

DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 8th August 2022

AGENDA ITEMS 11 & 14

- 1. Report to Council**
- 2. Subject:** Grounds and Flooding
- 3. Report Prepared By:** Cllr. Thompson

Dated 1st August 2022

Lead Members Report

GROUNDS

1. The red telephone box has been delivered to the Parish yard for fitting out. The base location on Memorial Green will require revising, also the electrical supply.

The Telephone Box is a K6 design by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935, production commenced in 1936 as the Silver Jubilee Design for King George V . Approx. 40,000 were produced and ours has the King's crown motif picked out in gold. This is one of Britain's top 10 Icons.

May we thank Borough and Parish Councillor Ewan Larcombe for sponsoring the purchase of this box.

2. Unfortunately we have lost most of the new plant oak trees on the rec due to this intense and prolonged hot weather, despite frequent watering, also one of the replacement trees on The Cut has been lost. However, the tree on Memorial Green and the WI tree are surviving.

3. The Parish litter bins adjacent to Green Lane and the Scout hut are being filled with soiled nappies and household waste, this poses a health hazard to our contractor and we ask residents to cease this activity immediately.

4. Grass mowing and football have ceased until the grass starts growing and the ground fissures close up.

5. A replacement high level light has been fitted within the Parish Workshop, and ancillary circuit installed for safety lighting.

6. The external ancillary electrical supply box has been made safe with a new feed for Events, together with a new safety compliant lead to the Recreation Ground.

7. We will investigate the cost of providing a second bin at the play area of the recreation ground to take picnic waste, this could reduce litter picking costs.

8. Additionally there is consideration to install tiles currently in our store within the Cemetery Bin store area, as the wheeled bins are sinking into the gravel ground, thus making moving difficult for emptying when full.

9. Vehicle damaged posts are being replaced/ refurbished.

10. The tree survey has been completed, quotes for recommended work are in progress.

It would appear that we have to lose another Black Poplar on the rec, unfortunately these trees are all coming to the end of their life span. Which will mean that these iconic Datchet Character trees will disappear within the near future. Sad.

11. There has been mindless vandal damage and theft of flowers from our planters, one member of the public kindly replanted some of the torn out and scattered plants, for which we have thanked her.

12. No response has been received to our solicitor re the unauthorised manhole on Memorial Green to date. The Council requires to agree the way forward. My concern is that if this issue is not resolved it could set a precedent to all contractors requiring a cheap access point option and could clash with other approved and way leaved services and despoil our Green.

FLOODING AND DRAINAGE REPORT.

1. Cllrs Larcombe and Thompson attended the recent Parish Flood Liaison Group Meeting, ongoing issues relating to the Barrel Arch refurbishment and the Datchet Common Brook, condition and flap valve were again raised, promises by Thames Water and the Borough to contact the DPC were again made, still no response from either party to date.

2. Ongoing pollution within the Myke stream was again raised, Thames Water state that clearing the weed growth is the riparian responsibility of the land owner, the Stream is designated main river and has an outfall control monitored and cleared by the EA. Therefore, as the EA have cleared this in the past the DPC consider this aspect to be the EA responsibility, TW to resolve the pollution problem. No response to date re this action point.

3. A response from RBWM was requested with regard to their negotiations with Network Rail regarding flood protection within the Eton End rail tunnel.

4. The EA have confirmed they will revisit their Data regarding RTS Channel 1. They make no promises regarding reintroducing the scheme, however, they appear to be keeping an open mind and did state that this has consideration regardless of cost. Our four Parishes within Channel 1, Wraysbury, Horton, Old Windsor and Datchet, have expressed a joint response to the EA in support of this principle as we see this to be the way forward.

5. However, three Councillors, Cllr Cannon, Cllr Verma and Cllr Muir have independently stated in a political flyer that they require the EA to dredge the river, this proposal was not raised at the recent BFLG meeting, no Cllrs have been contacted from the BFLG or the EA in regard to discussion of this proposal or has it been put to the Borough Council for discussion.

Cllr Cannon is Chairman of the BFLG and would appear to be acting for himself and has another agenda and personal reasons in exclusion to the formal group that he leads.

6. The Environment Secretary George Eustace has stated that communities that get regularly flooded are to get £100m to protect properties, this can relate to the 15000 properties that are at risk within the Channel 1 catchment. This is something that the DPC can support regarding funding for the support of the EA in justification for Channel 1.

Cllr Ian Thompson, Lead Member for Grounds, Flooding and Drainage.