

Harwell Parish Council

Harwell Annual Footpath Walks

Sunday afternoon, 1st July 2012

Again this year the turnout was disappointing, but nevertheless this did not stop all the paths being walked by the Parishioners who turned out on quite a pleasant afternoon.

The walkers were –
Kate Beswick (KB)
Michael Fox-Davies (MFD)
David Levey (DL)
Margaret Turner (MT)
Alan Wagner (AW)
Reg and Dee Waite (RW & DW)

Reports from walkers described as follows –

Walk 1: From Townsend to Didcot Link Road (A4130) easy walking. Some rubbish found in ditch on left hand side near A4130. Some fly tipping on the right hand side near A4130.
MT & DW

Walk 2 and 3: The start of The Barrow is reasonable past the caravan Park and down the hill towards the A34, the road is becoming overgrown with grass so that it is passable to pedestrians.

Then the road turns left and the path continues as a grass path. Very soon it becomes more difficult (photograph 1). It is not impassable but only because it appears someone walks it regularly. Further on it becomes more overgrown (photograph 2).



The turn right along the A34 is clear and is fenced off; the fencing has been removed for the path to enter this section.

The path along the A34 is easier but will become overgrown very soon (photograph 3). There are places where the fencing is not present but there is ditching most of the way even on the parts where the path is high above the A34. The gate at the entrance to Cow Lane is missing with the stile standing beside it.

It was a pleasant walk but I would not walk it on a wet day. It probably isn't safe for children and dogs must be kept on a lead.

See photographs 1, 2 and 3. KB

Walk 4: Bad state – not suitable for horse and rider or tall walker! AW

Walk 5: No cycling sign needs adjusting. Hedges west side need trimming.
AW

Walk 7: Not walked - see Martin's previous comments last year.

Walk 8: Walkable - change wording on map to "E". AW

Walk 9: Mostly walkable. AW

Walk 10: Needs strimming in places. AW

Walk 11: Overgrown hedge. Needs strimming. AW

Walk 12 : Harwell side of A34 at Green Lane end of allotments where several plastic bags of rubbish and pallets deposited. Trees and bushes need cutting back now as horses and pedestrians cannot get by without moving off the path.
DL & RW

Walk 12a: Didcot side of A34.

All along that part of the footpath/bridleway which is parallel to A34 rubbish, tyres and plastic found in various places. More rubbish on path where it turns left to West Hagbourne. This half of the path badly needs cutting. Is very uneven underfoot. This footpath/bridleway is a regular haunt for fly tippers. Discussion with farmer recommended. DL & RW

Walk 14: As reported last year, corrugated fencing along side of Crispin still in dangerous condition – needs urgent attention before someone hurts themselves. Fencing on side of The Hart is broken down and needs attention. The King's Lane end of footpath mowed and kept tidy by local resident.
DL & RW

Walk 15: No real problem – overgrown in places, but walkable. MFD

Walk 16: Walkable – overgrown in places. Stone marker knocked down.
MFD

Walk 17: No real problems. MFD

Walk 18: Nettles and weeds need cutting back. At present unsuitable for young children and women. At the end near the entrance to the caravan park, part of the footpath is carefully cut and maintained by nearby resident.

DL & RW

Walk 19: Only able to walk part way due to AERE sewage works. MFD

Walk 20: Walkable, but no signs. AW

Walks X1, X2 and X3: To be reported on shortly.

Summary:

These comments from the walkers are most helpful. Our attention is brought to a number of matters and appropriate action must be taken forthwith.

Dee Boughton-Waite