

WMPC Annual Parish Council Meeting (20.05.24)

Report by Parish Footpaths Warden for 2023/24

Key points from the year

1. The vacancy for a volunteer Footpaths warden, not filled until April 2023, led to a backlog in footpath maintenance throughout the Parish. SCC input has been reactive only (to complaints on the highways reporting portal) and not proactive.
2. Since then most work carried out has been to get existing paths back closer to a useable standard and by May 24 this has largely been achieved.
3. The purchase of a brushcutter/strimmer and operator training in April 24 will ensure annual vegetation growth can be controlled.
4. "Footpaths" encompasses not just Public Rights of Way but all footways and work has included roadside pavements, alleys and paths which to the village resident are indistinguishable.
5. Although reports continue to be made to SCC on footpath work carried out and in the form of issues logged on the Highways reporting portal, there is little prospect of timely response, leaving WMPC to fill the gap.

Plans for 2024/25

1. During the growing season most work will be annual vegetation clearance
2. Signage and waymarking issues will be addressed
3. From early autumn larger growth will be tackled to ensure path widths are maintained and surface issues addressed
4. Some work has already been carried out to promote footpath awareness including -
 1. Creation of footpaths@wickhammarketpc.com email for reporting issues, comments etc
 2. On path signage to promote WMPC as the body doing the work
 3. Display at the Annual Parish Meeting
 4. Articles and links in Parish News magazine

This will be built upon in the coming year

5. The formation of a Walking Group within the village with the aims of promoting wellbeing and social inclusion.

Simon Harrington. WMPC Footpaths Warden 04.05.24