

Planning & Environment Committee

Pathway Maintenance

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Swindon Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all council-owned (adopted) roads, highways, footpaths, pavements, cycleways, backways and verges in the borough.
- 1.2 The Parish Council's Deed with Swindon Borough Council does not refer to maintenance of pathways.

2. Open Space and Parks Pathways

- 2.1 Across the Parish there are many macadamised surface pathways that run through parks and open spaces. Over time many of these paths have worn away or have been overgrown with grass and weeds, shrinking the width for pedestrians and cyclists.



- 2.2 These pathways are not all recognised formally as adopted highway but some represent rights of way, cycle routes or may have been installed by developers to create links to formal paths.
- 2.3 The current condition of the majority of stone paths would require work to restore to its original state. They are likely to need scraping and new stone and dust being applied. The cost of work to restore is probably similar to that of installing a new stone pathway.
- 2.4 The Parish team have undertaken this work in Westlea park as part of a request from the Clean and Green Fund. Whilst there are in-house skills to undertake renewal work, it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to do so.
- 2.5 The Parish Council has scraped the pathways off Sandacre Road/Old Shaw Lane in previous years and has recently received a request to improve Nine Elms park. Whilst the Parish Council has previously resolved to minimise the use of chemical applications, scraping and spraying would be the most effective treatment with the lowest level cost.

2.6 If the Parish Council is minded to improve the pathways in parks and open spaces, there is an option to focus only on grounds maintenance restoration with the scraping and spraying of pathways to remove green overgrowth with an expectation that Swindon Borough Council is the party responsible for stone renewal work. Scraping and spraying would still improve the pathway.

3. Recommendation:

3.a. That this Committee considers whether to take action to improve stone pathways on a rolling programme.

3.b. That this Committee agrees its position on restoration work.