

Easton Royal Parish Council

Footpath report November 25th 2020

The Rights of Way are generally in good order and are being well used and enjoyed. Several villagers have started walking to the newly opened Milton Lilbourne farm shop, via Harris Lane and the Avenue. Apparently, the pies are very good and an excellent reward for the exercise.

The path wardens have been removing fallen branches after the wind and heavy rain, and they have been keeping an eye on their tracks. My thanks go to them for helping with the regular maintenance.

The kissing gates are generally working well. However the hunt gates are causing a problem where the hanging posts have moved, and the closing latches no longer work. I hope we can resolve the problem in some cases by moving the closing latch on the slamming post. The most inconvenient of these is the hunt gate in Manor meadow, which has been locked for many months while cattle were grazing, and is problematic to walkers who find climbing the stile difficult.

I have recently been mowing on EROY 22 to clear vegetation and fallen leaves and to reduce mud formation on Harris Lane.

Vehicle use on Harris Lane and EROY 22 appears to have ceased and we hope that after a meeting with Queen's College agents, Savills, an acceptable accommodation with DePass farms will be forthcoming.

There has been some track surface damage by a tractor and muck spreader at the Copes Cottage end of Harris Lane. No long-term damage has occurred at this stage, but many users, particularly the less agile, parents and children etc are restricted when the track surface becomes slippery and muddy over the winter months. We hope this will be resolved by the farmer and those concerned

A group of three trail bikers were active around the Village last Sunday. (November 22nd). Trail bike tracks showed that they had been up Shepherds Steps EROY 15. They did not use Harris Lane. They appeared to have a local contact, so if it happens again we may be able to do something.

After the recent rain, bridlepath EROY 22 is muddy and slippery again, not helped by the erosion caused by the Rough and Tumble run in January. I think it unlikely there will be a run this coming January because of Covid

restrictions, but it is an issue I expect we shall have to visit again next year, with Wiltshire Council.

I will organise a maintenance session, probably in January or February.

Beverley Helps

Rights of Way Portfolio

November 2020