

The Meadows/Meadowhayes

A bush planted in the verge at the junction between Meadowhayes and The Meadows has become overgrown with brambles, sapling trees, etc. The Grounds Maintenance contractor was asked to cut back/remove the brambles and sapling trees that have seeded there to tidy things up. Instead, the contractor 'hedge cut' the area and further 'gardening' work now needs to be undertaken.

The area fenced by the resident on the opposite corner has been investigated. Half the area fenced is confirmed as belonging to the resident (as shown on the land registry). The area on the roadside does not belong to the resident but the matter has been looked at by SC/Highways who advise that this land is not registered to anyone.

Footpath between the School and Church View leading to the Recreation Ground

The path leading from the Recreation Ground to the steps at Church View belongs to and is the responsibility of PPC to maintain. Some of the concrete/wooden posts supporting the chain link fence on the Church View parking area side have become unsteady at the bottom. One that was leaning out posing a health and safety issue has been laid down to make it safe. The other loose posts are safe being attached to the chain link fence propped up by the shrubs/brambles growing on the Church View side. This area may need cutting back/tidying up/refencing in consultation with the owners of Church View properties in the long term.

The Grounds Maintenance contractor was asked to cut back the plants to either side of the path prior to the Country Fair in early August and the work was undertaken in a very timely manner. This maintenance will be timetabled on an annual schedule of Grounds Maintenance along with the hedges along the lane behind Swiss Cottage which is also owned by and the responsibility of PPC.

Crawter Drive

A request was received from a resident of Crawter Drive to consider cutting the grass areas owned by SC there less often to promote biodiversity and protect the tree from further damage. The resident arranged a site visit/meeting which Cllr L Thornton (as Portfolio lead) and Cllr D McCanlis were invited to attend.

Whilst residents from four Crawter Drive properties were in favour of exploring options to allow the grass to grow longer and to let the wildflowers bloom in one area around the Rowan tree, as an experiment, residents representing three properties were vehemently against the idea. In the interests of neighbourly harmony, the resident who contacted PPC is no longer pursuing the matter. The area will continue to be maintained in line with PPC Grounds Maintenance policy.

The hedges, trees and a damaged wall reported by a resident of Church View have been investigated, and photos and a description of the work required has been reported to SC who are responsible for this area.

Doverhay car park – land maintenance

The maintenance needed as reported by a resident at the July meeting was reported to SC – SC has raised the overhanging branches of the Judas Tree by the 15mins parking bays. The area by the rear corner of Endon Cottage was also 'hedge cut'. The latter was left looking rather 'hacked'. It has been suggested that the owner of Endon Cottage maintain this area going forward and some improvement has already been undertaken. On inspection, no weeding or drain clearing appeared to have been undertaken by SC in Doverhay car park as requested.

The areas in front of the Doverhay toilet block and behind the 'wall seat' by the bus stop have traditionally been maintained by volunteers in agreement with SC. It is suggested that PPC request that further areas owned by SC in Doverhay car park become the responsibility of PPC to maintain, enlisting the help of volunteers/residents.

Picnic Area – dog fouling

The dog fouling and lack of notices asking dog owners using the Picnic Area behind the Central car park were reported to SC. The Dog Warden attended, reported on the dog mess found and put up notices near the area and on the nearest dog bin. Further notices have been requested to be installed by PPC more appropriately.

Parsons Street – parking obstruction/road marking

The Traffic Calming WG have reported this request to SC and the matter is being progressed, to be included in a future Road Order.

Buses including the Exmoor Coaster

Cllr L Thornton attended the recent Bus Partnership meeting on behalf of PPC and will report on this in full in due course. One of the main issues reported was providing a reliable service when there are too few drivers due to discontent. The fares are heavily subsidised but not enough buses are available or there are too many cancellations to make using buses an attractive proposition. It is suggested that drivers are being prioritised for the more profitable routes like the Exmoor Coaster. PPC have requested that they are consulted when the new timetables and service agreements for buses to and from Porlock are arranged, so they can feed into those discussions from a local perspective.

It was reported by the Bus Partnership that the Bus station in Bridgwater is being closed.

Missing sign on High Street by the Castle directing cars and pedestrians to Central Long Stay car park

Cllr L Thornton is liaising with Somerset Council/Highways to replace the pole and the sign, with a new sign being provided by SC

Areas devolved from SWT

PPC maintain a number of public areas belonging to Somerset Council (previously the District and County Councils), the maintenance for these areas having been devolved to PPC in 2014. No compensation is received for this work paid for by PPC. PPC could discuss an annual service charge to SC for this work in future.

Idverde bin report

Cllr L Thornton is updating the bin survey she carried out in 2021 so that PPC can liaise with Somerset Council regarding the SLA for Porlock's street bin collections. Somerset Council's contract is currently with idverde.

Trees in central car park

Somerset Council have been contacted. The resident who requested remedial work to a tree close to his property has verbally confirmed that the outcome was very satisfactory.

Floral Displays

The weather has not been conducive to flowering of the shrubs and perennials in the planters, although the summer bedding has fared much better.

Signage for OSC/Parish Room

The noticeboard on the wall of the Parish Room (aka the Library noticeboard) has been opened and the sign will be reworded and replaced once the opening times for the Parish Room/Lovelace Centre have been agreed.

Flood prevention

PPC have liaised with the local flood group and have made further jetting requests to SC. The culvert by West Cottage needs to be kept clear and arrangements put in place to keep the drains upstream on the A39 and the Toll Road clear, plus the grill to the culvert under the buildings at 'McCoys Corner'.

Car parks and bus/coach parking

PPC has contacted SC regarding the charges, requesting additional free 15-30 mins parking spaces, and incentives to support Porlock businesses and the High Street in general.