



GREAT ALNE
PARISH COUNCIL

Combined Progress Reports – September 2025

Projects covered: **Recreation Ground**
 Lengthsman
 Defibrillator
 Water Tower
 Coronation Copse and Orchard

Recreation Ground

- New grounds' maintenance contractor's services engaged. Thomas Fox Landscaping is doing a fabulous job so far, and although they are costing more, we feel we are getting better value for money all round with quality of work and communication. The guys who have visited site so far are friendly, happy to engage with residents and want to know that they are doing a good job.
- We are very grateful to our excellent lengthsman who worked really hard to keep access to the football pitch and maintained "pathways to picnic and play" whilst we were in between contractors. He enjoyed mowing the football pitch and was disappointed when Thomas Fox came along and mowed across his oval lines!
- Spare parts arrived for the Springer Horse – these will hopefully have been fitted by the time this report is circulated.
- Bolts tightened and donut caps replaced on the Weather Play Panel.
- Awaiting confirmation from a new playground maintenance company that they will be able to replace the flat bed swings/chains and also remove and reinstall a new picnic bench. Appropriate parts/equipment will be purchased when we have confirmation of feasibility and installation costs.
- In relation to the previous point, approval awaited from all councillors for the purchase of a new picnic bench which has an extension at either end of the table top to accommodate wheelchairs and buggies.

Lengthsman

- The lengthsman continues to do a fabulous job of helping to keep the public areas of the village tidy. He recently spent almost an entire day using a "brush-cutter" in between the trees in both the orchard and the coronation copse. This was done in order to allow more light and water in to where the trees are, to allow easier access for people who wanted to visit/tend to their tree but more importantly at the time to reduce the fire risk due to the long period of excessively dry weather we had experienced for much of the summer. This left the grass in between all trees an appropriate length to still enable small wildlife to live amongst it should they choose!
- Finally had agreement from WCC that they will send 2 people out to look at any queries/issues we have encountered since engaging the services of the lengthsman. They will advise on areas of ambiguity and then agree that WCC will pick up on areas/tasks which cannot be carried out by the lengthsman.

Defibrillator

- Pads expired in the defibrillator on 31st August. New pads ordered at the beginning of August, and at the time of writing these had not yet been received due to CHT's supplier issues. Advised by CHT that the existing pads will still work for a while should they need to be deployed, but over time their stickiness becomes less effective.
- Trying to arrange a Community Defibrillator Awareness Session, and have emailed Great Alne and Kinwarton Memorial Hall to check availability and cost of some dates, but frustratingly have had no response. Will chase up but won't be able to arrange a date with CHT until certain we have a venue.

Water tower

- A couple of local residents were seen using this to water trees during the summer, until the water ran out. Pleased to report that after recent spell of rain the tanks are now filling up nicely again!

Coronation Copse and Orchard

- Some trees have fared better than others through the extended period of dry weather. Hopefully the tree team will be onsite in the not too distant future to take stock and see what needs to be done during the autumn.