

FP Officer's Report Apr 26.

For the record, I welcome the announcement, made at our last meeting by our Ward Councillor, Dan Hurcomb, that the replacement for the condemned suspension bridge over the River Lugg, on Footpath KL6A, will likely be in situ during this financial year.

Councillors will be aware that I have submitted receipts for expenses covering fuel and trimmer cord as the growing season is now well and truly upon us. Subsequently I have spent considerable time keeping clear those footpaths most used in close vicinity to the Village. I will continue to do so over the coming weeks.

The impact of the provision of dog waste bins by the parish council at the end of last year was marked; while the issue of dog waste not being picked up has not been completely eliminated, and in all probability never will be, there has clearly been a noticeable improvement.

Following a direct approach from parishioners, I have recently ordered 2 large bags of 20mm stone to reinforce a couple of much used, short stretches of footpath. This will hopefully be laid in the next week and should make the paths easier to use for all.

Given the number of new gates and stiles that have been installed over the last few months there has been a need to replace damaged way marker signs and, in some cases, properly mark routes for the first time; consequently, I purchased 50 marker discs for this purpose. In all likelihood I will need to get some more in due course.

When last the PC met, I indicated my intent to order more footpath maps for parishioners, and others, to collect from the 'phone box by the Doctors Surgery, should they want one; the original 500 trifold maps having been taken over the last 18 months or so. I have now arranged for 500 more to be printed and should have them in the next few days.

Finally, last week's FPO facilitated walk, along the River Lugg to Mortimer's Cross and east to Lucton, before returning cross-county to Kingsland, saw the largest turn out of walkers since I started the monthly walks. 20+ people came along and, as gratified as I was to see them all, any more may have been more problematic. That said, I would never turn anyone away.