

Green Lane User Group Meeting Wednesday 17 July 2019

In Attendance: Alan Hardinge AH (DOI)
Richard Crane RC (DOI/4WD)
Walter Gilbey WG (MHC)
Mark Kerruish MK (DEFA)
Erica Humphries EH (BHS)
PC Claire Sproule-Craine CSC (WLO)
Helen Goldsmith, Notes (HG)

Track Reports

Ballacomish, Arbory. Hedges have been recently trimmed back.

Clarum to Glen Mona - RC reported 2 areas in need of attention at the Clarum end:-

- (i) soft patches increasing in number and RC asked MK if any further observations have taken place. MK had no further update and it was agreed a site visit required to try and prevent any further problems.
- (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. **RC drove down recently and got through without any problems, however will need to address this issue before winter.**

Donkey Track - Signs adjacent to landowner still up.

NarradaleEast Mountain Gate - **RC monitoring no further change however issue with motorcycles on boardwalk and top of Narradale down to Narradale bog needs clearing. On-going.**

Proposed Work

Dowse – Opened at Easter no issues and some positive feedback.

Slieau Whallian - No better and no worse. The main problem is gorse and it is on RC's list to cutback. Water bars put in at bottom of Slieau Whallian by Highways.

Glen Rushen Road accessing the pipeline track is presently signed to restrict use. It was 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. **No further progress the road is not closed but deteriorating rapidly – needs work.**

Sound Road, Dalby - 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). **AH informed the meeting that the Department are to write to the landowner before any further court proceedings; AH to will inform the group of any outcome at the next meeting. WG commented that this should have been left to the Court to deal with if obstruction remains. AH reported the bottom track requires stoning.**

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 police. **Nothing changes from last meeting. Route at top still closed off by landowner Sound Road although route itself still open. No further evidence as to responsibility.**

EH asked what timescale do we have on 'Report a Problem' and AH commented that depending on the issues i.e. safety critical within 24 hours otherwise could take months. Highways are updating their symology system to assist with these issues.

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - AH emailed DfE to print off more location maps as difficult to find link. Also need to find out mechanism for charging as presently giving maps away for free and need to recover costs. WG commented that DfE should forfeit costs.

EH commented on mapping for horses and it was noted the **Outdoor Leisure Map** is sold all over the Island for £7. **Trial Riders Map** produced, paid for and distributed by DfE in partnership with DEFA and various trails bike clubs. **Mountain Biking Map** published by DfE. AH to liaise with mapping team to see if horse routes can be linked to the Outdoor Leisure Map. AH to report at next meeting.

Illegal Riding/Access

MK reported that over the TT period a lot of illegal motorcycle riding took place at many locations including the bottom of Arrasey Plantation, Archallagon, Veary Beg, Skyhill and a significant problem was at Laxey Mines. On behalf of DEFA, MK commented that a lot of criminal damage to fences and broken padlocks took place and DEFA are now looking at a plan to prevent this happening for the forthcoming Festival of Motoring (FoM). RC commented that we do receive an influx of visitors for off road biking at TT/FoM and therefore we need to be more visible out there and pro-active. RC was unaware of this issue and would have been more than happy to assist.

EH suggested the use of social media and WG commented that we need to look at the bigger picture i.e. danger to the general public as well as horses etc. CSC to look into safety messages in circulation to visitors and AH will take up this issue at his TT meetings.

In relation to the above JW (in his absence) circulated the following electronically to the Group:-

"The article I submitted to the TRF magazine was duly published ahead of TT Festival reminding visiting motorcyclists to respect our Greenway Network and employ the use of local guides (which is growing nicely) to ensure they stay on the legal highway.

There was a significant upturn in business for the local guides on the back of this article and as the guides also act as wardens there was little to report from them wrt illegal riding activity."

"It was reported that riders were spotted turning off the track at the top of Glen Auldyn and connecting with The Narradale Track. On further investigation this was found to be with the full permission of the land owner. I have heard of reports of riders in a number of plantations and ACU are looking into one particular case at the moment."

"I also raised this matter again at last Quarter's ACU meeting (and will continue to do so going forward) and reminded all club representatives to inform their members that pleading ignorance is no longer an acceptable defence."

"I have had little exposure to the tracks personally this last quarter but have heard no adverse reports wrt track conditions from the guide network which is now out and riding the tracks on a very regular basis. I am sure Richard Crane is better positioned to comment on this than I."

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. **Been through Court with guilty pleas and fined. ACU will take action by taking away their licence.**

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. **MK commented plantations are being well used. Stoney Mountain to South Barrule de-restricted and EH to send details.**

DG inquired any further news on Governor Loch car park proposals as badly parked cars continue to be a problem. **MK to check with their civil engineering section for an up-date.**

EH asked for updated on Glen Wyllin slipway. AH commented a structural assessment has been done and a brief drafted for Highways construction team. Possibly looking at a few months before works will commence.

RC reported a lot more interest in off road 4 x 4 visitors to the Island and he will be overseeing group visits in August, September and October of this year.

Date for Next Meeting – **Wednesday 16 October at 5.30pm** in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal