

Mrs Cheryl Wakefield – Great Sankey Parish Council  
Admin Office - Parish Office  
Whittle Hall Community Centre  
Lonsdale Close, Whittle Hall  
Warrington WA5 3UA



RECEIVED 28 APR 2010

Diana Terris  
Chief Executive

David Boyer  
Assistant Director  
Sustainable Transportation

New Town House  
Buttermarket Street  
Warrington  
WA1 2NH

Your Ref:

Our Ref: E/JT

Date: 21 April 2010

Dear Ms Wakefield

### **Warrington Public Rights of Way Forum**

I have pleasure in enclosing the draft agenda for the next meeting of the Warrington Public Rights of Way Forum on Wednesday 23 June 2010 and minutes from the previous meeting. I would welcome the attendance of a representative of your organisation at the meeting. If you have any additional agenda items please advise the contact below by 16 June.

The meeting will commence at 10:00 a.m. at New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NH.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "J Thorp".

 Sharon Walls  
**Service Manager - Transport Asset Management**

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Enc

***Warrington Borough Council***

***Public Rights of Way Forum***

*Meeting to be held on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at New Town House at 10:00 a.m.*

*Provisional Agenda*

- 1. Introductions*
- 2. Apologies*
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 10/3/2010*
- 4. Matters arising*
- 5. Local Access Forum*
- 6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)*
- 7. Definitive Map Modification*
- 8. Maintenance & Improvement*
- 9. Enforcement*
- 10. Changes to the Network – Orders etc. inc. planning applications*
- 11. Trans Pennine Trail and other Greenway routes*
- 12. Parish Warden Scheme*
- 13. Ramblers 75 years Celebration Walk update (Roger Lamming)*
- 14. Environment Agency proposed flood defence works in Warrington*
- 15. Any other urgent business*
- 16. Date of next meeting*

## **WARRINGTON RIGHTS OF WAY FORUM**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 March 2010  
At New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington at 10.00am

### **Present:**

Cllr Linda Dirir (Chair)  
Brian Dutton  
John Read  
Roger Lamming  
Peter Waite  
John Thorp  
Graham Dutton  
David Rowlands  
Helen Dutton  
Geoff Hill  
Ken Arnett  
Steve Guest  
Chris Bluck  
David Richards (guest)  
Keith Doughty  
Bob Hardie

### **Representing:**

Warrington Borough Council  
Croft P.C.  
Lymm P.C.  
Ramblers Association  
Mid Cheshire Footpath Society  
Warrington Borough Council  
Warrington Borough Council  
Country Land and Business Assoc.  
Stockton Heath P.C.  
Culcheth and Glazebury P.C.  
Appleton Parish Council  
Appleton PC path warden  
Warrington Borough Council  
Ramblers Association North & mid Cheshire  
Penketh / Sankey path warden & RA  
Walton PC

### **Action**

#### **1. Introductions**

The Forum members introduced themselves to the other members.

#### **2. Apologies**

Stretton PC, David O'Leary (P&NFPS)

#### **3. Minutes of meeting held on 7 October 2009**

These were accepted as a true record.

#### **4. Matters arising**

JT advised he had visited Croft footpath no.10 at Mustard Lane with a legal officer to get a legal view on a way forward in dealing with the encroachment that has taken place. The footpath is now too narrow. It was clear from the site that the school had set its fencing back in the past to allow the footpath to exit to the west of the phone box rather than the east. A public path order will be needed once it is decided how it will be resolved.

JT

JT advised he had heard from the site manager at Biffa about surveys they have carried out on Croft footpath no.13 along the eastern boundary of the Risley site to resolve the waterlogging. She will get back to JT with proposals.

JT

JT had been informed by Planning Enforcement that the unauthorised fencing on Lately Common was temporary during the pipe laying works.

JT provided a hand out on the responses to the Defra coastal access consultation.

PW advised it had not been necessary to contact the Homes and Communities Agency over Appleton footpath no.18 as it has been problem free since the last meeting.

