

BLACKWATER VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP (BVCP)

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the AGM last year so my report has been prepared by reference to the annual report to that meeting.

It has been a very busy year for the Partnership. I will concentrate my report on the activities that are most relevant to Ash Parish.

It has been a wet year which has made keeping up with clearance of path side vegetation and fallen trees has been a challenge throughout the area. Fortunately, volunteers from the weekly Tuesday group and stepped forward and started a regular Thursday work party.

The riverside path has been maintained through regular vegetation and litter clearance, including frequent removal of fallen pollarded willow on the Surrey-owned sections.

Work has been going on to develop the Green Network. However, there was a halt to the work on the public access paths and landscaping behind Tongham Services, which is a long outstanding condition of its planning approval. It is very disappointing that the work, which started last year, stopped when McDonalds submitted an application to build there. The application is yet to be determined.

Some of the larger works have been carried out at Ash Green Meadows including extensive repairs to the boardwalk and the construction of a vehicle bridge. Tree planting and seeding with native meadow species at the site aims to increase nature recovery in the area. Management for reptiles is working; a survey showed that populations of slow works and grass snakes are increasing.

Cllr Fiona White