



## Assets, Community and Environment Meeting

18 February 2021

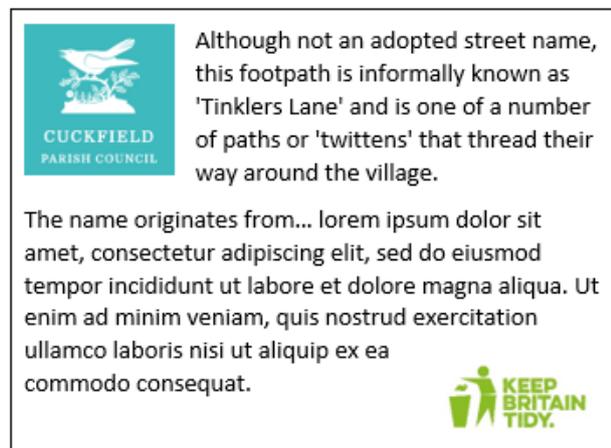
### ACE033.a: Naming of Twittens and Footpaths

#### 1. Introduction

During the last quarter of 2020, the Chairman of Cuckfield Parish Council (CPC) raised an initiative to name some twittens and footpaths (currently unnamed) around the village. An article was published in Cuckfield Life in October 2020. The response from residents was positive and many name suggestions were received. Please refer to Appendix 1 - Naming Twittens and Pathways Proposal.

#### 2. Approach

The Street Naming and Numbering Officer at MSDC was contacted and advised that CPC could probably achieve this initiative by attaching an informative sign to existing WSCC Public Footpath signs that may exist (or could be installed). MSDC suggested an A3 sized sign, clearly branded and with appropriate wording as shown below:



The District Council's key concern is to ensure that the wording on the signage makes clear that the twitten name is informal and does not represent a street name. If there is any confusion with the prevailing street name, then there would be inevitable and justifiable complaints from other residents. MSDC suggested the above example, although the exact wording and design would be for CPC to consider.

MSDC advised that in order to progress this initiative, CPC would need to engage with WSCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) as their permission would have to be sought for any co-location of signage on the official footpath signs.

MSDC would also appreciate being consulted on the final wording to be used on the signage, in respect of the aforementioned concern.

The Principal Rights of Way Officer at WSCC was contacted and advised they would have no objection to the informal naming of twittens or routes that are also PROW with the following points to consider.

- The signs erected would be done at CPC's expense and WSCC PROW team would not accept any liability for their maintenance in the future;
- Whilst the informal naming may be recognised by some the paths would retain their unique Footpath/Bridleway number when reporting problems or works in the future;
- Proposals to erect signs on some of the existing footpath posts would require they are placed 300mm below the existing fingers and secured in a way that they can be removed if the posts require replacement or maintenance. With this in mind PROW cannot always guarantee the signs will be re-erected onto any posts if replaced but would endeavour to do so if possible;
- If any signs are being proposed to be erected on any Highways' furniture, such as poles carrying highway signs etc. then approval from CPC's local area office would be required;
- Any signs erected must not deter lawful path users from following the route in any way;
- Any new posts being erected must not obstruct the path in any way and if the surface is damaged as part of any installation it must be reinstated to the same or better standard than before the disturbance.

WSCC PROW require a further map showing exactly which routes are to be included and details of where the signs will be placed so WSCC have a clear picture of what is being proposed. This will be important for WSCC's maintenance and on-going responsibilities for the PROW signs on the local network.

### **3. Costs**

At this point in time a design has yet to be agreed before obtaining quotations. The need to place a sign either end of a twitten or pathway also needs to be considered. This could total 18 signs. As a cost guideline the 4 'Slow Down' A3 signs, designed by the children of Cuckfield and produced locally totalled £168.00. As an estimate 18 signs could cost £900.00 plus any requirement to purchase additional posts pending investigation. SI06 Public Art funds would be utilised for this project and presently there is £7,615.59 available.

### **4. Recommendations**

Committee members are requested to agree on the final name for each twitten or pathway, an initial outline design and an approximate budget for this initiative. Thereafter the Assistant Clerk will obtain designs and quotations.

Name: Caroline Hansen

Title: Assistant Clerk

Date: 5 February 2021