

FOOTPATH SECRETARY'S REPORT

It has generally been a quiet year, with no serious new problems occurring. The old (very old!) problems of Traffic Regulation Orders at Pigeonhouse Bridge (FP82/OckhamFP5) and Fishers Farm Bridge (FP45B/SendFP52) - both cross the River Wey and the Borough boundary - remain unresolved. It is therefore, strictly speaking, illegal to cross the river at these locations. However, in practice walkers are using the private bridge of The Wisley Golf Club as an alternative to Pigeonhouse, and walkers have been seen to use Fishers Farm Bridge despite the risk of falling off all the rubbish piled on top of it into the water (the bridge also provides the only vehicular access to the farm!)

I reviewed the SCC map of existing path problems which showed that the vast majority of those in Woking Borough are single broken or missing roadside signposts, and not really suited to jobs for our path maintenance team.

But we did hold three tasks on FP44 which runs south from Old Woking past Gresham Mill then Fishers Farm and onwards to Sutton Green. The tasks on 6/11/24 and 22/1/25 involved new signposts/waymarking and vegetation clearing between Gresham Mill and Fishers Farm, while that on 26/3/25 involved replacing an old stile with a new kissing gate donated by us.

Following that we provisionally agreed a programme of tasks for 28/5/25, 23/7/25, and 21/9/25 but none of these actually happened. On one occasion SCC did send details of a task to me by e-mail, but because I was absent abroad I didn't see it until I returned home by which time the proposed date had passed.

We still do BVPI 178 half-yearly path inspections for SCC within Woking Borough. Unfortunately, the forms for November 2024 inspections went astray in the post before reaching me, and despite asking for duplicates they never arrived. There was only one path to check in May 2025 (at West Byfleet), which Peter Clifford completed.

I will be stepping down as Footpath Secretary at the AGM in November. Thank you for all your support over the past years. Please give the same support to my intended successor, Peter Clifford.

Brian Reader.