

Footpath and Cycling Working Party
Monday 5 September 2022

Notes of meeting

In attendance

Lisa Campisano

Brian Phillips V4W

Josie ? surname

Peter Gallagher Ramblers Association

Pete Wilcox V4W

Amanda Woodhead WPC note taker

Apologies

Peter Maddox

John Hewer

1) Missing Footpaths – Don't Lose Your Way

Peter referred to printout regarding unrecorded rights of way.

Landowners right to reply – councils have a power to deal with applications not a duty. If this changes it may change to a duty – would put a lot of pressure on councils to turn these around. Landowners could use this to their benefit if they wished for a right of way to cease.

Pete Wilcox asked about landowner request - would this come to the Parish or the Council. Peter G clarified that it would go to SBC but they would need to consult all the statutory consultees eg WPC Ramblers.

Wichelstowe - 7 k of walks/cycle routes. Wroughton 10 is a permanent diversion.

Extinguish or divert. Existing landowner can apply for either.

No rights of way in wichelstowe have been extinguished but some have been permanently diverted or it is proposed they will be.

Lots of new paths on wichelstowe but many are not rights of way. The paths will be the responsibility of the management company to maintain.

Kings farm wood – issues about whether a path was permissive or an established path. Pete Wilcox explained the decision was that this way a right of way and is within the auspices of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Some footpaths in KFW are not helpful if designated as rights of way, especially where the Trust has to go through a different process to do tree maintenance and need special permission to shut a right of way off.

2) Update from Josie

Josie updated Brinkworth footpath group come over as far as Tockenham, Malmesbury and Purton. Received some funding from the council and have a grant for tools, thinking of setting up a 'tool pool' so that other groups can use these. They organize welly walks so people can help with maintenance, have resurfaced some bridleways. Have some grants for gates and styles too. Some threatening land owners. Have also worked with Nationwide and other corporate groups to make improvements. Hollie Bailey (printout) BHS Access Officer for the British Horse Society for maintaining bridleways.

Bridleway from west Swindon into Wroughton – Pete W asked has this been resolved. Still problems along that site, no Pegasus crossing has been installed. Pete and Josie will try and find out if there is any progress on this.

Peter Gallagher – Broad Town, Purton, Ashton Keynes, Lydiard Millicent also have rights of way groups. All encouraged by Wiltshire Council who also support financially. Money is set aside specifically for this and no equivalent existing at Swindon Borough Council.

4 Discussion Points Raised by Pete Wilcox

- a) WPC Countryside Walks site – V4W put together some walks info. Pete W keen that this goes online for easy access on the WPC website. Pete W has discussed this with Oli Armstrong. **Ask Clerk to clarify.**

- b) Rights of way map Pete has is probably out of date but some of the rights of way are still valid. Lisa confirmed that this is available to download via our website. Also links to Ramblers social media.

Lisa suggested that a separate public meeting held by WPC regarding footpaths might be a good idea. How do the parish get volunteers to be involved?

Ashen Copse – public access – permissive footpath to link up with elcombe rights of way. Field immediately after wood has no public footpath at all to access the right of way number 416. Hedges become a problem and v4w maintain.

- c) Pete W asked Peter G for an update on the national position. There are a number of organisations including the Ramblers Association who have made a loose grouping who have made representations regarding access to woodlands.

No rights of way granted on the Burderop estate.

Peter W asked what happened with WPC 'Beating the Boundaries' – Clerk to clarify.

- d) Pete W asked what is the position with the rights of way which cross west wichelstowe. Lisa explained that WPC meet regularly with the developers who are building pathways. **Lisa said that WPC would need to revisit the map to clarify.** Peter G explained that the original masterplan for Wichelstowe showed the rights of way originally. Not sure if there is any current information on how the rights of way will change/divert. The Canal trust are not in favour of the towpath becoming a right of way. Nearly all of the paths in West Wichelstowe were closed whilst work commenced, mainly now all reopened but there are some obstructions which Martin Fry is dealing with.
- e) Thames Water Reservoir walk – Pete W asked if this could be organized by WPC/WWT/V4W/Wroughton History Group for 2023. **What would WPC position be on this committee organizing it?**

Lisa explained that WPC have discussed that having a 'tourist map' of all the places to visit. This is not a priority at the moment.

5) Updates

New reservoir planned for the top of the hill on the way to Ogbourne – Pete Gallagher updated. Lisa explained that this has not been to WPC planning but this may be because it is outside Parish.

Josie asked about the Boundary review and whether WPC would include all of Wichelstowe or some of it or whether it would be a separate parish. Lisa updated on the current situation. No change for 5 or 6 years if there is a change.

Lisa asked how we best take this group forward. What as a group do we want to do next.

Josie offered to sent the minutes from the Brinkworth group to WPC Clerk

Peter G an original aim was to list unrecorded paths. Lisa explained WPC received no feedback. **Need to have a plan on how we move this forward. Agenda item for the next meeting.**

Pete W – were we not going to use the existing OS map and see if the paths still exist? These could be a starting point for gathering information from members of the public/dog walkers. WPC have this map.

Peter G has asked Emma what records WPC has of footpaths. 1950's map shows the paths that each parish claimed. Do we have a copy of this?

Brian Phillips – where Overtown hill goes past Overtown Farm and then Langon Park, there used to be a path upto Barbury castle. Has this path been lost? Peter G thinks the current landowner still permits access. There used to be Countryside Stewardship Agreement referring to this.

Can we please have another meeting this year?