

## **Acres Update - January 2013**

### **Picnic Area**

Clearance of shrubbery and re-profiling for the new picnic area will be carried out in early January. The plot, next to the infant's play-area, will then be fenced before seating and tables are installed. Hopefully the weather will improve so that we can all enjoy using it. As part of this phase of the Acres Project, new gateway features and finger-posts will be installed at key locations across the site. Three new interpretation panels will also be installed in February.

### **Boardwalk**

The Parish Council will be installing a hand-rail on part of the boardwalk in early summer. The water along the eastern section is not been particularly deep, but a number of users have commented about feeling nervous, so a handrail will be attached to a 50m length from the bridge towards the Allotments. Remedial work will also be carried out to raise 30m of the same section, which has dropped significantly into the saturated peat. Similar corrective work, installing longer uprights into the peat, was successfully carried out another part of the structure in August.

It has certainly been a challenging first year for the new boardwalk. The structures height was set at the Environment Agency's 1:50 year flood levels, but the relentless wet weather (that has seen much of the floodplain on the Acres inundated from June to December), has resulted in these levels being repeatedly exceeded. We will continue to monitor the situation and raise the boardwalk even further if necessary.

### **The Allotments**

Planned work to repair the breaches to the bankside of the brook next to the allotments has been postponed several times because of the unfavourable ground conditions. As soon as the weather improves, this work and associated access improvements will be carried out.