

# Footpaths Warden Report January 2016

I took on this role in the Spring of 2013 and would like to offer this 3 year report.

## Actions taken:

- All land owners who have footpaths in the parish have been identified on the master map.
- Liaised with the estate manager, Brian, for Evenley Hall and signage of all footpaths (AK1, AK2 and AK6) on their land has been updated and increased. A broken stile on the footpath to Brackley (AK1) has been repaired.
- Liaised with Sally Fox, who had new fencing and styles, to add new signage (AK5).
- Added an occasional sign where they had become damaged or lost on various other paths.
- Organised and led parish walks around the footpaths. Normally 9-10 a year.
- Written occasional information for parish newsletter and website.
- Answered individual queries from members of the parish regarding footpaths.
- Contacted County Rights of Way Officer, Colin Hicks, as needed.

## Comments:

- The footpath walks were started as several people commented/complained that they did not know where the footpaths were. The idea behind them was to encourage people to come and find out what lovely walks we have and also show people where we are and are not entitled to walk in the parish. There is now a group of about a dozen people who come along on the walks, many who walk on a regular basis anyway. However this does not include any of the people for whom the walks were originally set up for!
- There has been an ongoing difficulty in getting a response from the RWO Officer. I have had little luck in getting the footpaths cleared at the start of AK1 in Puddleduck (landed still owned I believe by Mr and Mrs Biltcliff) and at the start of AK6 by the sewage works. As more people now walk the latter the grass is having more difficulty taking over and has been cut, I believe, by some-one in the parish once a year.
- Footpath AK7 at Parsons Spinney was re-routed several years ago when the property was developed there. There are styles to access the path on the B-road but at one point a fence has to be climbed. I still need to double-check the current situation and alert ROW Officer if nothing has been done to make getting over this fence safer.

A final note: my understanding is that some members of the parish council are concerned about people having roles with 'too many fingers in too any pies'. I have a ministry role within the parish/benefice, an organisational and practical role within 'Helping Hands' and a support role within Evenley Arts. The parish council will need to consider this, as to whether they wish me to continue in this role after this year's Annual Meeting.

Carrie O'Regan     January 2016