

**Countryside Access Group Meeting
Wednesday 19 July 2023**

In Attendance: AH (DOI) Chair
 FW (DOI)
 RC (DOI/4WD)
 YM (DfE)
 HQ (BHS)
 MK (DEFA)
 JW Visit Trail Riders, (VTR) (motorcycles)
 TS (MWT) Teams
 PC (MFCG)
 SW Wooden Spoon Wheelchair Sports Club (WSWSC)
 NK (Druidale Motor Club)
 HG (Note taker)

Apologies: DL (MFCG)
 LH (ACU)
 SC (MNFU)
 GW (DEFA)
 SG (DEFA)
 AHen (MMBC)
 CSC (WLO)
 HA (MNH)
 SM (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 19 April 2023.</p> <p>4.2 TT Prep MK to meet with TT Road Traffic Team and MK to invite FW. <i>Due to timing before TT – MK was unable to arrange a meeting; however FW had email exchanges from the TT Road Traffic Team. Look at contacting them more in advance for next year.</i></p> <p>Repairs needed around Snaefell. FW to action. <i>All completed before TT and MK commented there had been no reports of illegal activity. MK will check location and report any findings at next meeting.</i></p> <p>TS asked is there any possibility to get TV/Media coverage informing the public of non-open access on hills. YH to ask the question regarding TV and FW to look into local media coverage. <i>YH raised with TT Team however she did not receive a response and one to explore next year. FW reported that local media coverage was in place and this will also be aired again for the forthcoming Manx Grand Prix.</i></p> <p>4.5 Consultation on proposed coastal footpath legislation FW commented no further on consultation and a meeting to be set up with the Environmental Land Committee (ELC). <i>FW waiting to hear back from SC.</i></p>	FW

4.	Proposed Work and Orders	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poort Mooar started work on footpath and rotten bridge replaced. Footpath in Billown closed. Work ongoing. Issue with Clypse catchment area and looking at replacement of board walks with design team. Qualtroughs had a forum on marketing of materials and FW to look at trialling one of the products. Need to look at new paths on the Heritage trail and other footpaths Highways have inherited over the years. 	
4.1	WINTER CLOSURES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballacob, Castle Lake and possibly Glen Auldyn. 	
4.2	TT PREP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illegal riding at Ballaugh, Cringle and Archallagan. MK informed the group for the need to put plans in place for next year regarding groups on hills. There was a lot of intimidation and aggression from riders. YH to circulate maps. JW commented that unfortunately, unless educated it will continue. JW was guiding organised road bikes and monitored over the TT period. RC informed the meeting he had a comment from a UK visitor re Marshalls at Laxey Mines were unable to assist with illegal issues although they have special constable powers. AH commented Highways have Mountain Road Marshalls at Mountain Box, The Bungalow, Brandywell, Windy Corner and The Gooseneck. 	
4.3	ILLEGAL RIDING/ACCESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered under 4.2 	
4.4	IOM COUNTRY CODE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FW informed the group that the Department has made amendments to the English Countryside Code of Conduct (ECCC) and the Cabinet Office have come up with symbols Bridal Paths, Greenways, premier routes etc. It now with DEFA for their input and then FW will circulate to Group for their comments/input. 	
4.5	CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED COASTAL FOOTPATH LEGISLATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FW commented no further on consultation and a meeting to be set up with the Environmental Land Committee (ELC). This meeting is still to be arranged. 	FW
9.	Any Other Business	
	<p>YH asked for any reports on Raad Ny Foillan. FW commented that sadly the contractor passed away in February and have appointed another contractor who has completed the first cut and is working with our internal workforce to complete the route. Fleshwick is included in the programme.</p> <p>YH happy with signage at Poort Mooar.</p> <p>SW reported good feedback on wheelchair access at Bradda Glen.</p>	

	<p>JW asked if there have been any incidents before TT in relation to off road biking and MK responded no which is a positive note.</p> <p>FW commented that the Heritage Trail had got a lot of use and residents driving up Glen Lough to Douglas – possibly look at placing a gate.</p> <p>HQ commented on her email to the group in regard to very few PROW are available to horses, horse riders may seek permission from landowners to river over their land. Many landowners are open to this in principle, but are concerned about the potential legal ramifications, such as liability in aces of accidents and setting a precedent for public use. HQ would like to prepare guidance for BHS members, recommending steps which can be taken to alleviate such concerns and asked the group if they have any experience of putting in place Agreements for permissive access.</p> <p>HQ commented both GW and SC are interest to discuss permissive access. FW informed HQ that liability would be on the landowners and provide their own insurance. In regard to public use they will need to put up signs themselves and the Department could assist with a template for permissive access i.e. Dogs must be on a lead.</p> <p>HQ to circulate a few thoughts to the group for their comment.</p> <p>AH informed the meeting Lee Helwich has tendered his resignation as ACU Rights of Way Officer and therefore he has requested to be removed from the CAG group. Lee thanked the group for the 18 months he held in post and felt very welcome when attending the meeting and he is sure they will introduce a new ACU Rights of Way office who would wish to attend the meetings.</p>	
10.	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 6pm and the date for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 5.30pm in the Boardroom, First Floor, Sea Terminal Building.</p>	