

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 24TH MAY 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 at previous meetings, an important part of the maintenance of the rights of way is undertaken with the assistance of community councils and user groups and individuals.
- 3.2 Since the last meeting of this Committee on the 26th January 2004, the Authority arranged a survey training day with groups prepared to survey the network. The event was attended by your Chairman and Vice Chairman who took part in the discussions and practical survey work.
- 3.3 The training day was as a result of a request from the Ramblers Association through the Local Access Forum.
- 3.4 The day started with consideration of the survey forms followed by a practical survey of a small section of the local network.
- 3.5 The meeting was reconvened following the survey to analyse the various ways participants had read the questions.
- 3.6 The Ramblers Association local representative has compiled a list of active participants for the survey who will be requested to survey between 60-80 paths through the year.
- 3.7 In conclusion it was a worthwhile training day which identified a number of issues which will be resolved before the survey is undertaken.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The Gelligaer Group has continued to clear and waymark paths between Penpedairheol, Gelligaer Common and Tophill. They also survey the Twm Walk on a regular basis and report any matters requiring attention. .
- 3.10 I must report that due to the change of management group the Schizophrenia Group has not been active since my last report. This is mainly due to the risk assessment matters that arise with field work and supervision of participants
- 3.11 The Ramblers Association together with the British Horse Society are continuing to assist the Authority in its responsibility to produce Performance Indicators. The surveys are ongoing and

results are currently awaited.

- 3.12 Islwyn Riding group continues to carry out a survey of bridleways in their area and a number of problem areas have been identified and works agreed to be implemented within the financial year.
- 3.13 The Deri Ramblers were due to commence voluntary work in early May.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report

7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To inform Members

Author: Adrian Sander, Senior Assistant Engineer (Rights of Way)
Consultees: Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Rights of Way Committee.