

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE - 23RD NOVEMBER 2004

SUBJECT: WORKS IN HAND OR RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN

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. SUMMARY

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

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Works undertaken by Caerphilly County Borough Council since 24th May 2004 is as follows:
- i erection of 37 No. 4 bar stiles and 20 No. 5 bar stiles;
 - ii erection of 3 No. new kissing gates;
 - iii repair of 7 No. kissing gates
 - iv provided 6 No sleeper bridges across watercourses;
 - v erected 7 No. hunting gates;
 - vi cleared 14.5km of paths blocked by debris and foliage,
 - vii bridge repairs 8 No..
 - viii erection of field gates 8 No.
 - ix erection of finger posts 49 No. (N.B. 20 finger posts stolen and replaced)
 - x erection of 20 No. waymarker signs
 - xi erection of 16 No. hoop or "A" frame barriers
 - xii erection of 100 metres of post and rail fencing
 - xiii new and repaired steps 20 No.
 - xiv repair of 17 No. stiles
 - xv repair of public path surfacing 1.5km
 - xvi 800metres of drainage maintenance
- 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, Bedwas and Machen, Gelligaer, Caerphilly, Risca and Blackwood areas.
- 3.3 Members will recall from my previous report that I identified a number of schemes, which have been identified due to the injection of £20,000 additional funds for the current financial year. I am pleased to report that the works fore footpath No. 21 Gelligaer started on the 27th September 2004 for surfacing, drainage and fencing.
- 3.4 The Gelligaer Ramblers are continuing the survey work associated with the Performance Indicators. A similar exercise is being carried out by the Islwyn group although progress appears to be slow. During the Local Access Forum meeting held at Tredomen on the 17th

September 2004 the Ramblers Association indicated that the survey work would probably not be completed until June 2005.

- 3.5 During the year they have cleared 350 metres of overgrown paths on behalf of the Authority
- 3.6 In the Islwyn area the volunteers have cleared 4.1km of paths of overgrowth and debris.
- 3.7 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).
- 3.8 A list of the telephone and other complaints received by rights of way staff since 24th May 2004, and also the remedial works undertaken to resolve the issues is on deposit in the Members` Room. At present there is a backlog of works of approximately four weeks.
- 3.9 Following a budget review and in response to Members` wishes the Authority has recently created and advertised a vacancy for a Trainee Rights of Way Technician which was filled by Stefan Denbury who started with the Authority on the 28th June 2004.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Cost of works to be paid for from the 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

7. REASONS

- 7.1 To advise Members

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Consultees: Chairman and Vice Chairman, Rights of Way Committee