

# Footpaths and Byways

State of repair and signage

## What are the issues?

- Avebury and the surrounding WHS is fortunate to have a significant footpath and byway infrastructure which is of great value to residents and visitors alike for both recreation and transportation purposes
- Many of the footpaths in and around Avebury are poorly signposted and in some cases the sign posts are now illegible or absent
- The byways in Avebury are in large part impassable as a result of excessive use by 4x4s in wet conditions. This makes their use by pedestrians, cyclists and horses dangerous and in some cases results in the by way being impassable.
- Many of the footpaths in the Parish are in poor state of repair. In several cases where footpaths are paved the paving has heaved, making passage difficult if not dangerous for elderly or disabled residents
- In some parts of the Parish there are problems with dog fouling of the paths which is especially problematic on paths where children frequent.

## **What have we done so far?**

- With regards to signage the parish council has been active in supporting efforts to revitalise and standardise the signposts within the immediate surroundings of the Henge and to investigate options for completion throughout the WHS. The parish council is offering £1000 seed money to kick start this process and the Avebury WHS Charity has pledged a further £250. We will be reporting on progress at each Transport Committee meeting
- In 2016 the Avebury WHS Steering Committee asked Wiltshire Council to extend the current Traffic Regulation Order to provide year-round protection of the Ridgeway, making access by motor bikes and off-road vehicles illegal.
- Dog fouling is being reported by residents and reported by the council to the Wiltshire Council Dog Warden.
- Footpaths in states of disrepair are reported to Wiltshire Council where small scale repairs are often initiated relatively quickly. More significant repairs require longer term solutions which are also logged with Wiltshire Council and progress encouraged and monitored by the council.

## **Possible ways forward**

- Concerns about access by motor bikes and off-road vehicles outside the permitted period could be addressed by extending the Traffic Regulation Order in the way suggested in 2016 by the Avebury WHS Steering Committee. We are pressing for this
- We will be seeking further partnership funding to finance the footpath signage improvement scheme
- We will continue to press for improvements to footpaths, including Footpath 22 between Church Walk and Bray Street
- Concerted clean ups and signage to discourage dog fouling will be considered if other actions fail to address the issue

**Other suggestions or views are welcome.**