



**Minutes of the Feering Parish Council PROW (Public Rights of Way) & Cycleway Working Group
held on Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.30 pm at Feering Community Centre**

Present: Cllr C Dobson (Chairperson) Cllr K Evans
Robert Ward Kate Thomas
John Bellman

001/2023 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mike Bonner and Robert Crayston.

002/2023 Agreement of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 September 2022

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 September 2022 were agreed Proposed:
Christa Dobson Seconded: Kate Thomas

003/2023 C Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

None

004/2023 Brief update to members on Feering PROW, Highways and Environment matters (CD/KE)

- i Essex Highways (EH) winter cutting programme. The cutting is of vegetation / shrubs / saplings inside the boundaries of the PROWs and is mainly of bridleways & byways. The schedule was decided by EH – in previous years there has been some consultation with user groups. No Feering PROWs were included but; there is one byway & two bridleways. For volunteers to work on PROWs, one person in the party must have an up to date First Aid qualification – KT may have. Essex Highways also have to be advised.

ACTION: KT to check re First Aid. ALL to walk paths and advise of any useful volunteer work.

ii Environmental matters: Signage & potholes on footways / pavements & roads

The amount of signage around Feering seems to have increased e.g. signs on/at the side of pavements by contractors working for householders, by local businesses, for Highway works.

ACTION: Clerk to be asked to find out what permissions are required to put out signs and what steps can be taken to get them removed if they have not been permitted.

KT reported that the Highways works sign at the end of New Lane is across the pavement. This means that people have to walk into the (vehicular) road to go around it – a health & safety issue.

ACTION: Clerk requested to follow up. Also to find out who is responsible for the collection of A12 signs when the work date has passed.

KT reported potholes on the road & trip hazards in the verge on Little Tey Road near Poplars Hall / Byway 5. KT to provide photos & location details.

KT noted that traffic & cyclists passing close to a horse rider and the state of the road are safety issues for horse riders on the slip road bridge over the A12 to Prested Hall. The fencing is low, and a horse rider (or cyclist?) could be pitched over the fencing onto the A12 below. There are East Anglian Farm Rides in the area around Prested Hall.

Road name signs are missing / in need of repair at various places. KE noted road sign missing at Old Road / Little Tey Road junction.



Coggeshall Road / London Road junction: the "Give Way" sign on the left (north) side of Coggeshall Road towards the London Road junction is almost obscured by hedging; the "Give Way" sign on the right (south) side is hidden by tree foliage. From London Road, the "18t except for access" sign on the north side, which is below the "Give Way" sign is completely obscured by hedge growth.

JB reported that the hedge from the Old School property on Coggeshall Road was growing out and had narrowed the pavement.

ACTION: Clerk to be asked to write to the house holder requesting that the hedge is cut back.

ACTION ALL: Please provide photographs of possible to improve impact & understanding and so facilitate follow-up by the Clerk and BDC /ECC Councillor. Also what3words & grid reference locations if possible.

005/2023 2 **Feedback to Feering Parish Council from PROW and Cycleway Group regarding the A12 widening and junction improvement plans:**

- i The A3 colour copies of the DCO plans, Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans Part 2 relating to Feering & Kelvedon [DCO document library reference AS-008] provided by the Parish Clerk were much appreciated. *The challenge was flipping the double-sided printouts to be the same orientation when reading the pages.*
- ii **A12 DCO WCH proposals for Feering**

The proposed link road between London Road and Inworth Road associated with the Feering Strategic Growth Location must happen; traffic at Gore Pit junction must be alleviated. The adoption by BDC of the Feering Neighbourhood Plan (FNP) was noted. Both the BDC Local Plan & the FNP include a link road.

It was re-iterated that there must be a safe foot/cycle route across /alongside Hinds Bridge. The need for a safe route between Feering / Kelvedon and Tiptree was re-iterated. KE advised that ECC Cllr Kevin Bentley in his Colchester Ward Councillor capacity supports the proposed MIAG community by-pass. The bypass is not included in the A12 DCO.

The proposals for new footpaths/bridleways on the south side of the new A12 between the truncated footpath by Prested Hall & Easthorpe Road and between Worlds End Lane & Inworth Road on the south side of Domsey Brook and between (the new) Ewell Hall WCH bridge & Highfields Lane were noted and welcomed. These routes should be clearly designated as "bridleways" so that there is no ambiguity and so that the routes can be used by cyclists & horse riders as well as pedestrians.

