East Suffolk Council Walking & Cycling Strategy

Consultation response by Waldringfield Parish Council (Final 7/12/20)

For context we have included the comments taken from the map, WPC's responses are in bold, dark blue.

Footpath from Martlesham to Waldringfield along River Deben

What is the matter / improvement?

For many years it has simply been accepted that part of the path was washed away by natural erosion, so the only way to walk to Waldringfield from Martlesham is along the road. This is shown by signposts at the access points to this section of footpath.

Please suggest a possible solution / improvement

Re-instating this footpath (by mending the breach at TM279461 or providing a diversion following the high-water mark) would provide a continuous offroad footpath route along the entire west bank of the Deben estuary, with several suitable entry/exit points.

We agree that the footpath should be re-instated but disagree that this should be done by mending the breach. We support the new inland footpath proposed by Natural England, and shown below:



Footpaths in and around Waldringfield, and elsewhere throughout East Suffolk

improvement?

What is the matter / With the rising popularity of cycling we seem to have lost respect for the differences between footpaths and bridleways. Cyclists seem to no longer acknowledge that footpaths are not for cycling along, making it potentially dangerous for walkers and causing damage to footpaths. In the same way that cyclists wish to see improvements to the road infrastructure to feel safe from

vehicles we need to acknowledge that there are similar issues on footpaths...which are NOT rights of way for cyclists.

Please suggest a possible solution / improvement

A campaign of education about the differences between footpaths and bridleways coupled with improved signage and potentially sanctions for non compliance

We agree with this. WPC has put up No Cycling signs on several footpath following complaints by residents, and most of these have been destroyed, presumably by cyclists.

We also have a more serious problem on the river wall footpath north of Waldringfield (FP11), where cycling damages the structure of the river wall and could eventually result in a breach.

Waldringfield

What is the matter / improvement?

No WC accessible to the public walking or cycling in the area. It would get more people out walking and/or cycling if they could feel sure that they would be able to find WCs en route. Waldringfield is a classic example of a place in a prime location for walkers, but no toilets. This applies to most villages these days so Waldringfield is just one example.

Please suggest a possible solution / improvement

Public WCs should be brought back in villages. Funding could perhaps be eased by charging, and since there is little call to carry coins these days, perhaps this could be arranged via a mobile phone app similar to car-parking. Pubs and cafes (in Waldringfield the Maybush is perfectly located) should be encouraged, or even compelled, to allow passers-by to use their toilets for a small charge (which they might even refund if the user then decides to buy something) - rather than walkers "go" in the bushes.

We agree with this, except that we do not support compelling pubs such as the Maybush to provide toilets - encouragement is far better. The absence of public toilets leaves walkers with little choice if they are 'caught out', resulting in health hazards as well as being offensive and off-putting.

There should also be far more litter bins at the start and end of public footpaths.

Bridleway from Waldringfield to the Waldringfield Heath crossroads (FPs 24 & 29)

improvement?

What is the matter / When the Brightwell Lakes development is completed there will be far more people using this route to/from Waldringfield. When the new school is operational, secondary school pupils are likely to cycle from Waldringfield to

the new school every day. The problem is that the bridleway seems to end at the crossroads, where there is no choice but to use the road. In fact FP35 is a bridleway, but isn't signposted as such, and is very narrow, and where it crosses the Ipswich Rd (turning into FPs 27, 8 &34) is dangerous and also poorly signposted.

Please suggest a possible solution / improvement

Widen FP35, improve the signposting, and provide proper road crossing facilities for cyclists so that the route FPs 24-29-35-27-34/8 can be cycled with minimal interaction with road traffic. (There is currently no signpost at the crossroads end of FP29)