

Road Safety Update

At a meeting in October of last year with a Highways Community Liaison Officer, a wide range of options were considered with respect to improving safety, particularly in the vicinity of the School (**Report WPC.22.11.03**). Unfortunately, due to the configuration of the road layout and width, the Liaison Officer confirmed afterwards that it would be extremely unlikely that that Suffolk County Council Highways would consider any engineered options to try and reduce speed through the village at this point. Additional advice was offered with respect to an SCC Licensing Scheme which would enable the parish council to undertake some limited works to highways. The parish council agreed that Road Safety Issues would be further reviewed once Community Actions under the Neighbourhood Plan were drafted (**Min. 22.11.8.3r refers**).

In the summer of 2021 the Parish Council commissioned an upgrade to the north end of FP25 from Suffolk County Council. The first 50m from the Coltsfoot Green end of the footpath was re-surfaced with the addition of road planings. This provided a more stable and free draining footpath along the edge of the field, improving safety in winter and wet weather on heavy clay soil.

The clerk has since this time received regular requests for the improved surface to be extended up to the base of the steps onto Six Acres (see plan attached at Appendix A). Achieving this would improve accessibility for residents in Coltsfoot Green to the main service centre of the parish, including the school, shop, Memorial Social Centre and Recreation grounds and play equipment, providing them with a safe route in (there are no footways on the road from Coltsfoot Green to Meeting Green).

The Public Rights of Way Officer has now received two quotes for work to Footpath 25:

- £1450 for the entire route; and
- £1750 for 50m

And has reported that work from both contractors has been excellent. He has also suggested that the parish council consider allowing access to work on the footpath from Six Acres and would be amenable to shared cost of the work (PROW contributing 1/3rd of the costs).

The clerk has recently met with our SC Cllr, Bobby Bennett, who has encouraged an application for grant funding towards the cost of this work, and this will be applied for (£1000).

On this basis, the maximum that the parish council would be likely to need to contribute would be £483 (plus VAT if applicable).

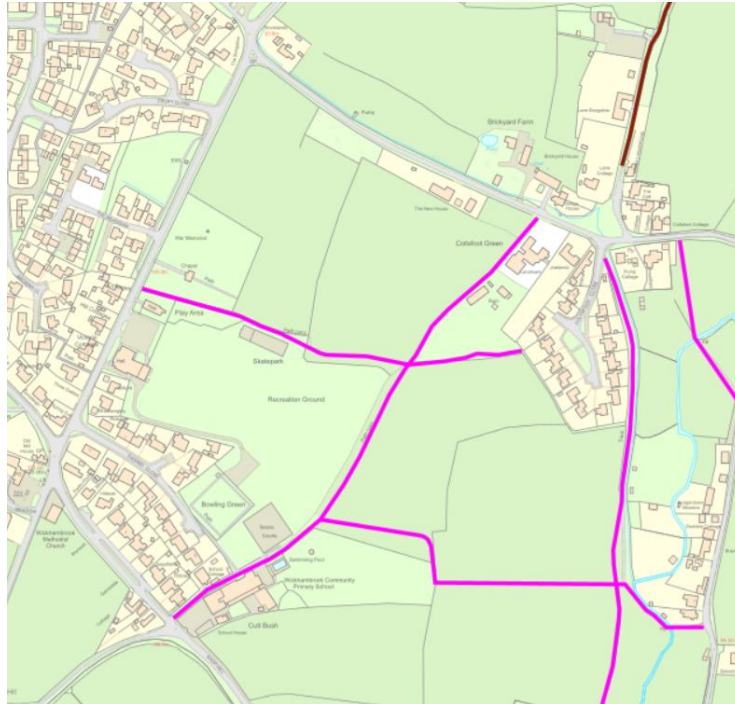
The parish council has the power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways in the council's area under Highways Act 1980, ss. 43,50.

There is no revenue spending for footpaths budgeted for the current financial year, but if approved, funds could be drawn down from Earmarked Reserves – Highways (current reserve £1500).

Recommendation:

The parish council authorise a contribution of up to £500 (plus VAT if applicable) towards the upgrade of Footpath 25 and approve a drawdown of £500 from Earmarked Reserves (Highways) to the Highways revenue line for this purpose.

Footpaths in Wickhambrook:



Section of Footpath 25 to be upgraded:

