

Wickham Market Annual Parish Meeting (10.04.26)

Report by Parish Footpaths Warden for 2025/26

Key points from the year

1. The maintenance of BW7/8 Little Lane/Bridleway and FP9 George Lane is now contracted with East Suffolk Services. Warden involvement is largely inspection and action where growth occurs between ESS cuts.
2. There is concern about the current planning application for development on the old Simon's Cross allotment site in relation to the PRow's that surround it. Representation has been made to ESC planning as part of the public consultation.
3. The Restricted Byway (RB19) from High St (Co-Op) to Walnuts Lane has been cut to achieve the recommended width of 3.5 metres. A restricted byway is useable by walkers, cyclists, horseriders and horse and carts but not anything motorised. The severe pruning of trees at the Co-Op end was probably undertaken by SCC.
4. Work undertaken on behalf of WMPC by contract or by volunteers is authorised under Section 43 of the Highways Act (1980)
5. The routes of the 3 Wickham Market circular walks have been waymarked with posts, roundels and adhesive arrows throughout. QR code plaques for the WM circular walks and the Rendlesham Valley of the Kings routes have been installed at start points and on The Hill noticeboard.
6. All waymarkers and signposts have been cleaned in March 2026
7. Fingerpost at Pettistree Village Hall on FP20 has been replaced and old rusted post removed

Plans for 2026/7

1. During the growing season most work will be annual vegetation clearance
2. Signage and waymarking issues will be addressed.
3. Highway fingerpost at Simon's Cross end of FP5 requires securing and repositioning.
4. Old and rusted FP sign (right) at Dallinghoo Road end of FP27 requires replacement.
5. From early autumn larger growth will be tackled to ensure path widths are maintained and surface issues addressed



Simon Harrington. WMPC Footpaths Warden 27.03.26