

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Footpath Warden Scheme

Let us All Protect our Paths

Faringdon is a beautiful town with miles of rural pathways for locals and visitors to explore. Surrounded by open fields and a network of footpaths and themed walks.

What Faringdon Town Council will do

- We will continue to seek appropriate funding to enable the Tidy Team to carry out its duty regarding footpath maintenance
- We will support and work with the County Council's Public Rights of Way team and the National Trust to help in the improvement of the service provided to the Public
- We will continue to promote the benefits of walking in the countryside for mental and physical well-being.
- Provide details of those footpaths within the parish
- Assign 'foot path wardens' locally to provide information about condition of paths

How you can help

Become a footpath warden to help FTC keep all paths accessible

FTC believe that footpaths are important to the town residents and to town economy. Many parish councils in England have volunteers who have taken on the responsibility of monitoring the footpaths in their parish.

If you are interested in carrying out this role, please get in touch with Faringdon Town council

We are readapting the local maps to encourage people to explore their footpaths.

We are looking for:

- People aged 18 or over
- People having a general interest in walking and paths and light physical activity
- This role does not require anyone to place themselves in a dangerous situation.
- When unsure the footpath warden should always contact FTC for advice

Experience and training

- Wardens will be given training on rules and regulations associated with Public Right of Ways.
- Staff will give training to carry out small scale maintenance works and light vegetation clearance, but any previous knowledge will be useful.

Footpath Warden role description

This is a volunteer role.

The volunteer will monitor the footpaths / Public Right of Ways within Faringdon boundary.

Purpose of the role

OCC is responsible for clearing vegetation growing near the public footpath, adjoining landowners are responsible for cutting back any overhanging vegetation or vegetation on the sides, including trees and hedgerows.

This scheme aims to:

- undertake light clearance duties and report major issues to the appropriate bodies.
- To help FTC and residents to be aware of the condition of the footpaths within the town boundary.
- To help maintain local footpaths accessible and enjoyable for the community.

Tasks

- Check that pathways are clear and accessible, carrying out maintenance works and light vegetation clearance.
- Check that route signs are clearly visible, and stiles, gates and bridges are in good order.
- Fix marker discs where paths change direction
- Monitor gates are fully working to ensure proper closure
- Report and record any work done in a particular area
- Report to FTC any Public Right of Ways issues
- Arrange or carry out at least one survey per year of allocated Public Right of Ways within the town boundary to check status of pathways
- Improve awareness and use of the Public Right of Ways by residents encouraging other residents to adopt, or help maintain, paths with a view to keeping them “walkable”.
- Liaise with Faringdon Deputy Town Clerk and Landowners on occasional remedial works, which might lead to undertaking minor maintenance works
- The Deputy Town Clerk will send job sheets when issues are reported by the public and will be there to support you with any questions
- Liaise with other wardens

Task a Footpath Warden **does not** perform

- Resolve landowner issues
- Path surface maintenance
- Digging or excavating
- Extensive vegetation clearance
- Carry major repairs