#### **5. Departmental re-organisation**

JT advised that the restructure had reduced the staff resource for rights of way by half

		Action
	<p>of an officer. The post of Rights of Way Assistant was going but the ROW Assistant GD had been slotted in to the new structure and would still carry out path surveys which are essential for insurance purposes. It will be important to prioritise work due to the reduction in the staff resource.</p> <p>JT explained that Rights of Way had had to take on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) without any additional resources and the re-structure would inevitably lead to some of the more time consuming rights of way work not being able to be done. It is likely that JT will have to take on the maintenance and extra enforcement work that GD currently does.</p> <p>JR emphasised the importance of the parish wardens and others providing local path information.</p> <p>DR suggested the Forum should raise with the Council the affect of the restructure on the ROW service. The Forum members agreed.</p> <p>BD asked about the ROWIP budget. JT replied that after the ROWIP was written there was no budget for its implementation but a capital budget was provided after some lobbying, for pedestrian schemes. This is not flexible enough to provide for many of the ROWIP goals. He had carried out small schemes such as opening short bridleway links in the south of the borough where the most organised requests have been but the mechanisms aren't in place for the larger schemes in the ROWIP. He would be discussing the rolling forward of the ROWIP into the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 3 period soon.</p> <p>LD emphasised the importance of the ROWIP being properly provided for in LTP3 despite the inevitable reduction in the budget. The government had introduced ROWIPs with the intention they be implemented. It should be easier for funding to be accessed from the LTP for ROWIP works. It is also up to the parishes to lobby for the improvements</p> <p>BD referred to the ROWIP goals for the north of the borough not being progressed and acknowledged that the equestrian and cyclist user groups in the north weren't well organised for lobbying.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>LD</p> <p>JT</p> <p>Parish reps.</p>
6.	<p><b>Local Access Forum (LAF)</b></p> <p>JT reported that the Merseyside, Halton and Warrington LAF met on the 29 January 2010. No minutes are available yet. Proceedings were overburdened with the district reports. This is being dealt with by printed district reports being sent out with the agenda in future.</p> <p>The next meeting is on 24 March at Millennium House, Victoria St. Liverpool between 5pm and 7pm. The agenda will include district reports, coastal access / north west coastal trail, LTP3 update, Trans Pennine Trail update. Site visits will play a part in meetings after 24 March.</p> <p>The secretariat is currently provided by Knowsley MBC.</p> <p>PW is a member of the LAF. He said he had recently been to a training event at the Gateway. It helped to clarify the role of the LAF which he would take forward within the LAF.</p>	
7.	<p><b>ROWIP</b></p> <p>JT handed out a draft milestones statement and ROWIP report and invited reps. to contact him if they wished to discuss any of the contents.</p> <p>He said that some ROWIP progress had been made although some of the goals are in the hands of other services in the council and he couldn't dictate what is done.</p> <p>As an example the code of conduct was discussed with the Rangers but no generic code could be decided, however, it is understood that a code of conduct will be introduced on the TPT shortly.</p> <p>DR said he would like to see a code of conduct as a small number of people can cause problems for others.</p> <p>JT clarified that the code of conduct referred to council owned sites but when publicity is produced for rights of way suitable wording respecting private land was included.</p> <p>JR asked about verge management and general discussion followed. JT acknowledged that nature conservation was another factor in verge management.</p>	<p>JT</p>

**8. Definitive Map Modification**

JT said the public inquiry for the claimed footpath at Gullivers World Camp Road had been set at 28/29 September 2010

Legal event definitive map modification orders are up to date.

JT said instructions had been sent to the Legal Department for the evidential definitive map modification order to add footpaths on land to the north of Mayfair Close and Cronulla Drive, Gt. Sankey.

JT

The fact that this decided rights of way claim had not been the subject of an order was found to be an obstacle to the consolidation of the definitive map due to a clause in the legislation so the orders are being made as soon as possible to clear the way for new consolidated definitive maps to be produced.

The status of Firs Lane has been researched and will have to be discussed internally for legal advice and managerial input. The outcome will not affect current public use.

