

## **RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 19TH DECEMBER 2006**

**SUBJECT: PROVISION OF NEW BRIDLEROUTES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform Committee of progress to date on the provision of bridleways in the Borough.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 To update Committee of change to the route of the bridleway on Oakdale Business Park and agree a new section of bridleway in Fleur-de-lis.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

3.1 Regeneration - Beacons Group for Tourism. Developing efficient transport systems including public transport, cycling and walking networks.

3.2 Environmental improvements, sustainable development.

3.3 The Local Transport Plan 2000 includes the provision of a long distance 40-mile bridleway.

### **4. THE REPORT**

4.1 Members will recall my report submitted to Committee on 25th July 2005 describing an update on progress on the provision of Bridleways in the Borough. I now wish to update members in respect of Oakdale Community Route; Fleur-de-lis bridleway; Upper Sirhowy Valley; Cwm Darren Park and The Ridgeway Loop.

#### **OAKDALE COMMUNITY ROUTE**

4.2 When work commenced on the Oakdale Community path the route was amended slightly and the final route is shown on Document No. 1.

4.3 A report was submitted to Cabinet on 24th November, 2005 by Community Regeneration Section seeking funding for maintenance of the Oakdale community route which resolved that £2,000 per annum be allocated for this purpose.

4.4 The Oakdale and Trinant Partnerships wish to have an Official Opening for the route and are hoping this will take place in February/March 2007.

4.5 The route is now available and is well used by the local riders and walkers.

## **FLEUR-DE-LYS/MAESYCWMMER**

- 4.6 Caerphilly Groundwork were commissioned to improve access to the Mid Valleys Corridor National Cycle Network Route 47 Loops and Links. One of the suggested links is from Fleur-de-lys to Maesycwmmmer along the old disused railway line. This route has been identified as a possible cycleway and also a possible bridleway. Document No. 2 shows the proposed route as A-B-C-D-E.
- 4.7 The majority of the land along the disused railway is the responsibility of Highways. Officers suggest that the route be dedicated as a bridleway to protect equestrian and cycle use.
- 4.8 Caerphilly Groundwork have carried out work funded from the links allocation to cut down the trees to make the path passable and provided two kissing gates and a horse step over to prevent vehicular access along route A-B.
- 4.9 Unfortunately part of the route is outside the Authority's land ownership (C-D on Document No. 2). Negotiations are currently being undertaken by the Countryside Section with the relevant landowners in order that the route may be completely open.
- 4.10 The new bridleway will connect to the bridleway in Fleur-de-lys and provide a circular route (see Document No 3).

## **UPPER SIRHOWY VALLEY**

- 4.11 Argoed Community Council has been successful in their bid for funding from Cydcoed and various horse routes in the Hollybush and Manmoel areas are being investigated.

## **CWM DARREN PARK**

- 4.12 A Cydcoed Grant has been approved to improve walking, cycling and horse riding in the Cwm Darren park and various routes are now being investigated.

## **THE RIDGEWAY LOOP**

- 4.13 Following meetings with Groundwork Caerphilly; Forestry Commission; British Horse Society; SAFE (Safe Access for Equestrians) and this Authority an application was submitted and approved for a Cydcoed Grant to improve the bridleways in the Caerphilly/Rudry area. The grant was awarded to SAFE and the Project Managers are Groundwork Caerphilly.
- 4.14 The CROW Support Officer has been heavily involved with agreeing routes and working with landowners for permission for works to be carried out with the agreement for interpretation boards, new gates, etc.
- 4.15 Work has now started on site and surfacing works are currently being undertaken. It is hoped that there is sufficient funding that additional bridleway surfaces will be improved with the grant money.
- 4.16 Quotations are awaited for works required to other bridleways in the area to ensure that the routes are available when the Ridgeway Loop works are completed.

The routes include: -

BR49 Rhydygwern – removal of three gates, v-shaped step over and installation of two horse step overs.

BR52 Caerphilly – drainage works and fill for step over; bollard to prevent obstruction for motor vehicle access.

BR47 Rudry – replace stolen finger post and repairs to corral.

BR2 Rudry – replace stolen finger post.

BR14 Llanfedw – drainage works and fill for step over, post and rail fence and clearance works.

BR22 Llanfedw – erect two finger posts.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Authority will be responsible for the maintenance of the newly created bridleway from Fleur-de-lys to Summerfield Hall Lane as shown as A-B in Document No. 2. The length of the path is approximately 703 metres in length or thereabouts. On current estimates this will increase financial burden by  $(705 \times 55 = \text{£}387.55)$  per annum. Additional revenue for maintenance will be sought through the ROWIP.
- 5.2 The cost of the works in paragraph 4.16 will be taken from the Rights of Way budget.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Rights of Way Committee support the dedication of the bridleway from Fleur-de-lys to Summerfield Hall Lane and accept the responsibility for the maintenance of the bridleway.

## **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 To progress the Local Transport Plan in providing a long distance bridle route throughout the Borough.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

- 10.1 None.

Author: Mrs. J.E. Piper, CROW Support Officer.  
Consultees: None.