

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

Footpath Connectivity Plan 2026

Improving Walking Routes Between Cold Meece and Yarnfield Village

Vision

To create a safe, attractive and accessible network of footpaths linking Cold Meece and Yarnfield, enabling residents of all ages and abilities to walk between the two communities for recreation, health, school journeys and access to local services.

This proposal builds on existing Parish Council priorities to improve public footpaths and work with Staffordshire County Council and landowners.

Consultation with the community was initiated in Autumn 25 and completed by Summer 2026.

Strategic Objectives

1. Provide a continuous and safe walking routes between Cold Meece and Yarnfield.
 2. Improve existing rights of way and address missing links.
 3. Increase accessibility for wheelchair users, mobility scooters and pushchairs.
 4. Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce reliance on cars.
 5. Promote the parish as a place for walking and outdoor recreation.
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	Outcome	Action required	By who and by when	Progress updates
1	Safe pathway from Yarnfield Croft to the end of Yarnfield Lane (at junction with Meece Road)	Parish Council to seek advice /permission from Staffordshire to have the overgrowth cleared. Overgrowth on the left-hand side of Yarnfield Lane (when exiting the village) to be cleared to create a minimum of 1.5m wide area of compact earth to act as a safe path. YCM-PC to maintain the safe path. County Counsellor to be approached for funding to support this local initiative.		
2	A reliable all year route from Meece Road junction with Yarnfield to South Road	PC to report the overgrowth to Staffordshire County Council stating that the pavement has been obstructed for an extended period of time, which creates a severe safety hazard forcing vulnerable pedestrians into the carriageway. Consider the PC using its permissive powers under the Highways Act 1980 to undertake and maintain vegetation maintenance. County Counsellor to be approached for funding to support this local initiative.		

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3	Footpath 10 to have a more defined route and accessible stiles on the exit to High Lows Lane.	PC to use the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to encourage action from the landowner and/or highways authority to lower the stile and for the pathway to be more defined Contact to be made with the Ramblers Association for advice and support. .		
4	New off-road path from the corner of Meadow View across the perimeter of four fields to exit at Meece Road.	A meeting with landowner/estate manager (Lord Staffordshire Estate) to discuss the intentions of this project and the need for: overgrown hedgerow to be cleared and two bridge constructions (sleepers) to be erected for safe access between fields. A notice would need to be erected to emphasise this route is by permission of the landowner and needs respecting.		
5	Dropped kerbs and the levelling of a section of pavement in Yarnfield to improve accessibility and reduce the safety hazard for wheelchair users, pushchairs and mobility scooters.	Agree costs and gain permission for the work to be completed. Install dropped kerbs at the end of High Lows Lane and Yarnfield Lane (at the junction with Greenside Level the pavement opposite Beauty Rebellion Investigate the viability of constructing a chicane to support single lane traffic and the widening of the pavement.		

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6	Increased connectivity between Cold Meece and Yarnfield will encourage healthy lifestyles and potentially reduce reliance on cars and demonstrate the parish as a place for walking and outdoor recreation	Promote footpath connectivity and encourage residents including the local school to initiate • Weekly wellbeing walks. • Family treasure trails. • Heritage walks. • School walking buses. • Guided seasonal walks.		
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NB Staffordshire Community Paths Initiative (CPI) supports small-scale projects that improve rights of way. Provide path signage or fix access issues. The council can match-fund up to 50% of the cost. (Download the Community Paths Initiative Application Form)