

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

8th July 2026

Report for item 26/118 - Verges and Footpaths

We continue to receive reports and requests concerning the state of the verges and footpaths, particularly in Broadwas.

We have in liaison with our County Councillors recently submitted a number of requests to the County Council and our Clerk can update the meeting on this. Our County Councillor has put in place at a her regular meetings with the Highways Liaison Officer a regular item to monitor and progress these reported issues across there ward.

Members are asked to consider the following:

- Are we clear about who is responsible for what ?
- If we are or when we are, do we have an approach in place that will achieve what we want to achieve?
- Do we have a shared understanding of the problem(s)?
- The County Council and the Parish Council operate a Lengthsman's scheme are we clear about the potential and the limitations of this scheme?
- Are we clear about any restrictions in place as to the use of weedkillers and if permissible whose responsibility this is ?
- Are we clear as to the cycle and effectiveness of the County Council drain maintenance programme and their responsiveness to reports?

In considering the above members may want to reflect on the following:

- Responsibilities for verges and footpaths are split and shared across the County Council, the Parish Council and individual home/land owners.
- It would be helpful to clarify further the respective roles and responsibilities (including the District Council) and better understand how these are currently addressed.

- From the contacts we have had with parishioners there are probably different views as to what standards and overall appearance should be aimed for.
- A related area of concern and shared responsibility is the network of foot paths and bridleways in the Parish. Members will be aware that we have been unable to fill the voluntary role of Footpath Officer, and as a result are not in position to fully be aware of and report to the County Council the condition of these.
- All official parties have finite resources and competing priorities.

The concerns reported historically and more recently are as follows:

- The frequency of verge cutting
- How does the seasonal embargo on hedge cutting impact on the problem?
- Who is responsible for the stretch of verge between Broadwas Hall and the other end of Broadwas?
- It appears to be the case that some residents/landowners maintain verges and hedges and others don't.



- Growth up posts/pylons and other areas owned by Utility companies Including National Grid site by the school in Broadwas) does not appear to be attended to, leading to the obscuring of signs in some instances
- Village signs (Cotheridge and Broadwas) including speed signs are regularly obscured by overgrowth.
- Accumulation of seasonal debris on footpaths and invasiveness of tree roots
- Continued reports of problems with drains and gulleys

There are a number of areas where the Parish Council is or could consider further engagement with other agencies and home/landowners. (This is not an exhaustive list but to serve as an example). Councillors and parishioners may wish to submit further examples.

Land adjacent to footpath and boundary between Church Lane, Broadwas and Broadwas Hall - this is believed to be owned by the 3 properties on the former site of Zourka



Caption



Caption

Foot path entrance next to Stone Farm and site of VAS



Caption

In conclusion members are asked to consider whether they



Caption

- wish to improve the efforts and arrangements to manage verges and overgrowth etc?
- What steps could be taken to further engage with other responsible parties including homeowners and land owners

Richard Burrows
Chair