

SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 5th June 2017, at 5.30pm, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

1. Attendance:

Angela Williams, BHS CABO & Ellesmere, Chairman. Zia Robins, Shrewsbury & District RC A&BWO, Nesscliffe Hills & Dist. BWA P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Linda Russell, South West Shrewsbury BW P3 Group, Joint Secretary. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA. Elaine Newton, Broseley BWA. Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

Apologies:

Gill Eyre, BHS South East Shropshire, Cleobury Mortimer. Pam Yuille, Underton, Bridgnorth. Andrew Kelly, Vyrnwy & Dist. BWA. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Caroline Le Butt, Long Mynd Bridleways Assoc Gaynor Evans and Mike & Jan Baldwin, Broseley & District. BWA. Mark Weston, BHS. It is noted that Mike & Jan Baldwin and Gaynor Evans were retiring, and that Elaine Newton will now be representing Broseley BWA.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th February 2017 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Outdoor Partnerships User Survey 2017

There are a lot of responses from cyclists, both on and off-road, 4x4 users, and Trail Riders. The response from Bridleway users is up, but it is thought that many horse riders may not have been aware of the survey. Shona reported that there is a facebook page for Walking, and that the survey is sent to Groups, Parish Councils etc. Zia has found that a lot of countryside users are not aware of Shropshire's Great Outdoors website. There was no funding to publicise its launch, and no coverage in the Shropshire Star. It is understood that Clare Fildes wants to do publicity on the website. Lack of routes in North Shropshire was raised. Shona confirmed that they are aware of the Lost Ways there from the Discovering Lost Ways Project, as that focused on North Shropshire. Zia also did a lot of research work with Jim Stabler on white roads.

It is noted that the full Outdoor Partnerships User Survey 2017 results are available on:-
<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-recreation/strategic-documents-for-outdoor-recreation/>.

(b) Helicopters

Zia has received an update from Nick Williams, the Deputy Corporate Engagement Relations Officer, RAF Shawbury, as Squadron Leader Kim Leech is currently away. He reported that new aircraft are arriving slowly which will take over from the current helicopters in April 2018. They are called JUNO and JUPITER and are almost identical to the air ambulance and police helicopters. He thought them a lot quieter than the present helicopters. They currently have 3 at RAF Shawbury, building to 29 in 2018. They have only had 3 equine related low flying complaints over the last two months, all involving horses in paddocks. No injuries occurred. The RAF Shawbury website has a Be Seen Be Safer internet page. The Landowner Awareness Day this year was held on 18th May.

(c) Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Project

Following Zia's suggestion to Sue Lee of applying to the Project for funding to take the circular routes forward, Angela reported that Sue Lee has got £2,000 of funding for Long Mynd BWA. Zia has been doing research on the Shelve/Stapeley area. Angela reported that they are planning a meeting in July at the Tankerville Arms. Zia reported that the Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Project was doing a lot of footpath routes, where there are already a number in place, and had put in one cycling only route, but no multi-user routes. She was told that there is not much demand there for riding/bridleway routes. They do not seem to understand that bridleways are not just for horse riders, but are also routes for walkers, cyclists, and, with gates, disabled users.

(d) Cycling

The minutes, attached to the Agenda, of the 'Off Road Cycling meeting held at the Wildlife Trust on 8th May, which had a presentation by Cycling UK, and input by Mark Weston for the BHS, are noted. Zia attended this. Linda raised an error on P.2 of the minutes. '22% of the network is not available' should read 'only 22% of the Rights of Way network is available to horse riders'. The Shropshire Strava images of routes being cycled shown at the end of the presentation, with width of lines indicating the amount of use of routes by cyclists, raised concern that the Strava recording of routes and times encourages competitiveness on routes. There is also concern over the routes being used. Cyclists are asking for more routes. One point made at the meeting was that MTB riders wanted to be told where they could go and not have notices telling them where they could not.

Members of the Forum raised concerns over cyclists riding down steep banks onto and across bridleways, which put horse riders off using riding routes. They reported problems with cycles approaching from the rear with no warning given, and an incident of cyclists doing wheelies by horse riders.

It was asked if all cycling routes are open to horse riders. It was confirmed that a number of cycling routes, such as the Pontesbury to Minsterley link route, are only open to walking and cycling. Members agreed that all cycling routes should be open to horse riders. Cyclists can use all public horse riding routes. The North-west relief road has a parallel path planned, and when Zia was involved in the consultation meetings she ensured that this included a path suitable for equestrian use and put forward a link to the West Mid Showground. She hoped this past work would not be lost or forgotten with the scheme being looked at again. Shona confirmed that she has a whole file on it all.

(e) Drones

It is noted – That Shropshire Council currently has no policy on drones, but that this is planned. Shona Butter was thanked for the following notes which were sent out in the Agenda:-

Drones are classed as "unmanned aircraft" and are regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and they have brought prosecutions in respect of drone use. There are guidelines on their website: <http://www.caa.co.uk/Commercial-industry/Aircraft/Unmanned-aircraft/Unmanned-Aircraft/>

There are various issues for users to take into account – CAA rules, safety, privacy etc.

In summary users must:-

- Keep the drone within their line of sight and at a maximum height of 400ft (122m) or 500m horizontally (beyond that would need permission from the CAA)
- Always fly the drone well away from aircraft, helicopters, airports and airfields.
- If fitted with a camera, a drone must be flown at least 50m away from a person, vehicle, building or structure not owned or controlled by the pilot.
- Camera-equipped drones must not be flown within 150m of a congested area or large group of people, such as a sporting event or concert.

Linda reported two incidents of drones over property and hovering over stables near her. The Police were called over one incident. A drone had also spooked led horses in another incident.

