

BEECH ROAD SAFETY AND FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting 13th July 2026, 10:30-12:00

Attendees

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

Apologies for absence

None.

1) Minutes for 18th May 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 7th September, 10:30-12:00, West Dene House (CC's).

APPENDIX: SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS

Beech Road Safety and Footpaths Working Group

SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS – *Changes since previous meeting on 19 May in red, matters arising from 13 July 2026 meeting in blue.*

	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. <i>First cut (costing £400) carried out by PJ Grace at beginning of July).</i> Diseased trees alongside Medstead Rd footpath.	<i>GW/KE will post a request on behalf of BPC on HCC website, requesting bridleway warning signs for the two crossing points.</i> <i>MWC to provide GW with location information.</i> New HCC wooden finger post to be installed by Alton Ramblers. <i>Awaiting positional agreement between HCC and SGN. PC will need to arrange removal of the existing steel sign and post.</i> <i>Review first cut results and decide on future approach and frequency.</i>

					Continue to observe for any deterioration.
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. A quote has been accepted by the PC for clearing the bank 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 for creeping thyme and English bluebells.	MWC to get agreement on plant quantities, then purchase.
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. Met Julie Watts (HCC) to progress.	Identify alternative funding stream. HCC to provide a more accurate cost estimate based on Beech circumstances. Follow up meeting with J Watts on 15 July, 2:00 pm. MWC to issue joining instructions for CC, GW and KE.
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. HCC is responsible for keeping clear the surface	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.

				water drains on lower Medstead Rd and Basingstoke Rd.	A Beech Councillor (GW?) to post defect report on HCC web page for damaged, blocked or wrongly/badly positioned storm water drains. HCC instructions require photographic evidence of failure of surface water drainage i.e. water flowing down the road and not into the drains. This will require someone to go out during the next heavy rain and take photographs. MWC , who has a clear view of Medstead Road from his house, will wait for a suitable occasion.
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 (to 3m width) from Will Hall Farm half way 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. Meanwhile Cycle Alton volunteers have cleared the path to its original 2m width. Since c.2010, the minimum width of a shared footway & cycle path is 3m; it is	Await outcome of 'Land Nth of Basingstoke Rd' outline planning application. Work in conjunction with ATC and Cycle Alton. CC to chase Tracey Webb (HCC Highways) to visit to review conditions for cyclists along the Basingstoke Rd, from Medstead Rd to the New Odiham Rd roundabout. Consider how to ensure that HCC keeps the existing path fully clear and available to cyclists.

				believed that the path was downgraded to 'footway-only' at that time.	MWC to photograph full length of pathway from Medstead Rd to Brick Kiln Lane as it is now (including condition of surface).
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 NW of Ackender Wood' development proposals.	Following EHDC abandonment of its new Local Plan, BRSFWG to work up an improvement project. Will not be implemented until sufficient Neighbourhood CIL funds are available.
8	New Basingstoke Road (south side) footway	A new roadside footway on the south side of Basingstoke Rd, from proposed new housing development 'Land NW of Ackender Wood' 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 NW of Ackender Wood' development proposals. Alternative routes are via Footpath 714 or via the footway on the north side of Basingstoke Rd.	On hold indefinitely following EHDC abandonment of its new Local Plan.
9	Upgrade existing	Widening, and providing a more durable surface for, the roadside footway running along Medstead	Provide an accessible, lit pedestrian route from the new	Not being considered as part of the 'Land NW of Ackender	Following EHDC abandonment of its new Local Plan, BRSFWG to work up an improvement

	Medstead Rd path	Rd from the A339 towards Beech village.	development at 'Land at Whitedown Lane' to Beech Village Hall facilities.	Wood' development proposals.	project. Will not be implemented until sufficient Neighbourhood CIL funds are available.
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 path.	Following EHDC abandonment of its new Local Plan, BRSFWG to work up an improvement project. Will not be implemented until sufficient Neighbourhood CIL funds are available.
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.	PC has agreed to fund this as HCC has no funds for this project. Path specification agreed with HCC and landowner. Quote for £24,200+VAT (for full length) provisionally accepted. Applied to EHDC for £12,000 of Strategic CIL funds.	Strategic CIL funding application approved. Awaiting formal confirmation before arranging construction.
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 or improving access at the Ackender Hill site boundary (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.
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 (and other Ackender Hill access)	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. Ensure all pedestrian routes from Beech parish to Ackender Hill are fit for purpose.	Paths exist along the western edge of the Ackender Hill development, but no defined path through or around the developer-owned Alexandra Wood. The developer proposes several access points	MWC to monitor work being carried out at the Beech boundary. When the work is complete or as complete as site management intend it to be, we will review and consider further actions as necessary.

		Ensure that other access points from Ackender Wood onto the Ackender Hill development are fit for purpose.		through the boundary hedges onto Ackender Hill, but these have not yet been formed as housing construction is not yet complete.	GW to contact Alton Council regarding their knowledge of or involvement in the treatment of the Ackender Hills/Beech Parish boundary.
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