

Inspection of fence in Hatt recreation field and recommendations. Thursday 7th June 2018-06-03

Present: Cllr Denis Morgan
Cllr Malcolm Fletcher
Cllr John Robinson
Cllr Trevor Aughey

1. **Background:**

- 1.1. The fence is situated along the original boundary between the field and the old A388.
- 1.2. It forms a barrier between vehicles in the car park and the recreation field.
- 1.3. It consists of 4" poles at approximately 10' intervals. The poles are joined by 3 rows of strained wire at the top and agricultural galvanised stock fencing on the lower 3'. Corner posts are of larger diameter.

2. **Purpose of fence:** To maintain a barrier between vehicular traffic and the activity spaces on the recreation field.

3. **Condition of fence:**

3.1. **Posts:**

- 3.1.1. All posts appear to be intact above ground level
- 3.1.2. Many of the 4" posts have become loose where they have been driven into the ground. However. There were no obvious signs of rot or decay and the movement is caused by enlarging of the holes, probably caused by people climbing over the fence.
- 3.1.3. No post was loose to the extent that it could be raised out of the ground and none showed movement of more than a few degrees.

3.2. **Wire:** The strained wire is intact along the full length of the fence.

- 3.2.1. Tension adjusters are in place.
- 3.2.2. There are several areas of damage along the stock fencing wire. These areas appear to have been damaged by repeated flexing of the upright sections. This occurs as people climb over the fence and most of this damage occurs at the height were one would stand on the wire while climbing over.
- 3.2.3. All broken ends have been removed.
- 3.2.4. The integrity of the fence is not affected by these damaged areas apart from reducing its effectiveness as a stock-proof fence.

4. **Is the fence fit for purpose?**

- 4.1. The fence continues to form an effective barrier between vehicular traffic and the recreation field.

4.2. Although the fence is showing signs of its age, there were no factors that were considered to pose a risk to users of the car park or recreation field.

5. **Are there any improvements or alterations that might improve the utility of the recreation field?**

5.1. Creation of a pedestrian access near the football pitch would make this site more accessible to users of the pitch and reduce the need to climb the fence.

5.2. Creation of a vehicular access to the field near the main entrance would allow easy access for emergency vehicles and allow access for maintenance should the access in south-east corner become waterlogged.

Cllr. Trevor Aughey 7th June 2018.