

Solihull MBC LAF Meeting Report 23 May 2019

Maintenance Work

- Maintenance of 131 sections of paths ~ 42,000 linear metres (from a total of 450 routes) under annual strimming programme starts next week with a second cut to be scheduled later in the Summer as appropriate depending on growing conditions.
- Ad-hoc maintenance of the PRowS continues to be a challenge. As of 21 May 2019 we have a new contractor on board to undertake ad hoc small cutting back and strimming jobs.
- Removal of fallen trees – recent weather conditions have resulted in fallen trees on the network. Fallen trees that have been brought to the council's attention have been dealt with.

Improvement Works Carried Out (since October 2018)

- Various replacement fingerposts and running repairs to furniture including stiles and footbridges.
- Surface improvements SL19 in Knowle.

Obstruction and encroachment problems

- Letters are sent to land owners as appropriate, sometimes/preferably resolved informally over the telephone and email where an established relationship exists.

Land Owner Concerns

- Reports of dogs not being under close control and trespass issues continues to be the main concern as well as the resulting faeces which can be dangerous; contaminated fields used for silage can cause Neosporosis in cattle. A recent walk through fields in Balsall Common revealed a disappointing amount of dog faeces.

Service Requests

- ~ 90 service request since October.

DMMOs

- 15 current requests – one is currently under further investigation.

Diversion Orders

- 1 diversion Order is currently being progressed.

Notices

- 2 Section 56 Notices have been served on the authority in relation to flooding and are currently under investigation.
- 1 Section 130 Notice has been served in relation to a footpath being obstructed by new fencing and is currently under investigation.

Contribution of Volunteers (since October 2018)

- We continue to work with and are thankful for the contributions of volunteers. There are two main groups that work on the network - A Coventry Way and Solihull Bramblers.
- ~ 12 volunteer works since the last LAF meeting in October – including small footbridge repairs, cutting back/vegetation clearance, new fingerpost installations.
- Volunteers also report matters on the network to the council which is useful.
- Our volunteer groups were acknowledged and rewarded this year with one group accepting a £250 contribution towards the costs of materials and equipment. The other elected for us to provide tools for them to continue their valuable work on improving rights of way across the borough.

Photographs of Volunteer Works

Clearing vegetation around stile and siding up hedge on path.



Before



After

More volunteer vegetation clearance.



Before



After

Photographs of Surface Improvements in Knowle

Completed by W Cox and Son (not volunteer works).



60 tonnes of graded recycled road planings to regulate surface and improve accessibility.