

FP Officers Report Nov 24

This month, apart from my usual submission for publication in the Kingsland News and organising a four mile walk for those who wished to join me along our PROW, I have spent an inordinate amount of my time on footpath issues. With some success, albeit mixed with a healthy dose of frustration.

As reported previously, I have continued in my attempts to engage with landowners to bring about improvements to our gates and stiles, using the grant awarded by Herefordshire Council a few months ago. I am delighted to say that two of our major landowners have given permission, in writing, for work to be carried out.

I have also engaged with a number of smaller landowners by telephone, email and letter, and in some cases all three! Two of them have given permission to upgrade stiles, others were very receptive to improvements but have still not granted permission. The third tranche have, at the moment, failed to respond at all.

I will continue with my efforts to try and contact them all as the particular stiles in question, which are on their land, are in a deplorable condition. Should I not be able to get agreement to help improve what are obviously dangerous irreparable stiles, I may well be forced, in due course, to request enforcement action be taken by Herefordshire council.

Speaking of which: I have heard nothing more from HC PROW Team 'Volunteer Development Officer' who, as you are aware, recently issued a comprehensive guide on the proposed relationship between Herefordshire council and volunteer footpath officers such as myself. It would appear that more work may be being undertaken to finesse this document before they re-issue it.

On a similar theme, I have tried more than once to contact the VDO in connection with the supply of gates and stiles from our grant funding but, as in the past, I have not been successful in getting a reply let alone any answers.