

Report on Easton Royal Footpaths for the PC AGM

Wiltshire Council are responsible for maintaining access to the Rights of Way in our village but they do not have the financial resources to do very much. Two years ago your Parish Council set out to upgrade the footpaths ourselves and, with considerable help from Wiltshire Council and the efforts of very many excellent volunteers from the village, this is now largely complete. A number of villagers also volunteered to adopt paths as ‘wardens’ so as to keep them free from vegetation, which was very successful during the last growing season. Throughout all of this, your PC has had complete cooperation from all the local landowners.

During last winter, a further four new gates were constructed to replace existing styles and some of the previous year’s gates were maintained and modified. The path running north from the Bruce’s Arms was completely cleared and opened up. The trees around the bench at the bottom of the village were felled, revealing the view to the Clump again. In the coming months plantings will be laid for us by Wiltshire Council on the track running south from the Bruce’s Arms up to the downs.

We have had one problem with a car driving along the bridleway from the Bruce’s Arms, although that might be solved now by putting up polite notices on a stake and in the pub.

The PC is very grateful for the efforts of all the volunteers. Also, to the footpath wardens, who keep the paths clear during the growing season as follows:

- Lloyd Cockburn – the footpath going north from the crossroads by Ram Alley.
- Ben Highham – the new permissive path running along the south of the top road houses.
- Roger Tilbrook – the path running south from his house.
- Beverley Helps – the path running south from the top road through her paddocks and help on other tracks with ride-on mower.
- Christopher Elliott – Chapel Drang.
- Colin Sibun – Harris Lane East.
- Pete Martin – Harris Lane West.
- Simon and Beverley Turton – the path running east to west from the church through their property.
- Marc Cramsie – Shepherd’s Steps, the westerly path up onto the downs.
- Paul Narizzano – Cross Lane