

Cabinet Member for City Services

15 September 2026

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Interim Director of City Services

Wards affected:

Tile Hill & Canley

Title:

Petition – **E67 Restore Safe and Accessible Paths in Ten Shilling Wood & Park Wood**

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition with 50 signatures was received requesting that:

“The Council to carry out an inspection of the paths within Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood in Canley, clear any obstructions such as fallen trees and overgrowth, restore routes to a safe and usable condition, and put in place a clear plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure they remain accessible for residents.

Justification:

Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood are well-used green spaces in Canley, providing important walking routes and access through the area for local residents.

Paths were previously put in place to improve access through the woodland and connect key routes. However, residents are now reporting that in places these paths are blocked, overgrown, unsafe, or difficult to use.

For some, this means parts of the woods are no longer accessible.

This petition is not about creating something new. It is about ensuring that existing paths are properly maintained so they continue to serve the purpose they were originally intended for. We are asking the council to take action to restore these routes and ensure they remain safe, usable, and accessible for the community.”

In accordance with the Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to Urban Forestry are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered the petition prior to this meeting and requested that the petition was dealt

with by letter (determination letter) rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently

On receipt of the determination letter, the petition organiser requested that the issue be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

The determination letter explained:

The Urban Forestry Team have been working to firstly assess the condition of the woodland paths and then to work with colleagues to organise sufficient clearance of them. As a result, all main paths have been cleared of fallen trees. Other repair works will continue by the Urban Ranger Team who are aware of some necessary minor bridge repairs and will be carrying them out in the coming few weeks. Works to cut back encroaching bramble and saplings from the designated disability route in Park Wood will be carried out by external contractors in the next two weeks. Once completed, access to all paths will be restored.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the Petition Organisers concerns.
2. Advise the Petition Organiser of the works carried out on the paths within Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood, Canley in response to the petition and the plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure they remain accessible for residents going forward.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Park Wood management plan.

Appendix 2 – Woodland pathways maps

Appendix 3 – Woodland Accessibility assessment

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Restore Safe and Accessible Paths in Ten Shilling Wood & Park Wood

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The petition was received by the City Council and the request was reviewed by the Urban Forestry Officer. It reads as follows:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to carry out an inspection of the paths within Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood in Canley, clear any obstructions such as fallen trees and overgrowth, restore routes to a safe and usable condition, and put in place a clear plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure they remain accessible for residents.

Justification:

Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood are well-used green spaces in Canley, providing important walking routes and access through the area for local residents.

Paths were previously put in place to improve access through the woodland and connect key routes. However, residents are now reporting that in places these paths are blocked, overgrown, unsafe, or difficult to use.

For some, this means parts of the woods are no longer accessible.

This petition is not about creating something new. It is about ensuring that existing paths are properly maintained so they continue to serve the purpose they were originally intended for. We are asking the council to take action to restore these routes and ensure they remain safe, usable, and accessible for the community.”

- 1.2. This review led to an assessment of the pathways within both Park Wood and Ten Shilling Wood for obstructions such as fallen trees and branches that were preventing path users from walking the paths. It also included an assessment of the footbridges over the central eastern ditch in Park Wood.
- 1.3. The list of works accumulated through this assessment have been undertaken by both the council's appointed contractor and the Urban Ranger Team to remove all fallen debris and weed growth from all mapped pathways and from the accessible path in the western side of Park Wood and to repair a footbridge. This work is all now complete.
- 1.4. Work has concentrated on the mapped pathways and not the incidental paths/desire lines that people have created over many years. These paths dissect the woodland compartments and disturb wildlife. Our work to maintain the woodland aims to increase the habitat value.
- 1.5 In addition to the points raised in the petition, the petitioner has made further requests by email which the Urban Forestry Officer has engaged the petitioner on as following:
- The woodland map previously requested, clearly identifying the main paths, official paths, informal routes and designated accessible route.
 - Plans of both woodlands have been shared with the petitioner.
 - Clarification of which routes will remain obstructed to deter illegal e-bikes and motorbikes
 - The Urban Forestry Officer has discussed our management approach to deter access for inappropriate bikes.

- An explanation reconciling the earlier statement that branches would deliberately remain across some routes with the new claim that access to “all paths” will be restored
 - The maintenance we undertake is on the main footpaths only and not the other desire lines that crisscross the woodlands.
- Firm completion dates for the vegetation clearance, tap-rail work and bridge repairs, rather than “the next two weeks” or “the coming few weeks”.
 - All works to clear the paths and bridges have been completed.
- Details of the bridge inspection, the repairs required and confirmation of when it will be restored to a safe condition.
 - All works to clear the paths and bridges have been completed.
- A clear ongoing maintenance and inspection plan, including responsibility and expected frequency.
 - The woodland is inspected through the tree asset management system using a traffic light system to assess risk from falling trees. All other maintenance tasks will be identified in the woodland management plan which, will be reviewed by the Urban Forestry Officer and the emerging friends group, to deliver the action plan for both woodlands.
- A response to my request to discuss establishing a Friends of Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood group to support the long-term care of the woodlands.
 - The Urban Forestry Officer is in the process of making contact with the interested people to form a local friends group including the petitioner.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

1. Note the Petition Organisers concerns
2. Advise the Petition Organiser of the works carried out on the paths within Ten Shilling Wood and Park Wood, Canley in response to the petition and the plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure they remain accessible for residents going forward.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 The decision will be implemented immediately after Cabinet Member's decision.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications as a result of the contents of this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications as a result of the contents of this report.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

(<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>)

This decision contributes to the One Coventry Plan – Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change. By protecting woodland habitats.

Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Physical risk from falling trees is managed through the tree asset management system and tree inspection programme.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Please refer to the EIA at Appendix 3 to this report.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author**Name and job title:**

Tim Wetherhill

Parks & Openspaces Manager

Directorate:

City Services

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7697 7139

Email: tim.wetherhill@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Asher Veness Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	28 Aug 26	28 Aug 26
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant – Business Partner	Finance and Resources	26 Aug 26	27 Aug 26
Rob Parkes	Team Leader Legal Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	26 Aug 26	27 Aug 26
Mark Adams	Interim Director of City Services	City Services	27 Aug 26	27 Aug 26
Councillor P Hetherton	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	28 Aug 26	4 Sept 26

This report is published on the council's website: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/council-meetings>

