

**Wingham Parish Council (WPC)**  
Annual Report on the footpaths of Wingham Parish for 2020/2021

From the Wingham Foot Path Group (WFPG) acting as Parish Footpath Warden

**Introduction** – This is the fourth annual report since you appointed WFPG as the collective warden for the Parish.

**Activities** – There are 30 footpaths lying wholly in or crossing the Parish boundaries. All the paths have been walked at least twice during the year and records maintained. We have responded to concerns raised by members of the public and/or passed on by the Parish Clerk. Where necessary, reports have been made to the Kent County Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) team. We have liaised with East Kent Ramblers.

**Results** - This -2020-2021 - year has been paradoxical. Not surprisingly, footpaths have been much used, but on the other hand KCC PROW teams have reduced their remedial work. They will respond to health and safety issues and some contract annual clearances have been carried out.

Someone-? PROW -has cleared the upper end of the Petts Lane cul de sac path. A newly constructed gate has been placed at the Rusham Rd. end of EE167. Many other reported issues are languishing on what is likely to be a long list.

**Issues still to be dealt with –**

A fallen tree overhangs the bottom of path EE170 –the route from Wenderton to Deadmill Bridge. There is room to pass under the tree and as the roots are still firmly attached there appears to be no hazard. (at the time of writing).

Style broken on CB186, off Seaton Rd. -Liaison with Ickham Parish.

Building works at Hawarden Place are obstructing part of EE45. The site foreman has promised to remedy this ‘in the near future’.

There have been a number of complaints about EE101 near the road at Crockshard Farm. The last part of this long path has degraded. It passes through a paddock much used by horses and a difficult to move heavy gate, tied by binder twine. The solution might be a new pedestrian gate (this would match a gate at the recreation ground, northern, end of the path which was installed by White Cliff volunteers ). The problem has been reported to PROW.

Lastly, we have reported what we consider is a safety issue. Path EE48 from the School passes along the side of the Cemetery. It exits onto Adisham Rd. via steps and behind a hedge with no railing or barrier or warning and there is no pavement on the road here. The ever-increasing number of trucks and cars are only just beginning to slow down as they enter the village at this point. By comparison, the much-used path EE45 from School Lane to Adisham Rd. has half barriers, exits onto a pavement where there are also pedestrian crossing beacons. Members of the WFPG are concerned that this situation is an accident waiting to happen. Perhaps Parish Councillors may care to visit and comment.

**Comments** – Wingham is fortunate to have such an excellent network of generally well-maintained footpaths. It is particularly useful that the Parish Clerk has a good relationship with the East Kent leader of the PROW team and can and does apply extra pressure when urgent.

Members of the Wingham Foot Path Group who have covered the Wingham footpaths:

Kevin Fletcher, Denise Lyons and Roger Lawrence, Marcus and Michelle Benton, Dennis Liman, Cally and Mike Vaile.

N.B. WFPG members might well carry small secateurs with them, but we do not carry out any other repairs or clearances.

msbv for WFPG 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021