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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

Draft an email to reply to the Ark email re AI use requesting more and obvious signage for pool users to be aware of the AI lifeguard and ask for confirmation that data is deleted after 7 days and get a copy of the risk assessment	Environment	ENVC197/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Clerk	Sent 04.08.2026 - no reply
Promote the rental of the buildings at the train station on our website & social media	Environment	ENVC200/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Mike	Completed 04.08.2026
Refer to events committee an event at the train station	Environment	ENVC200/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Clerk	Added to next events agenda - to be discussed as an event in 2027 at events 02.11.2026
Allow wild flowers to be sewn in the memorial garden	Environment	ENVC201/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Clerk	Contacted Dave Goodridge and let him know
Purchase chain and post for the car park at the allotments	Environment	ENVC201/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Clerk	Contacted Dave Goodridge and let him know

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Adopt and publish the allotment structures policy	Environment	ENVC202/2026	03.08.2026	07.08.2026	Clerk	Completed and added to tenancy agreement
Path report follow up - *see minutes*	Environment	ENVC203/2026	03.08.2026	31.08.2026	Clerk	Written to DCC 04.08.2026 - as of 15.09.2026 no reply
Get licences for and purchase 3 new planters	Environment	ENVC204/2026	03.08.2026	31.08.2026	Clerk	Completed applications 04.08.2026 - Iceland, awaiting final approval, no objections

ENVC197/2026 – As of 15.09.2026 this has been chased twice but still no reply.
**update* - An email inviting me to speak with Arc leisure area manager has come this morning (28.09.2026) but without contact details. I have replied that I would like to speak with him. Our contact at DDDC has not answered the questions we put to Arc Leisure).*
ENVC200/2026 – New photos were added on 16.09.2026 so we repromoted – Detailed information is scares. Former Station Buildings, Matlock, DE4 3NA | The Arch Company
ENVC201/2026 – See point 7 on the agenda

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ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

1. Allotment structure policy published and added to the tenancy agreement template
2. All allotments have now been paid for (total £3370)
3. A plot holder has had a final warning as to the upkeep of their plot
4. The chain for the car park and the padlock were not communicated well enough and have been temporarily removed and rethought. The chain requires an additional middle post to ensure the chain is high enough not to just be driven over. The problem parker has moved away and that situation seems to have resolved itself (but not before the chain got damaged). The padlock was being left off by allotment users. A press button electronic pad might be a better option (approximate cost £30.00
5. Prices for 2027-2028 have been notified to allotment holders as per their tenancy agreements (giving them a year's notice on price increases)

Plot size	2027-2028 price	Suggested pricing 2028-2029
Starter	£35	£40
Small	£45	£50
Medium	£55	£60
Large	£85	£100

This suggestion would make us £4200 in 2028-2029 (assuming 100% collection

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PATH REPORT UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To give the committee an update on the paths in Matlock that need works either via our outdoor team or via Derbyshire County Council that were discussed at the last meeting

RECOMMENDATION

For the Clerk to chase Derbyshire County Council on the requests put in and to bring a further update to the next meeting

BACKGROUND

A number of paths around Matlock that the MTC outdoor team maintain (strim, mow, cut back etc) are in need of additional works such as repaving or resurfacing. Cllr Hughes, along with the Clerk and the outdoor team have reviewed a number of paths that need extra works and they are presented here along with an update on each one:

PATH 7 - *Runs from Chesterfield Road into Lumsdale Quarry*

Works needed – Possible rail support and steps as it's very difficult to climb once into the woods

Update – **Fault reported through online portal on 05.08.2026. Case number FS-Case-863054643. I have asked for a further update, the portal states 'Close ticket'.**

Further update **– Highways have stated this morning (28.09.2026) that a site visit from them is imminent**

PATH 9 - *Runs from Wellington Street above the allotments To Chesterfield Road*

Works needed – Private hedges need trimming. Office to write to the relevant residents.

Update – **Writing to residents at the end of September to avoid nesting season as requested.**

PATH 14 **-** *Runs from Steep Turnpike into Denefields*

Works needed – Resurfacing of the paved areas which are highly dangerous. Recently a resident fell over one of the many pot holes on the path.

