

Werrington Environment Group (WEG) February Report

The plan for WEG 2018 was reported at the January meeting and remains unchanged so far, see below for a great start at Sobrite!

The Environment Agency has provided the following update on the Werrington Brook project:

The project will be moving onto its next phase of reach improvements with work on Aubrietia Avenue scheduled to start on 5th Feb (may be delayed until 12th Feb). Contractors are expected to be on site for around 6 weeks and will be working down the watercourse in sections from Larkspur Walk roadbridge. They will have an excavator/digger and a dumper. All paths will remain open and the contractor will fence off the area being worked in.

PCC have also done work on some of the drainage channel in Werrington with contributions from Anglian Water that have allowed the Council to carry out improvements to some of the local watercourses, notably to the rear of Coniston Road and to the west of Bala Court, these are an important part of the local drainage network.

The Council used their Land Drainage powers to maintain and improve the watercourses with a view to reducing any risks of blockages, improving safety and providing water treatment.

Some vegetation had to be cleared to allow access for maintenance and keep water flowing in future but Forests for Peterborough have been invited to plant in the open space area near Bala Court to try and encourage higher value planting in future. Residents whose properties neighboured these works were informed of the work and invited to provide feedback.

Note from WEG:

Please note that with all these works rats may get disturbed so there may be increased sightings reported by residents. It shouldn't be necessary to take action as things will soon settle down and we also have a healthy population of foxes that will help keep rats at bay.

The year got off to a good start in January with the Werrington Environment Group and RiverCare joining forces with Froglife on a cold wet winter morning to clear the Sobrite spring of dead vegetation and create a hibernacula with the pile of vegetation (see picture below).



Volunteers clearing dead vegetation



Finished clearing!

The day also provided an opportunity for volunteers to view the pond works carried out by Network Rail in the adjacent field for the Great Crested newts that will be disturbed by their development. Two large ponds have been excavated and the surrounding area will be planted with an assortment of wild flowers. The protection of the newts affords further protection to a broad range of wildlife through habitat creation and is a welcome addition to the Werrington landscape, compensating for the loss of habitat expected from the Network Rail development.



Network Rail ponds