

Chair of Community Assets and Open Spaces

Committee: Diane Archer - Report to Annual Parish Council 2026

Allotments

A rubbish skip will now be sited at the allotments twice a year (increased from once a year). This is strictly for allotment rubbish only; this is in part due to the restrictions on having bonfires at the allotments.

An allotment Swap Shop has been provided – this unit enables allotment holders to swap excess seeds, seedlings, flowers, fruit and vegetables ensuring less waste. This has been a popular addition to the allotments.

A plot has been made available to the Green Social Prescribing Scheme. The scheme is used by the Wroughton Surgery social prescriber to hold sessions to improve people's wellbeing.

Tree policy

Tree work on WPC owned trees has continued – especially the felling of ash trees affected by ash die back and trees that need work to prevent dangers to residents. Tree works in the Weir Field adjacent to Wroughton Club took place on 16th and 17th June 2025 and the Working Men's Club paid a 50% contribution.

At Belmont Green the VE Day 80 memorial planting has been completed – the cherry trees are already looking splendid. Funding for the ongoing maintenance these new trees has obtained, although some maintenance will be carried out by our Grounds Team. Following a very kind offer by a resident, we are currently working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and a volunteer to look after the new trees at Belmont Green.

WPC worked with Swindon Borough Council to have the largest gaps in the Wharf Road hedge re-planted again with more hedgerow and tree whips. We still have an issue with residents taking short cuts through the newly planted areas, so these have been cordoned off to give the new plants a better chance of surviving (several were lost last year). These will now be maintained by the Grounds Team.

Sports pitches

WPC continue to support Wroughton Wranglers Cricket Club with the costs of maintaining the Weir Field cricket wicket and the outfield. Discussions continue with Hills about the new cricket pitch in North Wroughton, as work has begun on the site.

WPC continues to support both Wroughton Men's Football Club and Wroughton Youth Football Club by funding the cutting of the grass pitches in Maunsell Way, the Weir Field and North Wroughton, as well as the cleaning of the Weir Field Pavilion. There is still an

issue with dog poo being left on the playing fields – again I would like to remind all dog owners to clear up after their dogs. The CA&OS committee continues to look at ways to deal with this problem and ensure the safety of the playing pitch users.

During the past 12 months WPC have continued to liaise with the Wichelstowe Project Team about the playing pitches and pavilion that will be built in Middle Wichelstowe. Following a public consultation on the project in the summer of 2025, planning permission has been obtained for a pavilion/community centre, carpark, all weather playing pitch, play area and grass pitches. Initial groundwork has begun.

From April 1st the Grounds Team are cutting the Bowls Club bowling green twice a week – a fee for the work was agreed.

Public open spaces

Public open spaces at Willow Brook Garden, Maunsell Way, the Weir Field, North Wroughton/ Belmont Green continue to be mowed by the WPC Grounds Team.

The Parish Council is very grateful that Vision for Wroughton continues to keep the flower beds looking beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

Improvements to Weir Field footpath between Wainwright Mews and Devizes Road have been made – the path has been repaired and widened.

Maunsell Way pavilion

A lease to let the pavilion to the Wroughton History Group has been negotiated after the Swindon Model Railway club pulled out. WHG agreed with the Parish that a village museum would be set up – this was opened on 4th April by the Chair of the Parish Council. WHG have refurbished the inside of the Pavilion at no cost to the Parish.

External access into the toilets allows these to be used by Wroughton Youth Football Club, the BMX Club, SMASH (the Parish Council's youth outreach) and other groups formally hiring Maunsell Way field.

Wroughton Youth Football Club agreed with WHG and the Parish that their storage cupboard (externally accessed) could be kept, ensuring the Pavilion continues to be an asset used by several community groups.

Additional storage at St Andrews.

The WPC Grounds Team have moved into the St Andrews Garage site using it for additional storage.

Benches

A review of benches in the Parish has been undertaken and all benches added to the maintenance schedule of the WPC Grounds team. Several benches owned by SBC have been transferred to WPC so that all benches in the village can be maintained to the same high standard.

Two new benches were installed in Belmont Green. A new bench/picnic table is being installed next to the Cycle pump Track at Maunsell Way.

The bench at Weir Field which was in poor condition has been replaced by a metal bench.

Road sweeper:

The WPC road sweeper is continuing to clear the roads around the Parish.

Play areas

All play areas that WPC is responsible for are regularly inspected and maintenance undertaken. As well as the inspections carried out by our Grounds Team, WPC also pays for an annual, independent safety report on all 7 play areas for which it's responsible, as well as the BMX pump track. The Annual Play Area Safety Inspection 2025 recommended the removal of the Typhoon at Maunsell Way and the Weir Field Spinner.

It has been agreed by the CA&OS committee that the Weir Youth shelter will be rubbed down and repainted/resprayed in bright colours by WWPC Grounds Team. The broken spinner has been removed, and it will be replaced by a Combi 3 Calisthenics unit AND resistance cross trainer, installed on grass matting. These can be used by teenagers and adults for body weight exercises.

It was also agreed that lease for the Beranburh Play area (that ends in December 2026) will be renewed and liaison with the landowners has been ongoing. Meanwhile the area and the equipment have been cleaned.

Bins /litter picking

Mobile Residents' Litter Pick Stations made by the Grounds Team have been sited at various locations including Beranburh, Maunsell Way, Belmont Green, the Weir Field and the Ellendune Shopping Centre. An apprentice with the Wichelstowe Development Team had made 2 litter pick stations for free for use in Wichelstowe. These had been sited permanently at the lakes car park and also The Orchards.

Two litter picking days have been held – August 2025 and March 2026. Both days were very well supported by residents, councillors and local businesses. We also have a number of residents that regularly volunteer as community litter pickers – they are provided with high visibility jackets and litter pickers so that they can go out whenever they want to. These efforts do make a considerable difference to the village environment.

Defibrillators and bleed kits

Bleed kits have been fitted in the defibrillator locations. An additional defibrillator and bleed kit will be fitted at Alexandra Park in the next few weeks.