

## Countryside Access Group Meeting Wednesday 24 January 2024

In Attendance: AH (DOI) Chair  
 FW (DOI)  
 RC (DOI/4WD)  
 HQ (BHS)  
 GW (DEFA)  
 MK (DEFA)  
 AL (DEFA)  
 JW Visit Trail Riders, (VTR) (motorcycles) & ACU  
 NK (Druidale Motor Club)  
 DL (MFCG)  
 HA (MNH)  
 EB (RPU)  
 KK (MUA)  
 SW Wooden Spoon Wheelchair Sports Club (WSWSC)  
 HG (Note taker)

Apologies: TS (MWT)  
 YM (DfE)  
 PC (MFCG)  
 SM (MNH)  
 SC (MNFU)  
 SG (DEFA)  
 AC-S (DEFA)  
 SH (DEFA)  
 AHen (MMBC)  
 CS-C (CSC) (WLO)  
 DLo (Wild Life Crime Officer)  
 JS (Wild Life Crime Officer)

Item	Description	Who
1.	Apologies – noted as above.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting - agreed as a true record.	
3.	<p>Actions from previous meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023.</p> <p>4.5 Consultation on proposed coastal footpath legislation            FW commented no further on consultation and a meeting to be set up with the Environmental Land Committee (ELC). FW waiting to hear back from SC. <i>This meeting is still to be arranged and will possibly be way laid due to Tesco takeover. Carry forward to next meeting. <b>FW meeting with the Environmental Land Committee end of this month.</b></i></p> <p>TS reported somebody gathering sheep above Glen Dhoo in one of the streams reported damage off the Slieu Dhoo track. SG to pass onto MK. <i>This issue has now been resolved.</i></p>	

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Work and Orders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Orders. Ballacannell, Poyll Dooley, Onchan, Ramsey, Heritage trail and St Johns to Kirk Michael. Currently all delayed due to staff covered long term sickness. <i>FW commented this was finally resolved last week and an officer is now based at the Sea Terminal.</i></li> <li>Heritage Trail, Bridle-path. Order has gone through and it is now legally a bridle-path and now waiting for the Public Order. DL commented the eastern end is not a PROW and FW confirmed that although owned by the DoI he will look into the possibility of it becoming a PROW.</li> <li>Proposed work. FW had circulated two spreadsheets to the group. The first spreadsheet covers Joinery/Green Lane works and this will be updated and brought to the meeting periodically. The second spreadsheet is a Construction list which will be a slower programme due to budget and resource constraints. DL asked if the Raad Ny Foillan can be done before the main walking season begins and FW to action. DL thanked FW for providing this information to the group.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FW</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>WINTER CLOSURES</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballacob. RC commented he will check out the area soon and has been checking out signs periodically.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>TT PREP</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baltic Road. MK reported that the need for substantial work to be carried out to police the hills at Sartfield side and the gorse Baltic side. Snaefell mines (top end) also requires works and some ditching. FW informed the group that a small flail/tractor is on order to carry out this work including the Heritage Trail and will inform RC when in a position to carry out these works. DEFA to arrange a site visit and invite RC.</li> <li>Green Lane Mapping. These are now underway and highlight any Green Lane dead end routes. GW commented on the need for consistency throughout Government and other TT providers and for the Group to endorse. JW commented there has improved excessively however, the issue we have is with e-bike users. FW informed the group that there will be a nominal charge for the maps and EB commented that it would be useful if they are QR coded.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MK</b></p>
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>ILLEGAL RIDING/ACCESS</b></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MK had nothing to report, possibly due to the current weather conditions.</li> <li>TS sent an email to raise an issue about motorbikes going off piste and around one of the MWT's nature reserves, Glen Dhoo, Ballaugh. A Green Lane goes to the reserve and through it but it is a dead end and does not lead out on to the hills as I think some may assume. TS visited the site a couple of weeks ago and motorbikes had been driven off the Green Lane and around many of the lower fields which are quite wet. A drain which had recently been installed was damaged causing flooding over an area we were trying to improve for tractor access. MWT will be placing some signage on its gates as this is not the first time this has happened. JT asked if it would be possible to have better signage at the start of the Green Lane to make it clear it is a dead end and not a way onto the hills? FW/RC to action.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FW/RC</b></p>

<b>4.4</b>	<b>IOM COUNTRY CODE</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FW thanked everyone for their feedback. FW received some questions and will feedback at next meeting together with more information on Green Lanes. It is a long drawn document and FW commented this was the basis for the slimmed down versions for walkers, cyclist etc that you find in the UK. SM asked if this will be tailored to schools and FW said yes, the Farmers Union have already visited schools and we envisage to go off the back of their publication. The next stage is for the Cabinet Office design team to form a booklet and possibly look at putting in QR codes for shops and location sites. Going forward FW to use this group as a sounding board. <i>FW waiting data from the MNFU and will then circulate to group.</i></li> </ul>	<b>SC</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED COASTAL FOOTPATH LEGISLATION</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SG reported on illegal riding by e mountain bikers, knocking walls and breaking fences. SG asked if anyone sees any illegal bikers to raise with DEFA. There had been suggestions of putting in raised cattle grids but that would not deter illegal mountain bikers. Signage also is not a deterrent as in the past DEFA have been asked to remove from a political level due to complaints from their constituency. Ongoing.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Public Isle of Man Greenways, Track &amp; Trials Facebook Group</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JW reported no updated.</li> <li>The Sloc and Surby Road closed for ditching and FW to check if open at weekends.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	HA informed the meeting that she will be taken a leave of absence from her current post at the end of March for a 12 month period. SM will continue to attend meetings.	
<b>6.</b>	There being no further business the meeting closed at 6pm and the date for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 5pm.	