

Green Lane User Group Meeting

Wednesday 24 October 2018

In Attendance – Alan Hardinge (DOI) / Richard Crane (DOI/WD) / Kath Keyes (BHS) / Walter Gilbey (MHC) / David Gooberman (MMBC) / Adam Henderson (MMBC) / David Leiserach (MFCG) Mark Kerruish (DEFA) / PC John Hills (WO)

Apologies – Julian Wood (ACU) / Shaun Gelling (DEFA) / Julie Colquitt (DfE) Jade Foster (DfE), Graeme Watson (DEFA) / PC Claire Sproule-Craine (WO)

AH welcomed new members to the group, Adam Henderson on behalf of the Manx Mountain Bike Club and PC John Hill, Wildlife Officer to the Group.

DG informed the Chair that both Julie and Jade from DfE will no longer attend these meetings as their primary concern is on footpaths and now attend another group which specifically covering their remit.

Track Reports

RC commented a lot of locations remain the same due to having no significant rainfall.

KK reported that the track at Ballacomish, Arbory has not been cut. RC to chase as he had requested the flail to trim both sides of the track.

Barnell Lane - RC reported more work has been done, the gorse has been cut and the culverts identified and reinstated. **There is still a pinch point in middle of the track (top side) and RC to report back when we have had a significant rainfall.**

Clarum to Glen Mona - RC unable to investigate due to the dry weather. **Still on-going; needs new pipe works. DL asked who is responsible for the building of the new bridge (at the bottom end of the Clarum) as they have not taken into account the ground water. AH informed it was Highways Structure Team and he will pass on DL's concern.**

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. **AH reported that they have jetted existing culvert and running clear. JW asked for a start date. RC commented this is a work in progress. On-going.**

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. **No issues to report – monitoring process.**

Proposed Work

Dowse – In need of a proposed plan of works and RC speaking to adjacent landowners regarding water issues. **On-going.**

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.**

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.**

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - In JW's absence it was reported that TRF members can now download map for free off the website. It also provides information on where riders should/shouldn't go.

Illegal Riding/Access

AHen reported riders skipping the Dowse and using the forest next door (back of Glen Maye). MK informed the group that this should improve on enforcement skid as DEFA will be liaising with the Police Wildlife Officer(s). PC Hills commented that they will also be looking to stop bikes on tracks with no licence/insurance etc. RC asked to be kept in the loop and PC Hills to send him his contact details.

JW had no reports of any illegal riders and no complaints from landowners/farmers.

Any Other Business

On behalf of SG, MK reported winter closures on Ballacobb will come into effect as from 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019. There are no plans to close East Mountain Gate.

RC reported Narradale track needs attention before winter and needs to be monitored when we get a significant amount of rainfall to check what works will be required.

WG asked what is a Step Student and MK advised that this is scheme which provides employers to employ an undergraduate to carry out projects and DEFA employed a Step Student to carry out a survey on our glens and that the survey Monkey is a brand of online service and DEFA are now looking to make this an annual survey and possibly include Green lanes, tracks etc.

Date for Next Meeting – **Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 5.30pm** in West 1 First Floor
Sea Terminal