

NWPC RIGHTS OF WAY AND LENGTHSMAN – DEC 23

Footpath Officer:

A quieter month now that we are through the growing season. I have added three Waymarkers at the A343 end of RB 40 (A30 – A343), near to Phipson's Garage to clarify the start of this route.

Sadly several hours have been wasted this month investigating and reporting back to HCC a series of spurious and/or pedantic reports that appeared on the HCC "Report a Problem" website. In liaison with my HCC contacts it seems that there is an individual who is well known to them for regularly "carpet bombing" the website with these complaints across the whole County.

I have checked and re-cleared the drain holes on the bend by Stewart's Bridge to reduce pooling on the road opposite Gerrards Farm, cleared leaf fall out of the openings of the southern three road drains on Farley Street, and cleared leaf fall from the road drains around Wisdom Lane. In conjunction with Cllr James, we have identified and cleared away mud and leaves from three Fire Hydrant Covers along Heathman Street and the Square to make them easier to locate.

I have heard back from the Justice Department that it is willing to take on two of our three potential tasks using "Unpaid Labour". These being (a) vegetation clearance on RB40 (A30 – A343) likely to be carried out in Mar 24 and (b) railing painting near Stewarts Bridge likely to be in Jul 24, held back until this date at their request in order to reduce the hazard risk from water in the Brook(!)

Lengthsman Tasks carried out in November

RoW: Cutting away a tree branch that is falling onto FP 4 near Knockwood Lane.

Roads: Checking the road drain under the bridge at Bent Street and opening up grips just to the north of this bridge to help reduce water pooling on the road at this point.

Lengthsman Tasks Set for December

RoW: Cutting away tree branches that are growing onto FP 19 near the Splash.

Roads: Checking and re-opening the road drain grip opposite the Pump Station near the Heathman Street/Stockbridge Road junction.

Lengthsman Budget and Forward Look

I have liaised with the Stockbridge Clerk who oversees our Lengthsman Group budget allocation, and confirmed that the work in December will bring the remaining budget down to £190.50. This still gives us headroom for further work in January – March on drains/grips going and capacity to respond to unforeseen tasks.

Iain James