



PARISH COUNCIL SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR PIONEERING SCHEME

Treading a new path

AN ACTION plan to clear and mark out 3,500 miles of paths in Leicestershire has come a step nearer completion.

Carlton Parish Council, near Market Bosworth, has become the first to sign a parish grant agreement with the County Council under its pioneering Waymark 2000 scheme.

The project is aimed at ensuring that the entire network of footpaths, bridleways and byways in the county is marked and available for use by the turn of the century.

Maintenance

The grant agreement means that Carlton will now get cash to carry out a range of work on local paths, including repairs and maintenance.

All paths in the area have already been signposted, with new stiles and ditch crossing points put in place.

The parish council is also to promote routes in the area with a series of guided walks.

And it will provide information for a leaflet to be produced by the County Council which will form part of a series covering Leicestershire as a whole.

by David Baker,
Political Staff

Once completed, one free edition will be given to each household in the parish, with further copies available for sale.

Waymark 2000 is part-funded by the Countryside Commission under its Parish Paths Partnership Scheme.

A report last year said that: Of the 300 or so parishes in rural Leicestershire, only 75 had been systematically way-marked using a variety of methods.

On a typical two-mile walk, there was a 60 per cent chance of encountering an unusable section of path.

If present trends continued, the network would not be completely way-marked and available for use until the year 2007.

County Council chairman Councillor Duncan Lucas said: "The County Council recognises the important role of parish councils in helping deliver services locally.

"The parish paths partnership is an excellent way of community action."



BYWAYS: LCC chairman Douglas Lucas (right) with parish councillor Bob Edmunds, looking at a map of the area around Market Bosworth