

Work at the Meadows

There is going to be some planned, and necessary, work undertaken at the Meadows in the coming weeks, which will have some short-term impact on access, but long-term benefits for users and wildlife.

Tree felling (September 3-5th)

The line of old, overgrown, leylandiis near the car park will be removed over **next weekend** together with some dead elms near the other end of the car park. This work was postponed from last winter as the site was too wet to undertake this work. The leylandiis will be taken off site, but the trunks of the elms will be laid in the field behind The Grange to provide a wildlife haven. This will also mean the old fence within the firs will also be removed.

There will need to be restricted access to parts of the Meadows for health and safety reasons over that weekend, but access to the allotments will remain possible.

Grass mowing

The main fields will have their annual mow in the coming weeks. This is later than in the past to benefit insect life, and the cuttings will be left on site as such a late cut has no commercial value as either silage or animal bedding.

Hedge cutting

The hedge cutting last winter was never completed as parts of the site were too wet. So, in **early/mid October** the hedges alongside the allotments will be cut back. No more hedging work is planned this winter.

Bridleway

The work to improve the bridleway from Motcombe-Kingscourt is progressing from the Kingscourt end and will reach the section at the back of the Meadows to New Lane in the coming weeks. The overgrowth will be removed and a new fence erected between the Meadows and the bridleway. The surface will be widened to the proper width for a bridleway and resurfaced up to where it joins New Lane. Again, there will be some short-term access restrictions for health and safety reasons.

Paths and gates

The Parish Council is about to consider tenders received for work to improve some of the paths within the Meadows to hopefully make the selected paths more weather resistant. In some heavily used areas, a hard surface will be laid (gravel-like, not tarmac!). In other parts we want to keep paths 'green' but raise them above their current levels as they have become very muddy sumps in winter that will get steadily worse each year.

All **gates** are being replaced as they are life expired, and three new pedestrian gates added, wide enough to ensure access for allotment areas, pushchairs & wheel-chairs as at present.

Tree planting

We hope to obtain 420 new whips from the Woodland Trust this winter, which will be used to further extend the plantations. We hope to make this planting a community event sometime over

the winter. Also, a line of rowans and cherries are going to be planted behind the hedge in the front field along The Street frontage.

Motcombe Parish Council

27th August 2021