

# BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

## Minutes of Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2:00-4:00 pm

### 1. Attendees:

Charles Cockburn (CC)  
Graham Webb (GW)  
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)

### 2. Apologies for absence:

Kim Eakers (KE)  
Tony Ransley (TR)  
Ian Dumelow (ID)

### 3. Minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Approved.

### 4. Declaration of interest:

*(in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils Model Code of Conduct adopted July 2018) Councillors and Working Group members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.*

No interests were declarable.

### 5. Actions from Last Meeting

#### a. The future of BRSWG

ACTION: MWC to revise BRSWG Scope statement to reflect discussed widening of field of activity to include all travel infrastructure in the parish i.e. roads, footpaths, pavements, bridleways, and other rights of way.

Draft to be ready for next meeting.

**Outcome: ACTION** carried forward.

#### b. Pavement next to bus bay

See Appendix: Schedule of Projects

#### c. Outstanding items associated with Beech On-Road Footway

See Appendix: Schedule of Projects

## 6. Other Projects

**a. Road surface drainage**

See Appendix: Schedule of Projects

**b. Gravel build-up in Medstead Road.**

Work with householders to help prevent gravel etc washing onto the roads in heavy rain. Discuss with Parish Council the possibility of public information campaign via Beech News etc.

**ACTION: MWC** to investigate engineered solutions for gravel washout problem.

Outcome: **Completed**. Item in next Beech News.

**c. Shared footpath/cycleway** from junction of Medstead Road and North Side of A339 to Will Hall Farm.

See Appendix: Schedule of Projects

**d. Footpaths and Bridleways Project**

See Appendix: Schedule of Projects

## 7. Date of next meeting

Mon September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 pm, West Dene House (CC's house).

Appendix: Schedule of Projects

	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1	<b>Ongoing road maintenance and improvement</b>	Maintenance and improvement of village traffic calming and road safety schemes, including road markings, signage and speed cameras.	Maintain, and enhance if possible, existing village road safety.	<p>Outstanding matters: Repaint white line edges</p> <p>Reinstate footway white lines after road repair</p> <p>Signage or posters at pedestrian crossovers and bridleway crossings</p> <p>Possible central road markings at Kings Hill bend</p> <p>Deer warning signs</p>	<p><b>HCC</b> has programmed this.</p> <p><b>MWC</b> to chase via HCC website.</p> <p><b>MWC</b> to chase HCC (IJ).</p> <p><b>MWC</b> to chase HCC (IJ).</p> <p><b>MWC</b> to chase HCC (IJ).</p>
2	<b>Bus bay clearance</b>	Clearance and landscaping of the bus stop bay outside the Village Hall.	Make the footway alongside the bus bay a usable part of the pedestrian route through the village; also, cosmetic.	In progress	PC to award contract for initial clearance work. <b>GW</b>
3	<b>20mph zone</b>	Introduce a 20mph zone in the village centre and on Wellhouse Rd.	Further reduction of traffic speeds through the village.	HCC have approved in principle; costs established	PC to establish whether costs of Road Traffic Orders can be shared with Alton TC (who plan extension of their own 20mph zone). <b>TR</b>
4	<b>Road drainage improvement</b>	Refurbishment/maintenance of, and/or construction of an improved, highways surface water drainage system in Beech village.	Reduce unimpeded surface water flow down Medstead & Wellhouse Rds.	Yet to start	Obtain contractor quotes for initial clearance of, and regular maintenance of, grips and ditches on Kings Hill & Medstead Rd. <b>GW</b>
5	<b>Basingstoke Road cycle path</b>	Improve the existing roadside footway & cycle path on the north side of Basingstoke Rd,	Establish clear, well-maintained, mixed-use pathway.	Yet to start	Discuss with HCC and Alton TC to clarify responsibilities for the pathway and verges. <b>CC</b>

