

P3 Pathways Group Meeting

23rd February 2021, 7.30pm Online (Zoom)

Attended: Tom Currie (Chair) Brian Gaskin, David Brown, Sue Brown, John Seales
Denise Davies, Nick West, Graham Davies, John Hall, Tom Manley

Apologies: Tom and Louise Kiely, Andrew Careless (retrospective)

Note: This meeting was disrupted due to technical difficulties on Zoom (presumably bandwidth issues) for which the Chair can only apologise. It's a reflection of just how important the subject matter is that the group continued its discussions, despite these problems!

1. **Welcome** – TC welcomed all to the meeting and to TM as this was his first meeting. Introductions made.

2. Notes and actions (notes of 12.1.21)

Noted, but the meeting had expected Andrew Careless, Senior Rights of Way Officer for Telford and Wrekin to be present and to update on two critical issues, a) the requisition of signposts, gates etc (ordered but not yet delivered) b) the status of Rodenhurst Lane, particularly the intersection of R6 and the options for diversion (or not). Dependent on the determination of this issue, rests the delivery plan to install signposts/ gates etc. The group feels stymied on this and seeks urgent clarification from Andrew Careless.

Action 2 To confirm the above and invite AC to the next meeting*

*Update – Confirmed in person, action arising: site meeting pending, 15/3/21

3. Discussion

GD suggested that we form a group of volunteers to undertake the clearing of footpaths (something this group has been seeking) and made practical suggestions of how this could be done. It was agreed to make a start on R3 adjacent to the Cemetery – confirmed as 2-4pm on the 13th March. GD confirms this route is not useable in its current state, and is dangerous given the deep holes on and around it. He suggests this section of the path needs to be levelled (possibly mechanically).

Action 3 (a) Pathways volunteers include: DD, NW, GD, GB, TM and TC.

Action 3 (b) TC will confirm the above intention to clear R3 footpath access with the landowner, IG. Update: Action confirmed 3/3/21

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4. Condition of ROW - 'Defect' reports

JS identified problems on the Barkers Square route (Withington) to Walcott Road. The condition is poor, unmarked and inaccessible, otherwise this would make a good circular walk. This, together with R2 which runs parallel in part, are both in Shropshire County Council's area.

DD identified problems on the access to the route off Walcott Road, heading towards Withington, parallel to Hunkington Lane. This is also Shropshire Council's area.

Action 4 (a) DD will liaise with JS and submit reports to Shropshire Council.

GD identified that there is a footbridge and stile that are repairable on R7 as it abuts Rodenhurst Lane. In BG's opinion there was little or no evidence of these and a new bridge/stile would be required. In the meantime, GD said it might help to clear the overgrowth to permit access to the route. Also, given that a Field Edge diversion is no longer thought appropriate, the landowner should be required to maintain this footpath across the field.

NW confirmed that a tree obscuring access to R3 on Church Road has been removed and he would like to make progress on diverting the diagonal footpath across his land to one going parallel with the hedge, allowing access onto both R3 and R6.

TM asked whether the P3 Partnership had any intention of creating new routes in the area. TC confirmed the priority of the group had been to focus on access to existing ROW and any necessary changes/diversions.

JH raised the issue since the R16 Northern spur requires walking on a busy road, people have started adopting a new route from Sugden Lane. This amounts to a new route and as such will need agreement by the landowner, Phil Davies. There are also issues with L1 and L3 that John Hall has reported. He proposes to walk L2 and L4 at a later date.

Action 4 (b) TC will raise this with the landowner, PD.

D & SB confirmed that some clearance of branches and overgrowth had been necessary on R9 but the main problems are boggy conditions caused by heavy rains and ploughing which is perennial.

5. Proposed date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday, 20th April 2021 at 7.30pm – online.