

From: Blidworth Council
Sent: 09 September 2025 15:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Response to your email regarding Sherwood Park

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your email dated the 20th August, please see the information below. All other items have been previously addressed/responded to.

I am informed by Newark and Sherwood District Council that the temporary CCTV installed by their contractor is still working and obtaining images. In the time that they have been installed, there appears to have been no need for images to be recollected by the Police for antisocial behaviour reasons. The police have addressed this directly with the CCTV department at Newark and Sherwood District Council.

In regard to the Freedom of Information requests, I provide below the information provided:

Blidworth Parish Council took on the lease for the recreational ground at Sherwood Park in 1997

Any relevant planning applications for work at Sherwood Avenue Park will be held by Newark and Sherwood District Council and will be available on their website:

[View or comment on a planning application | Newark & Sherwood District Council](#)

In regard to your email dated 27th June:

The Parish Council in my email dated 25th June have asked that you do not attach/affix items to Parish Council property (i.e. the fence) in case of any damage that may be caused, this includes any privacy netting. With this in mind I would also ask that you remove the signage you have recently attached to the entrance way to the park as shown on your recent video footage sent in the Parish Council.

The Parish Council made the decision to plant laurels along the boundary, and do not feel a need to justify this decision.

Kind regards

Clare

Clare Brettell BA(hons) CILCA
Clerk to Blidworth Parish Council
Tel. 01623 490358
My working days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 August 2025 13:39
To: Blidworth Council <blidworthparishcouncil@outlook.com>
Subject: Response to your email regarding Sherwood Park

Dear Blidworth Parish Council,

Thank you for your response. However, I must also point out that I have still received no reply to my email dated 27th June 2025, which remains unanswered.

I must first clarify that I did follow the instructions in the reply email. I contacted not only the Chair, C. Walsh, but also every Blidworth Councillor regarding the safety concerns at Sherwood Park. From my understanding, in the Clerk's absence, it is the Chair alone who can issue instructions to the Groundsman.

It was several days after my original email before I saw the Groundsman. When I spoke to him, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] When I asked whether he had been informed of the issues at Sherwood Park, he confirmed that he had not. It is not my responsibility to inform the Groundsman of serious matters relating to public safety – this is the Parish Council's responsibility.

You stated in your email that the holes in the park were created by "bikes, moles, and children digging." I must correct this: the primary cause is dogs digging where they pick up the scent of moles. I understand that a request for a mole catcher or exterminator was made some time ago, but nothing has been done. This is a persistent issue that has not been addressed properly.

The loose stones also remain a hazard. While I recognise that the Groundsman's workload has increased significantly, this is a direct result of decisions made by the Parish Council. It is therefore the Council's responsibility to ensure adequate resources are in place, rather than leaving matters unresolved.

Regarding bikes, you state that the Parish Council does not encourage their use in the park, but to date, there is still no signage at the entrance. Even when such signage is installed, it is difficult to see how a sign alone will deter antisocial behaviour. A more proactive solution, such as CCTV

installation, was available, but the Council unfortunately failed to act in time and lost the grant funding.

I also find it very disappointing that after significant investment in updating the park, the Parish Council has chosen not to replace damaged equipment. If the intention is not to maintain equipment properly, then I question the purpose of installing it in the first place. Could the Parish Council please clarify whether it ever intended to maintain this new equipment long-term?

For further clarity, I have attached a link to photos taken this morning of Sherwood Avenue Park showing the ongoing issues. These concerns were previously raised and photographed, yet the problems remain visibly the same. [Items Shared on 8-20-2025](#)

You also state that it is “irrelevant” whether Parish Councillors have moved out of the village. I disagree. It is highly relevant, as a councillor no longer living in the area clearly does not have the same interests or daily concerns as residents who remain in Blidworth. If they were truly committed to the village, one must ask why they chose to move away.

Finally, under the Freedom of Information Act, I request that Blidworth Parish Council provide the following:

1. The exact year that Blidworth Parish Council became responsible for the upkeep of Sherwood Avenue Park.
2. Copies of all planning applications for Sherwood Avenue Park since the Parish Council has held responsibility.

I would also like to make it clear that I am not seeking further commentary from the Parish Council. What I am seeking is clarification of what **legal right of way** Blidworth Parish Council has to allow the general public to cross private land without permission. Until either a modification order has been confirmed or a formal easement has been secured with the landowners, the Parish Council is knowingly allowing members of the public to trespass. This is a serious legal matter that requires addressing.

I believe I have a right to the above information, and if the Parish Council cannot provide it, this raises serious concerns about record-keeping, accountability, and the legality of the Council’s actions.

Given the ongoing issues, I also feel these matters should be brought to the attention of the public, so residents can be aware of how Blidworth Parish Council operates and how ongoing concerns are being handled.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

