

## RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 29TH MARCH 2006

**SUBJECT: WORKS IN HAND OR RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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### 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 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 is as follows:

- i erection of 20 No. 4 bar stiles and 7 No. 5 bar stiles;
- ii erection of 2 No. new kissing gates;
- iii repair of 2 No. kissing gates
- iv provided 7 No sleeper bridges across water courses;
- v erected 7 No. hunting gates; (NB 3 hunting gates replaced)
- vi cleared 8.4 Kms of paths blocked by debris and foliage,
- vii bridge repairs 4 No..
- viii erection of field gates 4 No.
- ix erection of finger posts 28 No. (N.B. 10 finger posts stolen and replaced)
- x erection of 46 No. waymarker signs
- xi erection of 3 No. hoop or "A" frame barriers
- xii erection of 100 metres of post and rail fencing
- xiii new and repaired steps 50 No.
- xiv repair of 6 No. stiles
- xv repair of public path surfacing 30 metres
- xvi 60 metres of drainage maintenance
- xvii construction of a 2 metre wide bridge 4 metres long

- 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 associated with bridleways 96, 59 and 47 Caerphilly in constructing gates, waymarking the route and undertaking surfacing works together with drainage works and tree clearance has been completed.

- 3.4 Members will recall identifying works on footpath No FP59 Gelligaer which included the construction of gabion baskets, clearance of overgrowth, waymarking, trees felling together with replacing and constructing gates and stiles and surfacing and drainage works has not been commenced. During the later part of 2005 Councillor Vera Jenkins raised the condition of footpath No.285 Abertillery. This is a surfaced path which links Crumlin Road to Gladstone Road, Crumlin. The existing path is by steps linked by steep platforms. A number of incidents had been reported to the Authority that members of the public had fallen on the path due to the gradient and slippery surface. Officers raised this matter with your Chairman and Vice Chairman and following a site inspection they agreed with officers recommendation that this path be improved by the reduction in the gradient by introducing additional steps and the resurfacing of the path. The cost of these works could not be met through the rights of way budget and the only way of undertaking the work was at the cost of other identified works. These works have now been completed, making the route much safer for public use due to the reduction in gradients due to the construction of additional steps.
- 3.5 The Gelligaer Ramblers are continuing the survey work in regard to the condition survey. In addition the Deri Ramblers have continued maintenance works and have cleared 4.7kms of paths. Councillor Don Cullen through the South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group is seeking a grant to purchase an All in one strimmer, hedge cutter and flail. This type of machine is multi purpose where different activities can be undertaken when changing the different heads.
- 3.6 In the Islwyn area the volunteers have cleared 8Kms of paths of overgrowth and debris.
- 3.7 To assist with the survey work the Authority through the rights of way warden contacted the Abercarn Scout Group. They have a number of members involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and while out in the country they are completing the survey forms.
- 3.8 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).
- 3.9 A list of the telephone and other complaints received by rights of way staff since 24th November 2005, 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.

#### **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

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