**Item 11b CPC meeting 13th July 2023**

**Report from Mill Hill, Broom Hill & Allotment working Group.**

**The working group met on 6th July to walk the green spaces to assess any maintenance needed.**

**MILL HILL**

The small area of grassland at the top of the Mill Hill footpath is being encroached by bramble and other hedgerow species. The working group agreed that as this scrub growth provides valuable habitat for wildlife it should only be removed when it encroaches the footpath.

The resident of Forge Cottage had advised the clerk that a tree next to the footpath behind their property is touching the roof and aerial. The clerk has instructed Eastwood Tree Services to remove branches as necessary.

Tasks identified for the autumn working group morning:-

* Wire brush and weatherproof the bench,
* Replace 2 broken steps,
* Remove bramble growth.

**3 COCKED HAT**

The working group were pleased to see that since the Litter Bin has been installed at the layby the amount of littering has reduced considerably.

As the soil bund next to the layby is preventing parked vehicles from encroaching further onto the 3CH, the working group concluded that additional barriers of posts are not necessary.

Unfortunately, the lime saplings planted in 2022 did not survive the extreme weather and will need replacing. The quantity of pyramidal orchids on the site has increased considerably since last year which is an encouraging sign.

The working group wish to remind Council of the management recommendation of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust that the 3CH should only be cut every 2/3 years and will be due a cut in 2024. This is due to the tree canopy restricting the light onto the grassland resulting in poorer growth of the flora.

Suffolk highways have cut the verges and sightlines for traffic are clear.

The Tree Safety survey identified that branches on the mature lime trees overhanging the highway will need to be removed within the next 12 months.

**ALLOTMENTS**

The working group note and thank the minority of allotment holders who mow and keep tidy the grass areas between all of the allotments. This is much appreciated.

Jane Soanes