

FP Officer's Report Mar 26.

I've spent the last couple of weeks preparing for the new season as far as PROW is concerned. I participated in an on-line RoSPA course organised for FPOs by HC. It was a good one-hour course crammed into four hours!

Subsequently I have reviewed the two Parish Council PROW related risk assessments and am content they are sufficient. I also arranged for the PC strimmer to be serviced and safety checked.

Councillors will recall that we had 500 copies of a footpath trifold leaflet printed a while ago of which I now have very few left. My intent is to produce another batch as soon as I can source a better-quality version of the parish PROW map.

Once more I recently attended a meeting with a member of HC PROW Team at Plough Lane. We discussed a number of issues, some of which had been outstanding for an inordinately long time. Encouragingly the meeting went very well, and I have already seen a marked improvement in response times and actual progress on some of the points I raised.

One small win was that I had five 3m fingerposts delivered to my house that I have been agitating HC to supply for over two years (the cost of installation will fall to the PC). The Enforcement Officer, at my request, also contacted a landowner who has several dangerous stiles on his land and then chased him for a timeframe for the repairs to be completed. I fully accept that farmers have very busy periods and am happy to wait further.

The big news this month however is that, along with all but one of the gates we purchased using our Grant now having been installed, we now have a brand-new footbridge over Pinsley Brook just north of Cholstrey on KL4. This bridge had been unusable for years, so it is great news that, along with one of the bridges at Blue Ditch being lifted out of the water, the new bridge now allows walkers to complete a five-mile circular walk from Kingsland.

I took that route last Saturday on my FPO facilitated walk; the positive feedback from those who joined me, and from those who receive my monthly news email, was nice to hear.