

Footpath Report for Estates Committee Meeting of 5th August 2021

Cutting of footpaths

The first of the two annual cuts of priority footpaths by the County Council contractor took place a fortnight ago but the standard of work was poor. Where paths were easily accessible, across meadows and edges of open fields, an acceptable trim took place; where there was any form of obstruction or paths were narrow, these sections were only partly cut or, in some cases, ignored. Hilary has passed these comments on to the Footpaths Officer.

The cutting of paths through growing crops, which is the responsibility of individual landowners, has varied. Most farmers have followed the guidance on clearance and width; a few have not. Severe cases of non-compliance have also been passed on to the Footpaths Officer. In some instances I wonder if a quid pro quo arrangement could be considered e.g. if the footpath runs just inside the crop or across a corner, rather than lose 1.5 metres of crop for the length of that section, would the landowner be willing to trim the headland to a similar length? Walkers would then be encouraged to stay with the perimeter path. The Right of Way would remain in place (and on the Definitive Map) but a temporary permissive path would have been created. Providing the landowner puts up appropriate notices, there is no chance of the path becoming permanent.

The footpath between the W.I Hall and the Cemetery, FP 26, has not been cut. It has been tidied in the past and is not on the approved Rights of Way cutting schedule so presumably was cut by David King. Can we check and remedy please?

Quiet Lanes

I was away for the 3rd July consultation and have received no information since. Hilary will be able to give an update and will let me have a copy.

Roger Medley