

**Countryside Access Group Meeting
Wednesday 7 December 2022**

In Attendance: FW (DOI), Chair
Minister (DOI)
DL (MFCG)
JF (DfE)
SM (MNH)
HQ (BHS)
JW Visit Trail Riders, (VTR) (motorcycles)
LH (ACU)
SC (MFU)
SG (DEFA)
MK (DEFA)
GW (DEFA)
SW Wooden Spoon Wheelchair Sports Club (WSWSC)
HG (Note taker)

Apologies: AH (DOI)
RC (DOI/4WD)
AH (MMBC)
CSC (WLO)
CW (Druidale Motor Club)
TS (MWT)
HA (MNH)

Item	Description	Who
1.	Apologies – noted as above	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting - agreed as a true record.	
3.	<p>Actions from previous meeting held on Wednesday 31 August 2022.</p> <p>4. Proposed works</p> <p>4.1 Section after Spanish Head should read <i>Port Grenaugh to Santon Gauge</i>. LH – GX files for downloading files FW will put LH in contact with Rob Clyne. FW to action tomorrow. <i>Complete</i>.</p> <p>SM concerned about rocks at Port Mooar – issue with how to install without getting swept away. FW open to suggestions. <i>SM commented if the land behind rocks slip and FW responded that we would need to look at proper concrete works to make safe.</i></p> <p>4.2 Proposed Management Plan Volunteer Project. JF asked the minutes to be amended, Kate is no longer a Champion; however she does still assist within the volunteer project.</p>	
4.	Proposed Work	
	<p>Cronk Ny Eary Laa concern regarding the erosion. SG had no update on behalf of JF, however is aware of the massive erosion. FW commented it is not dangerous to walkers as long as they keep away from side of path (utilise Eary Cushlin side). <i>FW/SG met on site and came up with an idea to scrap path to boardwalk and need to rebuild narrow track on Narradale. SG commented volunteers have assisted on the route down towards boardwalk and will now need an excavator on site. DL asked if the boardwalk can be extended and SG responded that this is possible. FW to action Agneash.</i></p>	ALL

	<p>Poort Mooar footpath still on cards. FW to put a mini competition together for Poort Mooar / Grenaugh to Santon Gauge and Whitesand Beach to Niarbyl. Presently on hold.</p> <p>Agneash foot bridge next big task and then replacement of styles. SG commented timber on PROW to use grip strips and FW responded that they are now. SG advised to use a Clayton Screwdriver for stainless steel screws. FW informed the group that the Steam Packet sheets of the grip strip material which can be cut to purpose at a fraction of the cost.</p> <p>JF commented that she doesn't see a problem to include Green Lanes on the website and asked if the group can work together February time to assist with the visitors mapping guide. Roby Clynes looking at maps. <i>JF to approach again. JW commented there is an issue that riders do not know where they are going and need proper guidance. SG commented appropriate signage on the Green Lanes would assist. FW advised that there is Road Signage Regulations which we need to adhere to and has had signs designed to show the end of Green Lanes which adhere to the regulations.</i></p> <p>LH informed the group that the end of the lane on Ballacotch needs sorting (opposite Mount Murray's crossroads). FW to action.</p>	
4.1	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at woodwork on the Raad Ny Foillan. 	
4.2	WINTER CLOSURES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All in place. 	
4.3	ILLEGAL RIDING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFA had issues with off island visitors 29/30 October where they did not adhere to the guidelines / prohibited locations. JF working on a 1-Stop guide and asked both LH/JW if they are willing to advertise their guide services. LH commented that they already have enough coverage on social media and to possibly look at other companies who provide this service. JF to circulate the information on to LH/JW to tag other guiders. 	
4.4	MAP MY RIDE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report. Next Map My Ride meeting to be held on Wednesday 15 March 20 2023. 	
4.5	'REPORT A PROBLEM' SYSTEM	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report 	
4.6	IOM MOUNTAIN BIKE CODE OF CONDUCT (MBCC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FW looking at introducing the English Countryside Code of Conduct (ECCC). SC relates to ECCC and informed the group how well the safety in the countryside book went down with children in Primary Schools. SC now looking to extend to signage from artwork from the book and distribute for free to farmers/landowners etc and happy to work together with the group. <p>SG commented that we need representation from MBCC to discuss further and it was agreed to invite D Goberman back to the Group.</p>	

	Minister agreed that it is a good idea to bring all the groups together to launch the Highway Code and co-ordinate a timetable and target for the beginning of summer and to define categories.	
4.7	APPROVAL OF NEW MEMBERSHIP TO REPRESENT ACCESSIBILITY	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
5.	GRASS CUTTING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DL asked if defects can be reported on the Raad Ny Foillan. FW responded defects are reported and has a list. 	
6.	Consultation on proposed coastal footpath legislation	
	<p>FW asked for any thoughts/suggestions. DL commented could be political issues with regard to certain locations such as Raad Ny Foillan where members of the public could wander off to the beach which may be problematic with landowners/farmers. FW looking at access for public to coastal areas and aware there are some private beaches. SM asked to take high waters into consideration and SG also to be ECO friendly i.e. nesting season etc. Timescale for this consultation is early New Year.</p> <p>Discussions on legislation i.e. Agricultural land, SC commented not a lot of room for animal control and need to engage on the potential risk. Minister reminded group this is not a referendum it is a consultation to get the legislation. SC commented the need to handle sensitivity on farms and better education for public to use footpaths and move to safer places.</p> <p>SG commented on the amount of ramblers with dogs that are not kept on leads and DL agreed and witnessed many irresponsible dog owners. FW to look at putting something on PROW and suggested it could also fall under the ECCC.</p> <p>On legislation DL believes there could be strong objection on Raad Ny Foillan and will need to be honest. Minister informed the group there is no political agenda in this consultation and FW is looking at first consultation in 8 weeks' time and legislation by 2025.</p>	
7.	CAG minutes and website	
	It was agreed FW to put CAG minutes on to website and DL asked the minutes of meetings to be distributed within 2 weeks of the meeting. All names to be changed to either title or representation.	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<p>JW commented that he had seen on social media Sky Hill track closed and FW to action.</p> <p>Glen Mona track – full road closure and cannot provide timescale.</p> <p>Clarum Road. The lower part of the road is bad and JW suggested erecting signage. SG also commented that there are complaints at the Top Gate where it keeps blowing open.</p> <p>JF asked that any major works from the CAG minutes to be put in a plan and circulated to group.</p> <p>Walking Champion interviews to take place within the next 2 weeks.</p>	

	<p>JW moving to DEFA and working on Climate Change.</p> <p>SG advised that the boards on Clagh Ouyr ridge would be finished before the end of March 2023.</p> <p>Minister reported Tynwald approved recommendations from the Select Committee and CoMIN established Working Group for PROW. DOI to work with DEFA, DfE and local authorities etc and report back next July. The Working Group have a list of issues to consider. JF asked if the PROW budget will get an increase in funding by April next year and Minister responded that will need Treasury approval.</p> <p>FW is working on the Terms of Reference for The Working Group.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm and the date for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 8 February 2022 at 5.30pm in the Boardroom, First Floor, Sea Terminal Building.</p>	