

Planning & Environment Committee

Ponds and Non Maintained Spaces

1. The Prinnels Pond

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council undertook remedial work to the Prinnels pond in February 2020, clearing out the undergrowth, lowering overgrown hazel bushes, repairing fencing and removing bramble and flytipping. This work was agreed with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.
- 1.2 Since February 2020, residents have reported a number of issues with further deterioration of the perimeter fence and sunken parts of the pathway and platform.
- 1.3 It is possible that the Parish Council could commit resources to reinstall a new perimeter fence stepped further back than the existing to allow for ease of installation. The interior would re-wild and would generally be left to do so.
- 1.4 If the Parish Council was minded to repair/replace the viewing platform, this could also be undertaken.

2. Clayhill Copse Pond

- 2.1 There has been a hidden pond area within the Clayhill Copse park which has reached a point where it requires some intervention. This could be a team project which as a minimum could clear out the undergrowth, remove flytipping, repair fencing and reinstate seating. This could attract mixed use/abuse.
- 2.2 Alternatively, it could be left to wild-over completely.

3. Eastleaze Pond

- 3.1. The Parish Office has been notified of work being undertaken on trees at Eastleaze pond. This is within a woodland area not maintained by the Parish Council. The Swindon Borough Council tree team have been notified and did not commit or permit these works.



- 3.2 It is a growing concern that these types of felling works are being undertaken without permissions and without any clear cause or reason.

4. **Ryan Close**

- 4.1 The Parish Office recently received a request for service for the public open space area adjacent to Ryan Close. This is classified as woodland on the Parish maintenance deed maps, and as a result, is not maintained by the Parish Council.
- 4.2 It would appear that some volunteer type cutting has taken place however the green waste has then been stacked and left. This has added to a fairly unkempt feel.



- 4.3 This space could be incorporated into one of the Parish Council's other projects such as wilding or tree planting or could be given a general clear out.

5. **Blagrove to Mannington**

- 5.1 Many years ago, the cycle path from Blagrove to Mannington was mown regularly and included trail walks and picnic tables. Signs of this are visible today, however, little management or maintenance work is undertaken. This could be a future landscape regeneration project.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are financial implications for each of these potential projects. For general and simple clearance work, the team could add an area to a full team session. The additional budget cost would be negligible.
- 5.2 For projects that require repair work, this is probably fairly minor e.g. Clayhill Copse pond perimeter and should be under £1,000. Replacement works at The Prinnels pond for the platform and fencing are possibly in the region of £3,000 for materials depending on the prices of wood. The annual budget for fencing is £3,000.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council agreed to develop a sustainability strategy for West Swindon. Each of these projects could potentially form a contribution. It is recommended that the Committee considers the current state of the sites in the report and agrees priority work to be undertaken.

Paula Harrison,
Parish Manager