

List of comments, observations and suggestions for improved management of Balmore Walk based on discussions with Ben Stanesby and 4 local people representing Caversham GLOBE on 23 Sept 2009. Starting from Hemdean Road Surgery entrance.

1. **Hedge next to Allotments from car park entrance going up by steps on NCR 5.** This hedge had been cut back too drastically and should be left to thicken up whilst leaving sufficient space to keep shrubbery off the steps and handrail. Nominal hedge height to be reduced to 8 ft approx. Mature Goat Willow to be retained intact.
2. **Boundary Hedge running behind rear of Hemdean Road properties** - some Leylandii encroaching from neighbouring property as well as some self-seeded poplars - these to be cut back so as not to encroach on the park land.
3. **Benches installed in 2007**, the bases of some of these have disintegrated due to sub-standard concrete mix. Need remedial work.
4. **Hedges running along all boundaries of the park** - these to be kept trimmed back regularly away from the paths and grassed areas. NB some shrubbery areas have been allowed to encroach over the grassed areas quite extensively and this needs to be prevented in future by regular cutting back.
5. **Bank that runs along west facing slope** - this to be cut regularly on same basis as the main grass areas in the park. Undergrowth (Elder and Brambles) around the base of Hawthorns to be cut back so as not to encroach on the grassed areas (except see number 6 below).
6. **The 3 Large Hawthorns and the adjacent smaller one growing close together in line up across the slope from West to East** - these are to be allowed to grow together forming hedge type barrier.
7. **Large mature trees near Ridgeway exit** to have their basal growth cut back.
8. **Rear Field edges** - Blackthorn and brambles to be cut back 1 metre at least. These boundary trees and brambles have been allowed to encroach over the grassed areas quite extensively and this needs to be prevented in future by regular cutting back. Problem is serious along cycle path running along western edge to Rotherfield Way.
9. **Paths through the park that were constructed as part of NCR 5** - serious erosion and dangerous in places needing urgent reinstatement.
10. **Paths in Rear Field near north eastern end of park** - very wet underfoot and dangerously slippery for many months each year. Path urgently needed, with natural surface and suggest a board walk or similar over the Spring (no hard surfacing please near the spring as this could disrupt the water table). Overgrowth has encroached over various existing paths & needs cutting back.
11. **Late entry** - Saturday 26 September. See photos below - who put this by the James Matthews memorial woods? It's been installed with care but by whom?



Notes prepared by Richard Denney for Caversham GLOBE 27 Sept 09.