

**LAF Green Lanes Sub-group
Aldern House
9 January 2013**

Attendees:

John Thompson (Chair), Edwina Edwards, Henry Folkard, Richard Entwistle, Charlotte Gilbert, Mike Johnson, Richard Peart, Sue Weatherley, Terry Howard Mike Rhodes, Richard Pett, Sue Smith

Apologies:

James Kellie

1. Update on TRO consultations

Sue Smith reported that 5 routes have ongoing consultations. Approx 4500 representations were received during the 6 week long public consultations for Long Causeway and the Roych and are currently being assessed. Public consultations are due to take place for Brushfield-Upperdale and Chertpit & Leys Lane. The potential for a permit system at Brushfield-Upperdale is covered later on in the agenda as is the discussion of the LAF's response to the consultation on Chapel Gate.

Updates were given on DCC's temporary closure for repairs at the Roych which runs from 4 February to 3 May 2013; alternatives are available for walkers only. DCC's closure at Long Causeway continues until 29 May 2013; they will be liaising over the effect of the works on the interests of the area. No details on the works are yet available for their closure at Chapel Gate which runs from 14 January to 7 June 2013.

Members of the LAF felt that it would be good to have an update on DCC's resources for works on green lanes and asked that DCC be invited to the next meeting of the sub-group. This was relevant as the Chapel Gate judgement referred to it being appropriate to give consideration to this.

Members also raised issues relating to the condition of Hurstclough Lane and recent problems at Chertpit lane. This led to members raising more general concerns over communications with vehicle users, the involvement of DCC, and the impact that the adopted approach may have on the NPA.

Action: Edwina to pursue with Nicola Turner in the first instance.

2. Chapel Gate TRO Consultation

Sue Smith reported the views of two members of the LAF; one represented the views of the National Trust as a landowner.

Mike Rhodes reported on the monitoring which has continued by way of vehicle logging, and condition and photographic surveys. Rich Pett reported that, in the preceding month, the resumption of 4x4 use has been higher and motorcycle use lower than average.

Members expressed concerns about the public perception of the closure by DCC following on from the judgement quashing the experimental order. Sue Smith

advised that the extent of the work was understood to be remedial and to relate to drainage works as previously identified in DCC's action planning.

A question was raised about the robustness and extent of the repairs and what would constitute an acceptable level of use and deterioration. Members considered that the route couldn't sustain significant amounts of traffic.

Members felt that a seasonal or permit restriction could be an option with the involvement of vehicle user groups. This would be manageable where the use is by a member of such groups. The management option needs to be simple to be readily communicated.

If a less restrictive option was being proposed, then there was a need to identify what would be sustainable in the long term. Shouldn't necessarily look for a compromise to address the issue of rights but instead consider whether this can be sustained on this route in a NP. The impact on landowners was also a concern.

Members recommended exploring with user groups some element of closure with appropriate management. Seasonal, one-way and weekend restrictions were raised. However they found difficulties in being more precise because of the uncertain nature of repairs - not tested, not complete, and insufficient information on planned and future repairs by DCC. It was proposed that a site visit take place at the next meeting of the sub-group.

3. Green Lane Code

Sue Smith reported back on a meeting of the Greens Lane Forum (GLF) at which members had worked on a proposed NP code of conduct for all users of green lanes. Updates would be provided for the LAF with requests for their input.

4. Proposed permit system at Brushfield-Upperdale

This was also discussed at the November meeting of the GLF and a paper was circulated providing background information. The LAF would be kept informed as matters progressed.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 7 February 2013 at 9.30 am, Aldern House