

BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 3rd October 2025, 2:00-3:30 pm

1) Attendees:

Charles Cockburn (CC)
Graham Webb (GW)
Tony Ransley (TR)
Kim Eakers (KE)
Malcolm Ward-Close (MWC)

2) Apologies for absence:

None

3) Minutes for 2nd September 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 (see also Appendix 2: Schedule of Projects)

a) Scope Statement

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) Outstanding items associated with Beech On-Road Footway

Dialogue has continued with Ian Janes at Hampshire Highways|:

- (i) Deer warning signs: Ian James is preparing to issue a works order to install deer warning signage, to be implemented in the late autumn.
- (ii) Crossways. Ian Janes has indicated that non-standard walking route signs (as opposed to traffic signs) would be acceptable.

ACTION: MWC and GW. Initiate a project to consider ‘poster’ style signs where footpaths or bridleways cross Medstead Road or Kings Hill and other locations where pedestrians using the on-road footway might be expected to cross the road.

NEW ACTION MWC

Prepare draft designs of “posters” for review, as follows:

Set A

To warn drivers that a footpath or bridleway crosses the road ahead (two locations, see attached maps)

Set B

To warn drivers that they are approaching a point where the on-road footway crosses to the other side of the road. It has not been decided whether these are required – to be discussed at next meeting. (See attached maps). See **Appendix 1**.

Set C

Beech Walking Route direction signs, showing distances to various destinations and indicating the need to cross the road where the on-road footway changes sides. Note: these signs are intended to help pedestrians and, to avoid causing distraction, should be located outside drivers’ normal line of sight. (See attached maps).

It was noted by the working group that care needs to be taken to ensure that any new signs do not cause a nuisance to nearby residents or detract from the visual amenity of the surrounding area. While still serving their purpose of conveying information, they should be appropriately sized, designed to harmonise with the rural environment of the village and be located with regard to their proximity to surrounding homes and the expressed wishes of nearby householders.

NEW ACTION GW, ID and MWC

Arrange to meet on site and decide on numbers, styles and location of new signs.

- iii. Missing road edge white lines in Kings Hill. Ian Janes (HCC) has informed us that a works order has been issued and the work will be carried out this autumn.
- iv. Missing sections of outer white line of On-Road Footway. Ian Janes has informed us that road markings removed during road repairs are scheduled to be replaced immediately if they are safety critical and at a later date if not. Curiously, one section of missing white line has been replaced recently but other missing sections have not. Ian Janes has been asked to comment.

ONGOING ACTION MWC: monitor and follow up as required.

6) New Items

a) BPC Website

It has been noted that information relating to BRSFWG in the Beech Parish Council website has been placed under the wrong heading and is not easy to find.

ACTION: KE to arrange for the necessary alterations to the website.

