

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL FOOTPATH AND AMENITIES GROUP (F.A.A.G.)

FAAG is a sub committee reporting to the Parish Council. The committee members include some parish councillors and co-opted members of the public. The group is chaired by Peter Hetherington and meets formally twice a year.

The aim of the group is to improve the environment in which we live. We liaise closely with Jonathan Beale, who is the Oxfordshire County Council Rights of Way Field Officer (South East) and with local farmers.

Currently three rights of way in the parish are planned for improvement. These include the two paths to Aston Rowant School one from Kingston Blount and the other at the back of Aston Rowant Green, and the Sewells Lane bridleway from the Lower Icknield Way to Sydenham.

Organising tree and shrub planting, together with maintenance, is a major activity. Over the last three years Church Lane in Aston Rowant has been the centre of our attention. The surface of the bridleway has been improved with ditches dug for better drainage. An area was opened up by removing dead branches from trees and shrubs. A van packed full of metal debris was removed from the site. A log seat was positioned in the glade by the stream. A peaceful spot indeed!

Wild flower seeds were planted along the top end of the Kingston Stert road in April but because of the dry weather in the spring they didn't germinate. A further planting was made at the end of a very wet August, so we wait to see if this has been more successful.

Parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting raised concerns about walking to Chinnor from Kingston Blount along the B4009. Most of the way there is no footpath and it is unpleasant and dangerous to walk along the road. The price for installing a path beside the road would be of the order of £200,000, a cost way outside the finances of the Parish Council, and therefore a sum that the County Council would have to consider. However we are also looking to see whether any grants might also be available to support such a project.

FAAG organises three Parish Walks annually which are jointly run by the Parish Council and by Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. Sometimes we walk locally and sometimes further afield. Last year over 60 people joined us. The next circular walk is on Sunday September 12th at 10 am from the Leathern Bottle in Lewknor (7.5miles)
2011 starts off with a walk on Sunday January 9th at 10 am from West Wycombe garden Centre car park (6.75miles)

More details about any of the items mentioned from Peter Hetherington (01844 353296)