

GISLINGHAM FOOTPATH WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2025

I endeavour to keep everyone up to date with what is happening with the footpaths through my articles in 'the Messenger' and on 'Help & Support in Gislingham' Facebook page, so I trust everyone has found this of assistance.

My role is to ensure that our footpaths are free from obstructions which I regularly check and from the help of villagers who contact me. I report any issues to the Parish Council and also to Suffolk County Council who will facilitate any necessary work.

Last Summer, we did experience an issue with the footpath cutting by Suffolk County Council and the Parish contractor, which necessitated several emails to and fro. I am pleased to say that SCC will be up to speed with their cutting list this year and the Parish Council have now agreed a new contract with a local gardener who will be able to cut the list as specified by the PC and myself, so we will not have any issues with our footpaths not being cut, so no wet legs after rain.

I continue to re-number the waymarkers with the FP number, so if you do have an issue you can quote the number, which will help me identify the location much quicker. If any have faded, please let me know.

You may have noticed that several footpath posts have rotted and fallen over or disappeared, however, all have been reported to SCC and they are slowly being replaced. Unfortunately, the SCC contractor who replaces the post, has a long list and we are still awaiting several to be replaced. I have been given some waymarker posts, so I am able to replace any that are not on the road side.

In the past we have had many comments about dog fouling on the footpaths, but I must say, this has been much better, however, there a few lazy dog owners who do not clear up, so please remember, you can be fined if you do not clear up after your dog.

We have had some new improvements to some of our footpaths. FP35, next to the school, FP 36 (Bowling Alley) and FP32 Coldham Lane to the Lovells estate, have all had a new surface laid. This has been a vast improvement especially for FP36 & 32, as these were overgrown with nettles and brambles or very muddy in the wet weather. A new bridge has been erected to cross the ditch on FP25, which now gives a safer access towards the railway line and back to Morley's Lane near Redhouse Farm, so a nice circular route.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the residents of Gislingham who do contact me to report any concerns which is really helpful. My details are on the PC website.

Martyn Bryant.