

Footpath Secretary Report

For Wellington Walkers Are Welcome AGM on Thursday 29th October 2020

This has been another significantly disrupted year due to ill-health and Covid-19 but key achievements since the last AGM in July 2019 have been:-

WELLINGTON AND THE WREKIN FOREST WALKS MAP

The updated & expanded version of map has been printed and released by Wellington Town Council. The maps now cover our walks to the north and south of the town centre.

WELLINGTON STATION

Work of the Friends of Wellington Station has largely been in limbo due to financial difficulties within West Midland Trains, the need to properly constitute the Adopters Group (FOWS) following the departure of Fay Easton and latterly Covid-19. However, it is now understood that our CCIF Funding Bid will now go ahead subject to WMT review along with new community initiatives and a major Access project (managed by TWC).

For reference, the key elements of the CCIF bid (as of December 2019) were as follows:-

1. Visitor information boards x 2: Two A0 high quality and free standing information boards with graphic inserts and leaflet dispensers: £3,274

2. Platform directional signage x 3: High quality metal printed directional signs to the Shropshire Way, two for Platform 1 and 1 for Platform 2: £300

3. New Perspex covers for two platform notice boards: £320

4. Water Taps: Two water taps (1 per platform) for use by FOWS and the public under the water bottle top-up scheme: £4,000.

5. Refurbishment of the steps (linking Bus & Rail Stations): this will include, repairing and installing new edgings to the steps, re-pointing of extensive areas of retaining wall, clearance of vegetation, new handrails and improved lighting, surveyors fees: £17,000

6. Secret Garden: Fencing, furniture and planting: £20,000

7. Mural: Subject to a discussion with the artist: £500

Total grant requested: £45,394

A Wellington Station Prospectus Meeting is planned for 30th October 2020 and an Annual Community Webinar will take place on 13th November.

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PROMOTIONS & LIAISON GROUP

I attended P & L until the meetings were suspended due to Covid-19. WTC have subsequently decided to disband the P & L group and replace it by a "closed doors" group of Councillors plus a few selected individuals. How this body will effectively liaise with local volunteer groups such as WWAW is yet to be announced.

NEW WORKS PROW TO HUNTINGDON LANE

The diverted footpath beside Woodland View was finally established early this year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS & HIGHWAYS CONSULTATION PROJECTS

I have commented on several schemes from a Walkers perspective with varying degrees of success.

LITTER PICKING

When able to do so, I have continued to litter pick the areas around Spring Hill, New Works car park and, from time to time, other ad hoc locations in the area.

LINKS WITH OTHER LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

I am currently a committee member of the following local volunteer groups:-

Friends of Bowring Park (FOBP)
Friends of Wellington Station (FOWS)
Wellington LA21
Friends of The Wrekin (FOTW)

FOBP & FOWS have been holding meeting via Zoom whilst FOTW plan to do so shortly.

Bob Coalbran