

David Barling

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Room 102
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6th March 2017

Dear Chairman,

I am writing with your annual update on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) matters. As part of this I have attached a report that outlines the work completed in your area as part of the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) 15 month Routine Maintenance and Inspection Cycle and our Capital Improvements programme.

The 15 month inspections are completed by your local Access Ranger and the team of dedicated Parish Path Inspector volunteers. The map attached to this letter shows who your Access Ranger is and I encourage you to use them as your first point of contact. These proactive inspections allow WSCC to keep an eye on the more than 4,000km of paths in the county and to look into the many reports received during the year. I would reassure you that any urgent matters will always be picked up in between the inspections and there is guidance on our [website](#) as to how we prioritise reports.

In addition to the work WSCC and its volunteers deliver, landowners may have also completed work on their structures and ditches as well as keeping on top of the side and overhanging vegetation near paths. All of this work improves access across the county and we are grateful for their continued efforts. We also know that path users have been known to snip brambles around stiles and gates, and these small actions really do make a big difference.


Keeping the PRoW network open and usable really is a team effort and as a Parish Council you also have a role to play. For example, we contact your Clerk before each inspection so you can let us know of any matters you would like us to look at. Your local knowledge is invaluable and we also use it to help us formulate our Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance Programme. This programme provides one cut per year on select paths around the county (approximately 10%) and a list of paths cut in your

area is attached to this letter. If you believe there are other paths that should be added, please do let your Access Ranger know by **21st March 2017** so they can be considered for inclusion in this year's contract.

If you have ideas about how you would like to work with us differently we would like to hear from you. You may, for example, have come across PRoW issues that are important to you as part of your Neighbourhood Planning. More broadly, our Countryside Management Team has recently run a campaign to encourage responsible behaviour on our sites. The campaign is called 'Think, Share, Be Aware' and details can be found on our [website](#). If you want to use something similar in your shared spaces, such as parks, our Countryside Management Team would be happy to discuss this with you and can be contacted at countryside@westsussex.gov.uk.

Finally I would like to update you on our on-line PRoW problem reporting. We are in the final stages of launching this new site that will provide an easy way for people to report problems found around the PRoW network. Users will be able to add photos and show us exactly where an issue is on a map. I hope this tool will be useful for you and your local residents, and would be delighted if you wanted to provide a link on your Parish webpages. My team will send you details when it is live.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Barling', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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