

What's that coming over the Hill?.....

It is a new Footpath for Barnstone!

That is right, a new footpath has been created in Barnstone. It can be found crossing the former landfill site and connects the footpath from Main Road, just down from St Mary's with the footpath running from the old railway line to Works Lane. This gives a choice of circular walks and provides a new view of the village and the surrounding area.



The path has been created by WRG Limited as part of the restoration of the landfill site and is clearly marked by yellow backed arrow signs, access being through gates at each end. (*At 740353 and 744348 if you have an OS Map*).

On Saturday, 22 August a preview of the path and an outline of the long terms plans for the site was given to members of the Parish Council, the Ladies Walking Group, the Langar cum Barnstone Rights of Way Group and other interested parties by Andrew Baxter, the Site Manager. The party was shown the locations for the proposed new lagoons on the Works Lane side of the site and the areas to be planted with trees to be grown as a commercial crop. The summit of the hill will remain out of bounds

for 5 to 10 years to allow for settlement of the ground and a reduction in methane levels. Once it is possible to do so the footpath will be redirected over the hill giving a superb panoramic view.

This preview was followed up with a celebratory walk on August Bank Holiday Monday, when around 30 parishioners and friends (and 3 dogs!) met outside St Mary's, Barnstone and took a circular walk based on the new path and connecting footpaths. Blessed with dry, warm, but windy weather a leisurely stroll was enjoyed by all with everyone appreciating being able to see the parish from a different viewpoint.

On both days large numbers of birds, butterflies, dragonflies and wild flowers were seen so anyone interested in natural history will certainly enjoy using the path.

When using the path please keep to the signed route and obey the no-smoking signs as the site is still generating methane. The area is also used for grazing by sheep. If these are present please keep any dogs on their leads.

If you are interested in joining the Ladies Walking Group for one of their walks please contact Claire Pegg, contact details on the back page as for Clerk to the Parish Council.

If you are interested in joining the Langar cum Barnstone Rights of Way Group on one of their bike rides or walks please contact Nigel Wood on 01949 860001 for details of forthcoming events.