The DCO plans (e.g. Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans) specifically labels "cycle tracks". It is not clear whether the cycle tracks will be available for use of pedestrians and horse-riders or only by cyclists. Cycle tracks should be made available to all non-motorised users and should be more inclusively designated and labelled as WCH routes.

For example, the new Prested Hall overbridge shows a new road (vehicular highway) and a cycle track (blue colour). This should be a WCH route as there as footpaths and East Anglian farm rides around Prested Hall.

The use of the line of the "old" A12 to make a non-motorised user connection between Feering FP18, in the vicinity of the current footbridge over the A12 by Threshelfords, and



Inworth Road by Park Bridge should be requested. This route would be inside the National Highways red line area.

The controlled crossing just west of new Lane and the proposed new roundabout should be a "Pegasus crossing" – this has some higher push buttons which horse riders can access without having to dismount.

Noted: Stonefields Farm shop on Inworth Road is open again under new owners / management. Open until about 5pm but not open on Sundays.

iii **Proposals for de-trunked section** between Feering & Marks Tey – wide active travel corridor preferred

There was unanimous approval of the proposal to retain only one of the dual carriageways of the current A12 for future 2-way vehicular use. And to "green" the other dual carriageway.

Concern was expressed that traffic would speed on this straight road and some sort of speed reduction / traffic calming measures should be incorporated.

The re-introduction of bus stops was welcomed. It is not clear how pedestrians will access the bus stops on the opposite side of the road nor how the lay-bys and pedestrian access is going to be allowed for in/through the proposed planted bunds.

Essex Highways in their Teams meeting of 20 December stated that their proposals would allow people to turn left **and** right out of properties alongside the old A12. This was welcomed especially by KT who lives alongside the A12. The A12 DCO plan which envisages leaving both dual carriageways in place, would not allow right turns across the carriageway.

Copies were circulated of the ECC proposals made at the team meeting on 20 December. The merits of the two options proposed by ECC - the "wide active travel corridor" and the "leisure path" - were discussed. The arguments were finely balanced. The conclusion was a marginal preference for the "wide active travel corridor".

On balance it was felt preferable that horses were further away from the remaining 2-way vehicular carriageway onto a 2metre wide "granular path". The path can also be used by walkers. Horses would not be adjacent to where people were coming to /from bus-stop lay-bys at which Essex Highways have said buses will be stopping again. Also, being heavy, horses are more likely to damage a surface which it cannot be assumed that Essex Highways will maintain.

The negative aspect is that pedestrians and cyclists would be sharing a 4.5metre wide 2-way non-segregated "active travel corridor". Although it is stated that non-segregation encourages cyclists and pedestrians to act responsibly, people were not convinced and wish to see the corridor segregated.

This is also ECC's preferred solution for this de-trunked stretch (but not for the Rivenhall End – Kelvedon stretch).

Essex Highways querying of the need for large roundabouts on the de-trunked sections and at New Lane is supported. Large roundabouts are not required for only 2, not 4 live carriageways.



The new Easthorpe Road bridge over the A12 should be open to all traffic and not be closed to vehicles. There should be provision for cyclists and horse riders and not just a footway.

006/2023 C Reports on individual PROWs in Feering including the A12 cycleway; note of any obstructions / work required.

KT reported that logs / small jumps were across Bridleway 2 (Lordship Lane) at its south (Skye Green) end. It is possible to walk around them. KT will take photos. The logs are probably an obstruction.

ACTION re Bridleway2: KT to take photos. Landowner & Essex Highways to be advised.

JB reported that FPs 8, 9, 10 & 11 are all OK. The paths are well used by dog walkers. Dogs are still being allowed to run across the arable fields with their crops. Some dog bags still being left but it appears to be less of a problem.

TO CONSIDER: Publicity campaign / signage reminding people of the country code and a telephone number / details of somebody to contact if littering is seen. Also to publicise the Essex Highways "Tell us" website for reporting faults.

Feering FP18 fence by the derelict barn at Prested Hall Chase: No report. KE not walked recently.

ACTION ALL: please walk paths & report issues (preferably with photos & what3words /grid references).

007/2023 C Items for the Next Meeting

Nothing in particular.

008/2023 Date of Next Meeting

Mid-end April before the local elections on 4 May.

K. Evans
Secretary – FPC PROW & Cycleway Group
17 January 2023