

BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 18th December 2025, 2:00-3:15 pm

Attendees:

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

Apologies for absence:

None

1) Minutes for 13rd November 2025:

Approved.

2) 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.

3) Actions from Last Meeting (see Appendix 1: Schedule of Projects for details)

No.	Subject	Action	Who?	Outcome and New Actions
1	Scope Statement	Prepare draft	MWC	ACTION Carried forward
2	Follow on items for on-road footway	Continue dialogue with I. Janes, HCC	MWC	Note: Ian Janes has moved to another area of responsibility and our new POC at HCC for highways related matters is Tracy Webb, Team Leader - Traffic Management, HCC.
3	Deer warning signs		MWC	Works order issued. NEW ACTION: MWC to check.
4	Medstead Road Crossways	Carry out site survey and bring	MWC GW	a) Markings for on-road footway crossovers are not required

		forward proposal for signs etc. Completed.	ID	either for pedestrians or drivers. b) Bridleway/footpath finger - signs are to be replaced - in progress. c) Roadside warning signs for drivers are required at the bridleway crossings. A simple sign in the same style as our on-road walking man sign has been designed. Funding, approval and installation yet to be decided. NEW ACTION: MWC draft letter to Tracy Webb, HCC.
5	Missing sections of on-road footway outer white line.	Contact IJ	MWC	Completed
6	Renewal of road- edge white lines (left and right)	Contact IJ	MWC	Completed (Note: this item was not included in the original on-road footway project work items – but was added by HCC after the final site inspection showed that the lines had almost completely worn away and it was agreed that they form an integral part of the on-road footway design.)
6	Replacement of bridleway 712 finger sign at junction with Medstead Road	Investigate whether old steel post could be reused elsewhere	MWC	OUTCOME: The old post is badly corroded and is a non-standard length and diameter
7	Access points into Ackender Wood and Bushy Leaze Wood and connections with existing Beech footpaths and bridleways.	Investigate southern access routes from Chawton Park Road and Alton Sports Centre.	MWC	ACTION carried forward.

4) Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th February 2026, 2:30 pm, West Dene House (CC's).

Beech Road Safety and Footpaths Working Group

SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS – AS OF 18 DECEMBER 2025

	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.	Posters (warning traffic) at two bridleway/pedestrian crossing points. But no suitable/available poster mounting positions have been identified. Deer warning signs – HCC has issued a work order. Steel Bridleway 712 finger post on Medstead Rd is illegible. Parish council has agreed a £400 annual budget for	NEW ACTION: ID to remove large roadside stump on his land that may improve visibility at the Bushy Leaze entrance crossing point. NEW ACTION: MWC to draft a letter requesting the installation of Highways warning signs, to be sent by the clerk to Tracey Webb (HCC). NEW ACTION: TR to check if SID could display a message like "Bridleway Ahead". Await implementation. New HCC wooden finger post to be installed by Alton Ramblers. PC will need to arrange removal of the existing steel sign and post. PC to approve approaching contractor at Easter 2026.

				clearing vegetation from its signs and cameras.	
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. 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 done by volunteers. The PC has applied for S106 funds to cover the costs.	Awaiting EHDC approval of the application for S106 funding (likely to be in December). 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). Funding solution (including sharing with another council) not yet identified. Application has been for a £25k grant under the PCC's road safety funding scheme.	CC to liaise with '20 is Plenty (Hants)' on lobbying HCC to reduce its fees. Await outcome of application to PCC for a 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 unspecified drainage work is planned at some later date. A contractor has advised TR that it would cost £20k - £40k to carry out	Await HCC works. GW to investigate cheaper minor works on the grip mouths, once vegetation has died back in spring 2026.

				comprehensive clearance work similar to that periodically done by HCC.	
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. NEW ACTION: CC to ask Tracey Webb (HCC Highways) to visit to review the condition of the path in Beech parish (and 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	Widening, and providing a more durable surface for, the roadside	Provide an accessible, lit pedestrian route	Provision of funds is a potential condition of	Await further progress on 'Land at Whitedown Lane' planning

	Medstead Rd path	footway running along Medstead Rd from the A339 towards Beech village.	from the new development at 'Land at Whitedown Lane' to Beech Village Hall facilities.	permitting development at 'Land at Whitedown Lane'. Not proposed by the developer or HCC at present.	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. 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 Path specification suggested by HCC has been agreed with landowner.	Parish council awaiting quotes from three contractors in early January, prior to applying for EHDC CIL funds in January/February 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	Mitigate increased wear and tear to the informal paths; create a formal pedestrian footpath linking the	EHDC holds c.£203,000 developer's contributions for improving these informal paths. But Forestry England will not agree to any	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

		public right of way from that development to Pertuis Ave.	Ackender Hill development with the 'Land at Whitedown Lane' development.	improvements as they have no budget for increased path maintenance costs. Alton Town Council is now aware of these funds.	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.	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.

16	Pedestrian route to Sports Centre	Create a signed foot route along the western edge of the Ackender Hill development, then north through Alexandra Wood to join existing permissive paths on the crest of the ridge in Ackender Wood.	Create an accessible direct pedestrian route from Beech village to Alton Sports Centre	Paths exist along the western edge of the Ackender Hill development, but no defined path through the developer-owned Alexandra Wood.	NEW ACTION: MWC to ask the developer (via the show home?) about completing the path through Alexandra Wood and signage.
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