

Wickham Market Annual Parish Meeting

Report on Footpaths and other Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

PROWs are vital for allowing residents and visitors to access all public areas of our Parish providing safe, traffic free routes to shopping, school, recreation and exercise, dog walking and fresh air. There are 25 numbered paths and bridleways, (open to horseriders and cyclists), and numerous other alleys and pavements which, although not official PROWs, are just as important for access.

Suffolk County Council, as the Highway Authority, have official responsibility for PROWs but cutbacks in funding have reduced their ability to maintain the network effectively. The Parish Council has long had a role in the maintenance of paths with an excellent record of volunteer and supported work. A recent gap in this provision is now being filled on a volunteer basis with equipment support from the Parish Council.

As well as the regular maintenance of paths the Parish Footpath Warden aims to achieve the following

1. Develop additional routes including permissive paths
2. Publicise paths and walks which extend into neighbouring Parishes
3. Set up walking groups on a social inclusion model working with other wellbeing groups within the village.

footpaths@wickhammarketpc.com is an email contact point for reporting issues with paths or any other path related matters

Simon Harrington. April 2024