

## March 2022 Newsletter



### Welcome to Spring!

Some of us had quite a bumpy ride through winter, with the weather causing damage to our properties, but the estate weathered the storm much better than we expected.

Life is now starting to come back as we move into Spring and the communal life of Cholsey Meadows will also be speeding up in all areas.

Nurture will be back to four days a week very soon and continuing their good job of keeping the estate looking good for all to enjoy.

### Parking challenges

Parking continues to cause problems, particularly at the top of Rotherfield. In case you're not aware, non-residential parking includes all Visitor spaces, the Spine Road and customer parking for the Ox Shed and Sanctum. Weekends are the worst times for extras cars on the estate, so please ask your visitors to look carefully for spaces, even if it means walking a little bit further.

The hazards and risks of injury and accidents caused by poor parking are so challenging that we are again having to consider drastic action. One option, that we are reviewing is having a professional team manage parking control, to stop people parking in non-designated areas. We don't want to do this, but we may have no choice, so please only use your own spaces. **Please contact us if you have any suggestions for improving the situation.**

CMMC



### How we manage our street lights

For health & safety reasons, all light bulbs have to be replaced using a "cherry picker". So, to manage costs, we have this done three times a year - in February, September and November. Every lamp post is checked before work starts, to make sure none are missed.

If you notice a bulb needs to be replaced, please email Customer Services at FirstPort, and include the number on the lamppost so that they know where it is.

Thank you to residents who are already doing this.

### Fence post repairs

Storm Eunice knocked over quite a few fence posts, with such high winds. Some of these were coming to the end of their 10 year lifetime and their bases are beginning to rot, leaving them weakened.

If an upright is on your side of the fence, it is your responsibility to maintain and repair.

If broken fences or gates are in communal grounds, FirstPort will check them first before scheduling the work.

### Bin it, don't flush it!

As Thames Water says – Bin it, don't flush it! Wet wipes continue to cause the most blockages issues – please bin them, don't flush them!

And please always keep your bins tidy and dispose of rubbish correctly, to avoid rats!



## March 2022 Newsletter



### Improving Biodiversity

As some of you requested in the 2021 Residents Survey, we are focussing on rewilding areas that will benefit the look of our landscape and encourage biodiversity.

Two events are happening in March.

We are very grateful to the Scouts, who planted a **number of young trees** (whips) on 6<sup>th</sup> March. There are now different varieties of whips alongside the balancing pond in the “middle” field between the cricket pitch and the lane to the allotments. This will eventually become a lovely copse of pollinating trees, attracting birds and insects. This project will be registered as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy programme, which is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and which invites people from across the country to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”.

We are also focussing on the **balancing ponds** at last. All unwanted willow saplings will be removed or cut back by a specialist contractor (Maydencroft) under the supervision of a professional Ecologist.

In November, after the breeding season for Great Crested Newts and other pond-dwelling life, Maydencroft will return to complete the main work of clearing the trees and reeds in the top balancing pond.



### Events here and nearby

There are countless attractions in our neighbourhood. Please look into our Great Hall which is so lively, and other events put on by the CCDT and the Ox Shed Café.

The Cricket Club is also very active in the summer months with sport and social events.

Don’t forget the Wallingford and Cholsey Railway jaunt in summer, the Corn Exchange, with its films and Am Dram features and coffee mornings.

The organisers are often looking for volunteers to help put on events, so do get involved if you have the time.

### How to contact CMMC or FirstPort

You can reach us on Facebook, our Website or via email (see this Newsletter’s footer)

If you need to contact, FirstPort, the best way is to send a message from their MyHome portal: [www.myhome.firstport.co.uk](http://www.myhome.firstport.co.uk).

**New residents** – did you know we have a New Residents Pack? Download a copy from our website.

To report operational or maintenance issues, please contact FirstPort Customer Services (0900 to 1700 M to F) who will log it for action:

**Tel:** 0333 321 4080

**Email:** [help@firstport.co.uk](mailto:help@firstport.co.uk)

**Webchat** (0800 to 1700 M to F):

[www.firstport.co.uk](http://www.firstport.co.uk). Go to the Customer Service Contact Us page

