



RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 19TH DECEMBER 2006

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 November 2005 is as follows:

- (i) erection of 23 No. 4 bar stiles and 5 No. 5 bar stiles;
- (ii) erection of 1 No. new kissing gates;
- (iii) repair of 6 No. kissing gates
- (iv) provided 2 No sleeper bridges across water courses;
- (v) repair 3 No. hunting gates;
- (vi) cleared 7 Kms of paths blocked by debris and foliage,
- (vii) erection of 60 metres of post and rail fencing
- (viii) repair of public path surfacing 400 metres
- (ix) erection of finger posts 50 No. 30 No. Footpath and 20 No. Bridleway
- (x) erection of No. waymarker signs
- (xi) erection of 2 No. hoop or "A" frame barriers

- 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 County Borough as a whole.
- 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 footpath No.59 Gelligaer in constructing gabion baskets alongside stream, cutting back trees, improving surface and providing steps and handrail has been started. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by this calendar year.
- 3.4 Members will recall identifying works on footpath No 2 Rhymney included clearance removal of trees waymarking, path construction and drainage. This work is anticipated to be completed by the end of January 2007.
- 3.5 The Deri Ramblers have continued maintenance works and have cleared 5kms of paths.

- 3.6 Councillor Don Cullen through the South Islwyn Rights of Way Environment Group has located grant monies which will allow the 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.
- 3.7 In the Islwyn volunteers have continued to clear paths but we have been unable to put a length on these works at this time..
- 3.8 Through contact with Groundwork Caerphilly, the Authority is currently working with “On the Ground Team” who are a group of adults of various ages undertaking voluntary work to gain work experience and skills in the countryside environment. The type of works is recorded in a document entitled “Right of Way No.54 A footpath Restoration Story” attached as Appendix I
- 3.9 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).
- 3.10 A list of the telephone and other complaints received by rights of way staff since 29th March 2006, 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 FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To advise Members.

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