

CLERKS REPORT: SPRING 2022

1. Pavilions

- a. Legionella testing has been carried out with no traces found in either the Pavilions or the public toilets. The survey did however identify some works to block off dead ends and to update processes in place to manage the risk.
- b. Bowls season is drawing to a close and we are preparing for the football season.

2. Broadclyst Allotments

There has been no progress on this since my last report, so the earlier report is repeated to refresh memories.

The lease between National Trust (superior landlord) and Broadclyst Parish Council (lease-holder) for the northern field is being prepared for renewal. An on-site meeting with the National Trust on 28.01.22 included an inspection of the northern field and a forward plan to bring vacant plots in the southern field forward for lease to the Parish Council. The Broadclyst Allotment Association has confirmed it does not wish to extend its lease to include any additional plots in the southern field. Completion of the Westclyst allotments is expected to be pursued this spring. The waiting list for Westclyst is over-subscribed; residents could be offered plots once the southern part of the National Trust allotments opposite Clyst Vale Community College are available. This is in line with the current waiting list policy where plots are offered to parish residents before those living outside the parish.

3. Westclyst

a. Allotments

There has been no progress on this since my last report, despite emails to Barratts, so the earlier report is repeated to refresh memories.

A site meeting took place (attended by Cllr Gent and me) to discuss the completion of the Phase 1 allotments. The landscaper will be finishing the fencing and trimming hedges around the area, finishing the paths and plots, and ensuring a soil depth on the growing beds of at least 300mm. This is to enable the allotments to be handed over to the Parish Council.

b. Alexandra House

The new Care Home, Alexandra House, is due to open shortly (indeed it may already be open by the time you read this). Cllr Whitmarsh has reached out to them with a welcome to the Parish and the aspiration to build a good relationship with the Home as a local employer; this has been well-received, and it is hoped that a viewing opportunity can be arranged.

4. Wishford raised walkway

Some of the uprights that hold the parapet cross-members on the eastern side of the walkway are rotten and need replacing urgently, as do a few of the boards in the walkway itself. Different options were presented, including the complete removal of the walkway, and these were discussed in a site meeting on 8th August.

At the time of writing this report, a way forward has not been determined, but it is likely that temporary repairs will be carried out, with a more sustainable solution (potentially using a surface made from recycled plastic) can be identified and put forward for future funding.

5. Footpaths

The Council has received sealed notice of making of the Modification Order relating to the Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map of footpath 22 (Great Barton Farm). The period for making representations expires on Friday 16th September 2022.

6. Food Bank.

- a.** Need continues, driven less now by immediate urgent response but by the cost-of-living increases, including the increased cost of utilities. The TAFF review group initially met in March and discussed need and considered options for the longer term. As a result of this review, we are trialing a tiered system: Tier 1 clients will receive produce and bakery items along with whatever food goods we have been donated; tier 2 clients in financial hardship, assessed on a case-by-case basis, will receive tier one goods plus additional items as well as being signposted to external agencies to see if there are any more ways of receiving help; and tier 3 emergency clients referred by partner agencies will receive a one-off Trussel Trust food bank parcel. We will regularly review our clients to make sure we are supporting households, but not creating a dependency.
- b.** The rise in energy prices is likely to have a delayed impact that will not be felt in full before the end of this calendar year, however initial fears are that this will see an unprecedented increase in need for the food bank, even surpassing that which we saw with Covid.
- c.** We are keeping in touch with the Trussel Trust and Cranbrook Town Council as to the best way to manage demand in this area to east of Exeter, should it increase.

7. Youth Provision

It had originally been envisaged that we would tender for youth provision during the summer, however we have not had time to do this yet. The YMCA report an increase in numbers, which is positive news, and has asked about planning resources and staff for future provision.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the council extends its existing contract with the YMCA until the end of council's financial year (31.03.2022), publishing a tender this autumn for youth work to run from 01.04.2022

Reasons: to retain provision; to secure future provision; to ensure best value for money.

This concludes my report to Council.

Angie Hurren BEM
Broadclyst Parish Clerk & RFO
30.08.2022