

Refurbishment of FoNC Information Boards

The original Information Boards were installed on the Common in May/June 2010. In 2021 we realised they need repairing and to that end Tim Bird, of Merlin Signs, was contacted to give a quote to repair all 5 boards. The quote was formally accepted by the Committee after one board had been renovated as a paid example.

The North West Chilterns Community Board offered a 50% contribution to Friends of Naphill Common towards Repair of Community Notice Boards (FoNC Information Boards) which was welcomed by FoNC.

What follows is a detailed report by Tim, on what was done to the boards:-

The board was collected and stripped down. I had to release 8 spiders and two centipedes discovered so they didn't set up home in my workshop!

All four coach bolts were rusted almost solid and had reached the end of their useful life. This was the same for 90% of the fixing screws, most of which sheared off.

It transpired that the bottom oak rail on the reverse was completely rotten and also needed replacing. Under this (and under some of the decayed plywood back board), I found the oak to have suffered rot as well. I raked out the affected areas, let the now exposed good wood dry out, dosed the necessary areas with Ronseal wet rot wood hardener. These "scalped" areas were also skimmed with two pack car body filler (which adds as another layer of protection). They are almost all hidden from view (apart from the reverse bottom right hand corner).

The acrylic and digitally printed map were cleaned (they came up very nicely) and then I edged them together with strips of clear vinyl, so they are now completely sealed in.

The new plywood back board is Lloyds approved marine ply, and I sealed all the edges, firstly with knotting, and then skimmed them with car body filler (to seal the grain). The board had primer, two undercoats, and two topcoats of external Weathershield satin top coat paint. I also pre-drilled all the fixing holes, so paint could encroach down each hole, for extra protection.

All the exposed oak, once dried, had two coats of boiled linseed oil.

The black Foamalux notice board was replaced with a new piece and this was stuck into place using UHB tape, prior to the board being sealed in using clear silicon. I carried out the same on the map board, but with black CT4 sealant along the bottom. This was to visually fill the rough edge of the oak frame, as well as provide a seal.

New coach bolts were used, with ny-lock nuts on the end, and I used conventional drawing pins to fix the notice back into place.

I would urge nobody to use staples on the oak frame again, as these blacken the hard wood, evidence of which you can see, and is not fixable.

PD 25/11/2021