

BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

February 2007

- Funding has been made available to BWAG to improve the area of woodland at the bottom of White Hill, a favoured spot for fly tippers. It is proposed to clear the site of existing rubbish; erect new fencing, re-surface the lay-by (this has become severely damaged over the years by numerous burnt out cars) and install a substantial metal barrier to deter fly tipping and off road vehicles, which currently use the bridleway illegally to gain access to Bredhurst Hurst. Two additional bridle gates will be erected on the bridleway at the top of Strawberry Banks.
- The Royal Engineers started work in Bredhurst Hurst on 5 February. They are conducting a comprehensive survey to establish the precise boundary of the woodland and to identify the locations / measurements of all of the 139 separate plots within the area. This information is needed before restoration work can commence on the public rights of way. It is also required to ensure that maintenance work is carried out only on the plots where BWAG has been granted right of access by the landowners. We are currently working with 52 owners.
- Work is ongoing with the re-design of the website and it is hoped the revised version will be available by the end of February.
- There has been a slight delay in obtaining the felling licence from the Forestry Commission. This is needed before coppicing can commence. The application has sought permission to fell 6ha over the coming two years, in accordance with the recommendation in the KWT management plan/schedule of works. In addition to the coppicing, 0.5ha of scrub clearance will be carried out to restore a neglected area of chalk grassland. Work will commence by the end of February.
- The legal process regarding the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on byway KH94 to minimise vehicular access to Bredhurst Hurst is nearing the public consultation period.
- BWAG are working closely with Kent Police and KCC to monitor illegal off road activity and fly tipping. Covert CCTV cameras will be installed at various locations soon. In addition, a specialist police officer will conduct a site visit to discuss the further support the police can provide.
- KCC PRoW have installed kissing gates in Church Field and Aran Bank Farm and cleared the undergrowth from KH9, leading to Monkdown Wood. Further maintenance work and the installation of more kissing gates are planned.
- Pam Newman and Vanessa Jones attended the Kent Funding Fair on 1 February.
- Representatives from BWAG will attend a Public Rights of Way conference on 17 February.