

Green Lane User Group Meeting

Wednesday 18 April 2018

In Attendance – Alan Hardinge (DOI) / Julian Wood (ACU) / Richard Crane (4WD) / Kath Keyes (BHS) / Walter Gilbey (MHC) / Graeme Watson (DEFA) / Julie Colquitt (DfE)

Apologies – Shaun Gelling (DEFA) / Jade Foster (DED) / David Gooberman (MMBC) / David Leiserach (MFCG)

AH informed the group that the Department has engaged RC as Green Lane Coordinator and although aware that RC also represents the 4WD asked if any of the members have any issues with this arrangement. The Group did not raise any concerns.

Track Reports

RC reported that in the past couple of weeks he had looked at sixteen tracks with water issues and reported the following:-

Barnell Lane - RC identified water running down length of track and culverts require attention. The gorse has now been removed and now looking a lot better. **On-going.**

Clarum to Glen Mona - RC commented area is now looking a lot better and JW reported the issue was with remedial works which have now been carried out, he rode the track a couple of weeks ago and is much better due to the silt being washed away. RC reported the old culvert at top of gate may go under road and out other side. **RC to investigate.** Rest of track in very good condition, just an issue with the Fork other end okay for horses. **RC to liaise with DEFA.** Glen Mona (Clarum end) original gate on wall and RC identified a lot of tracks as permissive use and part of greenway use for horses. **RC to liaise with KK.**

Ballacurberagh - JW reported track started to scour away and may need back-fill. **Monitoring process.**

East Mt Gate - JW reported in good shape and met landowner of the Glen Auldyn estate where it is very wet – a lot of mountain bikers use this track.

Snaefell Mines Road - RC cleared the obstruction from the ditch and repaired the wash out to the track to a usable condition and it was re-opened to all users. RC went on to say that a lot of walkers came down from Snaefell summit and walk down to Laxey on the route. **Monitoring process.**

Donkey Track - RC looked at pipes and the ditch has deepened causing the height difference. JW reported time is of the essence to get issues sorted. AH commented on the condition of culvert and JW had spoken to Mrs Stevens who informed him the area is always flooding. **RC to action high priority.**

Whiskey Run - RC to plan route and check out area. KK stated the top end is very stoney and water running down track and there is a lot of rubbish i.e. metal drums coming to the surface and a lot of cyclist use this route. **RC to action high priority.**

Proposed Work

Dowse – AH/RC revisited site and although no immediate urgency, will need to identify areas of concern for future works. KK stated as long as there is a term track it would be good for horses to use this and the Dowse has the added advantage of being central and suitable parking facilities. AH advised materials need stabilising such as barriers or boulders. JW advised it is ride able but a challenge. RC said he would take some photographs and JC advised she can put any information on their website to prevent walkers from using the Dowse; as particularly from a visitor's point of view they can inform them in advance of their arrival to the island and suggest an alternative route. This also applies to any other closed areas. It was agreed as the Dowse is prohibited to make sure that as much prevention material is displayed i.e. signs/barriers. Need to look at carrying out remedial works during the summer months. **AH/RC to action.**

Pack Horse Lane, Laxey - JW stated the 1-Way experiment has worked well and can see no problem to make it 2-Way during the summer months. JW spoken to residents who informed him the issues were mostly flooding rather than noise and N Black had no issues as long as residents on board.

Old Douglas Road - RC informed the group that the tree has now been taken away and there is no further obstruction.

The Kella - JW informed the group that Lezayre Commissioners have received a complaint about using the river crossing and not footpath. DOI responsible for footpath which has been used for some time and therefore would need to know who the complainant is and their issue.

Sound Road - JW advised that Mr Bridson has now made it more difficult for people to use the New Sound Road due to adding wire to the fences he has erected. It was noted that N Black had requested both routes to be opened (the New and Old Sound Road) and JW stated that if this is the case he assures the group that there will be no further issues and Mr Bridson will remove his obstruction. **AH/RC to action.**

Volunteers Day - JW has spoken to Beach Buddies who are happy to assist with GLUG on tidying up tracks. The main routes i.e. Raad ny Foillan, Millennium Way, Bayr ny Skeddan, Steam Heritage Trail will be maintained (timed) 3 times a year. DOI has a 3 year agreement with Beach Buddies who will assist with lesser used paths. JW advised DfE can publicise the best main routes and commented that the Year of our Island has funding available, contact is Anna Goldsmith.

Ohio Plantation, Sulby - JW informed the group that in the last 5 years motorsport has been hugely successful on the island, however the ACU has nowhere to practice and the Ohio Plantation would be an ideal location. GW advised that ACU would have to satisfy the Forestry Commission as to purpose of use of the forestry.

JW advised it would be for Enduro practice. GW stated that Jason Bolt is already looking at defused pollution and the keeping clear of water courses. ACU would need to convince there would be no environmental issues and produce a clear plan of use. **JW to approach Jason.**

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - JW stated the maps would be ready within the next few weeks, distribution initially through the Welcome Centre, Sea Terminal and motorcycle clubs. **JW believes this has now gone to print.**

Illegal Riding/Access

GW stated two local off road motorcyclists had been reported to the Police for riding within Sky Hill Plantation. A number of charges were brought against the riders including licence and insurance infringements. The Auto Cycle Union has also imposed competition sanctions upon the riders. **The group agreed that the charges imposed will assist greatly in deterring a repeat of this happening in the future.**

Any Other Business

JW had noticed the out of hours Information Hub at the front entrance to the Sea Terminal Building and suggested this would be useful for any GLUG data.

KK witnessed a large group of bikers going around lanes over the Easter period. JW informed the group that they were visitors to the Island and hopefully a one-off issue.

GW asked if there had been any issues on road closures. None.

RC advised that his role within DOI will be to make observations, record, fix and maintain works for the Department which hopefully will continue when his term ends.

The new DOI MLC replacement for Mr Anderson is Kate Lord-Brennan and AH to inform the group if Mrs Lord-Brennan will be attending future GLUG meetings on behalf of the Department.

Date for Next Meeting – Wednesday 18 July 2018 in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal