

Highways Act 1980 S25 : Billingshurst: Proposed Dedication of a New Footpath Link between Footpaths 1311/ 1312 and Footpath 827

Inspecting Officer's Report for Consultation

Background – see [Location Plan 01790](#) (PDF, 911KB)

Footpath 827 runs west from Lordings Road just to the south of the Limeburners public house and campsite at Adversane, Billingshurst. The nearest connection in the path network is fp 1312 which leaves Lordings Road at a point some 80 metres(m) to the south. This means that a quite fast and busy stretch of road (60mph) without footways or suitable verges must be negotiated by walkers in order to continue their onward journey.

In order to provide a connection via a direct road crossing the owner of farmland to the east of Lordings Road has agreed to dedicate a new length of public footpath(fp) linking existing fps 1311 and 1312 on the east via a direct crossing of the road to fp 827 on the western side. Off-road footpath links as shown **A-B-C** on plan 01791 are to be created by formal agreement under the provisions of S25 of the Highways Act 1980 between the County Council and the landowner.

The Proposed Route – see [plan 01791](#) (PDF, 228KB)

It is proposed that a new kissing gate with hardstanding be installed in the roadside hedge line at point **B** where good traffic visibility in both directions will provide walkers with a direct crossing to existing fp 827 at the splayed entrance to Guildenhurst Manor. From **B** a new length of path will run south on a western field headland, separated from the road by a hedge, to meet the western end of fp 1312 at **C**. A further length of new path will run east from point **B** on a northern field headland adjoining the fenced southern boundary of the Limeburners campsite. Turning north the new path will join existing fp 1311 where it meets the field headland at point **A**.

This is a well-used part of the path network used by both nearby residents, visitors to the campsite and walkers from the village wishing to access the path network in the countryside to the west, around the river Arun, the Wey and Arun canal and towards Wisborough Green. It is considered that the proposed new path will provide a useful link for walkers enabling them to avoid a stretch of unpleasant road walking.

Ownership

Newbridge Farm Partnership, the owners of the land crossed by the proposed path, has generously agreed to enter into a footpath creation agreement with the County Council.

West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan(RoWMP), Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010 and Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

In considering this proposal the County Council's responsibilities under the provisions of the above have been taken into account. It is considered to be in accordance with all relevant provisions of the RoWMP and meets some of the key aims such as the improvement of path links and the creation of a choice of routes.

Consultations

On 8 January 2021 consultation documents were sent to Horsham District Council, the relevant user groups, the Parish Council, the Sussex Police Crime Prevention Design

Advisor, neighbouring property, WSCC members' Bulletin and other interested parties with the request that any comments be submitted by 5 February 2021. Careful consideration will be given to all responses received.

Costs and Works

The proposed new path will have a width of generally 2 metres throughout its length. A kissing gate with hard standing will be installed to accommodate the new path at point **B**. Billingshurst Parish Council have kindly agreed to bear the cost of this work. Waymarking of the new path and the costs associated with the preparation of the agreement will be at County Council expense.

General Conclusion:

The proposed route will provide a useful addition to the path network that will avoid a difficult length of road walking. The co-operation of the landowner and the support of the parish council is very much appreciated and the new path will be welcomed by local walkers.

Judith Grimwood
Rights of Way Officer

January 2021