

LITTLE BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

Footpaths Report – November 2023

At the time of writing, all footpaths around the parish are passable, although muddy in places following the heavy rains and recent flooding.

The new footbridge on the permissive path at the bottom of Lodge Road/The Street has been inspected and appears to be stable and in good condition despite the flooding on 20th October.

The footbridge over the River Fynn on FP18 also has also been checked and remains stable and usable. The erosion of the river bank on the north side of the bridge does not appear to have worsened, although the river level is still high at the time of writing and further checks will be made when the water level permits. Handrails on the bridge may require attention in the near future, this was reported to SCC on 29/10/2023 (ref 00427615).

Complaints were received in September regarding side growth obstructing FP14 near Sinks Pit, this path was inspected at the end of October and is now passable, although further cutting back of side growth is required.

A resident had reported FP11 alongside Firecrest Nursery being overgrown in late summer, despite assurances from SCC that this path would be kept clear, having been missed in 2022. The path was inspected in late October and was passable although minimal strimming of bracken had been done.

The footpath wardens were pleased to note that the new owners of Heath Farm stables and livery in Hall Road had erected new fencing and in the process had considerably widened Footpaths 10A and 11 where they pass between the paddocks. This has alleviated the issue of the paths becoming muddy after wet weather as they are now less narrow and has also made it easier to negotiate the narrow section on path 10A where overhanging trees and bushes had made passage difficult at times. The wardens would like to express their thanks to the owners for these improvements to our footpath network.

The Fynn Valley Walks Group, supported by All Saints Church, has continued to hold weekly guided walks around the area throughout the year, with around 20 walkers, both from within and outside the parish, joining us on most weeks.

Francis Mutimer

John Wittgreffe

29th October 2023