

Mill Field and Watery Lane and Bridges Report

Charlbury Town Council June 2021

SLUICE GATE

The sluice gate is currently closed to maintain water level in the Mill Cut and river upstream . The gate requires inspection and possibly repair as there is some leakage through the boards at present.

WALL BELOW SLUICE GATE

The repair to this has now been completed and the wall is now in good condition.

WATER QUALITY IN MILL CUT AND STREAM

The quality of the water is currently very poor and there has been a build up of algae in the warm weather. It has been suggested that the use of barley straw and/or forced aeration could be a way in which this problem might be addressed and a trial use of this is being considered.

REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN

As a major area of land owned and managed by the Town Council the management plan is a good opportunity to demonstrate best practice in effective environmentally friendly policies for wildlife. Public consultation is important in drawing up such plans and there has already been very useful input for the Nature Team of the EWG.

In addition Wild Oxfordshire and the Evenlode Catchment Partnership have offered to visit the site and give further advice and a meeting has been arranged.

The current plan is now due for review which will now be undertaken and a revised plan put to the Town Council. The implementation of a new plan should take place this summer and it should be monitored to ensure that work takes place as intended.

This should be given high priority and be well publicised as an important initiative by the Town Council.