

Arboretum Annual Hazard Inspection Report 14/4/25

Present:

Liz Ouldrige (LO) - Parish Councilor

Simon Rickard (SR) - Arboretum Committee

An inspection was carried out, covering most of the paths. The below topics/hazards were discussed as part of an annual inspection which is required by the Parish Council as part of the insurance.

Fencing

1. LO pointed out that fencing was required along the A377 arboretum boundary. Ultimately this is probably the Quicke's Responsibility? Though would they want to finance a new fence? LO suggested this should ideally be fenced along the entirety of the road, though this would be a long term project due to cost. Discussions could be had with John Quicke. Possibility of a long term project joint fund between the Arboretum committee & Parish Council
2. Are highways responsible for erecting a barrier on steep parts where a drop is possible from the road?
3. Inadequate fencing/guarding immediately outside Arboretum entrance gate - High Risk Hazard due to falling onto road. SR discussed this has been brought up previously. SR to discuss with the Arboretum committee.
4. LO stated the bottom boundary of the Arboretum, ideally should also be fenced as part of a long term plan. To be covered with point 1

Signage

- LO would like to see improved signage - ie 1 large sign at each Arboretum entrance with main warnings include (such as: Stick to paths, no tree climbing, entry is at your own risk, removal of dog poo, no fires, steep drop onto A377, ensure you keep kids & dogs under control). Any other information could be included in the info notice board. Other signs could be removed as some are dated or damaged. SR to discuss with Arboretum Committee

Risk Assessment

- SR to update current risk assessment - Level of risk to be included, with and without control measures
- Individual hazards to be split out

SR thought that the Arboretum did have their own Public Liability Insurance, but would check. If so he would forward a copy to the Parish Council.

The above could affect gatherings in the Arboretum such as visits from the nursery at Quicke's/ Meditation Group and Forest School.

LO discussed whether the Arboretum would consider having a Constitution. If the Arboretum is a properly constituted body, it will be so much easier for the Parish Council to work with it legally. Further discussions were probably required for this.

Discussions were also had regarding the start-up of a sinking fund with contributions from PC and Arboretum for funding of longer term projects such as fencing as per the above