

**RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 26TH JANUARY 2004**

**SUBJECT: WORKS IN HAND OR RECENTLY CARRIED OUT**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

---

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the works recently undertaken or programmed to be carried out in regard to the rights of way network.

**2. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 2.1 To provide a network of routes for journeys on foot and horseback for leisure.

**3. THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Work undertaken by Caerphilly County Borough Council since 15<sup>th</sup> September 2003 is as follows:

- i erection of 38 N<sup>o</sup> stiles
- ii erection of 3 N<sup>o</sup> kissing gates and the maintenance of 2 No. gates
- iii provided 6 N<sup>o</sup> sleeper bridges across watercourses
- iv erected 10 N<sup>o</sup> hunting gates
- v cleared 8km of paths blocked by debris and foliage
- vi bridge repairs 3 N<sup>o</sup>
- vii erection of field gates 8 N<sup>o</sup>
- viii erection of finger posts 20 N<sup>o</sup>
- xi erection of 48 No. waymarker signs
- xii erection of 4 No. barriers
- xiii erected 1 No. new footbridges
- xiv erection of 300 metres of post and rail fencing
- xv constructed 60 flights of steps
- xvi re-constructed registered rights of way 300 metres

- 3.2 In addition to the foregoing, the Rights of Way Warden has continued to undertake surveys of footpaths and bridleways following complaints received from Councillors and members of the public in the Mynyddislwyn, Bedwellty, Gelligaer, Caerphilly and Blackwood areas. These surveys form the basis of works likely to be undertaken by user groups in the coming year. Additional surveys have been undertaken and works being prepared due to the injection of £20,000 additional funds for the current financial year. It is hoped that the backlog of works will accordingly be reduced
- 3.3 Members will recall from my previous report on the 15th September 2003 that officers met with the Islwyn Ramblers group on the 8th January 2003 to discuss works that could be undertaken. I am happy to report that this group has continued to be active and continue to operate half day a week. To date the group has cleared approximately 2000 metres of overgrown paths.

The Deri Ramblers have also been active clearing approximately 600 metres of heavy overgrowth. They have undertaken surveys identifying areas where work is necessary and within the scope of the group.

The Gelligaer Ramblers are continuing the survey work associated with the Performance Indicators. A similar exercise is being carried out by the Islwyn group.

The priority of work is unchanged since the previous meeting which is as follows:-

- i Hazards to the public;
- ii Hazards to property and livestock;
- iii Regular maintenance programme;
- iv Complaints from the public not covered by (i), (ii) or (iii).

- 3.4 A list of the telephone and other complaints received by rights of way staff since 15th September 2003, and also the remedial works undertaken to resolve the issues is attached and is also on deposit in the Member's Room. At present there is a backlog of works of approximately five weeks.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Cost of works to be paid for from Rights of Way budgets.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Works arranged by rights of way warden.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 List of Complaints 1