

Proposal to cut back overhanging hedges.

1. Background

- 1.1. There are two hedges in Wickham Market that are significantly overhanging well used accesses.
- 1.2. This proposal seeks agreement from the Parish Council to accept a quote to complete the works outlined below.
 - The first is the hedge between the Village Hall access and the Co-op. This is on the village hall side of the Co-Op fence and therefore falls to the Village Hall to manage. It is so overgrown that it will brush against many vehicles using the Village Hall car park.
 - The second is FP009 between George Lane and King Edwards Avenue spur. In places this hedge overhangs the tarmac path by over two feet making it very difficult for mobility aids or children's pushchairs to pass. This is a route to school. This hedge is on the allotment side of the boundary fences for properties on Fir Close. Historically, it is likely that this hedge formed the northern boundary of the land that is now Glebe allotments. I have been unable to obtain the lease to confirm this however, if this is the case, the Parish Council are likely to be responsible for it.

2. Considerations

- 2.1. Recognising that hedges are an important habitat, work should only be carried out in the late autumn or winter.
- 2.2. Neither of these hedges appear to carry much fruit which could supplement winter food for birds.
- 2.3. While Ivy is considered to be a late source of nectar, it continues to grow vigorously and will recover quickly in its new shape
- 2.4. While public footpaths are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. When I reported this overhang last year the response was simply that they mow twice per year. Boundary hedge management is the responsibility of the land owner.
- 2.5. The parish Council should manage its paths responsibly for the benefit of both residents and wildlife

3. Outline Definition

3.1. FP009: George Lane to King Edwards spur

- 3.1.1. Northern side (red line on map): cut back hedging to the edge of the tarmac surface of the footpath which in some cases will be up to 250mm
- 3.1.2. Southern side (yellow line on map): this is the allotment boundary. Cut back face to the footpath to the fence line. Top to 2m along whole length and face the allotment side.

3.2. Village hall access: southern side (Map 2)

- 3.2.1. Entrance area (pic1): cut back vegetation overhanging the 1.8m fence to the fence line
- 3.2.2. From parking space to pedestrian access (Pics 2 & 3): Cut back to close to the tarmac edge without cutting deeply into dead wood to facilitate new growth on the face and top to 1.5m
- 3.2.3. From Pedestrian access to playing field (behind the glass recycling bins (pic 4): cut back vegetation overhanging the fence to the fence line

4. Costs

- 4.1. Two quotes have been requested, only one received. The first totals £937 plus VAT
- 4.2. Value for money comparison: In March 2024 the allotment hedge was cut back at a cost of £1600

5. Proposal

- 5.1. To accept the following quote: £937
- 5.2. To notify households whose gardens back onto FP009 of works to the overhanging hedge using the attached notice



Wickham Market Parish Council
 Hill House, Shop Lane
 Little Glemham
 Woodbridge
 Suffolk
 IP13 0BD



<https://wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk>

Date:

Address

Dear Resident

Notice of footpath works

The public footpath (FP009) which runs from George lane to Spring Lane has become difficult to pass in recent years with encroaching hedges.

The council will be engaging a contractor to cut the hedge to the south of your property back to the edge of the metalled footpath to improve access for those less able people or those with children and pushchairs. The hedge alongside the allotments will also be topped and faced.



