

Wickham Market Parish Council

Report by Footpaths warden to Full Council 15 June 2026

1. Simon's Cross Development – PRoW issues

This development proposal currently before ESC planning has PRoWs on 3 sides and meetings with developers in conjunction with the WMPC Planning Committee have established that -:

- The bridleway (BW 7/8) for the length that it adjoins the development will benefit from improvements to provide a level surface to the recommended 3m width as part of the construction works
- The footpath FP5/27 has been historically misaligned, probably in connection with the old allotments, and will re-aligned along its definitive route emerging on to the B1078 to the east of the pillbox
- The old cross allotment path FP6 will be diverted and replaced with the current but unregistered link between the Bridleway and FP27.
- The planned footway between the point where the bridleway meets the B1078 and the vehicular access to the development ends before it reaches Thong Hall Road at the triangle. This is apparently because there is a large drainage tank underground at this point which cannot be built over. However it will be possible to maintain a grass footway to complete this link between the bridleway and the end of FP5 as well as providing a route for SX allotment holders to reach their site.
- The proposed cross development path joining the bridleway to FP5 will not be a PRoW and as such is vulnerable to closure by future management or residents of the SX development.
- Working with the developer it is hoped that the ProWs in this area will become more useable and properly aligned in accordance with the definitive map.

2. **Seasonal Vegetative clearance (SVC).** It is hoped that SCC will undertake SVC on most paths within the Parish in addition to the contracted work carried out by East Suffolk Services on Litle Lane and George Lane. The Parish Warden will follow up on paths not covered by the SVC in June

3. **Landowner responsibility.** Landowners neighbouring a PRoW are responsible for ensuring that their hedges and boundary vegetation do not obstruct the path and their co-operation in this respect is greatly valued. SCC are responsible, along with the designated involvement of the Parish, for the surface of the PRoW. This is a fine line in terms of responsibility thus the common sense approach to footpath maintenance pays dividends in maintaining this important network for the benefit of all users.

Simon Harrington 01.06.26