

Green Lane User Group Meeting Wednesday 16 October 2019

In Attendance: Alan Hardinge AH (DOI)
Richard Crane RC (DOI/4WD)
Walter Gilbey WG (MHC)
Erica Humphries EH (BHS)
David Leiserach (MFCG)
PC John Hills (JH) (WLO)
Helen Goldsmith, Notes (HG)

Apologies: Julian Wood JW (ACU)
David Goberman DG (MMBC)
Graeme Watson (DEFA)
Shaun Gelling (DEFA)
Mark Kerruish MK (DEFA)
Adam Henderson (MMBC)
Trisha Sayle TS (MWT)
PC Claire Sproule-Craine CSC (WLO)

Track Reports

Ballacomish, Arbory. To be trimmed within the next couple of weeks.

Clarum to Glen Mona - The past 2 summers have been very dry and the ditches have now grown grass which requires digging out. The area is usable, however the pipes at the Glen Mona end of the track need unblocking. On-going/monitoring process.

DEFA provided an update which acknowledged their gratitude to RC for his information on the Clarum track and they are happy for his recommendations to be actioned as a minimum. DEFA has asked Highways if they can please advise approximate timescales due to worsening situation and they provided a photo (circulated at the meeting) taken approximately 200m from Clarum access gate. Highways to action.

Donkey Track - RC to meet with landowner and come to some sort of resolution for opening of track before next March. On-going.

Narradale East Mountain Gate - Boardwalk and top of Narradale down to Narradale bog cleared.

Proposed Work

Dowse – Mountain Bike event worked well. EH raised concerns that there are areas not accessible/passable from an equestrian point of view and also not safe for walkers. Discussion took place on where is/is not passable and it was agreed clarification required and DEFA's recommendation.

Slieau Whallian - RC has cutback a substantial amount of gorse. On-going.

Glen Rushen Road - DL commented that at the located picnic site (left turn towards Glen Maye) he believes there is a possible blocked culvert and Highways to investigate and see if it can be made passable for walkers to get across stream.

Sound Road, Dalby - On-going matter (unclassified road). Legally opened and can be used. One section very muddy and Group need to look at prioritisation of such works. Barely passable for motorbike users. The Minister has been made aware of issues.

Snaefell Mines Road - DEFA enquired what the current situation is regarding the closure due to landslides and do Highways have any plans for clearing the route? RC confirmed the road is closed due to flood damage and there is no present timescale to re-open.

Ballaugh Plantation Track - People straying of plantation (bikers) and although visitors can be forgiven for accidentally going off route, it was agreed RC to look to see if he can make it more obvious where the track goes.

Eairy Cushlin - JH commented area needs looking at and RC informed the Group he had been up to clear what he can, however ruts fill up quickly and although he dug a run off 6 weeks ago, on his return it had already filled up with 2-3 tonnes of debris. Group discussed the possibility of gates/signage and Police to put on social media. RC to look and see what improvements can be made. Monitoring process.

Baltic Road (Brandywell side) - DEFA reported there has been some washout of the water bars and early reinstatement may prevent bigger issues in the future.

Proposed Management Plan

Maps - EH informed the meeting they are looking into Horse Riding Maps and users will look at locations/routes. EH to bring back findings to this forum and DEFA for assistance to improve tracks.

Illegal Riding/Access

Conviction of local high profile motorcyclists for off-piste riding in Kings Forest, which included 6 month ACU ban from all local competition.

DEFA aware of on-going off-piste motorcycle activity in Arrasey, Ohio and more recently in Ballaugh Plantation which seems to be a new trend. Meeting planned between RC and MK to discuss signage and physical barriers to encourage riders to stay on track.

Any Other Business

SG is currently working full time for DEFA's Climate Change Team and temporarily relinquished hill land management responsibilities. William McHarg is covering and hopes to attend the next GLUG meeting.

Early notification of potential opportunity for Green Lane User comments. DEFA organises the Annual Outdoor Visitor Survey which over the past two years has covered visits to its Manx National Glens and Plantations. Next year DEFA intend to seek feedback from visitors to the Manx Uplands (areas of public ramblage). DEFA would be happy to include some questions in the SurveyMonkey questionnaire that might assist GLUG with its functions/objectives.

Governor Loch/Baltic Road junction parking area – DEFA acknowledge the parking difficulties, but have no further updates at this time.

EH had a request regarding the previous notes not being available on-line. AH conscious this forum is not breaching any data protection policies and will speak to the Department's Data Protection Officer.

EH asked if there is a Terms of Reference for this Group. RC commented that this has always been an informal Group and never had any aims or terms of reference. EH queried what the Group's constitution is and RC commented the forum is to talk about Green Lane and maintain what we have. To clarify the points raised, AH to contact previous Chair and discuss at the next meeting.

On behalf of the Isle of Man Walking Festival, DL praised Highways for the long list of equipment they provided in assisting with this event and the good feedback received from walkers (over 70 participants).

Date for Next Meeting – **Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 5.30pm** in West 1 First Floor Sea Terminal