

Sennen Parish Council
Footpaths, Highways & Open Spaces Management Plan

1. Footpath maintenance

Sennen Parish Council manages the footpath network in the Parish with cutting and spraying work undertaken by local contractors, whose work has been very satisfactory. The Parish Council is responsible for cutting 1.5m along the gold path surfaces to ensure that they remain passable and accessible. Landowners are responsible for cutting overhanging weed growth and foliage.

Parishes are able to take part in the Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP) with Cornwall Council under which they receive a grant for maintaining the gold paths within their Parishes.

No information regarding LMP membership, grant claims or payments has been provided by the outgoing clerk. The CC Countryside Officer Dave Woods has advised that Sennen is not currently part of the Partnership. Legally required documentation for the tendering process and a signed contract for footpath maintenance has also not been provided by the clerk.

LMP grants potentially available to the Parish would be just under £2000/ year towards the cutting of the gold and silver paths in Sennen Parish. If the Current Parish Council wishes to ensure that the Parish is claiming all the available grant towards footpath maintenance, it will be necessary to review the paths currently being cut and compare with the Cornwall County LMP cutting list.

The cutting list is based on the last footpath audit undertaken in 2008. It is likely that, especially with changes in behaviour due to recent lockdowns and increased visitor numbers, paths in the parish may be walked differently, with some less popular paths becoming more frequently used and vice versa. CC have advised that changes to the cutting list are possible in discussion with Sennen Parish, but this would need to be completed in September. There is an option for the Parish to take on maintenance of the Coast Path with additional LMP funding – the viability of this may need assessment with the contractors.

LMP applications are due in January 2022 for retrospective payment during 2022. On initial inspection it seems that the only paths not currently cut but listed on the CC cutting list are the gold paths from Seaview bus stop to Escalls (118/32/1) which has been rerouted around fields with electric fencing and one from Trevilley to Trevescan across farmland (118/7/3) which the landowner requested they look after themselves and are currently undertaking satisfactorily.

Sennen Parish Council is able to add extra areas to maintain to the contract, these are then paid for by the Parish Council from the precept. Currently extra areas include:

- Carn Cries path (118/29/1, Silver) and Chy Byghan (118/33/1, Silver)
- Cut through at the bottom of Mayon Green (Not marked on map)
- Third cut on 118/17/2, Gold and 118/30/1, Gold
- Cemetery
- Churchyard
- Escalls Chapel
- Seaview bus stop
- The grass triangle at the junction Trevescan/LandsEnd

An assessment may be required to establish if all the extra areas requiring cutting are identified/being sufficiently managed.

Silver paths are not being cut apart from 118/29/1 (Carn Cries) and 118/33/1 (Chy Byghan) which have been cut as an extra this year.

There is a schedule of weed spraying along certain paths and verges in the Parish. The chemical used is a herbicide not a pesticide.

The timing of maintenance, especially first cuts and weed spraying is important to get right to manage the weed growth properly for the remainder of the year. Sennen Parish Council must ensure that forward planning is undertaken to avoid contractors waiting for monthly meetings to approve work and the Council has a duty to ensure contractors are paid in a timely manner.

2. Footpath Issues

Several concerns have been brought to the attention of the Council this year:

- The state of the path surface, drainage and weed growth in Stonechair Lane ● The excessive weed growth along some popular footpaths, meaning that an early extra cut was required after the scheduled second cut (Footpath 118/17/2 & 118/30/1)
- Overgrowth on paths not formerly cut by the Parish (Chy Byghan-Escalls & end of Sunny Corner to Escalls Cliff)
- Dog mess problems on several popular footpaths (see Sennen Parish Council Litter & Waste Policy)
- Overgrowth on pavement verges along the A30 and top of Cove Road, with overgrowth along the hedgebank opposite school.

3. Footpath Protection

The Definitive Map is under review and Sennen Parish needs to ensure that all public footpaths within the parish have been identified and correctly recorded for this process. This assessment should be undertaken in liaison with the Ramblers Association.

4. Highways, Verges & Open Spaces

Cornwall Council is responsible for the management of highway verges. This year CC have drastically reduced their cutting frequency from 8 cuts a year to 3 cuts per year. Sennen Parish Council must ensure it alerts Cornwall Council to any areas where this reduction in cutting schedule causes highway safety or other issues.

Should Cornwall Council's cutting regime remain reduced, Sennen Parish Council will need to consider any financial implications of needing to augment maintenance within the Parish.

Several highways issues have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council this year:

- Safety concerns regarding the state of the road surface at the A30/Cove Hill roundabout
- Overland water draining down Cove Hill, with potential safety issues particularly in colder weather
- Visibility issues at Sunny Corner Lane & Cove Hill exits onto the A30
- Parking issues in the Cove outside of peak period when double yellows aren't enforced
- Waiting traffic and parking issues in the vicinity of the shop/takeaway
- Traffic speeds - the Parish Council's Vehicle Activated Sign is in operation on the westbound A30 at the northern end of the village (NB the outgoing clerk has not provided evidence that the VAS has been added to the Parish Council's insurance and concerns were reported that the Cormac-installed pole is not fixed robustly enough to withstand Sennen gales).
- There is a demand for a similar VAS facility both eastbound and westbound on the A30 at the southern end of the village (towards Lands End).

Sennen village has no distinct central community area as it is distributed along the A30. Small verges at the village entrances are cut and maintained by the Parish. Other areas (path opposite school, area opposite costcutters) are not maintained and these can be overgrown and attract litter and dog mess.

5. Street Furniture

There are several memorial benches installed in the Parish. The outgoing clerk has not provided a list of monuments owned by the Parish, any details of insurance, information on maintenance or contact details for the families of those commemorated. The process for considering/installing any new benches/memorials has also not been forthcoming.

DRAFT Footpaths, Highways & Open Spaces Action Plan

Aim/Objective	Action	Timescale	Estimated cost	Potential Partners	Annual Update 2021/22
Footpath 1 Assess current footpath maintenance arrangements. Identify and monitor the footpaths that are currently being maintained by SPC	Delegate to Footpath Audit Working Group Meet with contractors to review working arrangements	Short - Priority	Clerk/Councillor time	Contractors	Done
Footpath 2 Ensure the Parish Council is financially accountable and is working to manage footpaths in a way which is of best value to the tax-payer	Establish all correct contractual & insurance paperwork is in place Establish Sennen Parish Council's position historically with regard to claiming LMP grants & ensure that Sennen Parish Council is in a position to apply for all LMP grants that it is eligible for	Short-Priority Short-Priority	Clerk/Councillor time Clerk/Councillor time	Countryside Access Team CC	Done Done LMP claimed
Footpath 3 Ensure all parish footpath safety issues are reported to Cornwall Council in a timely manner	Monitor and report all issues via: - the Report It function - the Divisional Member - Network Community Panel	Short - Priority	Clerk/Councillor time	Divisional Member Footpath Audit Working Group Cllr Shannon	Done and ongoing

Footpath 4 Investigate whether additional maintenance work is required and whether the Parish Council should opt in to manage the Coast Path	Consult within the parish re footpath maintenance and safety issues	Short-priority	Councillor time	Footpath Audit Working Group	Done via website and social media
	Assess costs vs grant income for coast path work, establish contractor position (time available/desire for the work)	Short-Medium		Footpath Contractors Countryside Access team	Investigated and resolved

Footpath 5 Ensure that communication with landowners and other responsible bodies means that paths are managed in the most cost efficient and sustainable way	Consult with public to establish whether there are any paths that need cutting that are currently neglected	Medium	Clerk/Councillor time	Footpath Audit Working Group Landowners	Done
	Consult the landowners that are cutting the two paths that S.P.C. don't currently cut, monitor				Done and will continue to monitor
Footpath 6 Assess the footpath network in light of the Definitive Map review to safeguard paths that are not currently identified	Consult locally to identify footpaths that are not identified or are in danger of being lost. Ensure all are reported to the Definitive Map review	Short Medium	Councillor time	Footpath Audit Working Group Ramblers Association Local community	Ongoing

Footpath 7 Ensure the community is consulted and encourage ownership of footpath issues by raising awareness of public footpaths and means to report concerns/wishes and involving the community in their maintenance	Promote the Report It function on the Parish website Fb page and community page	Short-Priority	Clerk time	Community Centre Local groups SWCP National Trust CIL funding Community Chest	Done
	Create an attractive map of footpaths to promote local paths – display on website and consider creation of fixed signs at focal points in village	Short/ Medium	Clerk/ Councillor time Design and print cost Fixed signage production & installation	Countryside	Costings being sought
	Investigate the effectiveness / costs/benefits of a Parish Paths Partnership scheme	Medium	Councillor time	Access Team	Ongoing
	Organise an annual community walk of the Parish bounds - devise a route and advertise on website/social media	Medium	Councillor time	Ramblers	Priority

Highways 1 Follow up and address concerns raised about parking both in the cove on the double yellow lines and opposite Costcutter and outside 190 degrees West fish and Chip shop	Extend the parking restrictions in the cove to year round and look into action to alleviate dangerous parking on the A30 Monitor and report any further issues via 'Report it' function and encourage use of this function	Short-Priority	Clerk/Councillor or time Possible signage	Divisional Member Cornwall Council Highways	ETO in place and small highways scheme submitted, consultation invited and promoted on Website. Consultation period ends 22nd June 2022
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Highways 4 Ensure the VAS is adequately fixed and insured	Report concerns re the pole to Cormac Ensure insurance cover is in place as a matter of priority	Short-Priority	Clerk	Cormac	Done
Highways 5 Work to provide (at best value to the tax-payer) an additional VAS on the southern end of the village	Register desired locations for additional VAS poles with Cormac via Network Community Panel Register interest in any shared VAS through Network Community Panel Investigate and secure local business support and partnerships to fund the purchase, installation and maintenance of a second VAS	Short - priority Short - Priority Short - Medium Medium/long	Clerk/Councillor time Clerk/ Councillor time VAS costs with installation approx £5k Clerk/Councillor time	Councillor Shannon Cllr Brown Divisional Member Network Community Panel Lands End Ltd Local Community CIL funding/Community Chest	Bought and received, priority to erect Done (CNP) Ongoing discussions with lands End re further VAS/pole (Cllr Brown)

Open Spaces 1 Work to improve the appearance of and sustainability of maintaining the A30 verges and hedge bank opposite school	Investigate and set up a community project to improve the Parish open spaces. Could include clearing verges and the low granite hedge and planting with suitable low maintenance colourful plants such as Erigerons (Fleabanes /Beach asters) to act as weed suppressants. Look into Villages in Bloom	Long	Councillor time Cost of clearance/planting	Divisional Member Network Community Panel Lands End Ltd Local Community Sennen School Sennen Youth Club CIL funding Community Chest	Ongoing, Quotes sought for new pollinator friendly and sustainable planting and area cleared of weeds
Street Furniture 1 Ensure the Parish has in place adequate systems for the placement, maintenance and insurance of all its assets	Undertake an asset review and risk assessment and put in place insurances and procedures as required	Short-priority	Clerk time		Done as part of village asset audit, maps and further details available on the PC website
Review this Plan as required and at least annually		Annual	Footpath Audit Working Group		Done April 2022

Highlighted areas: action commenced or completed