

# Footpath and Rights of Way Report for February 2019

## General

1. I am getting many helpful comments about problems on the ROW's from residents. I try to act on all of them. I would encourage others to advise me of any potential issues.
2. Due to the continuing generally dry weather the footpaths and rights of way are in a reasonable condition.

## Major Issues

3. Rickety Bridge (officially known as Bicton Bridge)
  - a. Earlier in the month Briony Sharp reminded the Parish Council that the bridge had been closed for a year.
  - b. As a result the Parish Council wrote to DCC on 10<sup>th</sup> February. The Parish Council request that;
    - i. DCC clarify why the project has delayed three times
    - ii. A temporary repair be carried out and the existing bridge is reopened without delay
    - iii. The replacement of the bridge be given priority and carried out as soon as possible – weather dependent, but hopefully by June 2019.
    - iv. The Parish Council would request that in future they are kept fully informed of similar events so that we can fulfil our obligations in keeping our residents informed.
  - c. DCC replied on 13<sup>th</sup> February
    - i. Their Contractor was delayed for unspecified reasons on another job.
    - ii. The replacement is likely to be in place sometime between May and August
    - iii. Alternative strategies are being examined, including asking the MOD Helicopter Command to helicopter the new bridge in - there are financial as well as practical concerns.
  - d. No response to the Parish's request to temporarily reopen the existing bridge was received.
4. Strategy for replacing finger posts
  - a. I have finalised the report on a strategy for replacing finger posts. This was approved at the last Parish Council meeting and will be actioned asap.

## Minor Issues

5. The steps leading from Otterton Bridge to the riverside footpath going south has a problem. One of the steps appears to be rotting and is moving under foot. DCC will be contacted.
6. Park Lane
  - a. The small field next to Borehole 4 has been tidied up
  - b. There are 2 lengths of fencing close to Clamour Bridge that have been broken (possibly by a vehicle turning). I will advise DCC/CDE.
  - c. The East Budleigh viaduct has a partial collapse as it goes under footpath 1 (riverside). This may have been on-going for some time but only now visible with the vegetation having died back. I will advise DCC/CDE
7. Coastal path
  - a. The kissing gate leading to South Farm (footpaths #2 and #10) is not opening fully due to vegetation and soil debris (I will ask Ian Wycherley if he can clear as he lives nearby)
  - b. More and more walkers are shortcutting (Trespassing) the footpath (#9) at Otter Head.
  - c. The drainage grip across footpath 10 at Brandy Head is blocked again (I will clear )
  - d. The steps going up Peak Hill have been replace – great news. Footpath 9.
8. Permissive Footpath from Mutters Moor down to Passaford Lane
  - a. Two fallen trees due to be removed last Autumn are still blocking the footpath – I will contact CDE.
  - b. Another tree has lost its crown and is hanging over the path – I will contact CDE.

9. Passaford Lane( #301) has a large stump partially blocking the track. It is too big for me to move, I will contact DCC.

## **Tree Report**

10. There appear to be no current issues.

Iain Ure

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019