

## **Overview of key points of discussion, regarding the Hedgerow Boundary, Wrexham Road.**

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Lorna Goring (Conservation Officer) and Emma Broad (Ecologist,) visited Overton Village to attend a brief meeting with a representation of Overton Community Council, to discuss the current concerns and issues that we have with the 'Hedgerow Boundary' on Wrexham Road.

Councillor C.Hellingman attended on behalf of the OCC.

Following introductions, C.Hellingman explained the ongoing issues of the collapsing boundary hedge, and the safety issues of pedestrians that this was potentially causing due to the reduced width of the Wrexham Road highways path.

A walk along the Wrexham Road, soon highlighted this issue as both small and large vehicles drove past.

C.Hellingman explained that there were a small number of sections of the Boundary Hedge that were nothing more than Ivy, which as Emma Broad understood is not a self supporting plant, and requires other forms of planting onto which to support itself.

This Boundary hedge consists of a number of natural hedging plants, including Hawthorn, Holly, Chestnut and Beech. Emma Broad pointed out that this Boundary is relatively old and generally speaking in a reasonable condition, with only a few sections requiring attention. Emma has suggested that we should try and reduce the amount of ivy that is generally smothering the other hedging growth, by carefully thinning out and cutting the Ivy back.

C. Hellingman explained that there were three / four key areas that we would like to address during the next 12 to 18 months. Our work would involve the removal of the ivy from these areas, and some replanting of traditional hedging plants as found in other areas of this boundary, such as Hawthorn holly etc, although I noted that although Holly is an evergreen, it is also a slow growing plant, therefore Hawthorn would most likely be the dominant replanting choice.

Both Lorna Goring and Emma Broad are in full agreement with this, Emma pointed out that this is not the right time of the year to carry out this work, C.Hellingman stated that we would involve the knowledge and experience of some local businesses in respect of timing and density of new planting, this was acceptable to both Lorna Goring and Emma Broad.

C.Hellingman stated that it would be our intention to carry out these improvements in phases, clearly one location is a large section, and our concern is that if we remove the whole section in one go, the large opening might encourage children and adults to climb over the fence thereby damaging new planting and also causing a potential safety hazard. Therefore it is likely that the larger sections will be addressed in a number of phases during the coming 12 to 18 months.

All of the above was agreed by both parties, Emma Broad has requested that we submit to her our schedule and proposal of this work, dimensions of the key areas to be addressed,

together with the supporting photographs. As part of this schedule of work, we need to describe the density of planting and the variety of hedging plants that we will be incorporating in each location, part of this will be to describe the immediate good existing hedging variety to be retained to each side of the area to be replanted.

The total discussion took approximately 45 minutes, and both Lorna Goring and Emma Broad are in full agreement with our proposal for improving this Boundary Hedge.

Our next phase of this work is to compile an application, with supporting information as described above and to submit this to Emma with our scheduled time table to carry out the various phases of this work.

Regards Clive Hellingman.