

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CANAL REPORT

Canal Inspection October 2021

There are no safety issues to report. The path is holding up well and the recent rain seems to have washed away the sticky surface. Late Autumn colours are fading as the last leaves are lost but the bumper berry crop is still attracting birds; the walls and bushes are teeming with life - wrens, coal tits, blue tits and chaffinches and a flock of long tailed tits flew through during my inspection. The recent wet weather has resulted in the wetland area filling up.



Vegetation: The trees are now becoming dormant and no issues to report following the terrible weather during October. The WI have kindly applied for a free pack of trees from the Woodland Trust so we can re-stock according to the felling license. If that application is unsuccessful, we can purchase a pack at approx. £200 including stakes and protective spirals. (Action to agree a Plan B so we can move as soon as the WI find out about their bid.) A quote is still needed for the replanting of stock but will be within the Contractor annual budget.

Benches: The two older benches and the Stoker Seat are safe.

Paths: The towpath and footpaths are very muddy because of the recent poor weather. The warning signs for the steep path are clearly visible. We still need to acquire a quote for the section 2/3 along from the aqueduct but it will be within the Contractor annual budget.

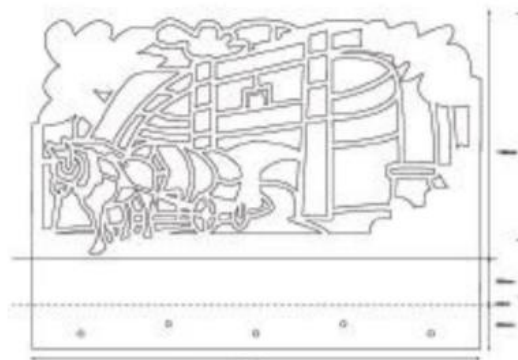
Boundaries, Walls and Fences: all look sound

Usage: The path is busy - perhaps as field footpaths become too wet. Tyre marks are again evident and tyre wear is adding to the deterioration of the path surface. No cycling signs are all OK. Dog fouling is still an issue especially people throwing bags. (Action - to include request in Christmas newsletter). The Garden at the foot of the steps is looking superb with newly planted cyclamen- thanks to Dorinda Mackereth for her continued work.



LCRP: Scaled down end of project celebrations were held but due to poor publicity we were unaware of them. Cllrs Tanham and B Holmes attended the project presentation at Crooklands on 14th October and attended the final wind-up meeting on 27th October. Carrie House has moved on to her new role at the Dry-Stone walling Society but Richard Franks is stepping in to oversee the final stages of the project which include the art interpretations and the delayed evaluation.

The planning permission for the art installations has been submitted. No images of the final proposal were shared with the steering group but are now available on the SLDC website as part of the planning process. Although not mentioned at the meeting, the installation at Sedgwick Hill Bridge has been cancelled (we were expecting to be approached to locate it by the bridge). The installations now appear to be yellow not black (see below) - possibly an interpretation of how they will weather. There will be an installation on the opposite side to the towpath which they do not think will be seen from the road and an information board to replace the old one.



Angela Parkinson-Green declined to discuss the aqueduct path repairs at the presentation evening and there has been no progress made on discussing future maintenance of the path or the condition of the structure. There was a significant bridge strike in October where a large stone was knocked out. The path is still deteriorating and vegetation growing in the mortar of the stonework is increasing. The steps are full of weeds and are very slippery

Boyan Holmes

