

Green Lane User Group Meeting

Wednesday 18 July 2018

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

Apologies – Shaun Gelling (DEFA) / Jade Foster (DED)

DL asked what responsibilities RC will engage as Green Lane Coordinator. RC responded that he will continue to do what he already is doing but in an official capacity and that his primary concern is identifying getting water off tracks as well as any other objectives required. RC also involved with the 'report a problem' on the DoI website.

DL enquired if we can have the heritage trail, bridle path included in the Green Lane. JW advised that he has previously had 4 meetings with Ballaugh Commissioners regarding the use of paths for cyclists and in particular horses and the Captain of the Parish has refused the proposals. This may change when there is a new appointment in September. AH informed the meeting the Heritage Trail has a budget of £860,000 and this is to improve drainage, stone works, substantial ditching and road crossings. JQ said DfE will assist with any funding for signage. AH advised the main scheme is with the Treasury procurement team. DG asked if the main gates are part of the review and AH informed the group Bill Corlett will be able to assist with this inquiry.

AH to provide a list of priority works beach buddies are carrying out on behalf of the Department and forward to JC.

Track Reports

RC has looked at twenty tracks with water issues; however it has been difficult to identify issues due to the dry weather during the past few months.

Barnell Lane - RC reported more work has been done, the gorse has been cut and the culverts identified and reinstated.

Clarum to Glen Mona - RC unable to investigate due to the dry weather. **On-going.**

Ballacurberagh - Work carried out before and during TT week. Some ruts have been filled and concrete bars cleaned, however filled up after a short time. RC has scheme in hand to assist with this issue. **On-going.**

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 – RC reported no further issues.**

Donkey Track - RC unable to investigate due to the dry weather. JW suggested this would be a good time to carry out any drainage issues. AH informed JW that due to works required on the Sound Road and substantial works at Groudle Glen, the

Department does not have the resource to carry out any drainage works. JW asked if a local contractor could assist and AH reminded JW that this would be a breach of the financial regulations as the Department cannot employ individuals who have not gone through the proper process and are not on the select list. It was agreed that RC to meet JW on site soonest to progress drainage proposals.

Whiskey Run - RC reported metal culvert pipes not drums had surfaced to the top of the track and that he has reinstated 6/8 run offs and will need to re-visit when wet.
On-going.

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 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 use of 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. **Progressing slowly. RC to meet with officer responsibility for mapping to reinstate where the water needs to flow and provide an update at the next meeting. DG reminded Group that the Mountain Bike Golden Championships will be held at The Dowse again next year.**

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. **JW has spoken to the owners of the property who have evidence of 22 years access. We need to make sure users respectfully keep to the under 20mph speed limits and stick to the Greenway Code. On-going.**

Sound Road - JW advised that a local Landowner 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 Government 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 the local Landowner will remove his obstruction. **RC advised this access problem is now solved and the section from the farm land will be passable as from tomorrow.**

Pack Horse Lane - Number of works required due to erosion. DOI fitted water bars to stop the water going into properties and AH advised that the water bars are designed to assist motorists. JW advised there is no ill will with residents – their only concern is the culvert filling up. **JW to meet with Department's CEO next week.**

Glen Dhoo, Ballaugh - Track has been widened by hand and trimmed back by volunteers to enable machinery to get through.

Michael's Mountain, Baltic - New gate (DEFA).

School Masters Track- near the Cronk, Ballaugh – strimming/trimming works.

Slieau Whallian - DEFA appreciate the work done and that due to issue with holes and cattle it is an on-going problem.

Volunteers Day - At the start of the year too wet and now too dry for volunteer groups such as Beach Buddies to carry out any tidying up of tracks. They have several other commitments and will resume in October to carry out (1) drainage issues and then (ii) fencing. **On-going.**

Ohio Plantation, Sulby - JW was to contact DEFA with regards to ACU being able to carry out practising on the plantation. DL commented that this should not be part of the Green Lane remit and not be mentioned further. JW disagreed.

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - JW has requested an additional 100 maps and commented that he has received excellent feedback. JW thanked DfE for their support.

Illegal Riding/Access

JW has not had any further issues. DL commented that there have been 2 recently (1) Sloc Road (picnic area) and (2) North face of Sulby Dam. DEFA has an issue at South Barrule.

JW asked re Guided Riding Tours during TT and GW to look into.

Any Other Business

The ACU had their annual meeting last night and JW informed the group that the 4 events during the year were all well supported.

GW informed the meeting a Rural Strategy is being put together with input from all Government Departments. This is to get some consistency and is at the data collection stage; GW to keep the group up-dated.

AH commented the coastal footpath signage is in a dire state and it was agreed locations such as Raad ny Foillan and the Millennium Way need new signage.

GW informed the group that Mark Kerruish will start employment as Ranger as at 30 July and will attend future meetings. Also DEFA have employed a step student to carry out a survey Monkey 'Outdoor' Questionnaire which will be available at main glens and forests.

KK reported the Ballafodda Track (Ballacomish Road) in Arbory (by the corner of Ronague Chapel) is overgrown and needs the flail – the bottom end by the farm is particularly bad.

RC to action.

Date for Next Meeting – **Wednesday 24 October 2018** in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal