

February 2022 Footpath Report

In 2018, Tidworth Area Board started a project called "Paths for All" to encourage people to use and care for our local footpaths more. These project meetings were taking place regularly before the outbreak of COVID. It proved of value to local communities with new walking leaflets being produced, footpaths improved and information shared.

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling led on the project but following the boundary review last May, he and much of the Avon Valley now joined the Amesbury Community Area (now called Stonehenge).

The Tidworth and Stonehenge Community Areas "Paths for All" project meetings started again last September and provides the opportunity for groups and organisations to share ideas to improve, develop and publicise public footpaths. They met again 3rd February via Microsoft teams.

It was a very well attended and worthwhile meeting with representatives from Wiltshire County Council highways, council and Parishes.

Each of these Area Boards have their own funding to support projects within their area.

A Walking leaflet template has been produced by Paths for All that has already been utilised by some groups to document walks of varying difficulty in their area. Some of these have then been uploaded and hosted on to a Website, specifically for this purpose. As a Parish Council we could take advantage of this and produce leaflets of some of the walks already documented in the Chute Chronicle. Encouraging tourism. One leaflet being a sheet of A4 folded into three.

There are many footpaths and bridleways within the Chutes that are easily accessible to all, and I am aware that many wooden stiles have recently been replaced with new metal kissing gates. There are however still some wooden stiles that many local walkers would like to see replaced with gates.

There are many older persons trying to keep active who simply cannot manage to climb over a stile and dog walkers that cannot lift their dog over.

I would like to propose that a list of prospective stiles is produced and the respective Landowners approached to obtain their permission to replace these with gates. We can then apply for some funding to replace the ones closest to the village.