

Tillington: Proposed Creation of Permissive Footpath from Footpath 1014_1 via an agriculture track to join with footpath 1017

Inspecting Officer's Report for Consultation

The Proposal- See 01793 [Location plan](#) (PDF, 797KB) and 01792 [Proposal plan](#) (PDF, 272KB)

The permissive path proposal was put forward by Tillington Parish Council as a preferred new path to be of benefit to local path users and visitors to the area. The path was proposed as an extra route for walkers to enjoy a pleasant walk down to the River Rother and would be a great addition to the Tillington network of paths.

A Permissive Path Creation Agreement between the landowners and the County Council will secure the future of the path for public use for an agreed period and enable it to be waymarked and to receive inspection and maintenance attention as part of the County Council's routine path maintenance cycle.

From its northern end the proposed route leaves footpath 1014_1 at the point where there is a junction of tarmac roads between agricultural buildings/barns and follows the tarmac surface heading in a southerly direction. The path follows the tarmac track south for around 50m, running parallel to an agriculture building on the path's east side, where it then becomes a rough stone track of around 2.6m width. The track continues parallel to the agricultural building in a gradually southwest direction. On the path's west side there is tall hedgerow on a raised bank which largely screens views to Coxland Cottages. After passing the building, on the eastern side of the path, there is a wide grass verge, with a ditch and grass fields after that. The route of the path follows the stone track for approximately 170 metres, after which the track splits, with a stone track continuing to the sewage works and a separate track going up a short incline for approximately 100 metres to the southwest. The hedge on the eastern side of the track at this point ends and a hedge on the west side of the route begins. After the path follows the rough stone track up the incline into an arable field, it gradually turns in a more southerly direction and follows the headland of the fields. The surface gradually becomes an unmade, grass track with wide grass verges to either side. The route follows the headland track south for approximately 520 metres, with a hedge and tall fence to the eastern side separating the field from the sewage works and a wide bank and tall fence alongside the reservoir on the path's western side. The route of the path continues along the headland and eventually drops down a slight slope to join with footpath 1017.

The path for around half of the route is a hardened surface underfoot with the rest of the route following a wide field edge, offering good walking conditions. The sewage works and reservoir are well set back from the path, secured by fences and very well screened from view.

The proposed path would provide an alternative route to the River Rother giving some spectacular long-distance views of the landscape and allowing walkers to avoid using the longer, tarmac road route, which is regularly used by agriculture vehicles. The proposed path would also give an additional circular route for path users heading to the River Rother from the village of Tillington.

Ownership

The route passes through 3 land parcels, all of which are under the ownership of the Leconfield Estate, who have very kindly indicated that they would be willing to enter into a permissive path 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

WSCC has consulted with the relevant stakeholders regarding the permissive path proposal and will consider all responses.

Costs and Works

The proposed new path has a width of generally 2.6 metres throughout its length. It is generally in a good condition. The surface for approximately half of the route is a well-drained, level, stone surface. Where the route follows the headland along a grass track the surface is slightly more rutted, however there is a wide enough space for path users to bypass any ruts easily. The only works deemed necessary is the installation of two new fingerposts, one at either end of the new path, and two new way posts, to clarify the direction of the path. The waymarking of the permissive path and the costs associated with the preparation of the agreement will be at County Council's expense.

General Conclusion:

The proposed route will provide a pleasant cross country walk with spectacular views that will be a useful link from the built-up part of Tillington down to the River Rother and offers a circular route. It is proposed that a permissive path agreement between the landowner and the County Council for an initial period of 10 years be agreed. The co-operation of the landowner is very much appreciated and will be welcomed by local walkers.

Kevin Dewitt
Access Ranger
Public Rights of Way
West Sussex County Council

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