

Rights of Way Report July 2022

Repairs

Our PPLO has been informed that the following issues reported in June have now been resolved:
Rights of Way Issue#67332 with Signpost#21625 reported on 24/05/2022
Rights of Way Issue#67590 with Path WN 19/25 reported on 09/06/2022
Rights of Way Issue#67342 with Bridge#2856 reported on 24/05/2022

Problems

The following new issues have been reported:

WN 19/45 (west side of track) has not been cut out.

WN 19/56 No posts have been erected at the start of this RoW.

WN 19/41 - cross pieces on stile broken, structure is wobbly and it is overgrown.

Wn19/44 (west side of Sandbrook Lane) path has not been cut through maize crop so is unusable.

Unauthorised closure of WN19/1

Thanks to the Parish Clerk for emailing RoW officer Eve Wynne about this problem on 1 July. E Wynn has confirmed that this is in progress.

WN19/108

The email sent on 23 June from Paul Longman to PPLO Susan Fone in response to her request for bridleway WN19/108 to be maintained was circulated to all members of the PC. Following a long delay and further email correspondence, the work was finally completed on or around 14th July by the tenant farmer.

I have copied below the email sent from Mr Paul Longman to PPLO because I think it raises a couple of concerns.

Firstly, the final paragraph in particular shows a complete lack of understanding of the role of the PPLO, which is an entirely voluntary position that Susan Fone carries out with great diligence. It is not her responsibility to *'reinstate this lane to a useable condition'* nor is it she who has *'allowed it to get to this state of condition'*: on the contrary, she was most instrumental in getting the bollards installed to protect the route and has been trying for well over 3 years to restore this bridleway. And it is certainly not her *'duty as the PPLO'* to *'present a plan of action to get it sorted'*.

Secondly, on the subject of Bridleway WN19/105 (extension of Ridgeway Lane from Allotments to A359), the extremely poor condition of this bridleway has been a matter of concern for over 3 years despite much correspondence from the PC to Peter Hobley and members of his staff. The good news is that it has finally been agreed that work to restore it will commence in September/October this year. Once this work is completed, the issue of maintenance will be important.

However, in his email, Mr Longman appears to accept absolutely no responsibility for the maintenance – or lack thereof - of this bridleway, although he owns at least part of the land over which it passes. He points out the problem caused by *'the two hedges on either side of the lane becoming as one in many places.'* but accepts no responsibility for cutting them.

It would be very useful to have an authoritative statement from the relevant department at County indicating what the duties of the landowner are concerning the maintenance of the land over which Rights of Way pass. [D.Cllr Hobhouse agreed at the PC meeting on 27 Jul to ascertain status of ownership responsibilities with SCC RoW dept.]

Also on this topic, a resident of the parish wrote to Peter Hobley on 10 June to ask how the work on WN19/105 will be funded. Having received no reply by 18th July she has now written to Cllr Mike Lewis to see if he can obtain a response.

From: Paul Longman [mailto:
Sent: 23 June 2022 12:01
To: Susan Fone
Cc: Rebecca Carter; Eve Wynn
Subject: RE: Cross crop compliance WN19/108

Dear Susan,

I have forwarded on your email concerning PROW on WN19/108 to our tenants who are responsible for the footpaths upkeep within our tenancy agreement with them & emphasised for works to be carried out as soon as possible. I assume you will let me know if there are any further queries to this request & when you are satisfied the works have been carried out.

On another note, perhaps you could tell me what is being done about the green lane right of way that runs from the A359 highway to Ridgeway Lane, since our agreeing to bollards being erected at either end of this lane to prevent the abuse of this lane by unauthorised vehicles it has become unusable & no longer represents a lane at all with the two hedges on either side of the lane becoming as one in many places. I know that this lane on many previous occasions has been brought to attention by yourself with others to the much significance & importance this lane represents to the Parish, if I may add that this lane has on numerous times been made a great deal of importance during site meetings, we have had with the North Cadbury Parish Council in relation to our planning application at Clare field Ridgeway.

I look forward to your reply to how you are going to reinstate this lane to a usable condition & to rectify the very large ruts which were caused by vehicles before we agreed to the bollards being erected that has now prevented such damage. As this lane has been often sighted as of great significance, I am surprised you have allowed it to get to this state of condition & hope you will present a plan of action to get it sorted as your duty as the PPLO.

Kind regards,