

## NOTES FROM MY VISIT TO 36 SWEENEY DRIVE

I visited the resident at her home 36 Sweeney Drive on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, and returned to the locality afterwards to take photographs and speak to other nearby residents.

36 Sweeney Drive is bordered on the right hand side (looking at the front of the property) by a public footpath which is lined with a hedgerow between the footpath and the fence of 36 Sweeney Drive. (photos 1 & 2).

To the rear of the property is an overgrown embankment (in Erw Wen). (photos 3 & 4).

The resident is concerned about the state of the land adjacent to her gardens, particularly the back garden.

She moved into the property as a tenant of Wrekin Housing about 1 year ago and has made considerable improvements to front and back gardens including installing a new fence along the side adjacent to the footpath.

Her concern is that the untended vegetation at the side and rear of the property will cause damage to the fences, apart from the unsightly nature (particularly the embankment at the rear of her garden).

The hedge along the footpath only slightly intrudes onto the footpath, however the back of the hedge is putting pressure on her fence, and it is the back of the hedge she would like to see attended to.

The embankment at the back, which is actually in Erw Wen, is extremely uncared for and as can be seen in photo 3, has damaged the fence there, though this fence is not new. The embankment runs along the rear of 32 to 42 Sweeney Drive and the side of 32 Lower Belle Vue. (shown in photo 4)

Talking to other residents in the area, concern was expressed to me about the unsightly nature of this area with one person suggesting it could be a breeding ground for rats, though I saw no evidence of rats during my visit.

As for responsibility, If I have properly understood the planning consent, then the builders had responsibility for the upkeep of these areas for the first five years after building, and it would seem that these areas were tended during that time.

As we are past that 5 year period, I would assume responsibility now lies with Shropshire Council or one of the Housing Trusts.

Sweeney Drive is a mix of private housing and housing association stock, with the housing association being Wrekin Housing who control the houses numbered 33 and higher (odds) and 36 and higher (evens).

The resident has been told by Wrekin Housing that they do not accept responsibility for the maintenance of the hedge or embankment.

The embankment is in Erw Wen, which is a mixture of private properties bought under “right to buy” and housing association, and STAR housing seem to be the landlord for those.

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**STEVE WATTS**

**COUNCILLOR MORDA WITH SWEENEY WARD**

**OSWESTRY RURAL PARISH COUNCILLOR**



PHOTO 1. FOOTPATH ADJACENT  
TO 36 SWEENEY DRIVE  
LOOKING TOWARDS ERW WEN





PHOTO 2. FOOTPATH  
ADJACENT TO 36 SWEENEY  
DRIVE LOOKING FROM ERW  
WEN





PHOTO 3. EMBANKMENT AT ERW WEN SHOWING BACK FENCE OF 36 SWEENEY DRIVE



PHOTO 4. EMBANKMENT AT ERW WEN