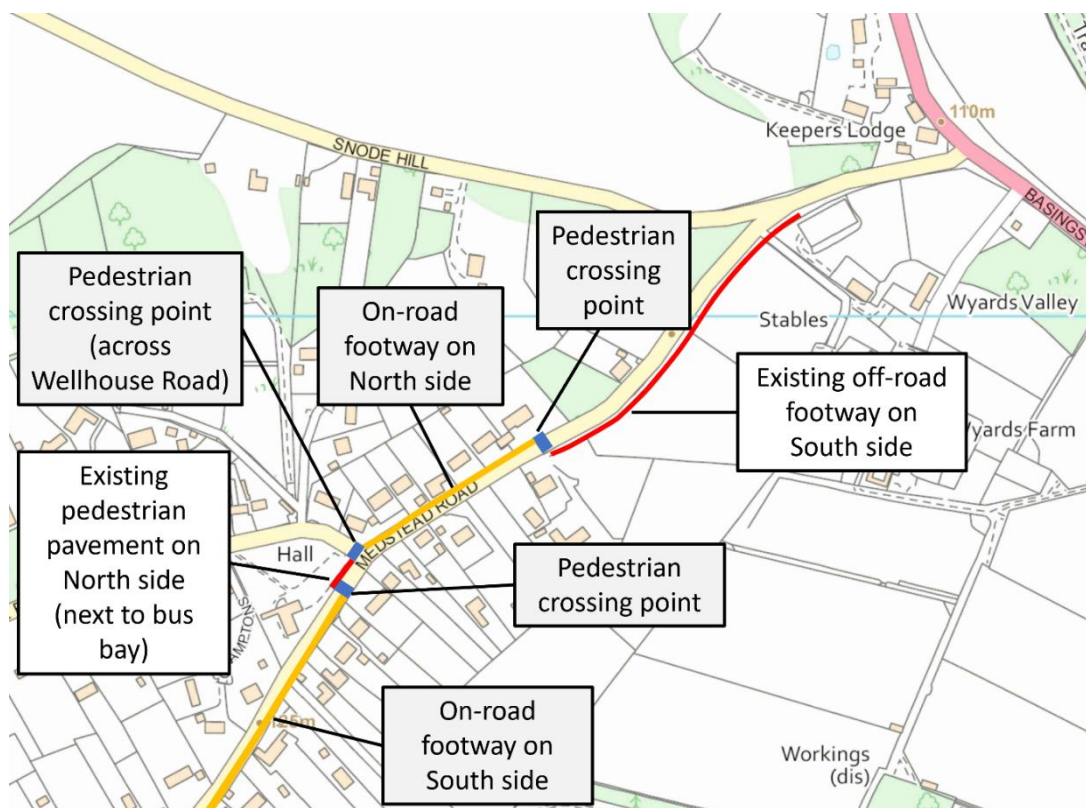
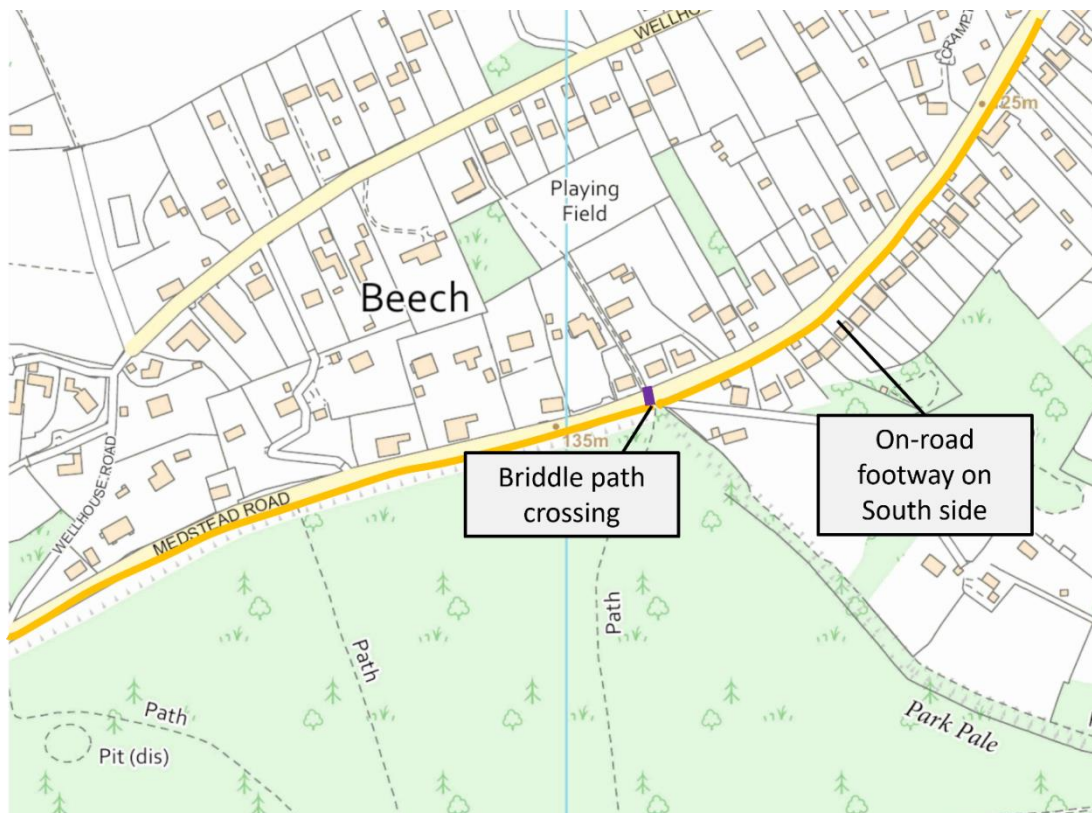
Outcome: Completed

