



RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE – 19TH DECEMBER 2006

SUBJECT: INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER GROUPS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the involvement of user groups who are assisting the Authority with the improvement of the rights of way network

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 Community involvement; best value

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 As reported at previous meetings, an important part of the maintenance of the rights of way is undertaken with the assistance of community councils and user groups and individuals.
- 3.2 A new workparty which is part of Safe Access for Equestrians (SAFE) has recently been formed and to date have cleared 1 Km of bridleway of heavy overgrowth. This is a welcome addition in that it is the only equestrian based group we have working on paths.
- 3.3 The Rights of Way Warden has continued to undertake works with user groups by utilising the services of contractors to demonstrate and instruct new user group members in safe working practices.
- 3.4 The Ramblers Association together with the British Horse Society are continuing to assist the Authority in its responsibility to produce Performance Indicators. The surveys are ongoing and results are currently awaited.
- 3.5 The Church of the Latter-Day Saints hosts a Helping Hands Day annually, during which dozens of Church members lend their effort to an environmentally themed day. This year the EcoPark was the beneficiary, although Groundwork Caerphilly facilitated and hosted the day. One of the tasks was to clear and strip back the brambles, etc. adjacent to the 'Miners' Walk' footpath, particularly the drystone wall stretch to the south of the EcoPark. The works were undertaken on Footpaths 56 and 57 Bedwellty.
- 3.6 An example of this work, undertaken by the Darren Valley Ramblers on Footpath No.54 Gelligaer is included at Appendix I
- 3.7 All the works are an important contribution to the access to the rights of way network and the Authority will continue to pursue the development of these links in the future in accordance with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To inform Members

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

Background papers:
None

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Report by Deri Ramblers in regard to the restoration of Footpath No.54 Gelligaer