be completed for next meeting on 14th September.

Parish walk

This has been rearranged for Sunday 17th July, 10am -1pm. Meet at Otter Bank lay-by. Historical interest added by Tony.

Publicity in Community News, website and posters -Mary

Mealbank

Julie spoke about continuing problems for residents living in proximity to the Industrial Estate. There are many problems with Kendal Garage Services concerning noise unreasonable hours of working and emissions. Speeding traffic is also a menace. Residents have written to the Garage and contacted Environmental Health. Copies of letters to be sent to the PC for information.

Next meetings

Wed 14th September 7pm Mealbank

Autumn Litter Clean up Sunday 9th October

