

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CANAL REPORT

### Canal Safety Inspection October 2023 – Quick update

**Trees:** Some ash trees have lost leaves very early – it is reassuring to know they have been surveyed. JP has removed the dead elm and has removed willow stumps.

**Vegetation:** JP has trimmed the excessive growth and all looks neat and tidy

**Benches:** The new Stoker Seat looks great – all others OK

**Paths:** Dry and sound.

**Boundaries, Walls and Fences:** The 2m section of the wall that had failed has been repaired but there are two other sections of damage – Gerry thinks there is a link to vandalism – but one section has appears to have been



pushed over by the sloe bush on the farmer's side – also his wire and post fence is leaning on the



wall in several places and needs repairing – we will discuss sending a request to him next meeting. I have asked for a quote to repair the minor damage. The NSWA can offer no help; they signposted us to the LCT who have signposted us back to the NSWA. Their only advice is to pay a professional.

**Signage:** I have not received any news on the Dog fouling signage from Doug.

**Usage:** Extremely busy. Evidence and reports of cyclists using the path. More reports of cyclists not knowing it was only a footpath – could we improve signage?

**LCRP:** Feedback from meeting with HM and RL. The feasibility study is not to be shared with residents and there are “no plans to discuss it -it is just for attracting bids”. The LCRP have got £1m to spend on creating a cycle path from Stainton to Holme and have no short term plans for Kendal to Stainton. However, in the long term the LCRP will campaign for a through route all the way from Lancaster to Kendal. We will discuss our parish ambitions and aims for the Canal Wildlife Area and what changes we want at the November Meeting.

The CRT have done some maintenance tasks on the aqueduct and cleared the locations for the art installation. The representative confirmed that the aqueduct is not part of their routine maintenance schedule, but this was questioned. The vegetation growing in the masonry has been escalated. It looks like there is some damage to the section near the steps. The representative implied that it is generally expected that the CRT expect local residents to take on strimming and maintenance of the installations – this was queried because of the access issues.



The CRT have taken on completing the Art installation project and have formally requested that a small waymarker is placed near the top of the easy path because the landowner at Hill Bridge will not engage. It is about 1m tall and has an A4 information plaque on top. A site meeting is planned for November 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30am to discuss our reservations about the proposed location and discuss alternatives. Maintenance and insurance issues will be raised. The matter will be discussed at our November meeting.

I have been approached by two residents regarding a dog incident on the canal about 2 weeks ago.

One residents husband witness a small dog off the lead run and attack a larger dog. The owner of the larger dog was with a small child. The owner of the small dog was some distance away and was not able to recall the dog

I spoke to the resident whose dog was attacked. She was sitting at the Stoker seat with her daughter and dog when the small dog appeared out of nowhere and no owner in sight.

The dog bit the throat of the large dog which did not retaliate and fortunately wasn't too badly hurt.

She pulled the small dog off her dog by its harness and it turned and bit her on the hand.

Her daughter was alright and not too distressed by the incident.

The owner of the small dog was apologetic and does know that her dog has a potential to do this.

The resident who was bitten does not want to make a formal complaint but does feel if someone has a dog that has poor recall and can attack other dogs they should not be let off the lead, especially on the canal, where others regularly walk their dogs. She has asked if this could be out as a reminder in the Newsletter.

### Events

Unfortunately I haven't been able to get a booking with the Revellers for a Christmas concert.

Fellside Singers have said they would sing for our fundraiser, but it will be late next year or early 2025.

They have a large following which would probably be best in a venue in Kendal hold to hold a large audience.

I am meeting with a resident regarding a soup and coffee morning in January/February. This will be dependant on having enough volunteers.

Cllr Val Macconnell

## HIGHWAYS REPORT - Fault Inventory November 2023

LOCATION	Postcode	Fault	Reference	W&F Status	Notes
Junction at Warfe Lane		Finger post Sign broken	EI/148427	Assessed 3/5	Submitted 2/5/23
Coopers Hill adjacent to Sedgwick House Field. What3words ///youths.cope.liquids		2 potholes on the left hand side of road	EI/172348		Submitted 10/10/23
On road by the river in Sedgwick.		Pothole	EI/172350		Submitted 10/10/23
By the side of the road at the start of the narrow part of the road that runs from Force Bridge into Sedgwick.		Large pothole	EI/172351		Submitted 10/10/23
Sedgwick Village Hall, Road End		Street light not working making it dangerous and unsafe in the village and to village hall users	EI/174313		Submitted 2/11/23

Updated 8/11/2023 – R Harrison

HT = Highways Team

## **SEDGWICK VILLAGE HALL REPORT NOV 2023**

After all the activity during 2022 upgrading the heating and the kitchen as well as improvements to lighting and new taps in the washrooms things have been quiet this year.

New locks have been fitted and keys distributed. The defibrillator was recalled for a software update and replacement pads have been obtained as required (paid for by Sedgwick Parish Council.)

There have been a couple of occasions when the storeroom was left in disarray but recently all has been well, making the use of the hall more pleasant and convenient for everyone.

The main concern this year has been escalating utility bills and expenses. It had been agreed to run the new heaters for a year to assess the costs before considering raising hiring charges. Inevitably some adjustment has been necessary, so they were modestly raised at the beginning of September. Every effort has been made to be proportionate and fair to all users and of course we wish to encourage people to use the hall as much as possible. Some groups have ceased, such as Guides and Quilters, and the Parish Council has reduced use to every 2 months.

Clearly the Trustees have to balance the books and ensure the hall remains viable. The Government grants we received as a result of the pandemic lockdown have in part paid for the improvements but cannot be used for ongoing running costs. It is hoped that the deficit incurred last year can be removed so that no further changes are needed.

I am still here as secretary to the Trustees despite stepping down a year ago as no willing replacement has been forthcoming!

Please support the hall and use it!

Diana Holmes