

Footpath and Rights of Way Report for January 2019

General

1. Due to holidays and wet weather only a limited number of footpaths have been inspected this month.
2. The footpaths and rights of way are in a reasonable if very muddy condition. Numerous areas of ponding and standing/running water have been recorded consistent with the time of year and on some routes wellies are advised.
3. High winds have brought some debris down from trees.
4. Some trees have moved, including a fallen tree over footpath 15 (east side of River). This has been removed.
5. The estuary footpath number 1 has been reopened following a major repair to embankment just north of Lime Kiln Car Park.

Issues

6. Rickety Bridge (officially known as Bicton Bridge)
 - a. No progress from DCC in trying to get existing bridge reopened until replacement can be erected. The replacement is unlikely to be before mid year due to weather /access.
 - b. Parishners are requested to please contact their PC representative if they think DCC have not given this issue sufficient priority
7. Strategy for replacing finger posts
 - a. I have finalised the report on a strategy for replacing finger posts.
 - b. John Fudge to seek OPC approval
 - c. I was greatly helped by Briony Sharp
 - d. Fran is seeking further funding from the 2018 Parishes Together Fund

Tree Report

8. I have recently been appointed Otterton Volunteer Tree Warden.
9. There appear to be no current issues.
10. In the past the PC have been reactive, I will be proposing a more pro-active approach.
11. I am not a tree expert and I would like to hear from anyone with professional experience who can help with advice from time to time.
12. On the Green
 - a. The tree nearest the pub is getting to the end of its life. It has had many limbs removed in the past due to cracks and other damage.
 - b. There is a lot of debris from fallen twigs and small branches from at least 2 of the other trees.
 - c. I will be proposing the planting of 2 or 3 new saplings so that we can gradually grandfather the older trees without leaving potential gaps and losing the character of the Green.
13. Residents are encouraged to let me know of any problems or suggestions.

Iain Ure

7th Feb 2019