

Moreton Pinkney Parish Council newsletter

Rights of Way

Our Senior Rights of Way Officer at West Northamptonshire Council, has been magnificent this year and has done so much to support us. Extensive damage with ruts of up to 18 inches, had been caused by 4 wheel drives, Quad bikes and Trail bikes, along the Restricted By Ways. WNC have spent thousands of pounds filling the ruts, levelling and rolling the By Ways all the way from the incinerator to Five Ways. They have also done the path that goes from the Model aircraft field to the Lainchbury field, to Plumpton Lane and then up to Canons Ashby and have made the routes accessible for walking again. In the April 2021 newsletter, PC Chris Bird asked that we do not approach anybody using the Byways illegally, but if you are witness to illegal use, please contact the police through <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/> or if people are at risk of harm ring 999. Byways are roads and therefore subject to the Road Traffic Act, anyone using a vehicle on them must hold a valid licence, insurance, number plate, tax and MOT (where applicable). Between 1st October and the 30th April, most Byways in Northamptonshire are restricted, the only vehicles permitted by the public are motorcycles. Quads are not motorcycles.

PC Chris Bird would add that if serious damage is being caused to property this would also warrant a 999 call. Serious damage to property may include vehicles driving over land they should not be on, churning up crops, or causing significant damage to grazing land; vehicles causing livestock / animals to be spooked. He says every call helps paint a true picture of what is occurring and the community tension. He can then utilise this when bidding for resources, especially Op Neutrino, the police off road bikers. The Trail Riders Fellowship have a code of conduct, this is a good bench mark of what lawful motorised use of the Byways should look like <https://trail.trf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TRF-Code-of-Conduct-2018.pdf>

If you have access through the gates as a landowner or are part of the model aircraft club, please could you ensure that you lock all the gates after you. Thank you for your support with this.

West Northamptonshire Council have also done a lot of other work across the Rights of Way network with new bridges, gates and stiles. A lot of this work can be attributed to the wonderful work done by our Path Warden Judy Bryant. Judy has now retired as Path Warden and we would like to thank her so much for all her amazing work over the years. The Parish Council is now looking for a replacement Path Warden. If you would like to take on this role, please could you contact the Clerk clerk@moreton-pinkney.org.uk.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th January 2022. You would be very welcome to come and join the meeting.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!