

Correspondence for Parish Council October 2026

From Will Hutchinson:

I'm getting in touch regarding our planning application at Broken Gate Cottage, Broadmoor Common (261769), and I'm hoping you might be able to help us.

My family have lived in the area for the past 26 years, so we're very familiar with Broadmoor Common and have long been aware of its importance as a Great Crested Newt habitat. Their presence in the area certainly isn't news to us.

I've also previously spoken with Sally Webster and offered my time to volunteer with the Broadmoor Common group, as the conservation and protection of the area is something I genuinely care about.

However, we've recently received further comments from Herefordshire Council's ecologist requesting additional information regarding the newts in the nearby ponds.

As part of our application, we commissioned a biological records search covering 575 metres around the site, which surprisingly returned no Great Crested Newt records.

The council has now referred to historical surveys from 2009 and 2016, along with more recent observations by qualified ecologists.

I've already read the 2020 Broadmoor Common Pond Restoration Plan, but we're hoping to establish a little more information about the records themselves.

In particular, it would be really helpful if you could provide:

- Copies of the original 2009 and 2016 surveys, if available.
- Any more recent survey results or recorded sightings, including dates and locations.
- Details of who carried out the surveys and how the newts were recorded.
- Whether these records were ever submitted to the Herefordshire Biological Records Centre.
- Any monitoring or ecological reports undertaken following the pond restoration work.
- Confirmation of when the ponds were restored and any information about newt movements or habitat connectivity towards Broken Gate.

Our ecologist, Ian Price, has also suggested that a short factual letter from the Broadmoor Common Steering Group confirming the historical records and subsequent observations would be extremely helpful.

We're not questioning the presence of Great Crested Newts or the importance of protecting them. Having lived here for so long, we're very conscious of the wildlife and habitats around us.

We're simply trying to understand why these records weren't included in the original search and gather the information needed to move our application forward without further unnecessary delays or expense.

Any help you could offer would be greatly appreciated, and if someone else holds the records, I'd be grateful if you could point me in the right direction.

Many thanks, Will Hutchinson

From: Rob Fair

Subject: Playground

Message Body:

Dear Woolhope Parish Council,

I'm writing to ask whether there are any plans to update the play area in Woolhope.

As a parent of young children, I feel that much of the equipment is now very dated and, in places, is starting to feel unsafe. A number of parks in surrounding villages and around Hereford have been updated recently, and it does feel like Woolhope is being left behind a little.

There are lots of young families in the village who would make use of a modern, safe and appealing play area, and I think it could be a brilliant asset for the community.

Many thanks, Rob
