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Dear Chairman,

I am writing with your 2020 annual update on West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Public Rights of Way (PRoW) matters within your parish.

As you are aware local paths have proved to be even more important to people during the last year and Council's Rights of Way team has had a busy year dealing with work arising from Council's inspections and addressing reports we get in from users around the County. After a short delay to the routine 15-month inspection and maintenance programme last spring due to COVID restrictions normal business resumed.

All high priority maintenance works including signage, small bridges, steps and other minors works for which the Council is responsible are completed by our routine maintenance contractor, County Tree Surgeons, once inspections have been completed. The current Inspection and Maintenance Schedule is available on our webpages, so you can see when we will next be visiting your area. We will contact you approximately a fortnight before inspections start so you can make your Local Access Ranger aware of any matters you would like them to specifically consider in the inspection.

We were also able to undertake a full programme of larger bridge replacements and surfacing schemes. These are included in the attached Parish Works report, which shows work carried out by WSCC during 2020. Unfortunately, one element of our work we were unable to deliver in 2020 has been our Volunteer Ranger task programme. This has impacted our delivery of schemes that fall outside routine maintenance and our Capital Improvements Programme. However, we are pleased our Volunteer Rangers are now back out working delivering some much appreciated improvements.

Last year we also successfully completed our summer clearance programme, cutting surface vegetation from 363km paths across the county. Paths to be included for 2021, are shown in the attached SC report.

As you are aware last year has been unique due to the Covid pandemic and it is a credit to the Access Rangers, PRow teams and volunteers that we have continued to provide a good service to our customers.

The matter of Ash Dieback continues to be an issue across the UK. The disease, which has the potential to kill 95% of West Sussex ash trees over the coming 10-20 years, is having a significant impact on the landscape. The responsibility for managing trees along PRow sits with the respective landowner and as a Parish Council you may find yourselves dealing with this problem. Where works are required to fell trees, WSCC would expect landowners to carefully consider how the work can be done without closing any PRow. If this is not possible, advance notice and an application to WSCC for a closure will be required. If the Parish Council is the landowner it will be responsible for making sure no damage is caused to the surface of the PRow so you should make sure any contractors you use are aware of this. Further information can be found on the Council's Ash Dieback web pages.

To assist Parish Council's we have also included a helpful summary of the legal powers Town and Parish Councils have regarding access and public rights of way. This is a useful reference to explain what you can do to help manage your local network, but if you are unsure about anything included in this list then feel free to contact the Public Rights of Way team on prow@westsussex.gov.uk.

Should you need further advice on PRow matters, your Local Access Ranger will be happy to assist and I have attached a map showing their contact details, though please do not give their details out to the public.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Urquhart
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Public Rights of Way - Works Report



Parish: PLAISTOW & IFOLD

Report period: 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

This report outlines the work West Sussex County Council has completed on rights of way. It does not include items that are the landowner's responsibility.

Routine Contractor

Bridge

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
636	Bridleway	SU990301
621	Footpath	SU994302
619	Footpath	TQ013302
636	Bridleway	SU990301

Signage - Fingerpost (with arms)

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
616	Footpath	TQ001317
627	Footpath	SU996296
637	Bridleway	TQ019296
3259	Footpath	SU997328

Signage - Waymarking (post or disc)

Path No	Status	Grid Ref
3232	Footpath	SU961325

Vegetation - surface

Path No	Status	Grid Ref	Length (m)
636	Bridleway	SU999306	29.75

**Public Rights of Way
Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance**



Parish: PLAISTOW & IFOLD

All or a section(s) of the paths listed below are on the Rights of Way services Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance Programme. This runs from June to August.

Veg. surface summer - 1 cut

Path No	Status	Grid Ref	Length (m)
624_1	Footpath	TQ029313	202.55
566	Bridleway	SU983315	401.01
3234	Bridleway	SU963307	494.52
633_2	Bridleway	TQ010302	127.79