

Access, Countryside and Rights of Way

9th June 2014

Present: Allen Pestell (Chair), David Gadd (Secretary), Terry Howard, Basil Merry, Cath MacKay, Philip Ryder, Christine Whittaker

Apologies: Les Seaman

Minutes of the meeting 10th February, 2014

These were agreed as being correct.

Matters arising from those minutes

The reference to White Lanes in the review of Countryside matters should have referred to Greenways, the name used in the specific project.

BM has established that the guidelines for wind turbines near footpaths is maximum height plus 10%. It is greater for bridleways.

The issue of councils claiming money for the man-hours of work carried out by volunteers appears to be an urban myth. AP had attended a meeting regarding HS2 regarding the establishment of cycle and footpath routes parallel to the rail route. It was anticipated that many routes would benefit, including the Trans Pennine Trail.

TH is continuing to make progress with regard to 'Lost Ways'. He has asked Sheffield RoW, several times, about the status of 'white roads'. TH will continue to try to make progress. AP said that he had mentioned that Derbyshire were making good progress.

Review of Access Matters

The Derbyshire Dales Group has a series of Access walks this month to mark the 10th anniversary of the CRoW Act. See their website at www.derbyshiredalesramblers.org.uk for details.

Review of Rights of Way Matters

BM is attempting to co-ordinate the seven Ramblers Groups which cover Derbyshire. However responses to a questionnaire re whether they report footpath obstructions/carry out maintenance work, etc from several of the Groups has been disappointing. He also reported that Derby has no definitive map. TM suggested that Local Access Forums might be more effective because that are legally established bodies. Both the Rotherham and Doncaster Groups feel that to carry out maintenance work needs persistence in terms of pressure on the local authority.

The situation re Eckington 34 remains unchanged.

The permanent TRO on Chapel Gate was noted.

We discussed the situation re Houndkirk Road (SK280822). It is a highway, and as such the authority are legally obliged to maintain it for vehicles. There are SSSI sites off it. However trail bikes frequently leave the road to make their ride more 'exciting', which has led to the authority placing boulders off the road to try and encourage vehicle users to stay on the road. It is generally considered that the boulders do not enhance the appearance of the route, although it is acknowledged that the authority is trying to do its best under difficult circumstances.

AOB

TH reported that the large information boards for the Five Weirs Walk, funded from the GBH Ward legacy, were now in position.