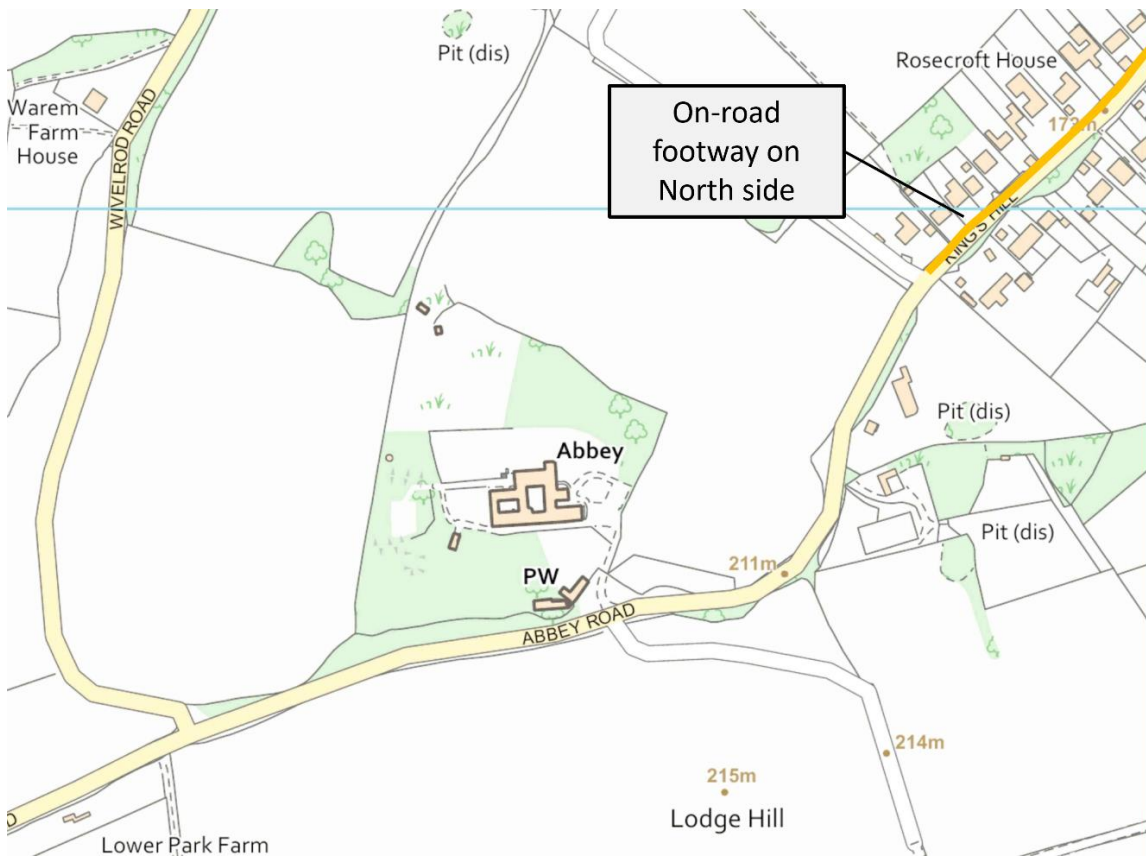
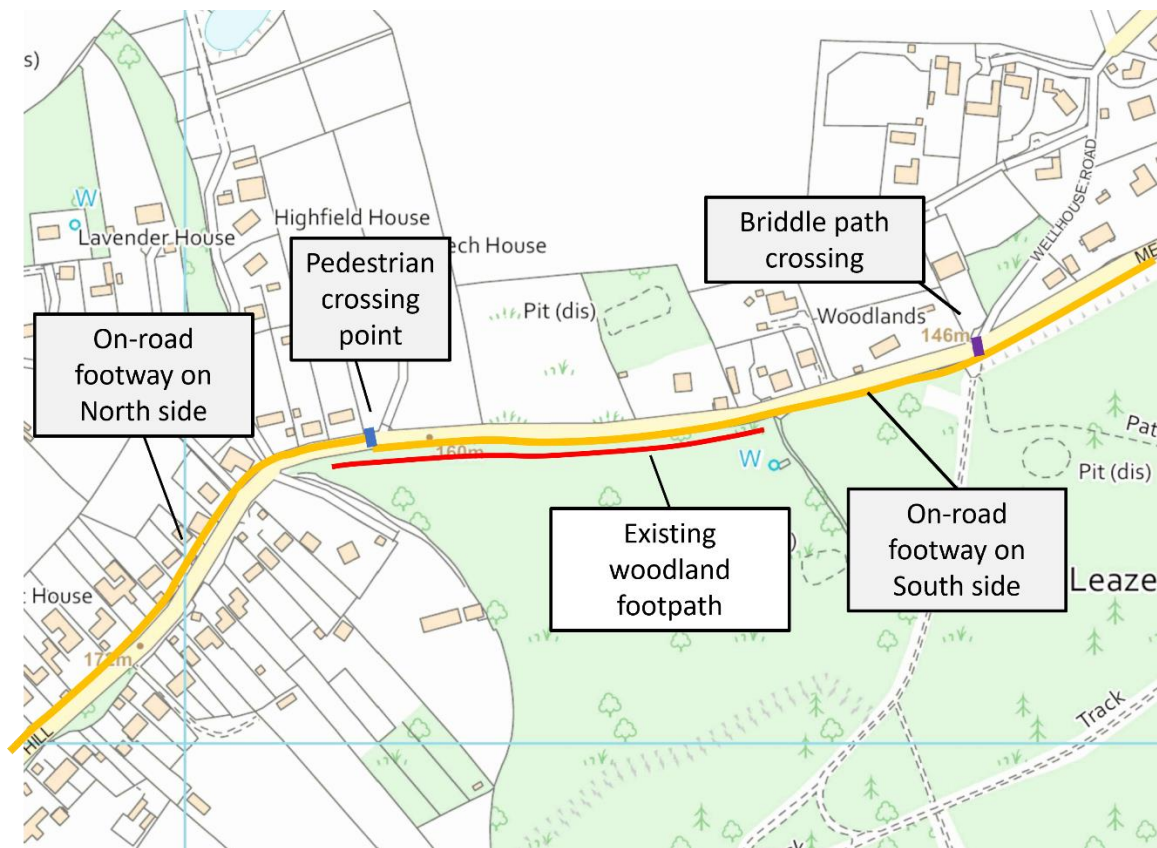
7) Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd November, 2:00 pm, West Dene House (CC's house).

