

Easton Royal Parish Council

Rights of Way Report – January 2020

The Footpaths and Rights of Way are generally holding up under the pressure of the very wet weather. A few trees have fallen during the recent storms, and there are two to clear on the Bruce Arms /Deane Water track, which I hope to get sorted this coming weekend. Another has come down on Cross Lane, which we will deal with in the next few weeks.

Some of the hunt gates have moved slightly and I shall be organising a maintenance session soon.

My thanks to the farmers for maintaining the field margin footpaths during autumn cultivations and for ensuring they remain in good walkable order.

There is a major issue with ER22, Bruce Arms to Milton Hill. This bridleway track has been used for the Rough and Tumble running race, based around Milton Lilbourne, for the past 12/15 years. It is a 10 km race, run in early January. 600 runners went up the track two weeks ago and turned an already muddy and fragile surface into a quagmire, a third of the track being deep, slippery mud underfoot; as a result, it is almost impassable in places and is no longer a pleasure to walk.

I have been in contact with, amongst others, the Rough and Tumble race organiser, Stephen Goulding, Milton Lilbourne Rights of Way officer David Hall, Milton Lilbourne PC, plus the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way people. I am hoping to meet Stephen and David next week to see what we can do jointly to repair and improve the track so that it can continue to be used by these events, but without leaving regular village users to deal with the consequences for months afterwards.

I have also been in contact with Pewsey Vale Running Club in the hope of discouraging them from using this now badly damaged track for their Terminator Race, which is due to be run on 23rd February. Should they insist on going ahead, I shall request that they help to reinstate the track surface.

I believe the Parish Council has some ring- fenced Footpath Improvement funds, which I will be looking to spend on planings in the next few months. These no longer come free of charge via Wiltshire Council.

Beverley Helps
Rights of Way Portfolio