

Deborah Urquhart

Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate
Change

Member for Angmering and Findon

e-mail: deborah.urquhart@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RZ



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Dear Chairman,

I am writing with your 2020 annual update on West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Public Rights of Way (PRoW) matters within your parish.

As you are aware local paths have proved to be even more important to people during the last year and Council's Rights of Way team has had a busy year dealing with work arising from Council's inspections and addressing reports we get in from users around the County. After a short delay to the routine 15-month inspection and maintenance programme last spring due to COVID restrictions normal business resumed.

All high priority maintenance works including signage, small bridges, steps and other minors works for which the Council is responsible are completed by our routine maintenance contractor, County Tree Surgeons, once inspections have been completed. The current Inspection and Maintenance Schedule is available on our webpages, so you can see when we will next be visiting your area. We will contact you approximately a fortnight before inspections start so you can make your Local Access Ranger aware of any matters you would like them to specifically consider in the inspection.

We were also able to undertake a full programme of larger bridge replacements and surfacing schemes. These are included in the attached Parish Works report, which shows work carried out by WSCC during 2020. Unfortunately, one element of our work we were unable to deliver in 2020 has been our Volunteer Ranger task programme. This has impacted our delivery of schemes that fall outside routine maintenance and our Capital Improvements Programme. However, we are pleased our Volunteer Rangers are now back out working delivering some much appreciated improvements.

Last year we also successfully completed our summer clearance programme, cutting surface vegetation from 363km paths across the county. Paths to be included for 2021, are shown in the attached SC report.

As you are aware last year has been unique due to the Covid pandemic and it is a credit to the Access Rangers, PRow teams and volunteers that we have continued to provide a good service to our customers.

The matter of Ash Dieback continues to be an issue across the UK. The disease, which has the potential to kill 95% of West Sussex ash trees over the coming 10-20 years, is having a significant impact on the landscape. The responsibility for managing trees along PRow sits with the respective landowner and as a Parish Council you may find yourselves dealing with this problem. Where works are required to fell trees, WSCC would expect landowners to carefully consider how the work can be done without closing any PRow. If this is not possible, advance notice and an application to WSCC for a closure will be required. If the Parish Council is the landowner it will be responsible for making sure no damage is caused to the surface of the PRow so you should make sure any contractors you use are aware of this. Further information can be found on the Council's Ash Dieback web pages.

To assist Parish Council's we have also included a helpful summary of the legal powers Town and Parish Councils have regarding access and public rights of way. This is a useful reference to explain what you can do to help manage your local network, but if you are unsure about anything included in this list then feel free to contact the Public Rights of Way team on prow@westsussex.gov.uk.

Should you need further advice on PRow matters, your Local Access Ranger will be happy to assist and I have attached a map showing their contact details, though please do not give their details out to the public.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Urquhart
Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

The legal powers of Town and Parish Councils regarding access and rights of way

These include:

1. **Definitive Map** - To hold for public inspection a copy of the definitive map for the parish, and copies of the orders made to modify it as supplied by West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
2. **Maintenance** - To undertake maintenance of any public footpath (FP), public bridleway (BW) or restricted bridleway (RB) (although it is encouraged that any parish wishing to do so contacts WSCC first to ensure that work is undertaken to an acceptable standard; if not, parishes could find themselves liable in the event of an accident)
3. **Lighting and furniture** - To erect lighting on any FP or BW or seats or shelters (again, it is advisable to consult WSCC beforehand to ensure safety and proper siting, and to discuss any possible need for a licence)
4. **Warning signs** - To erect signs warning of local dangers (WSCC can advise on the appropriate wording of such signs to avoid any suggestion that the sign appears to unlawfully deter use of a right of way. This also relates to erecting "No Cycling" signs on FPs that are experiencing unlawful use. These have previously been provided to Parish/Town Councils and can be printed and laminated. Please note that these must not be erected on any routes other than public footpaths and must not deter lawful path users)
5. **Trees** - To contact local landowners to make them aware of fallen/leaning trees on their land that may be obstructing/posing a hazard to path users (trees are a landowner responsibility, therefore if reports are received it is helpful to contact the landowner directly, if known, and request resolution. WSCC can of course do this but due to the Covid pandemic this may take longer than usual.
6. **Town/Village Greens** - To make an application to the registration authority (WSCC) for the creation of a new town or village green
7. **Obstructions including crops** - To prosecute anyone who wilfully obstructs the passage along any highway, and to prosecute an occupier who fails to ensure that growing crops do not inconvenience path users. The power also exists to prosecute a landowner who does not restore a lawfully ploughed path within the period allowed or who has ploughed unlawfully (WSCC would be pleased to discuss before any action is considered by a parish council (PC))
8. **Signing** - To insist that the highway authority (WSCC) signposts a particular footpath, bridleway, restricted bridleway or BOAT (byway open to all traffic) where it meets a metalled road. PCs also have the power to signpost FPs, BWs, RBs and BOATs on behalf of, and with the consent of, the highway authority (WSCC has a very good record for signposting and it would be helpful if PCs could report any missing road end signs. In the event PCs did wish to apply to do signposting work themselves, WSCC would be happy to discuss and, if appropriate, for consistency, supply the signs for erection)

9. **New rights of way** - To create new highways by agreement with the landowner over land in their own and adjoining communities (again WSCC would encourage PCs to discuss first, partly because highways created under agreements with PCs would not automatically be maintained at the public expense (unlike WSCC agreements) and so owners may be reluctant to enter into PC agreements if future liability could fall to them. Also WSCC is likely to have more experience in dealing with this sort of work)

These are not all of the legal powers that a town or parish council has. If a council had a particular concern, then officers at the County Council are available to give guidance.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the importance of reporting issues on the PROW network through the correct channels and below is the link to our reporting page: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way>. When making reports we would strongly encourage as much detail as possible, including the path number, a location plan, a clear description of what the issue is and also photographs to accompany the report. This will assist us greatly in identifying the issue and investigating it as efficiently as possible in line with our clear priorities (available under the "our timescales link on this page)

Nicholas Scott
26.01.21

Public Rights of Way Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance



Parish: ANGMERING

All or a section(s) of the paths listed below are on the Rights of Way services Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance Programme. This runs from June to August.

Veg. surface summer - 1 cut

Path No	Status	Grid Ref	Length (m)
2151	Footpath	TQ070053	499.39
2186	Footpath	TQ072061	116.94
2192_1	Footpath	TQ058060	63.40
2192_1	Footpath	TQ058059	41.18
2198	Footpath	TQ063049	166.05
3605	Byway	TQ078037	994.17
2140	Bridleway	TQ085042	638.13
2195	Footpath	TQ066044	430.49
2176	Footpath	TQ065049	949.23
2195	Footpath	TQ066041	228.92
2198	Footpath	TQ060051	280.51
2149	Footpath	TQ073054	170.92
2114_1	Footpath	TQ084026	509.85
2155	Footpath	TQ065043	85.21
2155	Footpath	TQ059043	492.21

Public Rights of Way - Works Report

Parish: ANGMERING

Report period: 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

This report outlines the work West Sussex County Council has completed on rights of way .
It does not include items that are the landowner's responsibility.

Routine Contractor

Animal hole on line of path

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
2140	Bridleway	TQ085042

Fallen or Unstable Tree

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
3605	Byway	TQ077040

Other

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
2140	Bridleway	TQ085042
2140	Bridleway	TQ085042

Signage - Fingerpost (with arms)

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
2199	Footpath	TQ056053
3605	Byway	TQ078033