

Appendix 3

Kingston Parish Council 13 July 2022

Rights of Way Update

1. The rights of Way Group have met with Jan Knowlson (SDNP Ranger) and Chloe Rowlinson (ESCC Rights of Way Officer). It is important to note that when the SDNPA was established in 2010 replacing the South Downs Joint Committee, ESCC took over responsibility for maintenance of footpaths and rights of way, but with no increased resources. As a consequence there are many rights of way in East Sussex that have not been properly maintained and after over ten years, are now in a poor state of repair. Like the chalk paths in Kingston accessing the Downs many are deeply rutted and in need of attention. ESCC are aware of this problem. Currently ESCC have capacity for approx four rights of way projects a year over and above more routine maintenance.

2. We are continuing to research various options for improving the rights of way network in the parish and consider the action we can take. In the meantime the following has been achieved:

- ESCC ROW rangers will assess the bridleway from Kingstonridge to the Downs (KIN 10/2) and add to the maintenance list. They will notify us when they have done this to inform us of their recommendations and where we will be on their priority list.
- They will also consider what measures can be implemented to reduce flooding on this path and advise us accordingly. (In heavy rain the bridleway turns into a river, flooding Kingstonridge and down to Church Lane and The Avenue. It is complex because the top of the path is a triple SSI and permission for any intervention must be sought from Natural England who I understand are conservative in their approach. Note: ESCC assessed this flooding in 2016 and advised that *'The responsibility for managing surface water rests with relevant landowners who have an obligation to pass the flow of water on, whilst not recklessly flooding their neighbours. It is also a landowner's responsibility to protect their own property against flood water - for example by installing flood bunds or waterproof membranes.'*
- ESCC rangers will assess and repair the steps on the path from the Street up onto the Downs (KIN 8/1). Again they will notify us when this has been done.
- ESCC will supply 'No cycling discs' for us to instal on signs on the path from the Street up onto the Downs (KIN 8/1) once we have the landowners' permission. (Note: cyclists regularly use this path and churn up the surface.)
- SDNPA agreed to install a new finger post for the path alongside the C324 from Juggs Way to the railway bridge near the A27. We have reminded them about this and also requested a finger post on the Downs marking the path down to Swanborough from the top of the Downs (KIN 4/1 & IFD11/1).
- The broken fingerpost by the garden centre has been reported to ESCC Highways Dept.

Christine Moulder
6 July 2022