**Kempley Parish Council 18th March 2024**

**Items for Exchange of Views –** Information update

**Agenda Number 201**

**Kempley Public Rights of Way Improvement Works**

The Parish Council has worked with local Farmers and the Public Rights of Way Officer to improve public rights of way for both landowners and the public.

We have now completed replacing 19 stiles with kissing gates on the following footpaths:

* GKE33 – Daffodil Way – Kempley Green to Fishpool – 5 kissing gates. This involved 4 landowners including Moorhouse Farm, Lower House Farm and two private landowners;
* GKE29 - Kempley Green to boundary with Dymock PC, Folly Farm – 1 kissing gate;
* GKE27 - Kempley Road onto Fields - Matthews Farm – 1 kissing Gate;
* GKE41 – Brooklands Farm towards Court Farm – 1 kissing gate;
* GKE 7 – Friars Court – 1 kissing gate
* GKE 5 – Friars Court Access to Daffodil Meadow – 1 kissing gate;
* GKE12 & 13 – Daffodil Way, Stonehouse Farm – 2 Kissing gates
* GKE20 – Daffodil Way to Woodlands Saycells Farm – 1 kissing gate
* GKE22 – from lane near Parkfield Cottages to Daffodil Way, Matthews farm and Hillbrook Farm – 3 kissing gates
* GKE23 – Link from Matthews Farm to Daffodil Way and from Old Lodge to Daffodil Way on Hillbrook Farm – 2 kissing gates
* GKE3 – Daffodil Way – 1 kissing gate

We have worked with local farmers to re-open or re-route:

* GKE35 – Lower House Farm from Wantridge to Daffodil Way - 1 new kissing gate and a new bridge over a tributary to Kempley Brook
* GKE 21 – Installed 1 new kissing gate and await installation of a new bridge over Kempley Brook
* GKE 38 – Application to close this footpath and create a new footpath linking GDY57 and GDY55 that will create a circular walk from Kempley Green. This application has now gone to appeal following an objection from a private individual. The changes were supported by the Kempley Community, the Windcross Footpaths Group and the Kempley Walking Group.
* A group of diversion orders on Court Farm covering GKE3 Part (Daffodil Way)/ GKE2 Daffodil Way to Saycells Farm/ GKE17 Court Farm to St Mary’s/ GKE16 St Mary’s to Court Farm and beyond/ GKE15 Court Farm to Hillfields Farm and GKE19 Entrance to Court Farm to Kempley Brook. Linked to the changes is the closure of GKE18. These diversion orders

and closure order await action by Gloucestershire County Council PROW team (expected soon). The diversion orders and closure order are all supported by the Parish Council, but at least one objection is expected.

* GKE2 – Temporary diversion whilst building works are underway at Saycells Farm. Supported by the Parish Council

**New signage and liaison work with the Kempley Community**

We have undertaken the following work:

* Installed new directional signs when informed of problems;
* Installed new Responsible dog walking signs as requested;
* Circulated PROW leaflets to encourage responsible use of the Kempley PROW and issued maps of the PROW to every household so they are aware of the routes that can be used and behaviours to be encouraged using our rights of way;
* Liaised with the public rights of way officer and Windcross Footpaths group to explore volunteer maintenance works and possible new AI controlled maintenance machinery to keep routes open in the summer months;
* IN addition to discussion with the Windcross Footpaths Group Gary Dawson has walked many of the Kempley PROW and produced a valuable report highlighting where future work is still required. He has also cut back hedgerow growth blocking a number of stiles and is making a valuable contribution to keeping the Kempley PROW in good order.
* Liaised with the PROW Officer and local farmers to resolve conflicts and ensure PROW are re-instated post ploughing and that routes are maintained during the growth of arable crops (essentially maize).

**Future Work**

GKE4 – Replacement of two stiles along this route crossing land owned by Court Farm and Friars Court and running from Saycells to St Mary’s Church as resources allow.

GKE15 – Replacement of two stiles with kissing gates required on route from Hillfields Farm to Court Farm as resources allow.

GKE14 – Issues of accessibility on this route connecting Hillfields to Stonehouse Cottages. Requires discussions with the landowner.

I would like to put on record my thanks for the support of our local farming community and for the hard work and excellent partnership working with Suzanne Hopes who is this week retiring from her role of Public Rights of Way Officer covering our Parish. I would further recommend we send a vote of thanks from the Parish Council to Suzanne and wish her well in the next phase of her life.

Martin Brocklehurst

Kempley Community Liaison Point