

Green Lane User Group Meeting

Wednesday 20 September 2017

In Attendance – Alan Hardinge (DOI)/ Shaun Gelling (DEFA)/ Kath Keyes (BHS) /Walter Gilbey (MHC)/ Julian Wood (ACU)/ David Gooberman (MMBC)/ Jade Foster (DED)/ Richard Crane (4WD)/ Graeme Watson (DEFA)/ David Leiserach (MFCG)/ David Anderson MLC (DOI)

Apologies – Julie Colquitt (DED)

Note: DOI Minister Mr Harmer briefly attended the meeting and introduced himself to the group. Mr Harmer stated he was very appreciative of the good work to date and would support the group moving forward. The Minister introduced Mr Anderson MLC who will attend all future meetings.

Track Reports

Spooyt Vane - Gate needs attention, AH trying to contact landowner to see if gate can be removed if not, he will organise its repair or replacement.

Ballacuborough - RC stated that he noticed recently a cone and it was covering an area of wash-out around the cross drain. AH to action.

East Mt Gate - SG stated the wire on boardwalk needs removing/replacing, material similar to that at Kionslieu would be more suitable. AH confirmed the area had been inspected and was within his forward maintenance plan. WG asked if this area was suitable for horses, it was agreed it's not.

Snaefell Mines Road - JW suggested that off piste riding in the area of the Veranda could be reduced if a legal route were to be created. SG stated that this would be problematic for a number of reasons. JW and SG to discuss outside of meeting.

Glen Mona - A number of culverts blocked on the north side and could do with clearing. Excavator, banksman required. This work is now a high priority. AH to action.

Donkey Track - AH confirmed he will arrange for the outlet at the bottom of the track to be jetted, this will enable the wet area to free drain. JW confirmed once this work is undertaken he will arrange for volunteers to install the pipes across the track, prior to commencing any clearance work. AH / JW to action.

Sound Road, Glen Maye - A neighbourly dispute between local landowners appears to have spilt over and is affecting the long standing access across Dalby Mountain. SG confirmed that obstruction on track needs removing. RC agreed to discuss with highways. RC to action.

Old Douglas Road - AH confirmed some work (clearance of ditch / chamber) however the track still required work when resources become available. AH to action.

Slieau Whallian - SG commented that this track is in a poor condition, barbed wire lying round etc. due to the landowner's general untidy approach. AH confirmed the

track had been inspected recently and some material removed, however the track requires a follow-up inspection.

Barnell Lane - SG confirmed the track requires attention as a number of cross drains are blocked/overgrown, with some wash-out in the area. It was agreed to treat this as a priority in order to prevent further damage occurring. AH to action.

Whiskey Run - KK stated that the area needs attention as a number of water bars are now ineffective and not channelling water into the ditches. AH to action.

Proposed Work

Dowse – AH to arrange to meet RC on-site to look at initially improving the drainage prior to undertaking any work on the track itself. AH to action.

It was agreed that JW, RC and AH would arrange site visits to look at a number of issues highlighted above in order to agree priorities, methods of working etc. AH to arrange.

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - JF stated that DED are looking at minimum quantities such as 500 at the Welcome Centre. DA asked if it would be feasible to have an addition 500 printed? DG stated that he believes after the initial printing and their circulation a charge should be imposed, the Mountain Bike trails are on-line so this could also be made available. JW confirmed that he had spoken to the Steam Packet with regards the maps which show the "preferred" routes being displayed on their vessels, which they agreed to.

Signs - GW stated that the person who was looking to facilitate a cross Government working group has been seconded to another Department, therefore no action at present. JF confirmed that MNH are still reviewing signage for their assets. A discussion took place and it was agreed to tie-in this item with the ten year strategy for Public Rights of Ways, and therefore further discussion was required.

Volunteer Wardens/Adopt a Track – JW confirmed a local trail bike guiding company had changed hands and the new proprietor was well respected.

RC confirmed that a 4WD group from Liverpool had visited the Island for five days recently. RC had taken them out on various tracks and they really enjoyed their time on Island. He is expecting another group possibly twenty or so early October.

Winter Closures

The group agreed that Ballacob should be closed again this winter. GW stated the notice needs to make specific reference to motorised vehicles. AH to action.

Illegal Riding/Access

SG confirmed that two or three DEFA staff out during the TT period some off road activity at Cronk Breck and Greeba Mt plantation. DEFA had placed additional signage this year at locations such as, Glen Mona making it clear No Access; however this still doesn't always

deter riders. GW confirmed that DEFA and the Police were currently pursuing some inappropriate riding which may result in prosecution / sanctions being taken against the riders involved.

AOB

KK asked DEFA about signage within plantations which had been raised at an earlier meeting with the Manx Horse Council. GW confirmed that signage within the plantations is currently being reviewed / improved.

RC asked about illegal parking on green lanes as he had experienced issues recently. AH to discuss with RC and if necessary take further action.

JF asked whether advance warning signage could be placed at Union Mills ahead of the closure of the Heritage Trail Crosby to Glen Darragh, as there is no easy diversion once cyclists are committed. AH to action.

GW asked whether the DOI Green Lane Management Plan signed in 2014 was going to be reviewed in order to see what's been achieved to date. To be discussed at next meeting.

JF asked about a press release. It was agreed the press release should include winter closures, joint working initiatives between all parties and clarity on which groups are represented at GLUG.

Date for Next Meeting – Wednesday 10 January 2018 in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal
