

BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 18th May 2026, 10:30-12:00

Attendees

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

Apologies for absence

Kim Eakers (KE)

1) Minutes for 13th April 2026

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) New items discussed in meeting

None to report

4) Date of next meeting

Monday 13th July, 10:30-12:00, West Dene House (CC's).

APPENDIX: SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

15 MAY 2026

Changes since 11 April in red

MWC additions in blue after 18 May meeting

	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.	Signage (warning traffic) at two bridleway/pedestrian crossing points. The parish clerk has sent a letter to HCC requesting the installation of Highways warning signs. Steel Bridleway 712 finger post on Medstead Rd is illegible. Parish council has agreed a £400 annual budget for clearing vegetation from its signs and cameras. Diseased trees alongside Medstead Rd footpath.	Await response from HCC, MWC to try to contact Tracy Webb (again). New HCC wooden finger post to be installed by Alton Ramblers Not yet done. PC will need to arrange removal of the existing steel sign and post after finger post is installed. GW/TR has put together a scope of work. Could combine with ongoing grip maintenance work. To be decided.
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	Bus bay and pavement cleared. Quotes have been received and accepted by the PC for clearing the bank	Cultivation license is for creeping thyme (expensive and slow growing). BRSFWG propose to plant native

			through the village; also, cosmetic.	above the bus bay and for ground cover plants. Planting to be done by volunteers. EHDC has approved £1300 S106 funds to cover costs. HCC cultivation license obtained.	bluebells instead (this autumn). 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). CIL money cannot be used. Application for a £25k grant under the PCC's road safety funding scheme refused.	Identify alternative funding stream. CC to liaise with '20 is Plenty (Hants)' on lobbying HCC to reduce its fees. First step is to get an itemised fee list for – HCC's £30k (what is the breakdown of the actually costs) set against costs quoted other benchmarking purposes. TR to approach our County Councillor regarding costs.
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, and a few on Medstead Rd. Parish council's contractor has cleared 15 grips on Medstead Rd on 11 April. Road drains often ineffective because they are blocked with stones or not in the right position in the road.	Use the contractor to regularly keep clear the 15 grips on Medstead Rd (quote received). Frequency to depend on observation over the summer. Inspect Wellhouse Rd drainage and make reference in revised Neighbourhood Plan.

					MWC to enquire who is responsible for the road drains in Beech.
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. This is part of LCWIP Route 210, which runs from Alton High St to Medstead Rd.	The developer of 'Land Nth of Basingstoke Rd' is proposing to improve the path from Will Hall Farm halfway to Medstead Rd. PC has asked the developer to extend improvement of the path all the way to Medstead Rd or provide S106 money to do so. CC has asked Tracey Webb (HCC Highways) to visit to review the condition of the path in Beech parish (and also conditions for cyclists along the Basingstoke Rd to the New Odiham Rd roundabout). Meanwhile Cycle Alton volunteers have cleared the path to its original 2m width.	Await outcome of 'Land Nth of Basingstoke Rd' outline planning application. CC and MWC have now established that, following a widening and hard surfacing upgrade in about 2000 the path was designated a dual use cyclist and pedestrian route. But, due to changes in the law in about 2010, the A339/B3349 pathway ceased to be officially dual use and reverted to pedestrians only (i.e. a pavement). The dual use signs were gradually removed when new works were carried, with the last one disappearing in about 2015. However, as a result of the lack of information from HCC and a later an Alton Cycling Routes map that erroneously

					showed the A339/B3349 path as dual use, many assume it is still dual use.
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 will receive £7,000 in S106 money towards bridleway improvement as a condition of permitting development at ‘Land NW of Ackender Wood’ (having asked for £115,000). PC has suggested to HCC Countryside Services that they apply for funds from the c.£203,000 pot held by EHDC (see Item 12).	Await decision from HCC Countryside Services (Peter Miles). NB Planning permission for ‘Land NW of Ackender Wood’ is still pending the finalisation of the S106 agreement.
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.	Not being considered as part of the ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’ development proposals.	Consider future actions now that EHDC has abandoned its new Local Plan.
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.	Not being considered as part of the ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’ development proposals. Alternative routes are via Footpath 714 or via the footway on the north side of Basingstoke Rd.	Consider future actions now that EHDC has abandoned its new Local Plan.
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	Not being considered as part of the ‘Land at Whitedown Lane’ development proposals.	Consider future actions now that EHDC has abandoned its new Local Plan.

			Beech Village Hall facilities.	Path has narrowed at the Basingstoke Rd end,	
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.	Could be part of any improvement of the existing Basingstoke Rd cycle path.	Consider future actions now that EHDC has abandoned its new Local Plan.
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. Path specification agreed with HCC and landowner. Quote for £24,200+VAT (for full length) provisionally accepted.	Application for Strategic CIL funds submitted to EHDC. 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 S106 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 and HCC are aware of these funds.	These funds could be potentially used for (In order of priority): - Bridleway 712 improvement (Item 6). - Possible new PROW in Ackender Wood from Pertuis Ave to Ackender Hill.

					- Extending footpaths around Alexandra Wood (Item 16).
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 Nth of Basingstoke Rd' development northwest to the wider public right of way network.	PC has requested a financial contribution for this purpose in its comments on planning application 'Land Nth of Basingstoke Rd'. HCC Countryside Services are aware.	Await outcome of 'Land Nth of Basingstoke Rd' outline planning application. HCC Country Services are aware of our interest.
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 could be a potential condition of permitting development at Alton Abbey, should the site be allocated for housing in the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. Alton Abbey is in the process of being sold to new owners (unknown).	Awaiting the results of EHDC's evaluation of potential housing sites (due summer 2026). GW to ascertain sale progress from Carter Jonas estate agents with a view to making contact with the new owners. (Enquiries in January 2026 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. Has been included in draft revised Neighbourhood Plan.	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,	Create an accessible direct pedestrian route	Paths exist along the western edge of the Ackender Hill development, but no defined	MWC has been in contact with the site management company about the

		then north through Alexandra Wood to join existing permissive paths on the crest of the ridge in Ackender Wood.	from Beech village to Alton Sports Centre	path through or around the developer-owned Alexandra Wood.	developer's plans for completing paths through or around Alexandra Wood and signage. Contact has gone quiet – MWC try again. A search of planning documents indicates new fencing, information boards and multiple entry points from Ackender Wood into Alesandra's Wood and the new development with its so called "Country Park" but it is not clear which, if any, of these the developers consider completed or remaining to be done.
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