Wickham Market Parish Council – Environment and Leisure Committee. Meeting of 11 December 2023.

Item EL23:58 Report by Footpaths warden

1. Reporting of issues affecting Footpaths and other PRoWs

Following a mini campaign of social media publicity and on-path notices with a dedicated email address footpaths@wickhammarketpc.com for reporting, 7 issues have been raised regarding the condition of -

- 1. Little Lane bridleway (BW7) Beginning at the B1078 end I have begun to clear to 2.5m width and 3.5m height (for horse and rider) including cutting back the edge growth to the width of the tarmac. The aim is to get it closer to the condition that Adrian achieved and to complete the whole bridleway by Christmas (2023).
- 2. Co-Op to Walnuts Lane restricted bridleway (RB19) I have cut back overhanging bulleja to achieve a useable bridleway. Needs a brushcutter trim of the ground vegetation.
- 3. Churchill Crescent to Snowden Hill footpath (FP29) – Issue here is water collecting in a dip creating a muddy surface. Have cut a drainage channel/ditch and backfilled dip.

And on footways (not PRoWs)

1. Pavement on corner of The Hill and High Street opposite Church - Issue was fallen leaves becoming slippery. Swept up leaves (twice)

2.



B1438 pavement from Co-Op to 3Tuns – Received 4 reports on this pavement. Reported (and encouraged others to report) to SCC Highways. Received reply that the condition did not meet their intervention criteria despite the pavement being reduced to less than half its true width in places and causing pedestrians to have to walk in the road. Began cutting back in the worst section between Old School and Cemetery last week with the aim of completing by Christmas. I understand that the land bordering this section belongs to some kind of trust who would have a legal responsibility for overhanging growth.

3. Path from Church gateway past Medical Centre to Chapel Lane Car Park

- Raised by the Medical Centre Practice Manager, the issue is slabs lifted by tree roots from birches on neighbouring residential property. The ownership of this path remains unclear despite investigation by Cllr Jenkinson, Anne Westover and the Practice Manager. I have lifted and fixed one isolated rocking slab but the dozen or so at the car park end are more than I can take on.



- **2.** Circular footpaths leaflet for the Parish. Anne Westover and I met with new SCC officer responsible for this area. It is now in our court to come up with 2 or 3 revised walks. It is hoped to have the revised leaflet ready for the Spring 2024.
- **3.A costed proposal** with four prices has been put together for the purchase of a brushcutter/strimmer for use by the Footpaths Warden and other Parish applications. The WMPC Clerk and I are seeking grant possibilities.

Simon Harrington.

December 2023

Co-Op to Walnuts Lane Bridleway before and after

