

Clerk Report

1. Public Right of Way, A51 / Red Lion

SCC PROW Team have now completed the work to this path by removing the kissing gate and repairing the tarmac.

2. GOV.UK

The Parish Council website has now been moved to the wiggintonandhopwas-pc.gov.uk domain and email addresses have also been set up for the Clerk and Councillors at the same domain.

3. Tree Protection Order

Correspondence received from a resident regarding a TPO in Comberford and subsequent damage caused to a car from a fallen branch. Advised resident that a TPO does not prevent tree work from being carried out but that prior consent from the planning authority (LDC) must be sought. Contact details for the arboriculture team passed to resident as well as links to TPO / Tree Work information on the LDC website.

LDC have confirmed that TPO in Comberford has now been removed.

The Yew Tree has now been felled, 2 members of the public (MOP) have contacted the Parish Council to express their disappointment that this tree has gone.

4. LDC Bin Collections – Comberford

The impact of the new recycling service and the house building programmes in Lichfield & Tamworth have resulted in new rounds to be learnt by the crew and have apologised for any teething difficulties whilst these changes bed in.

5. Tollgate Lane – Comberford

Highways have been unable to progress the repairs to the pavement in Tollgate Lane, Comberford as this damage has been caused by a Badger's Sett. Law dictates that works will not be able to take place until after July as the sett cannot be disturbed. Even then, it could be some time after July before a plan of action with the relevant authorities (who are aware) could be put forward and approved. See notes below which may help for info.

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, it is an offence to damage, destroy or block access to a badger sett, or to disturb badgers in their setts. Sett disturbance is the most reported criminal act to the Badger Trust. It comes in many forms and can fall under the category of both malicious and negligent crimes.

If you do find a badger sett, a telephone call to your local Badger Group (or the Badger Trust) would not go amiss. You might have discovered a new sett that they can help protect or monitor; and they may be able to use the information to prevent or mitigate the effects of any undesirable developments

Importantly, the badger licence can be applied for any time of year, but the licenced destruction of a badger sett can take place only between 1st July and 30th November

You could be sent to prison for up to 6 months and get an unlimited fine if you're found guilty of any of these offences: intentionally capture, kill or injure a badger. damage, destroy or block access to their setts. disturb badgers in setts

We recommend contacting your local badger group where possible in the first instance for help. If you do not have a local group, try to contact your local wildlife rescue, the RSPCA or call Badger Trust on 01273 033440

SCC have made contact with the local badger group/trust and there is no further action required from the Parish Council regarding this matter.

6. Pavement – Hints Road / Nursery Lane

A Member of the Public has contacted the Parish Council to request we look to adopt this section of Pavement and maintain the hedge alongside it.

The Hedge belongs to the landowner and therefore adoption of the Pavement would not help in this instance. The Footway is extremely narrow and has been this way for half a century to the best of our knowledge. Unfortunately this means that it is inaccessible for wheelchair and push chairs users and means that people must walk single file, or even in the road if the hedge is overgrown.

The Parish Council may write to the occupiers / landowners to request they endeavour to keep the hedge trimmed back and not overhanging the footway.

7. Maintenance of Grass Verges

Member of the Public (MOP) reported that SCC had trimmed verges in Comberford and alleged that half of their frontage had also been cut by the Councils contractors. Clerk signposted MOP to LDC Streetscape team who carry out some work on behalf of SCC.

Clerk to provide details of the areas maintained by our Contractor in Wigginton to SCC to see if there are any concerns or objections and will see if the PC are able to claim any reimbursements from the County for this but any formal agreement will need to be considered at Full Council.

8. Sewerage issues Comberford

MOP has advised that Severn Trent have been out and have discovered a major blockage within the village. Remedial work will be scheduled and this should alleviate some of the surface flooding issues within Comberford.

9. SID's Maintenance

Traffic Technology due to re-install the Speed Indicator Device on Wednesday 13th July, the engineer will provide on-site training regarding data collection. Cllr Croft will attend this training, all welcome.

10. CIL – Arkall Farm

£11,083.80 received on 17th May 2022

11. Lay-by A513 Comberford Road

MOP has reported that this layby has frequent incidents of fly-tipping and environmental health issues from being used as a toilet. Query passed onto County & District Cllr White for SCC / LDC as this is a highways / environmental health matter. I have asked that the PC are kept updated on this matter.



12. Anti-Social Behaviour – Hopwas Woods

MOP reported electric motorcycles and unattended fires at Hopwas Woods. Cllr Croft advised that they report these matters to 101, Clerk sent emails to Tarmac & DIO as landowners to make them aware of the situation.

13. Thank You's from Hopwas Gardening Club

I am writing on behalf of the all the members of the Garden Club to thank you for generous donation which paid for the lawnmower, brown bin, and petrol for the year and plants for the tub opposite the Tame Otter.

I have just received our bank statement and see that the £220 was paid in very promptly so many thanks to you and everyone who made it possible

14. General Maintenance – Hopwas Playing Field

- Alan Robey reported that the latch on the play area gate was broken on 29th May, Clerk has contacted Jacksons Fencing re: repair.
- SBT Landscapes chased re: outstanding maintenance work.