

FP Officers Report Mar 24

I was disappointed that, in my absence from the last meeting, my request to purchase five kissing gates, from the parish council public rights of way (PROW) funding stream, was deferred pending availability of the signposted PROW funding to be made available by Herefordshire Council in 2024/25.

The intention was to store the gates ready for immediate installation as required. Purchasing several at a time would have cut delivery costs, additionally I had planned ordering them in conjunction with a neighbouring parish which may have resulted in greater savings.

The announced HC spending on PROW requires us to submit an expression of interest when requested to do so followed by a list of works we would like to undertake including rough costs to access the funding. When these requests, from all parish councils, have been received by HC they will review them and, if appropriate, allocate funding which must be spent within the current FY.

Those who take the Kingsland News will have seen that I organised, as a parishioner rather than in my role as FPO, a walk along our PROW earlier this month for anyone who wanted to join me. We walked the length of KL1 past the church, crossing the Cobnash road, before a short stretch of KL7 and looping back to Waterloo Mill, joining KL 3, to come back to the start point by 'phone box near the doctor's surgery.

It was, perhaps not surprisingly, muddy underfoot but sadly it wasn't the mud that made progress difficult but the poor state of a number of stiles. Crossing the Cobnash road and climbing into the field heading South was particularly dangerous. Something I hope to be able to do something about with the aforementioned funding. April will see another walk, details of which along with general footpath information, will appear, as in previous months, in the next edition of the Kingsland News.

FP Agenda Points

11.1 Review HC guidelines for parish FPO's and agree way forward. As I have stated previously, I am happy to work with HC PROW team but remain a parish council asset. **Agreed**

11.2 Publication of FPO reports on parish council website.

I asked that a FPO page be created on our website for the publication of my contact details and the monthly reports presented each month. This will allow those who are unable to come to a parish council meeting to read updates on our PROW. The decision to publish my reports was deferred at the last meeting. I am happy to answer any questions you may have to allow publication to go ahead as soon as possible. **Agreed**