

FP Officer's Report June 26

This last month has been a been somewhat routine for me in as much as I have tasked our Lengthsman to install a kissing gate on KL27, this should have been done a while ago but was delayed while new pipe was put in place and have been strimming paths when able and facilitated the normal FPO monthly walk.

Sadly, the walk I had advertised had to be changed at the last minute due to the proliferation of standing crops making the PROW impassible in places. Although it has been law for the last 36 years, that paths should be reinstated within 14 days of planting, Kingsland is particularly poor when compared to neighbouring parishes when it comes to doing so.

Herefordshire Council have recently sent out a revised job description for Footpath Officer. This version is innocuous and, in my opinion, apart from the stipulation that FPO's should use battery powered tools, a commonsense document. We informed Herefordshire Council that I use, and am well versed in the safety aspects of a petrol strimmer and received prompt and positive feedback.

We can continue to use our petrol strimmer providing a record is kept of its use using the HSE vibration exposure calculator to help mitigate against Hand Arm Vibration, known colloquially as HAVS. Given the comparatively limited use of the strimmer, I do not envisage it being a problem from either an administrative or medical point of view.

Finally, as requested by councillors at our last meeting, I have included in my submission for the June edition of the Kingsland News a note about the importance of property owners keeping hedges trimmed and not allowing them to block pavements.