

Rodington Parish Pathways Group

13th July 2021 7.30pm Online (Zoom)

Invited:

Tom Currie, Brian Gaskin, John & Karen Seales, Denise Davies, Robin and Eileen Greenaway, David and Sue Brown, Nick West, John & Sally Salusbury-Jones, Tom and Louise Kiely, Sandy Walker, John Hall, Tom Manley, Steve and Hilary Lowe, Andrew Careless, Senior Rights of Way Officer, Telford & Wrekin, Connor Furnival, Clerk, Rodington Parish Council

cc. Amanda Hartley-Newton (Shropshire Way and Ramblers Association) cc. Graham Davies

Apologies:

Denise Davies, Nick West, Sandy Walker, Connor Furnival, Clerk, Rodington Parish Council

Attended:

Tom Currie (Chair) Brian Gaskin, John Seales, David and Sue Brown (network issues prevented link working) Steve Lowe, Andrew Careless, Senior Rights of Way Officer, Telford & Wrekin

1. **Welcome and apologies**

All apologies were noted .

TC apologised for the poor broadband connection on Zoom. This was a localised issue but prevented members of the group from engaging. TC apologises to all who were affected.

2. **Notes and actions (meeting, 18th May 2021)**

Action 2 Rodenhurst Lane: discussion took place on 30.6.21 with SRO and SW, in presence of BG, TC and DD. Increased industrial traffic and activity on the Rodenhurst Business Park raises health and safety concerns and also security issues. These are substantive concerns which have led to consider diverting R6 to remove the danger to users. Whilst this proposal was agreed in principal, there were genuine concerns that the proposed road surface of the diversion (MOT) would be well below the standard of the existing road surface (tarmac). It was agreed on site by all present that any diversion would require a tarmac surface of equivalent grade and quality. TWC is prepared to contribute but the majority of costs will be taken up by SW who intends to make a planning application for building expansion and the diversion would be undertaken at that time, subject to both public consultation and planning permissions. SW would want to use this road diversion for agricultural access, whilst restricting all public motorised vehicles. This is a really positive outcome, which takes account of the differing views to date. AC confirmed the legal process underpinning this diversion can start now, and notification to the public and interest groups would form part of the consultation but would be circumscribed by any planning application. The next step in the process is to develop detailed proposals and to invite Rodington Parish Council, the Ramblers Association, British Horse Carriage Association and interested parties to a site meeting at the appropriate time. The overall timescale for implementation circa 6 months (3 months in legal process, 3 months in consultation) but this is also dependent on planning permission.

AC will organise the above as part of the legal process. TC will provide a list and contact details of consultees as far as possible.

Action 3 The Old Smithy, Longdon on Tern: There have ongoing issues concerning access to the right of way, R16 which apparently passes through the garden of this property but is not shown on

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any maps. Various solutions were proposed and, to move this forward and a site meeting took place on the 6.7.21 with TC, BG, AC and the landowner of the adjacent land, Phil Davies. PD proposed that TWC extend the path along the (wide) grass verge of the road up to the point where there is a kink in the hedge. A gate would be placed there and PD would run a 4 metre-wide hardcore track along the field edge and through the plantation to reach the Northern spur of R16. The Southern spur to The Old Smithy Cottage would be extinguished. This has several advantages:

- a) Avoiding arguments about the route of R16
- b) Avoiding nuisance to the residents in and around The Old Smithy Cottage
- c) Providing a superior surface, avoiding flooding, that opens up various circular walks.

Action 3.1 - Site meeting with all interested parties to be arranged.

Action 4a Old Manor Cottage – the right of way remains blocked. AC will make a site visit w/c 19/7/21 to take photos of the obstruction and write to the owners. Informal enforcement process is sufficient at this point to convey that, ‘the law requires this right of way to be maintained’, asserting the public rights to this right of way. A reasonable timeframe is required, and in the event of non-compliance, this will be enforced. An auditable trail is required in the process.

Action 4b Longswood Farm access to L1 – AC will respond to this matter in the same way described above, by taking photos of the blockage and seeking resolution with the landowner. This will be actioned w/c 19/7/21.

Action 5 Updated map of Longdon on Tern rights of way – BG has requested a quotation for a polymer map from Bernie. However, it would be inadvisable to pursue this further until proposed changes to the RoW’s are completed.

1. Report from Senior Rights of Way Officer

AC provided a full report on the Rodenhurst Lane and Longdon on Tern diversion proposals. SL confirmed that conifers have been cut back around the on-site security barrier at Rodenhurst BP enabling public access on R4. So far, nothing further has been done to improve access around the first security barrier at the end of Rodenhurst Lane. SW had agreed to attend to this. AC will contact SW to confirm the matter should be attended to.

2. Outstanding issues

R3 and R7 are currently impassable due to cropping on the respective fields.

Action – TC to contact the respective landowners to identify a date by when the RoW will be reinstated.

On R3 and the proposed diversion around the copse, this is pending but low priority for TWC. TC identified the concern of the landowner, NW as currently dog owners allow their dogs to foul his land. A fence could be erected at this stage, ahead of formal diversion but it would have to retain the right of way. SL suggested erecting a fence but allowing for “an uninviting stile”. AC is sympathetic in this situation but could not promise that the diversion would take place soon.

JS raised the issues of frustrated access on R4 due to ploughing close to the field edge. AC suggests any complaints such as this can be reported online on the TWC App. AC is developing a complaints process with his assistant, Sam. The latter would respond directly on any complaint which has the

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advantage of being recorded and processed. JS asked who owned the land (TC- to confirm; it's believed Ian Griffiths is the landowner). The process for complaints – site visit, photograph, and letter seeking reinstatement.....

3. Partnership Working – Rodington Parish Paths Partnership

TC outlined the proposal for a 3P Agreement, and confirmed that a draft had been sent out to all members of the group. All present agreed with the proposals contained in the draft agreement. Whilst noting agreement, TC identified that the Pathways Group has no constitution and it will need to progress to this in order to ensure integrity, accountability and transparency. All present agreed with this and it was proposed (JS) to arrange a meeting for this sole purpose. As part of the constitution, there would be a statement of purpose, membership, conduct of meetings, voting rights and accountability. An annual general meeting would be open to the wider public .

Action – TC will circulate a draft proposed constitution and convene a general meeting (in person) with the proposal to adopt a constitution and formally vote acceptance of the Rodington Parish Paths Partnership.

AC asked if he could adopt this model with other groups that he is currently working with as he sees this as representing good practice.

4. Volunteer Working Group

Agreed to defer this to the next meeting given that we will need to identify a work-plan of priorities (BG).

SL, JS, TC and BG amongst other members form the volunteer working group, prepared to undertake work. TC asked AC if we could now have delivery of the working tools, brush cutters, scythes etc

Action – AC will release these tools (probably early Sept).

5. Other matters discussed

JS proposed the production of a small booklet incorporating all walks in the area, showing areas of interest, flora and fauna. This received support from all present. JS suggests this could be made available by 31/12, including circular walk routes. Discussion about a possible online version and AC confirmed the Definitive Map is now live and up to date.

Action – JS will link with others (SL, TC, BG) to produce the booklet.

Insurance – Discussion on collective insurance under TWC policy. This will provide public liability insurance.

Action – TC will provide a list of names /contact addresses so these people will be included in the insurance cover.

6. Date and time of next meeting

The meeting was disrupted by network issues before confirming **7.30pm Tuesday 14.9.21.**
The venue is likely to be the Bull, Rodington (tbc)