

Dedham Parish Council Footpath and Tree Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

Footpaths

1. To liaise with Essex County Council (ECC) with regard to the Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) Scheme which is responsible for managing and maintaining public rights of way within the Dedham Parish.
2. To implement and monitor any service level agreement between ECC and DPC to deliver maintenance functions and to appoint local contractors as may be appropriate.
3. To regularly monitor the condition of local footpaths and rights of way, and to report problems or remedial work necessary. In carrying out this function the Group will endeavour to work with Dedham Footpath Group, and other local walking groups, local landowners and parishioners.
4. To identify any additional clearance work necessary outside of the PPP scheme and subject to funding to arrange for its delivery

Trees

5. To establish a role of Tree Warden with responsibilities as follows:
6. To identify and codify trees within the Parish that have protected status.
7. In collaboration with the Tree Officer at Colchester Borough Council: to monitor the general condition of trees within the Parish in respect of disease and to make recommendations as necessary.
8. Maintaining an awareness of planning decisions where major impact on trees is proposed.

Membership:

Membership of the Group is open to Parish Councillors and any member of the community who has the capacity of adding value to the deliberations and delivery of the Group. A minimum of two councillors and two members of the parish is desirable. A quorum shall be two members, one of whom shall be a councillor. The Chair of the Group shall be a councillor, elected annually by the Group at the June Meeting.

Accountability:

Accountability of the Group will be to the Parish Council

Working Methods:

The Group will establish an informal network to communicate by email or telephone as necessary. The Chair of the Group will be responsible for liaising with Essex County council and the Parish Clerk regarding footpath matters and the operation of the PPP scheme.. The Tree Warden shall work independently in respect of liaison and contact but shall bring matters of general concern and interest to the Group as appropriate.

Meetings:

The Group shall have three meetings per year in March, June and October.

Terms of reference agreed: February 2013. To be reviewed May 2013, and annually thereafter.