

RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 19TH DECEMBER 2006

SUBJECT: DEDICATION OF FOOTPATH NO.85 FOR COMBINED CYCLE / PEDESTRIAN USE IN THE COMMUNITY OF BEDWAS AND MACHEN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the completion of the final section of the National Cycle Network / Celtic Trail – Route No. 4 from Bedwas to Graig-Y-Rhacca and associated improvements to Footpath No.85 (section recently diverted).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 To consider dedication of footpath No.85 in the Community of Bedwas and Machen for permissive combined cycle / pedestrian use.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Environmental improvements, sustainable development, regeneration and sustainable tourism opportunities.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Members will recall at the meeting of the Rights of Way Committee on 29th March 2006 consideration was given to an application for the diversion of footpath No.85 in the Community of Bedwas and Machen to coincide with the works undertaken to complete part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) – Route 4 together with upgrading the footpath.
- 4.2 Footpath No.85 was the subject of a diversion order dated 7th April 2006 and notices were posted on site on 13th April 2006, and maintained for the duration of the objection period which expired on 28th May 2006, no objections were received during this period. The order was confirmed unopposed on 6th June 2006.
- 4.3 The diverted footpath and associated links to Pont Bedwas Bridge in the west and Pant Glas Industrial Estate in the east have been constructed in accordance with the required Highways Design guidelines and standards together with Sustrans Guidelines and Practical Details to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists and improved access for disabled persons.
- 4.4 The diverted footpath and proposed cycleway are on land owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council – Property Services.
- 4.5 Completion of the NCN cycleway works is programmed for the latter part of the summer (August 2006), which will allow this section to be formally opened to the public. The use of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 for the conversion of a footpath for pedestrian and cycle use is a very lengthy and drawn out process and involve rigorous regulations and possible public inquiry into opposed orders.

- 4.6 Permissive use for cycling on a footpath, provided the footpath is not at the edge of a carriageway and that no traffic regulation order has been made, can be granted by the land owner (CCBC). It is proposed therefore that this section of upgraded footpath No.85 is dedicated for permissive rights for combined pedestrian / cycle use together with associated links to Pont Bedwas Bridge and Pant Glas Industrial Estate.
- 4.7 The definitive path is shown by a bold black line on the attached location plan reference no. ETP/T229/1/9-NCN/R4 between points E-F.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, County Borough Councillor K. Griffiths.
- 7.2 Chairman of Rights of Way Committee, Councillor D. Carter.
- 7.3 Vice Chairman of Rights of Way Committee, Councillor N. Dix.
- 7.4 Chief Engineer, Mr.Mark Rees-Williams.
- 7.5 Transportation Manager, Mr C Campbell.
- 7.6 Legal Services, Mr. G Gordon.
- 7.7 Senior Assistant Engineer Rights of Way, Mr A Sander.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the diverted section of footpath No.85 together with the associated connecting links from Pont Bedwas Bridge and Pant Glas Industrial Estate is dedicated for permissive combined pedestrian / cycle use.

Description of Existing Path or Way

That part of footpath No.85 in the Community of Bedwas and Machen commencing at a point approximately 88 metres south east of Severnside Waste Paper Factory and proceeding in a westerly and north westerly direction to a point approximately 92 metres west of said property a total distance of 165 metres or thereabouts and shown on plan by a bold black line between points E-B

That part of footpath No.85 in the Community of Bedwas and Machen commencing at a point approximately 92 metres west south west of Severnside Waste Paper Factory and proceeding in a west north westerly, northerly, and north westerly to its termination at a point approximately 65 metres south of the property known as Bridgefield House a total distance of 275 metres or thereabouts and shown on plan by a bold black line between points B-C-A/

That part of footpath No.85 in the Community of Bedwas and Machen commencing at a point approximately 65 metres south of Bridgefield House and proceeding in a curved north westerly direction to its termination on maintainable highway at Pont Bedwas Bridge at a point 88 metres west of said property a total distance of 145 metres or thereabouts and shown on plan by a bold black line between points A-F.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 In the interests of the public

Author: Brian Elliott, Senior Assistant Engineer – Strategy and Programmes.

Background Papers:

ETP/ROW/FP85 Bedwas and Machen/Report held at Council Offices, Pontllanfraith