

ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

LEAD COUNCILLOR REPORT

NAME:	Cllr David Henderson
TOPIC:	Footpaths
DATE:	04/04/24
UPDATE SINCE LAST REPORT:	<p>This is now the third inspection of the footpaths with the last one being conducted during late September last year.</p> <p>The inspections took place over the 23rd March, 2nd and 3rd of April. The weather at the time of the visit on the 23rd was wet with both the other two visits dry and mild, however it did rain on both days after the visits had been completed. The footpaths inspected all reflected the impact of the weather conditions over the last few months.</p> <p>1a. Jubilee Fields</p> <p>The roughcast area which is still in need of repair has really suffered because of the recent rainfall and associated flooding. At the time of the inspection several areas were found to be in a terrible state, all being both very muddy and slippery. It was obvious from looking at the condition of the grass adjacent to these areas that people were using the grass as an alternative to the path as the grass is now very worn. The remainder of the footpath remains fine but did have some muddy deposits because of the flooding. As a result of the poor weather the area where the orchard is located is in a terrible state in particular adjacent to the stile and the public footpath up the side of the fenced area around the play area is extremely worn and nearly impassible. Until such time as we have a period of dry weather the situation on our public footpaths will not improve.</p>



Overall condition remains at category C for the roughcast area with ongoing monitoring required if the rain continues. Funding is now available now for the completion of the footpath with the work anticipated to commence during the summer.



1b. Abbey Fields

This area was found to be in a pretty poor condition obviously impacted by both the rainfall and flooding. However, it has not stopped people walking the area and therefore making its condition worse.

I would anticipate a lengthy recovery period with hopefully some drier weather before it will be back to anywhere near normal.

Overall condition remains at Category C however if the wet weather continues ongoing monitoring will be required.

1c. Allotment Path

The path was found to be very muddy and wet. It is still passible at this time, but its condition will only worsen if the poor weather continues. It can be monitored if the current weather continues along with Abbey Fields.

Overall condition remains at Category C.



1d. Cemetery Path

The pavement at the entrance is now showing signs of wear and tear and the gates should be examined to establish if any work is required. The path through the cemetery had a number of puddles but overall, it was okay.

Overall condition remains at category B.



1e. Bleachfield Street Swing Park Access

Found to be in a similar condition to the last visit in September, however the path at the top end closest to the river has experienced some slight deterioration but not sufficient to alter the condition category.

Overall condition remains at category B



1f. Westbury Park

The entrance nearest to the estate has now all slabs missing from one of the steps. They are still in good enough condition to permit access. As you would

expect the condition of the path in the park reflects the recent weather but is still accessible.



Whilst not within our span of responsibility damage was noted on Arden Road which has been reported. Please see attached photo.



Overall condition is now at category C.

FUTURE PLANS:

- 1. Release of funds for improvement of Jubilee Fields roughcast area with work likely to be scheduled during the summer months.**
- 2. Repair to steps at Westbury Park**
- 3. Further inspection of all paths if poor weather continues.**
- 4. Formal inspection of total area in 6 months.**

