

The working group continues to monitor the current situation. A bi-annual trees review and site meeting has taken place.

The overall management of the site is currently controversial. The following action has been agreed.

- The lengthsman has cleared the roadside and up to a metre inside our boundary. He has been asked to prioritise this work. Clippings etc will be left onsite but in a careful manner
 - Removal of some ivy, from the trees and the effectiveness of this action will be reviewed in the spring of 2019. Ivy is an important winter food source for wildlife
 - A risk assessment survey with a qualified arboriculture consultant was carried out on Tuesday 6th November. (This being just one part of the bi-ennial assessment of all trees on Parish Council land). Only the trees for which we are responsible, were assessed with particular reference requested to those in and around the former pool. Quotes are being obtained for H & S items identified in the survey.
 - The finance committee, as a matter of principle, has agreed to look sympathetically on any costs involved in complying with the survey's recommendations. Thus, enabling swift action where appropriate
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- The PC has previously agreed to allow the pool to return to a natural wetland, but at all times open to reviewing other options. We are consulting with Worcestershire County Council and Worcester Wildlife Trust. We have successfully registered for the

Natural Networks scheme on active ways of managing the site, balancing the appearance and ecological demands. A meeting with them, involving a site survey, took place the 8th November 2018. We are awaiting their report. The working group will assess this and I propose it forms part of a full Council discussion in due course.

- The desire of returning the former mill pool to its pre-June 2016 status is still an aspiration for some residents
 - The PC agreed to be open to listen and support any group of residents wishing to organise another restoration project. At the last review in 2017, the costs of restoration, both the initial project and ongoing maintenance, were assessed as too large for the PC.
 - The P.C. must consult with 'North Worcester Water Management' on any proposed change and follow its guidance. This is ongoing. There was a site visit on 28th November 2018. This organisation has been recently contacted and an updated review of the situation and outline updated cost will be reassessed. The legal liability is vast.
 - A sale of the pool will also be assessed. (This is to be considered again at a future full council meeting).
- We will report on our progress, keeping residents informed by all means.

Councillor Bob Morgan December 2018