

Notes for Holbrook Parish Council AGM

Trevor Gibbs co-ordinator for Holbrook Community Self Help Group.

Following the COVID restrictions placed on everyone, we reformed the Holbrook Self-Help Group in February 2023.

We currently have 16 active members of the group, our aim is to tackle the smaller jobs that need doing in the public spaces in the village.

Examples of what has been achieved so far

The group have carried out clearance work in The Cut and Petticoat Lane, this has involved cutting back the overgrown vegetation and returning the footpath back to its original state. This has made it safer and more accessible to foot passengers. We will aim to maintain this at various times throughout the year.

We have been out washing down and cleaning the road signs in Holbrook, these are the signs within the 30mph speed limit. If drivers noted the dazzling reflection from the signs at night, that's down to the work of the team.

In Autumn last year, we spent two Saturday mornings clearing the footpath in Primrose Hill. The path has been considerably narrowed by overgrown vegetation and other debris. The work was carried out as a result of a number of requests from residents in the village. This was brought to an abrupt halt, after Suffolk Highways advised us that as we were working close to the highway, that we would need trained persons to supervise for safety reasons. I am grateful to Martin Brazille, Paul Squirrell and Andrew Hallighan for volunteering to attend an NRSWA course (New Roads and Street Works Act), they are now trained to advise and monitor any work that the group carries out near the highway. A further set-back for our group is that we have been advised that the clearance work to Primrose Hill requires professional equipment and signs to be used, with the possibility that part of the highway and or the footpath would need to be closed. In their view, this then would be beyond the remit and capabilities of the HCSHG. I have advised the parish council of this decision.

In the meantime, we have decided to spruce up the bus shelters at Woodlands Road and outside The Compasses Public House.

Mention- Facebook likes from grateful Holbrook residents

We welcome any other ideas for work that could be carried out by the HCSHG for the coming year.

Finally, thank you to the team for their time and effort over the last year.