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Update – **Reported manually prior to the meeting last time as discussed, a manual look at the area on 16.09.2026 shows no attempt has yet been made to repair. Email sent to chase this up, as yet, no reply.**

PATH 22 & 24 - *Run from Butts Drive to Lumsdale Road*

Works needed – Repaving, slab replacement

Update – **Fault reported through online portal on 05.08.2026. Case number FS-Case-863064240. I have asked for a further update, the portal states 'In progress'.**

Further update **– Highways have stated this morning (28.09.2026) that a site visit from them is imminent.**

PATH 27 - *Runs from Cavendish Road to Jackson Road*

Works needed – 2 replacement benches

Update – **Awaiting quote for recycled sleeper wood for benches, outdoor team can install.**

PATH 30, 12 & 13 - *Run from Wellfield (Oldham Villa) through to Henry Avenue down to Steep Turnpike & across into Denefields*

Works needed – Wall needs repointing. Will liaise with landowners

Update – **Contacted landowner who has had quotes for works and has assured me he will keep us updated**

PATH 49 - *Runs to the East of Hurst farm*

Works needed – Partial wall repair or new handrail

Update – **Cllr Hughes to update**

PATH 109 - *Runs between Lumsdale and Path 31*

Works needed – Write to the landowner regarding cutting back hedges

Update - **Writing to residents at the end of September to avoid nesting season as requested**

Dated: 15.09.2026

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PLANTERS UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To give an update on the progress of the 3 planters that the committee resolved to buy at the last meeting in August

RECOMMENDATION

Await the licence and then purchase the planter for outside Iceland

BACKGROUND

BAKEWELL ROAD

The two new planters were approved at the last meeting. The Clerk sought to licence these but was informed by Derbyshire County Council that they have an approved plan in place to convert the paving between the existing planters to a loading bay with dropped kerb and so the planter option was dropped upon consultation with the chair.



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CAUSEWAY LANE

This planter location was agreed at the last meeting and next steps were followed (see 'Legal' below)

Iceland



LEGAL:

Licence for the planter has had the due notice put up in the correct place and the time for that has elapsed. The Clerk received notice this week that the required time for the notice to be displayed was up, that no objections have been made and that our licence application has been passed to legal for final approval and issue.

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GROUNDWORKS REPORT

Denefields Volunteer Rangers Quarter 1 2026/27 SLA Report April to end June 2026

The Denefields Volunteer Rangers meet every Thursday to help in the management of the following sites: Denefields Reserve, Bailey's Tump, the Wild Thyme Garden, Megdale Orchard and the nature area at Wellfield Allotments. The sessions are facilitated by project officers from Groundwork Five Counties – Marion Farrell

The report provides a detailed summary of the volunteer sessions conducted for conservation efforts during Quarter 1 of the year 2026/2027. The focus of the activities ranged from work to increase the biodiversity of the site by planting more native species to repairing the stone plinth alongside other maintenance duties.

Outputs

Tasks completed

2/4/2026 Task: Dividing and adding plants to increase biodiversity

Description: Split up clumps of Black/Common Knapweed to increase the number of these plants which are fantastic for wildlife at the bottom left of meadow as look down the hill. Put in Forget me not plants in the pond area. We noticed that there were 8 Fritillary plants in flower inside and outside the pond area. A bag of litter picked.

09/4/2026 - Task: Cancelled due to staff annual leave.

16/4/2026 Task: Wildlife surveying and essential maintenance to bee and butterfly gardens

Description: Deadheaded the daffodils. Cut back bramble around young saplings and butterfly garden. Tidied up the Bee Garden. Planted more Forget me not. We discussed work required on the site for the next few weeks. Half a bag of litter picked
Wildlife noted: Sparrowhawk, Wren, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Wood Pigeon, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Crow, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Robin, Mallard, Jackdaw, Magpie, Canada Goose. Butterflies included Peacock (1) and Small White (1). Frogs' Spawn has been seen in the pond earlier and a Heron! The Group are in good spirits – nice to have some sunshine too.

23/4/2026 - Task: Cancelled due to volunteers on holiday

30/4/2026Task: Wildlife surveying and adding plants in to increase biodiversity

Description: We cleaned all the interpretation panels. Planted primula (donated by volunteers)

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by the pond fence. Cut back the middle path in butterfly garden and dug out 2 dead buddleias.
Wildlife noted: Dunnock, Blackbird, Crow, Wren, Robin, Song Thrush, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, Jackdaw, Magpie, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Canada Goose
Butterflies included Peacock, Small White, Holly Blue, Speckled Wood, Orange -tip
Grey squirrel
Afterwards Marion Farrell carried out site visits of Wild Thyme Garden and Bailey's Tump.

7/5/2026 Task: Clearing bramble to promote hazel growth and clearing a lot of litter

Description: Cleared bramble, thistle, rosebay willowherb from around the hazel that was planted December 2025 to the right of Hagrid's Steps. Realigned the cardboard which is suppressing the weeds.
A lot of litter on site, particularly by Bench on Hagrid's steps. 1.5 bags picked over whole site.

