

For PC Meeting January 19th.

At the PC meeting of 13th October 2022, the key matter arising from the Parish Survey of “consider how the walking experience within the parish might be enhanced” was allocated to the Broom Hill Working Group.

To start I looked at the comments made on the survey about the parish footpaths. Most responders to the survey used the footpaths on a regular basis. Suggestions as to how to improve the footpaths were: -

“Better maintenance”, “More picnic tables”, “Cycle paths from Lime Kilns”,
“Stop Dog Mess”, “Cycle path to Needham”. “Repair damaged pavements”.

Before the footpath experience can be enhanced, we need to ensure that our foot and bridle paths are “fit for purpose”. Rights of Way should be clearly signposted, free from obstruction and necessary gates, stiles etc be in good repair. Possible “enhancements” can then be considered.

The following is proposed: -

1. Volunteers to walk the parish footpaths and recording any concerns e.g obstruction, broken stiles etc.
PC to pledge that they will take action to keep the popular footpaths around the village cut when necessary. **(PC minute 434 refers)**; and to regularly monitor and take action to reduce dog fouling.
2. The Highways working group to look at the condition of the village pavements and record any issues.
3. When footpaths and pavements have been checked the PC to report concerns to SCC.
4. To consider providing more seating in the PC green spaces. Benches to be of a “rustic” style to fit in with the environment. To work with CCRG and possibly neighbouring parishes towards printing a footpath leaflet and detailing the most popular circular walks.

The Nordic walking group have already “volunteered” to incorporate the outlying parish footpaths as part of their regular walks.

On 19th January can Councillors discuss this plan, raise any issues, and approve the way forward.

Jane Soanes

