

Rodington Pathways Group Meeting 09.03.2022

Present

Tom Currie (Chair)

Brian Gaskin (Secretary)

Andrew Careless (T&W Senior RoW Officer)

John Seales

Steve Lowe

David and Sue Brown

Duncan Maidens

Apologies

Denise Davies

1. Notes and actions

a) **Longswood – L1, L2**

Tom Currie and Brian Gaskin walked this route on 19th January. The fields are currently put to grass and access is easy, but in need of signposts and the stock fence needs moving to the other side of the gate in the second field. Rotation of crops may yet make these inaccessible in the future, unless the landowner has taken on board his responsibilities as explained in the letter sent previously.

Action: Andrew Careless will walk the route with an assistant on Tuesday, 15th March, with a view to putting in signage and informing the landowner of his intention to do so.

b) **Old Manor Cottage**

Brian Gaskin checked the access through Old Manor Cottage and confirmed there is no issue there. The original report of access denied is erroneous. No further action.

2. Report from Andrew Careless

a) **Update on BOAT application DMMO/2007/0001 - Somerwood Stud Farm**

Andrew said that the application to make this route a **Byway Open to All Traffic** would fail and it would instead be designated as a **Restricted Right of Way**, open to pedestrians, cyclists, horses (and carriages) and residents' vehicles.

Action: Telford and Wrekin will issue decision (now confirmed). Attached to minutes.

b) **Rodenhurst DMMO**

Discussion on the current access to R4b, Steve Lowe confirmed that a new barrier is blocking the entrance/exit to the B5062, although a gap has been provided to the side of the barrier. This needs to be reviewed. Andrew Careless will be meeting Sandy Walker about the Rodenhurst DMMO on Tuesday 15th March to discuss financial arrangements and prepare the application. This is tied into the planning application for the installation of a biomass boiler/associated buildings and re-routed access (see planning application TWC/2021/1079) and DMMO's for R3, R6,R7 and the deletion of R8 will have to be co-ordinated.

Action: Andrew to meet with Sandy Walker on site as above, and will raise the issue of access via the barrier on the bridleway at the entrance by the B5062.

c) R3 (The Spinney) Church Road access. Concerns were expressed about the delay in determination of DMMO.

Action: Andrew Careless reported this notification will be published by the end of this month (31/3/22).

d) **Old Smithy DMMO** Andrew Careless proposed we make an application for funding on this to the Veolia scheme:

(<https://www.entrust.org.uk/environmental-bodies/e:-detail/?eb=043013>).

As the minimum grant is £10,0000, it was decided that this would have to be for a variety of projects looking at environmental enhancement and access for all. This could also link with the Parish Council's Environmental Strategy, and CPRE particularly around replacement of hedgerows and other wildlife corridors. The grant could give incentives to this development, together with enhancements on the existing rights of way, eg benches, information boards etc. The group was asked to come back with ideas at the next meeting. This is obviously a long-term project, but the group agreed the issue of the Old Smithy needs urgent action and delays have already concerned and frustrated local residents. The next step will have to be to confirm the new route with the landowner, Phil Davies, following Highway's requirement for a tarmac path next to the road. Andrew has agreed to do this within the current year's budget and has the capacity to carry this over if required.

Action: Tom Currie will provide contact details to Andrew for Phil Davies.

Andrew will then arrange a meeting.

3. **Outstanding Priorities – sign-post and gates**

Tom Currie requested on behalf of the Partnership that it has the capacity to directly commission all projects that have been agreed and sanctioned. Andrew accepted the proposal that this partnership should be able to contact ATP (Adrian) directly to circumvent delays.

Actions:

- i. Andrew will provide Tom with contact details.
- ii. Tom will meet with Adrian at the village hall on Tuesday 29th March at 12.30 and mark out the priorities for immediate action.

4. **Canal and Rights of Way Clearing**

A working party has now met twice (fortnightly on Wednesdays) and cleared almost 100m of the canal towpath (both sides). Impressive views reported and there is general agreement that, when completed, it will provide excellent recreational access for all.

On the 5th March, another working party cleared R3 and R7, and access to Walcott Road – Withington ROW (Shropshire Council). We were very impressed by the work already undertaken by the landowners which made the task easier.

Action: Tom Currie will write to thank them for their efforts. The next working party is scheduled for 9th April at 13.00. Venue tba.

5. **Next meeting** May17th at 19.30 in Rodington Village Hall