		including adding signage re cycles.			
6	<b>Bridleway 712 improvement</b>	Improve Bridleway 712 (Pertuis Ave – Medstead Rd via Ackender Wood), especially the surface at the 712/769 junction.	A well surfaced bridleway of adequate width, clear of obstructions.	HCC has asked for funds for bridleway improvement as a condition of permitting development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’.	Persuade PC to comment accordingly on revised planning application documents and to seek input into planning conditions. <b>GW</b>
7	<b>Footpath 714 improvement</b>	Improve Footpath 714 (Basingstoke Rd – Medstead Rd via Wyards Farm), including replacing stiles with kissing gates.	A well surfaced footpath of adequate width, clear of obstructions.	HCC has asked for funds for footpath improvement as a condition of permitting development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’.	Persuade PC to comment accordingly on revised planning application documents and to seek input into planning conditions. <b>GW</b>
8	<b>New Basingstoke Road footway</b>	A new roadside footway on the south side of Basingstoke Rd, from proposed new housing development ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’ to the junction with Medstead Rd.	Provide an accessible, lit pedestrian route from the new development to Beech Village Hall facilities.	Provision of funds is a potential condition of permitting development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’. Not proposed by the developer or HCC at present.	Persuade PC to comment accordingly on revised planning application documents and to seek input into planning conditions. <b>GW</b>
9	<b>Upgrade existing Medstead Rd path</b>	Widening, and providing a more durable surface for, the roadside footway running along Medstead Rd from the A339 towards Beech village.	Provide an accessible, lit pedestrian route from the new development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’ to Beech Village Hall facilities.	Provision of funds is a potential condition of permitting development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’. Not proposed by the developer or HCC at present.	Persuade PC to comment accordingly on revised planning application documents and to seek input into planning conditions. <b>GW</b>
10	<b>Basingstoke Road pedestrian crossing</b>	Moving the pedestrian crossing point on Basingstoke Rd further east (from Medstead Rd junction) to improve pedestrian sight lines. Plus, a short length of new footway on the south side of Basingstoke Rd.	To provide a safer point for pedestrians and cyclists crossing from Medstead Rd to the path on the north side of Basingstoke Rd.	Provision of funds is a potential condition of permitting development at ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’. Not proposed by the developer or HCC at present.	Persuade PC to comment accordingly on revised planning application documents and to seek input into planning conditions. <b>GW</b>

11	<b>Bridleway 704 improvement</b>	Improve the surface and drainage of Bridleway 704 (Wellhouse Rd - Thedden), especially the southern section.	A well surfaced bridleway of adequate width, clear of obstructions.	Have established with HCC that this can be done only with funds sourced by the PC.	Establish availability of PC funds, then scope the project and apply for additional CIL funding from EHDC. <b>GW</b>
12	<b>Ackender Wood paths improvement</b>	Improve informal paths in Ackender Wood, close to the Ackender Hill housing development (in Alton), including the creation of a new public right of way from that development to Pertuis Ave.	Mitigate increased wear and tear to the informal paths; create a formal pedestrian footpath linking the Ackender Hill development with the 'Land at Whitedown Lane' development.	EHDC holds c.£203,000 developer's contributions for improving these informal paths. But Forestry England will not agree to any improvements as they have no budget for increased path maintenance costs.	Contact Alton TC to explore potential solutions. <b>GW</b>
13	<b>Railway line path</b>	A new footpath/bridleway/cycle path along the route (through Beech parish only) of the old Alton-Basingstoke railway line.	A level, accessible route from the proposed 'Land at Brick Kiln Lane' development (in Alton) northwest to the wider public right of way network.	On hold. Provision of funds is a potential condition of permitting development at 'Land at Brick Kiln Lane'.	Awaiting planning application, after which the PC will comment.
14	<b>Kings Hill off-road footway</b>	A new roadside footway from the on-road footway at 72 Kings Hill to the entrance to Alton Abbey.	Provide a safe pedestrian route west out of the village, including to any new development at Alton Abbey.	On hold. Provision of funds would be a potential condition of permitting development at Alton Abbey, should the site be allocated for housing.	Awaiting the results of EHDC's evaluation of potential housing sites.
15	<b>Beech Copse Footpath</b>	Reinstate a public right of way from Snode Hill to Wellhouse Rd via Beech Copse and 35 Snode Hill (a potential housing allocation site).	A short cut from Snode Hill to Beech Village Hall.	On hold pending the result of an appeal against the refusal of outline planning permission for development on the Beech Copse site.	PC will comment on any future detailed planning application for development at Beech Copse and/or 35 Snode Hill.