

BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 13th November 2025, 2:00-3:30 pm

1) Attendees:

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

2) Apologies for absence:

None

3) Minutes for 3rd October 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 1: 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.
- (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.

Outcome: Survey of crossing points Completed. See Appendix 1)

ACTION MWC

Prepare draft designs of “posters” for review.

Outcome: completed. (See Appendix 1, Project Summary, for details)

ACTION GW, ID and MWC

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

Outcome: Completed. (See Appendix 1, Project Summary, for details)

- 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.

Outcome: work completed

- 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 later, if not.

Outcome: Some section of missing white line has been replaced recently but others have not. Ian Janes has been asked to comment.

Ian Janes suggested logging a query on HCC website.

Outcome: Awaiting HCC to schedule work.

ACTION: MWC to monitor.

- v. **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

6) New Items

- a) **Access routes to Ackender Wood and Bushy Leaze Wood**

BRSFWG consider that the Beech Woods are a valuable amenity that should be available and accessible to all Alton residents. As most of the woods fall within Beech Parish, the footpaths and bridleways across the woods and their connection to the surrounding areas are in the purview of Beech Parish Council and therefore also this working group.

To this end, we are looking closely at the proposals for new housing adjacent to Beech and collaborating with the relevant authorities to help ensure that issues surrounding footpaths and access points into Beech village the Beech woods are properly addressed.

On a recent walk through the woods from Beech to the Aton sports centre, it was noted that the only official footpath exiting the woods on their southern edge

(footpath 046/1/1) joins Chawton Park Road near the corner with Northfield Lane. This part of Chawton Park Road is particularly unsafe for walkers with no pavement and a high volume of fast-moving traffic. However, another footpath from Ackender Wood runs parallel to 046/1/1 and slightly further towards Alton, connecting to the western corner of a new housing development opposite the sports centre and offers an almost traffic free route. The developers have included a well-constructed footpath along the left edge of the site which leads to a pedestrian gate on the top left corner. The only permitted route then is a short but very uneven and uncared-for path through private woodland, leading into Ackender Wood. Unfortunately, this path is not signed and is difficult to find without prior knowledge. The staff in the sports centre did not seem to be aware of it either.

ACTION: MWC to investigate who is responsible for the path and how signage could be improved.

7) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th December, 2:00 pm, West Dene House (CC's house).

Malcolm Ward-Close, Secretary BRSFWG – 14th November 2025

Beech Road Safety and Footpaths Working Group

SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS – AS OF 14 NOVEMBER 2025

Changes in red

	Project Name	Description	Objective	Status	Actions
1	Ongoing road & footpath maintenance	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.		
				i) On-road footway white lines need reinstatement after road repair. This has been done in a couple of places, but most locations remain to be done. MWC logged “Road issue” on the HCC website on 18/10/25. HCC response: “The issue you have raised has been inspected and works are required – works to be scheduled”. ii) Alton Ramblers have agreed to replace bridleway finger signs (direction signs for bridleway users – i.e. not traffic signs). MWC will inspect the existing Bridleway 712 finger post on Medstead Rd to determine if it can be reused elsewhere.	Should have been programmed by HCC repairs team. MWC to check if this has been scheduled.

				iv) Vegetation clearance. Parish council has agreed a £400 annual budget for clearing vegetation from signs and cameras. v) “Deer” signs	In process with HCC
				iii) Possible new signage for bridleway crossings and the on-road footway change-over locations. MWC, GW and ID looked at the crossings and BRSFWG has concluded that for the bridleway crossings, local “posters”, in the style of our existing On-Road Footway signs, warning of “Concealed crossing ahead” would be the most effective low-cost option. It was decided that more signage for the on-road footway crossovers was not necessary. New HCC wooden finger post to be installed by Alton Ramblers. PC will need to arrange removal of the existing steel sign and post.	Preferred poster design and preferred locations to be run past HCC (IJ) by MWC. Nearby neighbours to be advised as a courtesy by CC/ID. MWC to check whether steel post is reusable for new posters. PC to approved approaching contractor at Easter 2026.
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	Bus bay and pavement cleared. Bank above bus bay strewn with unkempt vegetation etc. Quotes have been received and accepted by the PC for clearing the bank above the bus bay and for ground cover plants. Planting to be	Awaiting EHDC approval of the application for S106 funding (likely to be in December).

			village; also, cosmetic.	done by volunteers. The PC has applied for S106 funds to cover the costs.	GW to have contractor trim the hedge at the corner of the bus bay to improve visibility.
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 has not decided whether to proceed with their own zone extension. S Warnborough may seek a zone. So not yet clear whether Beech will be able to share any costs. Not eligible for CIL funding.	CC to liaise with '20 is Plenty (Hants)' on lobbying HCC to reduce its fees. TR to look at PCC's road safety grant scheme to see if we can apply for £25,000 grant.
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 grips on Abbey Rd have recently been cleared by HCC, but not on Kings Hill & Medstead Rd. HCC has advised that it has no immediate plans to rectify the omission, but further photos have been supplied in the hope that they reconsider. A scope of work for comprehensive grip and ditch clearance on Kings Hill and Medstead Rd has been drawn up. A contractor has advised TR that it would cost £20k - £40k to carry out this work.	GW to follow up on the enquiry to HCC. GW to investigate cheaper minor works on the grip mouths, once vegetation has died back in spring 2026.
5	Basingstoke Road cycle path	Improve the existing roadside footway & cycle path on the north side of Basingstoke Rd, including adding signage re cycles, and clearing areas where overgrown.	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. Meanwhile CC to approach HCC to clear the path surface in Beech parish (and to approach HCC about

					conditions for cyclists along the Basingstoke Rd to the New Odiham Rd roundabout).
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 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'.	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning 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	Moving the pedestrian crossing point on Basingstoke Rd further east	To provide a safer point for pedestrians and	Provision of funds is a potential condition of permitting development at 'Land at Whitedown Lane'. Could be part of any	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning application,

	pedestrian crossing	(from Medstead Rd junction) to improve pedestrian sight lines. Plus, a short length of new footway on the south side of Basingstoke Rd.	cyclists crossing from Medstead Rd to the path on the north side of Basingstoke Rd.	improvement of the existing Basingstoke Rd cycle path.	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. The PC has approved in principle to fund the surfacing of the full length of the bridleway in FY 2026/7 on the following basis: - Neighbourhood CIL c.£7k - PC reserves c.£6k EHDC CIL c.£13k	TR/GW to obtain quotes from three contractors in December, prior to applying for EHDC CIL funds in January 2026. The result will be known in July/August 2026.
12	Ackender Wood paths improvement	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. - Alton Town Council is now aware of these funds.	On hold. Wait for outcome of planning application 'Land at Whitedown Lane' to see if there 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	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.

			to the wider public right of way network.		
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.	Provision of funds would be a potential condition of permitting development at Alton Abbey, should the site be allocated for housing. Alton Abbey is in the process of being sold to new owners (unknown).	Awaiting the results of EHDC's evaluation of potential housing sites. GW to ascertain sale progress from Carter Jonas estate agents in the new year, with a view to contacting the new owners. (Enquiries in October revealed slow progress on the possible sale).
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.	Parish council will comment on any future detailed planning application for development at Beech Copse and/or 35 Snode Hill. Then try to ensure that Highways land is retained for a footpath between the two sites.