

Bench Refurbishment 2018

1. Background

The carved benches across the lower Crane valley are a concept created by FORCE to enhance the pathways and open spaces. Over time they have increased to their current number of 14 with two new benches planned in the Autumn of 2018. The benches are designed to reflect the area in which they are installed and some have been dedicated as memorials to local people.

They are widely recognised as assets to the areas and are well used and loved.

Over time, weather, usage and sadly vandalism, have taken their toll on the condition of the benches and it is time to create and implement a project and on-going programme of bench maintenance activities.

2. Purpose

To audit the state of the current bench conditions and undertake a refurbishment of each bench as required.

3. Location

The maps below show the 14 bench locations



Bench Refurbishment 2018



Bench Refurbishment 2018

4. Audit of the Benches

Team	Bench Number	Description	Location	Amount of rot 0-5	Colours	Stability	Comments
A	12	Rugby ball	Harlequins Main Car Park along DNR	0	4 in Quins pattern on back	Good	New. wooden piece bearing the main inscription was 'coming out' of its housing. Might need screwing to fix
A	1	Woodpecker	In corner of Craneford Field West, by Rifle Club entrance	1 to 2	Green, green, red, black	Good	Vegetation to be cleared. Grass growing in cracks.
N/A	2	Fox	Path through Mereway	0	Brown	Good	Maintained by Doug. No work needed
A	13	Heron	CP downstream of Mill Road	1	Small area of black	Good	Vegetation to be cleared
A	14	Stag Beetle	Open space next to Mill Rd bridge	2	Black	Good	Some areas of 1-2 cm rot. Vegetation to be cleared
A	3	Robin	CP towards HBR facing streams diverging	0	Blue, brown, red	Good	Vegetation to be cleared. Moss to be raked out
A	4	Kingfisher	CP overlooking Reed island	3	Blue, brown, orange	Good	Large area of rotten wood at the back of bench. Needs a lot of attention
B	5	Dragonfly	Between HBR and Shot Tower on lower path	1 to 2	None	Good	Moss plus a few 1-2 cm areas of rot
B	6	Oak leaf	Open space near Shot Tower	0	None	A bit loose	In good condition. Vegetation to be cleared
B	11	Owl	Pevensey on crest of the hill	1 to 2	Multi	Good	Anti-graffiti paint used, but still graffitied. Part of owl removed. Martin to speak to Des
B	7	Leaping Salmon	In LBH CP Just in from Hanworth Road	1	None	Good	Few small areas of rot
B	8	Water Vole	In LBH CP, opposite dipping pond	2	None	Good	Some 1 - 2 cm areas of rot
B	9	The Mill	Opposite Shot Tower	0 to 1	None	Good	Few small areas of rot
B	10	Fruit in Orchard	Near Butts Farm by side of play area	1	None	Good	Minor areas of rot

Bench Refurbishment 2018

5. Plan

FORCE Benches Maintenance Project		Proposed Start date: Tuesday 4th September		
	Total benches 14			
	Requiring treatment 13			Issues
	Activities		People required	
Day 0	Purchase all items	Martin	1 day	
Day 1	Preparation	Team A 6 benches.	Alison, Alan	
	Meet at 9:30 by kingfisher bench near Hospital Bridge Road			
	- Clear Vegetation growing round foot of bench	Team B 6 benches	Rob, Martin	
	- Strip out rot and moss			
	- Sand down			
	- Apply hardner			
	- Put up warning notice. How?			
Day 2	Oil	Team A 6 benches.	Alison, Alan, Richard D	
	Meet as Day 1			
	Fill Holes	Team B 6 benches	Rob, Gary, Richard S	
	Sand down			
	- Oil			
	- Spot colour where necessary.			
Day 3	- Second coat of oil	Team A 6 benches.	Alan, Alison, Richard D	
	Meet as Day 1			
		Team B 6 benches	Rob, Gary,	
Day 4	Contingency/Finish			
	- Take down warning notice		Possibles - Lesley, Doug	

Bench Refurbishment 2018

6. Conclusion

The project was completed within the planned timescales, although additional materials were needed. The amount of repair and restoration undertaken during the project clearly highlighted that the need for the work was essential to ensure the longevity of the benches. It also highlighted the need to inspect and maintain the benches more often.

During the work, a lot of interest was generated, with many open space users commenting on the activities and thanking the volunteers for the improvement. This highlighted both the positive benefit of the benches and the feedback from park users, local authorities, social media etc. was overwhelmingly positive.

In conclusion, having completed the project, it was agreed that this needed to be an ongoing activity which should form part of our volunteer day events where possible. The inspection and maintenance of the benches has now been incorporated into the plans for the 2018/2019 volunteer day programme. In addition, as not all benches may have been captured during the volunteer days, it has been agreed by the FORCE trustees that an annual bench maintenance inspection would be undertaken to maintain all benches and to capture any refurbishment requirements that fell outside of those completed during the volunteer day activities.

7. Appendix A

Equipment and materials

Materials (each team)	Quantity	
Decking Oil	2.5 litre tin x3	Martin to buy
Tin for oil for second person	1	
Chisel and scraper for removing rot	1 of each	
Shears for cutting back growth round base	1	
Rags for drying/cleaning brushes		
Sandpaper	Couple of sheets	
Paper, plastic wallet and pins for notice		Martin to supply
Wet rot hardener		Martin to buy

Bench Refurbishment 2018

Ronseal high performance wood filler	500g tin x3	Martin to buy
Acrylic paint for spot colour. And brushes		Bought. Use by Team A
Brushes	2 large for oil, and two small for hardener	
Brush cleaner (white spirit)		
2 pots for brush cleaning		
Screwdriver for tin opening		
Bowl for mixing wood filler		

Bench Refurbishment 2018

8. Appendix B

Before and after photos

