

REPORT OF THE GRANGE PARK MANAGEMENT GROUP TO THE 2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This 2026 annual report reflects on a busy year in Grange Park with many positives but also a few negatives.

Unfortunately, it started with the realisation that 2 trees were showing no sign of growth and as a result it was agreed that they should be removed. This was undertaken in late summer. With the extremes of weather that we have been encountering, the effects on the trees are obvious and it may be that further trees will be lost in coming years. It is intended to replace one of the trees with a Black Poplar, a rare British native tree. The other is not being replaced as the neighbouring trees will benefit from the additional space created.

The summer saw a new grass cutting regime and after one or two initial issues the standard of the work undertaken was much improved on previous years.

The group is pleased to report that 2 more pairs of trees in the orchard have been adopted by residents in the village, namely Jake Addison and Steve and Dawn Betteridge. In September the orchard group planted 150 primrose plug plants in the orchard area which should add to the existing display of native daffodils.

The complaint of over-hanging trees at Cade Close and the fruit corner was finally dealt with to the satisfaction of all parties.

Rosey Thompson and Melanie Tointon have contributed monthly articles about Grange Park to the new village magazine.

A new "Welcome to Grange Park" sign has been added to the noticeboard at the entrance from The Alders.

At the request of the group the Parish Council bought Yellow Rattle seed and thanks to the tremendous efforts of the members of the group, as well as other enthusiastic volunteers from the village, half of the seed was distributed on the eastern part of the wildflower area. We hope this will have a beneficial effect on this area in the 2026 summer. This will inform our decision on the best use of the remaining seed.

Two areas of concern remain. The very long-standing issue with the northern boundary fence and hedge backing on to Barber Farms is gradually getting worse. The fence is only remaining upright because of the trees holding it up and the hedge is continuing to spread into the park.

The other issue is the broken-down fence and untidy willow hedge near the tree strip being the boundary with the new development. This also incorporates a ditch which is unable to cope with the amount of water during heavy downfalls. We understand options are still being considered by the Parish Council.

Overall, we are generally happy with the appearance of the park and thank the Council for their support and in particular Councillor Mark Unwin for giving his time to walk the Park with the group members.