JT

The last undecided rights of way claim that the borough has on file for a footpath at Morley Road, Latchford has missed going to Traffic Committee in March due to the applicant requesting more evidence forms. Currently the evidence is inadequate to show the existence of a right of way.

**9. Maintenance and Improvement**

GD provided a hand out. He explained that the former Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 178 was still being assessed as a local indicator. (\*Post meeting note – the May and November figures were 87.5% and 75.1% respectively giving an annual figure of 81.3%.) The May survey was very good but the November figure was lower due to the heavy rains. Consideration will be given to whether this indicator can still be assessed following the restructure.

JT

GD showed some before and after photographs of Woolston footpath no.23. He also provided a list of work done and a list of proposed projects, budget permitting, for 2010/2011.

GH asked about the condition of the Holcroft Lane footway. He has complained about it previously but it still needs spading off. Staff to follow this up.

JT

**10. Enforcement**

GD handed out a table showing enforcement issues totalling 69 for the year. And advised on some individual cases.

Six legal notices were issued relating to three cropping issues, two stile issues and an obstruction. One prosecution was withdrawn after the offender removed the illegal gate and paid expenses.

GD passed round some photographs as examples.

LD raised the issue of motor vehicles blocking pavements preventing prams and wheelchairs having access.

The Forum was in agreement that this matter needs to be enforced.

It is a road traffic offence and the police need to enforce it.

JR advised that the volume of complaints makes a difference to the police's willingness to act.

There followed some discussion on wheely bins on the pavement.

**11. Changes to the Network including Planning Applications**

JT said that he understands suitable conditions have been attached to the planning approval for the Port Warrington site near Moore – protecting the "greenway". Publication of the decision is awaited.

At Gig Lane, Thelwall a bridleway creation agreement has been completed and an order is being made this week to create a missing link in this new bridleway which links Thelwall New Road to Elizabeth Park. It is needed to provide for a "greenway" route through the Park and to enable a trial of a permissive bridleway to take place.

**12. Trans Pennine Trail and greenway routes**

JT advised that the TPT route from Knutsford Road to Bradshaws Lane was now via

Latchford Locks and official literature would be altered to show this as the official route.

The TPT walking route at the Old Quay canal, Latchford was temporarily closed due to a pipe burst.

There is no national TPT officer due to uncertainty over funding following the previous officer leaving. TPT 21 year celebrations will happen this year culminating in a TPT festival on Sunday 20 June at Barnsley Football Club.

Warrington's TPT rep. and Mersey area rep. Mike Bailey is retiring at the end of March. Elected members want Warrington to still be lead authority for the Mersey area.

There are currently two proposed greenway schemes

- Whittle Hall Park – Barrowhall Lane to Whittle Avenue
- Woolston Park – Green Lane to Kingland Grange

They are both Community Infrastructure Fund schemes and are out to consultation at the moment. Proposed implementation July – November 2010. The 2m. wide paths would be widened to 3m. and lit.

**13. Parish Warden Scheme**

GD said he had received survey forms from Lymm, Penketh and Stockton Heath. Spare forms and envelopes were provided.

**14. Ramblers 75 year celebration walk (Roger Lamming)**

RL advised that a 75km. baton relay walk was being arranged for the Ramblers 75 year anniversary. It will be centred on Warrington borough. It will be run over the 4 Saturdays in June and Saturday 10 July.

There will be more publicity nearer the date and information is on the Ramblers web site.

RA will write to the Council for formal backing e.g. to launch the event.

LD suggested it may be suitable for the Mayors involvement.

**15. Any other urgent business**

CB gave an update on gating orders. He said several were in the pipeline. One has been consulted on. It is at Canberra Square. The path is a generator of crime and anti social behaviour. Response to consultation mixed. More in favour than against. Report being drafted requesting permission to seek the order.

Cost estimate is £4000 for the gates and the cost of the order. Planning permission will also be needed.

"Stronger Together" will fund the physical costs but not the rest.

There is still a shortfall which may sway the committee. There is no budget for these orders in Warrington.

KA advised the Forum of a recent talk from the Environment Agency on flood risk management in Warrington. It was decided this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

JT

**16. Date of next meeting**

To be advised