

Footpaths Warden Report February 2017

I took on this role in the Spring of 2013 and would like to offer this annual report for 2016 report.

Actions taken in past year:

- All land owners who have footpaths in the parish have been identified on the master map and personal contact made with most of them.
- Liaised with the Colin Hicks, Rights of Way Officer about a broken style on AK8 near Parson's House. A new style kit delivered and fixed in place.
- Badly worn and unstable style on AK3 leading from Church Leyes into the Glebe paddock replaced with a style kit from Colin Hicks. Thanks to Mark Gibb for doing this.
- AK1 has been cleared by a task group and is now passable, the challenge now is to keep it so.
- AK6 has been clearer this year as more people use it to leave the Green and thanks go to those who cut the taller grass with strimmers each year. Further along AK6 a grass track has been cut alongside the field to make the route towards the river less muddy in wet weather.
- 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.
- All footpaths have been walked at least once over the past year and found to be in good order.

Comments:

- Actions pending: AK8 where one style is in poor condition and needs the crossbar replacing and additional signs needed in at one junction. Liaising with landowners.
- 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 a dedicated group of about a dozen people who come along on the walks, many who walk on a regular basis anyway. We also welcome visitors from other villages who have seen the walks in the local press or on the website. However this does not include people for whom the walks were originally set up for, which is a shame!
- Some of the queries I receive are about gates being more difficult to open particularly in prolonged wet weather. As most are wooden swelling will occur and it is often not feasible to adjust fastenings as in dryer weather they then wouldn't hold the gate shut.
- It always disheartens me to see how much litter is deposited on our footpaths and road verges. I suspect this is a few of the same people as litter tends to be 'Budweiser' beer cans, energy drinks cans, MacDonald's food wrappers and cigarette packets. I thank the group of people who, along with myself, pick up litter and dispose of it properly.
- I have agreed to continue as Parish Footpaths Warden for one more year, making five in all and have informed the parish clerk I will stand down after that and pass the role onto some-one else.