

The Ivers Parish Council Hardings Row 'Access for all' Project Community Board Update – February 2023

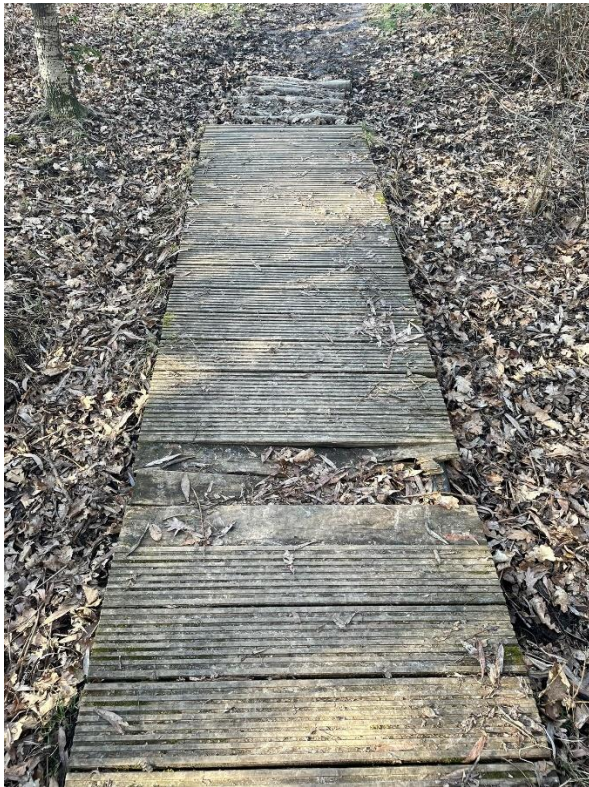
The Community Board has provided funding of **£8,744.51** to improve the access to certain areas of the Hardings Row Nature Reserve in Iver Heath.

Hardings Row Nature Reserve, owned and managed by The Ivers Parish Council offers a lovely walk through various habitats, including a small reedbed, ponds, meadow and woodland. Ant mounds can be found in the meadow and frogs have been known to spawn in the ponds on site. Various species of deer have also been seen here. There is also access to a large meadow adjacent to the reserve that benefits from wildflowers, butterflies, and grasshoppers.

This popular area, a former landfill site, is popular with local residents and visitors alike. As part of the Colne Valley Regional Park (CVRP) there is a good and loyal team who volunteer to keep Hardings Row maintained alongside a maintenance service provided by CVRP which is agreed under a management plan with the the Parish Council.

There is currently a limited amount of decking, made from timber that has been in place for a number of years. Much of this is now rotting and does not provide adequate pathways and steps over the rough terrain that exists. The net result of this project will be more decking and improved safety for all users.

Existing decking at Hardings Row:



The project is to improve the decking and to add more which will give greater coverage and access to residents who have mobility issues making it steadier and safer to use. It will also encourage more of the community to enjoy this area of natural beauty.

The work was planned to be carried out in quarter 4 of this financial year after the completion of another major path infrastructure project completed in Quarter 3 in Iver. The very wet and cold weather in January hampered the start of this activity.



(Example of sustainable composite decking at Godalming, Surrey)

The plan for completion is as below:

Identification of potential contractors (three) to quote for the work.	By end 17 th February 2023
Site visits with potential contractors for scoping and quote production	By end 24 th February 2023
Review of contractors and selection	By end 3 rd March 2023
Commencement of work	From 6 th March 2023

The support provided by the Ivers Parish Council will be the management time to manage the project and the time of the Grounds Maintenance to ‘make good’ existing parts of the decking where this can happen and treat to preserve the life of the timber. The product to be used for the new and improved decking will be of a sustainable nature for long life and

durability. This product will require minimal maintenance in the future and will be safer for all users.

Jeremy Day
Deputy Clerk
February 2023