

Planning and Environment Committee

Agenda Item 10.

To consider carrying out an audit of the condition of public footpaths in Malmesbury, including signs, stiles and gates (report Cllr Ritchie)

Situation:

1. Malmesbury, as an important local centre is the focal point for a number of footpaths that connect with surrounding villages.
2. The ability to walk in and around Malmesbury and to and from Malmesbury is a potential attraction to visitors. Public footpaths are an important part this network. There will be a real benefit if we can improve access to open spaces for residents and visitors with impaired mobility.
3. The Town Team and our own Community and Town Promotion Committee are keen to highlight walking opportunities in and around Malmesbury.
4. We will shortly be participating in a meeting with other local parish councils to discuss the utilisation and possible development of footpaths and cycleways across our local area for the benefit of our residents and our local economy. Having a good idea of the state of our own footpaths will help us in this discussion.
5. There are only a limited number of footpaths in the parish of Malmesbury, (see map), but we do not have a clear view of the condition of these footpaths and their associated signage, stiles and gates.

Proposal:

1. That MTC organises and undertakes an audit of the public footpaths in Malmesbury with a report on their condition and recommendations, if any, to correct any deficiencies or improve their standard being made to this committee.
2. This audit to be guided by standards described by the Wiltshire Footpaths officer and the Ramblers organisation.
3. Given the small number of footpaths involved, that the audit is undertaken by volunteer councillors or, if this is not possible, known local walking groups are invited to provide the information requested.

Financial Implications:

There is no direct financial cost associated with agreeing this proposal.

If the outcome is that improvements are recommended that may lead to expenditure being asked of MTC and/or funding from other sources this will be considered when the outcome of the audit is known and any recommendations can be quantified.

Cllr Campbell Ritchie

8th July 2021