15/5/2026 Task: Pond area maintenance and meadow survey

Description: Sunny dry day. We cut back the willow at the pond. Some we managed to weave. Took out weeds from path by pond and weeded the Bee garden.
We took time to study the meadow which looked fantastic: Common Sorrell, Bush Vetch, Birds-foot-trefoil, Red Clover, Common/black Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy Ribwort Plantain, Speedwell, Ladies Bedstraw, Meadow Buttercup, Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Sweet, Yellow Rattle, Foxtail Grass, Hogweed.
We saw 1 tadpole in the pond and identified Water mint and Speedwell.

21/5/2026 Task: Keeping paths clear of prickly vegetation and litter picking

Description: Cut back overhanging branches and picked litter along Hagrid's Steps, Bee Border, down cobble path and along middle path. Cut back young blackthorn in grassland above middle path. A bag of litter collected.
Wildlife noted included Blackcap, Song Thrush Coal Tit and Holly Blue butterfly
We received very positive comments from a couple who regularly walk their dog at Denefields. "Thank you we appreciate all you do – we love coming here"
Afterwards Marion Farrell checked the location that Himalayan Balsam had been pulled in previous years along the River Derwent. What little there was present Marion pulled and decided it was not worth the volunteers being diverted onto this.

28/5/2026 **Task**: No task due to volunteers on holiday - but Meeting and site visits with Matlock Town Council staff Simon Hosmer and Dave to plan future work.

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Description: We went to all 7 Matlock sites to assess what might be carried out by the volunteers. This included Megdale Orchard, Princess Diana Memorial Garden, Starkholmes, Denefields, Well Field Allotments, Bailey's Tump and Wild Thyme garden.

4/6/2026 Task: Keeping paths clear of bramble etc.

Description: Cut back bramble along paths and weeded the Bee Garden. We removed the loose stone on the plinth by middle path so it didn't disappear to try and find a match with stone at Birchwood Reclamation. Quarter of a bag of litter picked. Volunteer donated poppy seed and Morning Glory plants
Marion Farrell was successful in finding good matching stone in the afternoon

11/6/2026 - Task: Cancelled due to heavy rainfall forecast

18/6/2026 Task: Repair to stone plinth and wildlife surveying

Description: Repaired the stone plinth on middle path – great sense of achievement to fix this. Picked half bag of litter.
Wildlife noted: Blackbird, Crow, Wren, Robin, Wood Pigeon, Magpie, Jackdaw, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Chiffchaff, Buzzard, Peregrine carrying Wood Pigeon, Nuthatch, House Martin, Swift Butterflies included Peacock, and Meadow Brown. Cinnabar moth

25/6/2026 - Task: Cancelled due to heat wave

Quarter 1 (April to June 2026) Statistics	
Total no. of volunteers	7
Hours worked by a volunteer per week	2.5
Total no. of weeks worked during quarter 1	8
Total Volunteer Hours	67.5
Hourly rate for volunteer based on national guidance	£14
Total Volunteer value	£945
Total number of GwFC staff members involved	1

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Photo Highlights








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TOWN COUNCIL VAN REPORT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the committee of the progress on replacing the old Town Council Ford Transit van.

RECOMMENDATION

To ask the Clerk to return to the Committee at the next meeting with a recommendation for a new van.

BACKGROUND

The diesel van lease was extended for a further year in October of 2025 at a significantly reduced rate to give us more time to investigate other options. To that end we are taking advantage of a new scheme run by Ford lease where they will lend us (at no charge) a brand new electric Ford transit for a week (this week) to give it a thorough test. Depending on the results of that we have been offered deals on new lease diesel and electric vehicles (see finance section below).

Consideration will need to be given to installing an electric charger. The RFO has asked for quotes and we will bring these to the next meeting. For the trial there are charging points opposite the Edgefold club owned by DDDC.

LEGAL:

N/A

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FINANCIAL:

Ford Lease — **Contract Hire Quotation**

To:	**Phil Avenell**	**Quote Date:**	**18/08/2026**
Customer/Company Name:	**Matlock Town Council**	**Valid Until:**	**15/09/2026**

> Quote Details

Quote Number:	27604586/1B	**Model Year:**	27
Fuel Type:	Electric	**Transmission:**	Automatic
CO_2 Emissions:	0	**New/Used:**	New

	P11D Value	Monthly Finance Payment (ex. VAT)	Monthly Maintenance Payment (ex. VAT)	Monthly Total Payment (ex. VAT)
Ford E-Transit Custom 340L2 71kWh 136 Trend Auto	£55,253.80	£469.79	£22.88	£492.67
Vehicle Tax		£24.50	£0.00	£24.50
Fitted with:				
• Custom lining	£250.00	£5.08	£0.00	£5.08
• Number Plates	£25.00	£0.51	£0.00	£0.51
• OLEV Plug-In Grant	-£5,000.00	-£101.32	£0.00	-£101.32
Total Value	£55,253.80	£398.56	£22.88	£421.44

The total P11D value of the Vehicle includes options, extras, manufacturer's delivery and VAT.

