

Footpath Secretary Report

The Area Footpath Committee have continued to look at all PROW (Public Rights Of Way) diversions made by both the Highways Authority and the Local Borough/District Councils.

The Group Footpath Secretaries have also looked at hundreds of planning applications and commented on where proposed development affect the PROW network. This work is really important if we are going to ensure that the network is maintained and where possible improved. Nobody wants to be forced to walk along estate roads Group footpath Secretaries try to ensure that through new developments footpath are given their own green channel. This is not always possible but something we try to achieve.

This is really important work. Most groups have a Footpath Secretary although there are a couple that currently don't. This means that I am having to look at 3 Planning Authority applications. This workload, on top of the other PROW issues, will mean that occasionally opportunities to comment on Planning Applications will be missed. If anybody wants to get involved with footpath matters please talk to your group Committee or email me direct.

At the moment I am aware of a serious issue with one path in Leicestershire. This matter is now with the County Council. If they are unable to come up with a solution the Ramblers' will have to take action ourselves. This could range from organised protest walks to highlight the issues, Freedom Of Information Act requests and possibly involve Central Office. I hope that none of these options have to be used, and I am working with the County Council to find a resolution.

Changes to the PROW network over the last 12 months.

J1	Barkby	Addition of 3 bridges between footpath J1 and Brookside
S70	Market Bosworth	Minor diversion to the alignment of the path
Y90	Gilmorton	Diversion to take path around a newly created playing field
X26	Sharwell	Temporary diversion for 12 years to allow for resoration works
S95	Little Twycross	Diversion to take footpath out of house garden
E8	Freeby	Minor diversion to take path out of a farmyard.
Z47	Blaby	Minor diversion for public safety around an industrial site
X36	Lutterworth	Diversion to move line of path onto that already used avoiding farm buildings
A112	Thorpe Langton	Addition of a section of the Leicestershire Round that was not on the definitive map
N59	Coalville	Small diversion to make way for development.
R9	Stanton Under Bardon	Small diversion to R9 to make into headland instead of cross field.
Y65	North Kilworth	Minor Diversion in a development to make room for a surface water pond
K29	Quorn	Diversion to take path out of a busy farmyard. Definitive line was obstructed do to mapping issues

Martin James

Area Footpath Secretary