

Village Maintenance Committee

Report to BPC meeting 9th December 2025

Christmas Lights

This has been extremely problematic with Blachere finally planning to complete the installation on the Friday before switch on. (I'm writing this on the Thursday so it's still fingers crossed!!). This is the final year of a five-year contract, and every year has been challenging. We are a small contract for them and service has typically been poor. We will review our options in the New Year and seek some financial compensation for this year.

If it was not for Jess' perseverance with this I doubt we would have completed in time. Thank you Jess.

Playground

Following the delay to the VH planting programme we are now discussing the space available with Martin Rose who has taken on the VH project. It is still unlikely that we can expand significantly. We have agreed that the MUGA area is not ideal for younger children because parents typically use the club benches to supervise. We have spoken to several potential equipment providers but have not so far been impressed and are looking to engage with further suppliers.

Cemetery Memorial Testing

This is now complete. 150 memorials have been found to be potentially unsafe and have been labelled as such. So far residents have reacted positively and a number have provided their ownership details and are accepting responsibility for repairs. The expected complaints have not so far materialised.

Church Yard Wall Repairs

Quotations have been received. Diocese approval to go ahead is required and this has been requested.

Wildflowers and Weed Killing

We are currently reviewing our approach to both wildflower planting and weed killing in the Village. We are keen to reduce chemical weed killing where practical. The location of some of the wildflower planting is unpopular with some residents, in particular at Hunts End, and we will update the Council at the next meeting.