

King's Sutton Annual Parish Meeting

17th April 2019

Parish Paths Annual Report

Rights of Way are:-

- Footpaths; for walkers only.
- Bridleways; for Walkers, Horse riders, Cyclists.
- Byways; for all the above and Motor vehicles.

Rights of Way in all English parishes have numbers, or letters and numbers, or should have, just like the road system eg. A, & B roads and Motorways M1, M6, etc .

I have not found out how the letters were arrived at. The Rights of Way Office did not know either. I do not find the letters have any logic. Eg. I think King's Sutton should be KS not AS, Newbottle and Charlton NC not AW etc.

So King's Sutton parish is AS followed by a number.

Adjoining Northamptonshire parishes are:

- Newbottle and Charlton parish is AW and a number.
- Farthinghoe is AM plus a No.
- Aynho is AB plus a No.

There are 36 'Rights of Way' in King's Sutton Parish. This does not include Sandy Lane near Farthinghoe which is classed as a normal highway, but unsurfaced, with a road no. of U42201.

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1/ A good summer, so dry paths much of the year. Sometimes it was even too hot to go out walking. Recent weather has been a bit rough though.

2/ Paths closed at Walton Grounds. For nature? For which I believe the land owner is paid.

All paths that are now not "Rights of Way" that people have walked for generations have notices saying that one cannot now walk them.

3/ I have done much cutting back of brambles etc. Could do with help trimming more vegetation. So walkers take out a pair of secateurs with you now and again and help with a bit of trimming, every little helps.

4/ Dogs when taken over fields should be kept under control and it is just as important to clear up their mess over fields as on pavements in the village.

5/ Several walkers have complained that stiles are a barrier to prevent them accessing the countryside. It would be nice to get rid of stiles and replace them with gates, kissing gates or even just gaps so there is no barrier for walkers to be able to access and enjoy the countryside. I have made a rough count by memory of 20 stiles in King's Sutton parish.

6/ I have seen many, many paths that were not classed as Rights of Way that villagers freely walked have been blocked in the last 48 years I have lived in the village. During this period the village has expanded vastly and the population of the village is nearly 3 times greater now than it was. People are living longer and able to retire earlier. There is not much pleasure in living longer if one does not have good health. The Government is encouraging us oldies to exercise more and so keeping generally fit (as opposed to super fit). Walking at

one's own pace is an ideal way to keep well and enjoy nature's wonders and is a good gentle recreation for the elderly. Keeping oneself well means less visits to the hard pressed NHS. The roads are for too dangerous so we need to keep to the paths across the fields, preserve all the paths and even create more, and so enjoy the countryside.

To help everyone walk there are now Health Walks that one can enjoy all over the country. Many of these Health Walking Groups have several levels of speed from just a very gentle stroll to walks that are faster than I wish to join.

7/ Access to the canal.

A previous path warden spent a great amount of time and effort trying to get a path open from Mill lane to the canal. For various reasons he did not succeed.

Now many years later when many things have changed a fairly new person to the village who has many useful connections is keen to have another try. We must wish him luck.

It would be a great asset for the village to have access to the canal. Many villagers of previous years used this track and bathed in the canal and river. Many learnt to swim there.

If this comes to fruition it would give two halves of the now long walk of 11.9km/ 7.4 miles up to Twyford, along the canal to Nell Bridge then back along the road and possibly fields to the village. So with access to the canal from Mill Lane starting and finishing at the Memorial Hall, two nice walks of approx. 6km/ 3.7mileseach. The Northern circuit via Twyford and the Southern circuit via Nell bridge. So two walks almost the same length that many could then enjoy. Or for people just to have a short walk to see the canal 1.3km from the Hall, approx. 1km from the two village pubs.

It would also enable boaters on the canal easy close access to the village and so benefit the two village pubs, the post office, the Co-op and the two places of worship in the village. Perhaps these places might contribute to the costs, even maybe just for a notice at the canal to show the way to the village and its facilities.

8/ Footpath AS 10, from Banbury Lane to near the rail station.

We have part of this path that is not useable due to a missing bridge and part that people walk that is not a "Right of Way" so this path could be closed at any time and therefore blocking this route. I have started to try to get this sorted.

9/ Bridleway AS 2 at College Farm was legally moved from the house yard and field to a track alongside only a few yards away.

10/ DEDDINGTON has a map in its Market place showing all the fields in the parish with the field names. It would be nice if the same could be done for King's Sutton Parish. I have mentioned this before.

We have many field names. Anyone like to take on the project?

Happy walking!

Parish Path Wardens: Dave Hall & Anne Burrell