

Footpaths and Rights of Way Working Group

Report of meeting 10/11/21:

Attendance: David, John, Sue, Bruce, Keith

- It was agreed that the name of the Working Group will remain as the “ Footpath and Rights of Way Working Group “
- The Terms of Reference as agreed by CWPC 13/7/20 will remain the same but under the Timescale this should be amended to read “ and into 2021/22”
- It was reported by David that the Footpath Audit is now two thirds complete of the 90 paths/bridleways within the responsibility of CWPC. David reminded the group that one of the main objectives of this project was to seek the engagement of the Calne Without community in completing the audit and moving on to repairs and clearance of paths. Currently there are about 12 members of the community who are walking the paths and sending information to David to be included in the audit. It was agreed that we should continue to identify more members of the community who are willing to help with this project. It was reported that other groups are looking at footpaths in our area such as, Calne Town Council, Sustainable Calne, Ramblers Association, CARP. We should seek to work with these groups to progress this project.
- With the footpath audit almost complete it was agreed we move on to the next stage of carrying our repairs and clearance of paths. David reported that this stage should be conducted under the supervision of Wiltshire Council (WC) Rights of Way. Contact has been made with Alison Rasey of Rights of Way who has provided helpful information and support. Once we have decided which paths to work on we need to let Rights of Way know the location we are visiting and they will: notify the landowners involved, provide guidance on Risk Assessment, on receipt of a Sign in Sheet we will be covered by WC insurance third party. It was reported that WC can supply Stile Kits for about £30. If we decide on Kissing Gates these are about £350 each. WC prefer Kissing Gates as these may improve access to paths by those less able. Landowners should be approached to seek a contribution towards costs. Additional funding may be possible from Calne Area Board. A grant could be applied for and where this exceeds £1,000 matched funding maybe needed from CWPC.
- A discussion took place regarding the tools needed to carry out any repairs and clearance of paths. It was agreed that John would research this item and draft an estimate of costs involved and consider where the tools could be stored securely. ((see estimate of costs to be approved by council)
- It was agreed that members of the Working Group should complete a First Aid Course that emphasised outdoor activities. This could be extended to all members of the council if desired. The Clerk will be requested to organise such training when possible. (costs to be approved by council).
- The progress of the Working Group should be advertised in Inspire and Villages and on our Facebook page. We are seeking volunteers to help with repairs and clearance work. Also anyone with a knowledge of local history, wildlife etc would be welcome in order to identify and enhance walks they maybe of interest to the local community and visitors.
- In order to make progress it was agreed that we identify one path in each of the 5 wards that may need attention. The following were suggested: East Ward CALW50,

West Ward CALW28, Pewsham CALW82, Sandy Lane (to be confirmed), Middle Ward CALW20,24,74. The Working Group agreed to walk these paths together to identify where repairs/clearance in needed. On the 26/11/21 the group met in Stockley and carried out an audit of the Middle Ward paths as listed. This proved to be a most enjoyable social function and a great way to explore and appreciate the beautiful environment of Calne Without. The weather was good, the paths were very muddy but a good time was had by all! More to follow soon.

Cllr David Songhurst