

## Playing Field Report for RSPC Meeting 26 January 2026

In September 2025, a RoSPA representative conducted a **playground safety inspection** on all the play equipment on the playing field. I am discussing necessary repair and refurbishment options with an independent company with no other viable options currently. I aim to have repairs made during the early Spring.

We identified that the **two trees outside the shop** and **tree(s) at the Community car park entrance** require attention to protect the telephone wires. Also, the **willow tree** next to the table tennis hut needs pollarding. Our contractor has completed the work and an invoice will be forwarded to the clerk when I receive it.

On 19th December, following investigations of **drains backing up into the Community Hall**, it was discovered after 6 hours of investigations and jetting, that the drain running across the playing field to Hatherell Road was blocked just before the access manhole at the Hatherell Road side of the playing field. As there is an interim submerged inspection manhole positioned just behind the eastern football goal post, effluent was discharging out of that on to the playing field and that ground was excavated by hand to access it.

Cllr Friar had engaged a local jetting company on behalf of the Community Hall to visit the site and clear the drains before it became apparent that the blockage was in the main drain which is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Prior to the clearance being achieved, there was much time spent searching out which of the three drains on the Hatherell Road side of the field was in fact the drain from the Community Hall. After the drain was cleared the site quickly drained, although as the ground was already waterlogged due to the wet weather, it was very churned up and obviously soiled. The planned football match on 21st December was cancelled as a result.

The cause of the blockage was discovered to be wet wipes which would have originated from the Community Hall/Radford Semele Sports and Social Club, although in consultation with former Councillor Henry Marriott and advice from the Jetting company specialist is that a significant factor in this was the poor fall on the drain making it liable to blockages that have happened in the past.

The jetting company required payment of £4,0504.92 before leaving site and this was settled at the time by the Community Hall who had the ability to pay and following discussions with the Clerk and on the Chair's authority this was refunded from the Parish Council back to the Community Hall.

As this has been a problem in the past and also the access point behind the goal is currently unsatisfactory as an access point, should the Parish Council look to prevent further incidents with this drain by upgrading or replacing the drain and improving the intermediary access point behind the goal. *For Discussion*

Initial enquiries are being made regarding potentially **refreshing the signage** around the field.  
*For ongoing Discussion*

Henry M is to arrange with me some **seasonal tree husbandry** for the coming weeks on the Cubbington pear and other trees on the field.

Following the RoSPA report, the playing field committee is discussing **various new projects** including potential installation of 5-a-side goalposts as discussed with the new football team manager. Fellow councillor Lloyd -Davies has compiled an excellent report detailing future projects and strategies.

Councillor Jack Dempsey