

## **NWPC RIGHTS OF WAY AND LENGTHSMAN – JUN 20**

All RoW are passable, and have dried out after the high water levels of the early Spring. There has been a noticeable increase in use for “Lockdown Exercise”

HCC has informed us that the Contractor cut will not take place this year, after difficulties with the contract during the Covid 19 response. I will speak about how we handle the impact of this at the meeting.

### **Footpath Officer Work:**

Eleven hours of work on the paths in May. The majority of this has been routine cutting back on new growth. In anticipation of the cancellation of the HCC contract this year, the RoW volunteer has carried out strimming on three of the Restricted Byways, in order to save Lengthsman Resource for later the year.

I now submit a resource report to HCC in a new format, a copy of which is attached below.

### **Expenditure**

£36.00 expended on a new roll of Stihl strimmer wire. £16.59 expended on petrol resupply for the machines.

### **Fly Tipping**

None seen or reported during this period.

### **Path Strimming/Wilding**

Currently the RoW volunteer and Lengthsman are only cutting back new growth to “footpath width” at ground level, together with encroaching nettles or hard branches. Softer side ingress, e.g. cow parsley, is being left in situ. I will discuss this approach with the HCC RoW warden when I meet here next week.

As an example of what this look like, this is the Spring Pond Drove that was cleared by me at the end of May:



### **Lengthsman Tasks carried out in April and May**

Sightline clearance at B3084/Five Bells Lane cross roads,  
B3084/Hosketts Lane junction, Hollom Down Road/A343 junction.

Removal of protruding metal stile stump on FP4 (behind Old Police House),

Cut away fallen branch across FP 7 (Trout Lane- Wisdom Lane)

### **Lengthsman Tasks Set for June**

Sightlines: Junction The Square/Heathman Street, and B3084/Five Bells Lane (late in month)

Cut away fallen branches RB 34 (Hollom Down Road extension of Spring Pond Drove)

Strim new growth FP 23 (north of A343, to Parish Boundary)

### **Lengthsman Budget and Forward Look**

Seven and a half hours (£142.50) expended this FY of our £1000 allocation. My intention as previously discussed is to look to expend this on RoW during the peak summer growing season, and then a chunk against clearing The Rill once the water subsides in early autumn, keeping some in hand for highway drain/grip clearance into the winter. I believe that there is enough in hand to offset the absence of the HCC cut this year, given the increased availability of the RoW volunteer (me)

early in the year, the proposed “wilding” policy above, and a small carry over buffer I have from FY 19/20.

### **School Lane/A343 Footpath**

I have noted other correspondence from a member of the public with regard to (inter alia) pedestrian shielding on Farley Street down to School Lane. Note that over the past three years considerable human and financial resource has been expended by HCC, NWPC, and landowners, in improving the footpath that runs from School Lane north to A343 bus stop (this is NW FP2 and OW FP7), which has removed old stiles, added non slip grillages, replaced three stiles with new kissing gates, improved fencing, regular cutting etc in order to make this a safe and secure means of avoiding having to walk on the road.

### **Volunteer Work Summary: May:**

DATE	TASK	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	NUMBER OF HOURS	MONTH TOTAL	NOTES
020520	NW RB 37 Strim new growth (footpath width)	1	1.5	1.5	
020520	NW FP 15 (west end) Strim new growth	1	0.5	2.0	
040520	NW FP 20 Cut side ingress	1	0.5	2.5	
040520	NW FP 15 dig out/reduce protruding stump	1	0.5	3.0	
040520	NW FP 17 (east end) Reduce side/overhead	1	0.5	3.5	
060520	NW FP 3 strim new growth (nettles)	1	1	4.5	
100520	NW RB 37 (Western end) and RB 36 North section. Strim new growth (FP width)	1	1	5.5.	
130520	NW RB 35 (Western end)(FP width)	1	1.5	7	
140520	NW FP 7 strim new growth	2	0.5	8	

	(nettles)				
170520	NW FP 4 strim new growth (nettles)	1	1.0	9	
170520	NW FP 502 strim new growth (nettles)	1	0.25	9.25	
240520	RB 36 Centre section. Strim new growth	1	1.5	10.75	
280520	NW FP 19. Strim new growth	1	0.5	11.25	
280520	NW FP 2 Strim new growth (nettles/thistles)	1	0.5	11.75	
300520	NW RB 37 Centre section. Strim new growth (footpath width)	1	2.0	13.75	

Iain James