

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No.
	<p>All the footpaths in the Parish and beyond have been subject to heavy, unprecedented use due to more people taking outdoor exercise during the COVID pandemic. Combined with the recent wet winter weather, many paths have been extremely muddy, sometimes underwater and in a few cases, impassable.</p>	
<p>QLS</p>	<p>The Quiet Lanes Suffolk Team (QLS) Project is well underway. To recap, Quiet Lanes offer a safer environment for non-motorised travellers and can help to protect our rural environment. They are not intended to be used as a traffic calming measure. The initiative seeks to encourage motorists to expect and respect other road users.</p> <p>Criteria for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single track lane • No line markings or footpaths • Less than 1,000 vehicle trips per day • Average speeds of less than 35mph (many motorists drive at speeds greater than this on unrestricted roads.) <p>Three lanes in Bures St Mary have been validated for inclusion in the scheme; Hollow Lane, Arger Fen and St Edmunds Lane. SCC have increased the funding and it is now very likely that the Parish Council will not have to meet any costs at all. A leaflet drop has been carried out to properties along the designated routes. Complete Parish coverage was not necessary. An article to raise public awareness has featured in the March edition of the Parish magazine. Posters are still to be put on display around the village. There have been supportive responses and some initial objections raised but formal SCC public consultation will take place later in the year.</p> <p>QLS now needs to be a publicised item on the agenda at a forthcoming Parish meeting or a dedicated Extraordinary meeting, resulting in a minuted PC decision to confirm the selection of lanes. This has to be completed either by 30th April for inclusion in Wave 2 or by 30th July for inclusion in Wave 3.</p> <p>Will Buist has been appointed the SCC design engineer and over the coming months he will liaise with each Parish as to the suitability of the existing Highways posts to carry Quiet Lane signage.</p>	

Footpath Number	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	Ref. No
FP3	<p>Bures/Sudbury Road lay-by to Assington Road via Corn Hall. The Parish contractor has cleared the brambles on the bank leading to this footpath from the lay-by. This has improved access and has also made it possible to keep the lay-by clear of litter left by motorists.</p>	
BWY5	<p>Footpath leading from the end of the Croft to the kissing gate on Sudbury Road. On 3rd February SCC Highways applied planings to the footpath and to the Cut. The footpath now has a level surface and is much tidier. It is hoped that this will improve access for residents who live along the footpath. Grateful thanks to Cllr. Finch and Suffolk Highways for completing this project.</p>	
FP11	<p>Follows the valley along the Assington Brook to the ford at the foot of Arger Fen. Following a 'report a problem', there has been some clearance of undergrowth around the gate to the footpath off the Arger Fen road and the gate itself has been modified so access is much easier. Customer Services responded on 21st January by email to the request for a handrail to be erected on a sleeper bridge crossing the Assington Brook. Due to financial constraints, this project may not be completed this financial year. The report has been removed from the interactive site and may need to be reported again if the issue is left unresolved.</p>	
BOAT15	<p>Dead Lane Arger Fen by Buckfield House to Highfields. Evidence (tyre tracks) of illegal usage under section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1998 was reported with the resulting severe deterioration of the surface of the PRow. There was a further incident reported by a resident and the police were involved. The current report online now records flooding to Dead Lane, Nayland with Wissington. Reported:06/03/2021 Closed:10/03/2021 Closure Reason: Suffolk Highways updated customer Description: This byway is unusable due to its extremely muddy, dangerous condition for walkers, and horse riders are prevented from using it due to a concrete obstruction at the eastern end to deter motor vehicles from using the lane. Walkers and horse riders are forced to trespass along the adjoining field edge to gain use of this section of the St. Edmunds Way. Awaiting further action by SCC Access team.</p>	<p>304551 25.01.2021</p> <p>3113100</p>

	Location and Description of Reported Problem/Resolved Problem/ Items of Interest	
FYI	<p>Macmillan Mighty Hike. This fund-raising event is booked to take place on Saturday 31st July 2021, all being well. It will start at Kentwell House and finish at Flatford Mill, covering a distance of 26 miles. There is to be a shorter hike of 13 miles, finishing on the Bures Sportsground.</p>	
FYI	<p>During January /February several loads of wood chippings were generously donated to the village by Tom Leggett(local tree surgeon) to be applied to muddy footpaths in the village. Permission was sought from the local landowners to do this. The chippings encourage walkers to remain on the footpaths, thus reducing damage to the verges/ wildlife as well as making the paths safer to access. Perhaps this is a measure to be considered, costs permitting, for next autumn. A team of volunteers helped to distribute the chippings and the initiative was very much appreciated by local walkers.</p>	

Jan Aries 10th March 2021