

## Green Lane User Group Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2019

In Attendance: Alan Hardinge AH (DOI)  
Richard Crane RC (DOI/4WD)  
Julian Wood JW (ACU)  
Kath Keyes KK (BHS)  
Walter Gilbey WG (MHC)  
David Gooberman DG  
Mark Kerruish MK (DEFA)  
Trisha Sayle TS (MWT)  
Helen Goldsmith, Notes (HG)

Apologies: David Leiserach (MFCG)  
Graeme Watson (DEFA)  
Shaun Gelling (DEFA)  
Adam Henderson (MMBC)  
PC John Hills (WLO)  
PC Claire Sproule-Craine (WLO)

### Track Reports

Ballacomish, Arbory. Inspected for any bird nesting and in the interest of public safety the group agreed to go ahead and trim back. AH to action.

Clarum to Glen Mona - RC reported 2 areas in need of attention at the Clarum end:-  
(i) soft patches (which could be due to a geological problem) – **monitoring process** and  
(ii) when climbing out of river crossing there is an issue and a need to stop water going down as it is eroding a deep rut into the track. **Works required.**

Donkey Track - Culverts placed as agreed. Issue with a landowner who is protesting the track is not a Highway. Signs have been erected (which should be removed). JW commented that this has been an on-going project over many years with a lot of good work being done including the help of 200 volunteers' hours. The area is a Public Rights of Way and JW/RC spent a lot of time in the past week walking the area and looking at any ecological impact with DEFA as well as having input from the Finance Minister and all points raised have been put forward to the Highways Director who will put forward to the Highways Minister for approval. JW is waiting for an appointment to see the Minister. WG commented that this needs addressing and the landowner should respect the law and as a committee we should reinforce the position and put our views to the Minister to action. JW commented that it is an insidious attack on all the good work we have done but unfortunately all works have ceased until the matter has been resolved. It was noted only a couple of weeks work required (gates and fencing) and that the acidity is quite high so no issue with any amphibians/bats hibernating.

Top of Narradale - Hopefully will not deteriorate further at bottom. JW commented that there was no water issue late December. A monitoring process. No change, need to look at when wet. **On-going.**

East Mountain Gate - Nothing to report and MK commented that DEFA process Arial photographs every 3 years.

## **Proposed Work**

Dowse – The track is now passable and safe. It was agreed track to open for Easter and DG to liaise with Event organiser for MMBC who will contact RC regarding an event.

Slieau Whallian - JW reported still a mess but no worse. RC commented that the most noticeable thing is that landowners do not maintain any of the water courses and as you cannot see where drainage is, there is no point addressing such tracks if we cannot turn water on/off points. RC also commented that paled sod hedging being replaced with fencing does not help the drainage situation. **On-going.**

Glen Rushen Road accessing the pipeline track is presently signed to restrict use. JW reported that the pipeline track hadn't got any worse and RC commented that the ruts are very slippery and wet and visually it doesn't help with the collapsed wall. **MK reported that this location is not suitable for motor vehicles (due to a large amount of potholes) and an advisory notice has been displayed, however this is not a legal notice. RC was not aware of any advisory restrictions. Monitoring process.**

Sound Road - At the February Court hearing the court ruled in favour of DoI and the opponent was given a 21 days order to remove any obstruction (10 days remaining). JW advised everyone that the newer route is now open. The on-going investigation of whom had carried out the flailing (cut 14 metres wide) DEFA informed the group they have written to AG's regarding this matter and if anyone has any evidence as to whom is responsible to contact PC Hills. **On-going.**

TS asked if the intention is to upgrade Sound Road (usable for 4 x 4 vehicles) and what about the North end. AH reported that both retained as highways and to use top track and restrictions on bottom track. TS asked how would we carry out any repairs and AH commented that the Department would look at temporary closure. JW advised that we would look at TRO and monitor situation and that there are no plans for any works this summer.

Rut filling has been carried out at Ballacubagh and on the Ballacob greenway. No other issues have been reported on tracks.

## **Proposed Management Plan**

Maps - JW requested more of the location maps produced by the DfE. AH to action. JW also commented that the TRF mapping guide has now recommended routes which if you are a member can download. It was also noted that KK would like to see mapping for horses. AH informed JW that he spoke with DfE regarding more location maps and advised they can be printed on-line. JW asked AH if he can ask for a print off for another 100 to advertise at the Sea Terminal/Airport. **AH to action.**

## **Illegal Riding/Access**

On behalf of SG, MK reported a lot of motorcycle riding at the bottom of Arrasey Plantation recently. JW reminds the clubs on a regular basis to not ride through this location and they are definitely not Green Lane bikers. TS also commented illegal off track riders at Glen Dhoo and JW asked it would be helpful to have proper signage to say it is a Greenway.

JW also asked that it would be useful to have photographs of any damage caused by off-piste cycling to display to the clubs.

MK advised DEFA are prosecuting 3 cars found spinning on grassed areas at the Ayres and awaiting Court outcome – MK to report at next meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

DEFA have noticed an increase in use by the horse riding community since they have put a lot of horse mountain blocks in plantations. WG suggested putting this positive news on social media and MK responded that they will monitor the usage over the next few months.

JW concerned no bins in any of the plantations, in particularly Ballaugh. MK advised that this is being addressed. MK also reported that DEFA are in the process of updating the Forestry by-laws.

DG inquired any further news on Governor Loch car park proposals as badly parked cars continue to be a problem. **On-going.**

Date for Next Meeting – **Wednesday 17 July at 5.30pm** in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal