

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CANAL REPORT

Canal Inspection July 2022

The Wildlife Area is looking at its best – wildlife and plant life thriving....

Vegetation:

Later summer plants are thriving; roses, and blackberries and sloes look healthy – the wild raspberries are delicious. The contractors have done a great job strimming either side of the path and cutting back the very overgrown hedgerows. The ash trees are looking well let's keep our fingers crossed ASD stays quiet when autumn comes.

The goat willow stumps will need attention over winter – we should contact JP in the autumn to quote for a general clean-up of goat willow and any low skeleton trees.

Benches: The two older benches and the Stoker Seat are fine

Paths: The paths are sound- James Parks repairs are consolidating nicely.

Boundaries, Walls and Fences: all look sound.

Usage: High levels of use.

Boards: The notice boards will need a varnish soon and I will replace the pathway information which is fading in the autumn.

Canal Trust; The aqueduct steps are still incredibly overgrown. I removed some stinging nettles which were overhanging the whole width. We need to keep pressing CRT to deal with the steps and aqueduct which is incredibly overgrown. No news on Planning permission for installations.

Unfortunately, we have not been successful with the grant application. Mr Gibson informed us "The claim for the surfacing of the path and the tree work has been rejected on the grounds that no higher rights of access had been included in the scheme." This means it is because we didn't dedicate the route so horses and cyclists could use it. At no stage was this ever discussed. I have requested that our scheme be held in reserve in case funding becomes available, but it would seem we are on our own financing a pedestrian only footpath. I did point out horses would struggle with the kissing gates.....

Action to be agreed on the meeting 6th July 2022

1. Decide where to position the Queens Canopy sign and organise an opening with the WI reps
2. Do we need another inspection by treescape
3. Autumn strim when growth spurt is over
4. JP – contact in October to organise winter goat willow clearance etc
5. No cycling signs – what should our next steps be –CCTV, newsletter inf, new signs with SPC on?
6. Notice Boards – I will replace the path info in the autumn
7. Noticeboard- Varnishing