

Rights of Way - End of Year Report – April 2021

It is sad to say that the state of our footpaths has generally worsened over the past year. There is no doubt the use of Street Doctor/Fix-My-Street service is increasingly being used by residents to report issues and ROW are reactive by responding to issues effecting safety or hazards. However pro-active issues requiring forward planning or long-term improvement seem impossible to move forward with ROW.

Cllr Smithers, responsible for ROW, has said “We worked hard over the last year with interested parties and stakeholders to develop an incredibly robust **Right of Way Improvement Plan.**” Looking under 5.10 Maintenance c) Path Wardens

- c. The main purpose of the scheme is to involve local communities and councils in the management of the County's rights of way network. This helps to ensure that routes are not obstructed, are clearly defined, properly maintained and available to all members of the public throughout the seasons of each year.

This is what we have been trying to do with ROW for about 5 years but have made no progress. So frustrating. Our main issues remain:

	CRICK	RIGHTS OF WAY		KEY ISSUES	18-Jan-21
ITEM	DESIGNATION	SECTION	PRIORITY	ISSUE	ROW RESPONSE
1	EM14	Oak Lane to Bury Dyke	M	Poor condition & floods	On hold waiting funding
2	EM6	Post Office to Canal	H	Dangerous stiles	Action planned Spring 2021
3	EM28	Barley Croft to St Margaret's View	L	Re-instate signpost/signage	
4	EM3	Followfields Footbridge to Sportsfield	H	Unfit for use	No action proposed
5	EM4	Post Office roundabout across 1st field	H	Water logged	No action proposed
6	EM9, EM10 & EM11	Well Hills	L	Re-instate signpost/signage	

Item 1 has been ongoing since 2017, Items 2 & 3 & 6 April 2018 and Item 4 & 5 since Jan 20. Item 6 may need to be expanded to across the Parish as several residents have also remarked that ‘waymarking on routes is awful’.

I’ve spoken with Adam Maciejewski who is interested in helping with ROW issues. He has knowledge and experience as the Senior Definitive Map Officer at a nearby Council (not NCC) and so manages the PROWs there and works with the local rights of way officers on maintenance and access issues. He lives in the village. I suggest we take him up on his offer to help with the aim of being able to report on the state and fitness of the parish ROW and a priority list of improvements.

I have been involved with ROW for several years and as I can no longer walk the routes I will be standing down. I will brief whoever takes on this role.

Jim Goodger