Malcolm Ward-Close, Secretary BRSFWG – 4th October 2025

Appendix 1 Maps showing On-Road Footway crossover locations and Bridleway crossing points – Medstead Road and Kings Hill





APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS – AS OF 16 SEPT 2025 (FOLLOWING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 SEPT 2025)

Changes in red

	Project Name	Description	Objective	Status	Actions
1	Ongoing road maintenance and improvement	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.	White line edges on Medstead Rd repainted, but not on Kings Hill Reinstate footway white lines after road repair. Posters at on-road footway pedestrian crossovers (at 3 locations for directing pedestrians) and at bridleway/pedestrian crossing points (at 2 locations for warning traffic) Possible deer warning signs	HCC has been contacted and will rectify omission. HCC advises this will be done in due course. No action. MWC to develop poster designs and locations. Will need to be run past HCC (IJ) in due course. HCC (IJ) initiative – leave it with them.
2	Bus bay clearance and enhancement	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.	Bus bay and pavement cleared. Bank above bus bay strewn with unkempt vegetation etc. Scope of work has been agreed for clearing the bank above the bus bay and making ready for ground cover planting.	Parish clerk to obtain three quotes from suppliers for bank clearance. Will also put in an application for S106 funds to cover the cost. MWC to obtain prices for suitable ground cover plants. Suggestion: Pyrenees butterbur and greater periwinkle mixture (as already exist nearby in similar location on the right-

					hand side, at the start of Wellhouse Road)
3	20mph zone	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 (c.£30k). Alton unlikely to be proceeding with their own zone extension (and no other parishes likely), so parish will not be able to share any costs. Not eligible for CIL funding.	On hold pending availability of funds. Could try local fundraising if all else fails.
4	Road drainage improvement	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.	The PC's request for a study of surface water flow through Beech onto Basingstoke Rd has been unsuccessful. The PC has decided to take other measures.	Draw up a scope of work for clearing the entrances to the drainage grips on Medstead Road, with a view to getting quotes. GW ACTION GW follow tracker request. ACTION GW on going to chase HCC, it is their responsibility.
TR	Basingstoke Road cycle path	Improve the existing roadside footway & cycle path on the north side of Basingstoke Rd, including adding signage re cycles.	Establish clear, well-maintained, mixed-use pathway.	HCC has asked the developer of 'Land at Whitedown Lane', to improve (or provide funding for improvement) as part of proposed highway works.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application, including proposals for developer funding.
6	Bridleway 712 improvement	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'.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application, including proposals for developer funding.
7	Footpath 714 improvement	Improve Footpath 714 (Basingstoke Rd – Medstead	A well surfaced footpath of adequate	HCC has asked for funds for footpath improvement as a	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning

		Rd via Wyards Farm), including replacing stiles with kissing gates.	width, clear of obstructions.	condition of permitting development at 'Land at Whitedown Lane'.	application, including proposals for developer funding.
8	New Basingstoke Road footway	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.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application, including proposals for developer funding.
9	Upgrade existing Medstead Rd path	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.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application, including proposals for developer funding.
10	Basingstoke Road pedestrian crossing	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'. Could be part of any improvement of the existing Basingstoke Rd cycle path.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application, including proposals for developer funding.
11	Bridleway 704 improvement	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 when budgeting (in October) for 2026-27, then scope the project and apply for additional funding from EHDC (CIL/Rural Grant) in 2026. GW/KE/TR
12	Ackender Wood paths improvement	Improve informal paths in Ackender Wood, close to the Ackender Hill housing	Mitigate increased wear and tear to the informal paths; create	EHDC holds c.£203,000 developer's contributions for improving these informal	On hold. Wait for outcome of planning application 'Land at Whitedown Lane' to see if there

		development (in Alton), including the creation of a new public right of way from that development to Pertuis Ave.	a formal pedestrian footpath linking the Ackender Hill development with the 'Land at Whitedown Lane' development.	paths. But Forestry England will not agree to any improvements as they have no budget for increased path maintenance costs.	is a need to access these funds for nearby infrastructure improvements not being funded by S106 developer contributions (including possible new PROW in Ackender Wood from Pertuis Ave to Ackender Hill development, requested by HCC).
13	Railway line path	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	Kings Hill off-road footway	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	Beech Copse Footpath	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.	Outline planning permission for development on the Beech Copse site has now been granted on appeal.	PC will comment on any future detailed planning application for development at Beech Copse and/or 35 Snode Hill. ACTION wait for detailed planning permission is published. Then try to ensure that land is retained as HH land for a footpath.