

FOOTPATHS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY 2020

Over the 12 months since I gave an update in annual Parish magazine, I've tried to be as proactive as I can, as well as being responsive to requests, questions, phone calls or emails from our local villagers. I don't use a landline phone at home, as we only use the phone line for Fibre Broadband but I use my mobile and that number is published in the magazine or on the Parish Council website. An advantage of using an iPhone is that I can simply 'Block Callers' with a few simple swipes on the screen to rid myself of the occasional nuisance caller that I seem to attract too.

Anyway, during this last one year period I have been contacted separately on multiple occasions by local residents reporting issues or asking for help, and I have reported many posts down or paths inaccessible, via phone, email and via the online logging tool used by the County. I've also installed a couple of new posts myself although I have now 'retired' from that particular endeavour (digging in posts) following a back operation.

There are a few pavement footpaths that appear to be losing their battle to 'overgrowing undergrowth' if that is not an oxymoron, and in particular I recently reported again, the pathway along Hinderclay Road at the front of Albert Close, and also a number of people including our local District and County Councillor Jessica Flemming, reported the encroachment along the short piece of footpath on Rectory Hill. It seems these reports seem to take months sometimes, before action is considered but I would encourage as many people as possible do report issues, as that is the only way they will get resolved. If you go online enter a search for "**Mid Suffolk Footpath Report**" one of the first search results you'll see is a link to "**Report a public right of way issue Suffolk County Council**" and it couldn't be easier.

As I've said before, we are really lucky to have some wonderful routes to explore, so please keep using the network to keep routes well-trodden, clear, help keep them open by reporting issues and let's ensure that further residential developments don't inhibit our access or use of the pathways and byways that we have.

Thanks, Nick.

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