

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 26TH JANUARY 2004

SUBJECT: INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER GROUPS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the involvement of user groups who are assisting the Authority with the improvement of the rights of way network

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 Community involvement; best value

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 As reported previously, an important part of the maintenance of rights of way is the assistance that can be gained through the involvement of community councils and user groups.
- 3.2. Since the last meeting, the rights of way warden has continued to undertake works with groups by utilising the services of contractors to demonstrate and instruct new user group members in safe working practices.
- 3.3. Contact has been retained and in many cases strengthened with the user groups where works have been carried out. The Gelligaer Group have continued to clear and waymark paths between Penpedairheol, Gelligaer Common and Tophill.
- 3.4. The Schizophrenia Group is continuing with its help in preparing a further leaflet for circular walks in Caerphilly and the leaflet identified in the previous report for the Llanbradach area. Their involvement has not however been as high as previously due to staffing and transportation difficulties. It is hoped that these will be overcome in time for the spring and summer
- 3.5. The Ramblers Association together with the British Horse Society are continuing to assist the Authority in its responsibility to produce Performance Indicators. It is with sadness that I have to report the death of Mr. J. Riddley. He was the contact between county and ramblers and arranged the survey work and compiling the results. The surveys are ongoing and this is a very useful exercise in that it gives a clear picture of the condition of the network within the survey area and saves Council resources in carrying out the work. Currently two surveys are being carried out by the Ramblers, the first for an area south of Nelson and the second an area around Risca. It was previously reported that the results of these surveys should be available by the end of October 2003. The surveying teams have now advised that due to delays the results should now be available in February or March 2004
- 3.6. Islwyn Riding group continue to carry out a survey of bridleways in their area. This survey will include drainage and the preparation of a list of works to be carried out. Since the last report this group have undertaken minor works for the improvement of bridleways in the area. The survey work and maintenance / improvement will continue in the future.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To inform members

Author: A.J. Sander, Senior Assistant Engineer (Rights of Way)

Consultees: None

Background Papers: None