Total Effective Payment (applicable to cars only) is £461.30 (this assumes a 50% VAT disallowance on the Finance Rental and VAT).

> Contract Details

Payment Plan:	Advance Payment of 1 month(s) rental + VAT (£421.44 + VAT) followed by 59 payments
Total Contract Months:	60
Total Contract Mileage:	25000
Payment Profile:	T
Excess Mileage:	8.45 pence per mile + VAT

	Van cost	Fuel Cost	Total
Current	£ 261.70	£ 114.58	£ 376.28
New diesel	£ 407.00	£ 114.58	£ 521.58
New electric	£ 421.44	£ 40.00	£ 461.44

£500 a month budgeted for van costs

ANTICIPATED INCOME:

None

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DECLARING A NATURE EMERGENCY

Committee to consider whether Matlock Town Council should declare a nature emergency

Council puts nature at the heart of future decisions

Nature will play a greater role in how Amber Valley Borough Council makes future decisions following its declaration of a nature emergency.

The commitment will see nature recovery built into relevant council strategies and policies, while strengthening work already happening with residents, community groups and nature organisations across the borough.

The declaration follows a growing national movement calling on councils to recognise the pressures facing nature and take action locally.

The Woodland Trust has been encouraging local authorities across the country to declare nature emergencies, with Amber Valley among those encouraged to make a formal commitment.

Its Nature Emergency UK initiative, developed with mySociety and Climate Emergency UK, looks beyond the declaration itself at how councils turn that commitment into action, including through plans for nature recovery and by making nature part of future decision-making.

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(Pictured above: A mullein moth caterpillar, one of the many species that can be found in Amber Valley.)

For Amber Valley, the declaration builds on work already under way.

The council's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, informed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Plan for Nature, sets out ambitions for protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the borough.

Work is also continuing on the council's Climate Change Action Plan and its delivery plans for 2026 to 2028, with existing actions and projects being reviewed and developed following the declaration.

At the heart of this work is the Amber Valley Nature Network, which brings residents, community groups, councillors and nature organisations together to share ideas, learn from each other and support nature recovery across the borough.

The council now wants to build on the network, involve more residents in nature-based activity and work alongside the many local groups already doing valuable work in their communities.



(Pictured above: Councillor Amina Burslem, Amber Valley Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, Street Pride and Wellbeing.)

Councillor Amina Burslem, Cabinet Member for Communities, Street Pride and Wellbeing, said:

"Declaring a nature emergency is about much more than making a statement. It is a commitment to put nature at the heart of the decisions we make and make sure that commitment is reflected in what we actually do.

"There is already some fantastic work happening across Amber Valley, much of it driven by passionate residents, volunteers and local groups. We want to build on that, bring more people together through our Nature Network and look at what more we can achieve by working together.

"Residents may also notice changes in how some council-owned open spaces are managed, including allowing grass to grow longer in certain areas and reducing mowing to create more space for wildlife.

"These changes can provide food and habitats for pollinators and other wildlife, while giving our landscape teams more time for work such as planting trees and wildflowers."

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(Pictured above - Woodland in Amber Valley. The council's nature emergency declaration will see nature recovery built into future decisions, helping to protect and enhance the borough's natural environment.)

The council is also backing two proposed pieces of national legislation which aim to give nature greater recognition and protection.

The UK Nature Rights Bill seeks to strengthen the rights of nature, while the Nature and National Security Bill aims to recognise the importance of the natural environment to the country's long-term resilience and security.

While Amber Valley declared a climate emergency in 2019, the two declarations have a different focus but are closely connected.

The climate emergency has driven a greater focus on reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency. The nature emergency focuses on the actions the council can take to protect and restore habitats and biodiversity, support nature recovery and make sure the natural environment is considered as part of future decisions.

The council believes the two must go hand in hand, with healthy natural environments also playing an important role in responding to climate change.

Residents will have an opportunity to get involved at the next Amber Valley Nature Network event on Saturday 3 October at The Grammar in Heanor.

The network is open to people interested in supporting nature across Amber Valley, whether they are already involved with a local group or simply want to find out more.

Further details about the event and how to get involved can be found at https://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-and-nature/how-you-can-help-and-get-involved/ or by emailing climate@ambervalley.gov.uk.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS