

## **Footpath Report for Estates Committee Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The storms in the middle of February brought several trees down. Footpaths 24 and 4 and Byway 31 were badly affected. Most trees were dead elms covered in ivy which can easily fill the width of a path. All have been cleared and our thanks should go to those who helped.

Battle with a footpath using horse owner. The occasional horse being led or ridden along FP 24 has now morphed into two horses. The home-made 'No Horses' sign has made no difference. I have requested a couple of Suffolk County Council signs to see if they have more impact. Because of the recent dry conditions the animals have not really damaged the surface but there is the occasional deep hoof print in which an unlucky walker could twist an ankle.

Some time ago there was a suggestion that councillors wished to review the Rights of Way cutting schedule. This was last done in 2013 so could be due. The contracts are drawn up in the Autumn so any changes need to be decided before then.

Any news of footpath improvements particularly FP 25 the path that runs from Coltsfoot Green to the School and Village Stores so avoiding walking on the road. The additional funding obtained by Suffolk County Council specifically mentioned paths to schools and shops. Can we enlist the help of our County Councillor?

The Suffolk Walking Festival takes place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May. The nearest villages hosting a walk are Little Bradley, Hawkedon, Kedington and the Ickworth estate.

There has been no action to date on the replacement of faulty fingerposts.

**Quiet Lanes.** Hilary will be more familiar with the current situation but my interpretation of the most recent response is as follows-

The Suffolk Highways engineer has completed his assessment of the responses to the Wave 3 Quiet Lane suggestions, which includes Wickhambrook. All have been approved. The next move is the preparation of a formal report which goes to the Cabinet member for transport. Once the legal designation notice has been published parishes will be able to collect and install their own signs. To do this parish councils have to enter into a formal agreement with Suffolk County Council but this is described as a 'simple 5-page document'. Let us hope this is the case. Elsewhere in the document there is a suggestion that slightly more finance may be needed from parish councils than was originally suggested but the details, as yet, are unknown.

Roger Medley 30.3.22