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Paths for Communities - Project summary sheet:

# Stoke By Nayland Parish Council

Project Location:	Suffolk
Right of way Created:	Bridleway
	Footpath 302 m
Improved existing rights:	n/a

Supporting local businesses:	1
Volunteer hours contributed:	44
Cost of project:	£18,831
Grant rate:	96%

For many years an unofficial, very narrow and overgrown path was the only link for pedestrians in one part of Stoke by Nayland to reach their shops and amenities that avoided a dangerous piece of road. The local landowner of a privately-owned estate was happy to help the local community to keep safe, and encourage walking, by dedicating 302

metres of land permanently as a Public Right of Way footpath. With strong local support from the Parish Council, and Suffolk County Council Highways and Rights of Way teams, an indefatigable volunteer project manager, Vivienne Klimowicz and an excellent contractor, Ray Chisnall, the partnership worked hard to comply with complex planning



requirements. This led to a change in the path specification to avoid damaging four protected Elm trees. The result is an all-weather surface, which the local community, including people with limited mobility and pushchair users, continued to enjoy – even in the winter downpours of 2013/14!

The path, which links to the long distance Stour Valley Path, was opened by local schoolchildren who now also have an off-road link direct from their school down to the community woodland, Rowley Woods. Suffolk County Council had completed the legal work creating the path before the opening ceremony which was attended by all those involved in the project. Tea and cakes were enjoyed in the school hall courtesy the Friends of Stoke by Nayland primary school. Navigating successfully through the planning process was a key challenge for Vivienne as was convincing the



*“Our excellent local contractor took a real interest...and his wife was very supportive...”*

*“it’s so much safer”*

*“a very attractive surface”*

*“I don’t have to take my child round that dangerous corner”*

bank to exercise its powers to help with a short term loan to the Parish Council pending payment of their grant money. Local goodwill was cited as a factor in the project’s success and feedback on the path has been “so positive”, according to Vivienne.

#### Links

[Suffolk County Council Highways](#)  
[Suffolk County Council Rights of Way](#)  
[Stoke by Nayland Parish Council](#)  
[Stour Valley Path](#)