(f) Any other matters arising not on the Agenda

There are no other matters arising.

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships

It is noted - that the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Newsletter is available under 'Useful links' on the home page of the www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk website.

Shona reported that there have been no staff changes within their team. Public Health money has been secured for Walking for Health for this year. Mick Dunn, who covered Bridgnorth for this, has now left, and as the Bridgnorth Central Area is all up and running, Liz Evans and Helen D'Albert, who recently married and is now Helen Foxall, who cover the rest of the County, are now overseeing it all. The money from Mick's job is going to a volunteer post to encourage more volunteers and support volunteers at the sites, and for an assistant to help Simon Brown with the wild teams, as they need to have a supervisor. They also have two student placements starting in the Autumn; one at the Ellesmere site, and one with Richard's team.

(b) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Implementation Team

Richard Knight has reported that they will be carrying out the summer topping programme.

Sansaw BW 0210/31 - He has not been able to follow up on the problems on the new cattle tracks crossing the bridleway. The new BW gates were not put in correctly, and the new field gates have sticking out bolts closures. As reported in the last minutes, Mark Weston has looked at the problems there with Zia

Acton Round, Shirlett - Richard reported it was all cleared now and rideable, and the camera taken down. Shona reported that since then there have been more troubles there. The Police have been involved, and it has had Press coverage. Ann reported that a hole has now been dug out and blackthorn put on the track near Wheelers Farm. 6 buckets of glass had been removed from the surface, but some is still appearing. Sadly this is still ongoing.

BWs 0428/20 & 8 at Montford – HK Way linear and Montford Circular. Richard currently has no Route Diversion waymarks which are needed for marking these recently diverted bridleways. These waymarks are important to tell people the route has been legally diverted. Zia has waymarked it all with the Humphrey Kynaston Way marks so hopefully people will follow the new diverted routes.

RB 0225/1 Shawbury - The diversion route still has things to be resolved on it. The continuation of the route is now very good following works by the landowner.

Adcote Mill Bridge BW 0202/54 linking BW0202/UN3 & BW0425/54 – Replacement of the collapsed bridge, was held up by changes at Shropshire Council but it has now been approved and the funding is in place. Shona has done the Land Registry research etc. It is understood that the Council will be putting in a Metal/wooden bridleway bridge with a handrail, as replacing with a structure similar to the old would cost almost double. The bridge is privately owned. The currently obstructed adjoining **Ford 0202/UN3** will be opened up when the bridge is being done.

BW 0419/25B Nesscliffe - Shona went with Richard to look at the bridleway which has been dug away behind the Nesscliffe Hotel. The landowner was then written to, and has responded. It is agreed that he either reinstates the definitive line, or applies for a diversion on a line that is suitable and safe, and that all agree to. They are awaiting dates to meet landowner.

BW 0221/35 Webscott – Humphrey Kynaston Way– High handle bridleway gates have been supplied by one of the SC Implementation Team for the new landowner to put each side of field gates across the bridleway. Two lots of obstructions, double field gates and a coiled spring hooked on wire, have recently been put up across the bridleway to facilitate cow movement across it. These are very difficult for horse riders to negotiate. The bridleway should not be obstructed with gates. The cows are not free range and any new field gates should be either side of the bridleway, not across it. Shona confirmed that they should have a schedule 47 agreement for any additional gates, so these have not been legally approved. Shona will follow up on this.

(c) Shropshire Council Planning

The Vinnals BW 0444/4A It is reported that work has started on building The Vinnals Chicken Farm, but that the passing places on the Vinnals Bridleway, shown in the plans, have not been put in. The BHS request for the passing places to be behind the hedge was raised by Zia at the Planning Meeting and Councillors discussed this. Shona said that this needs to be raised with Planning enforcement.

Felton Butler Manor to BW 0419/UN7 - The new weighbridge, granted by Planning at Felton Butler Manor, is being put in, and appears to be almost on the bridleway. Zia and Emily had raised concerns with planning over the positioning right beside the bridleway. They both asked for it to be moved further away. Shona will look at the Definitive Statement, and follow up on this. Shredding of pallets also appears to be taking place right beside the bridleway.

Shelve Farm BW 0566/21 - A planning application 17/02049 has been put in for Shelve Farm. The Bridleway has no outlet as it stops short of the road just south of the farm on FP14, which was an old road. It is believed that people are not using the correct outlets for the two footpaths **14 & 16**, near to the pond, and that perhaps an outlet for the bridleway could be resolved at the same time as resolving this. Zia has alerted the Long Myud BWA and Lucy to this.

TO NOTE - Kate Nore, kate.nore@shropshire.gov.uk now deals with all the searches, and Planning Applications, so one person sees it all through. She consults with the area ROW Officers. Applications can be viewed on:- <http://planningpa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications>

(d) Shropshire Council Highways

Richard Knight has reported that they will no longer be getting a yearly budget for funding UCR works. They now have to put in for works to specific routes at the start of the financial year, to be programmed in. They have now put in for works on three UCRs: - Pease Lane to Smethcott Bank U5551/10, just north-east of Picklescott. Far Gatten to Near Gatten Farm U5983/10, north of Bridges, and U5056/10 from the disused Quarry on the Gatten to Bridges road to Leasowes Bank Farm. Any budget left will be used at Newcastle on Clun on a UCR there by Offa's Dyke. Any general repairs and maintenance needed, such as repairs to gates across UCR's and by cattle grids, will be back with Highways. This means that there will not be any money for completing the list of UCR's that were to be maintained by the Outdoor Partnership Team. The digitizing of the older Highway maps, from 1929 on, has also still not been done.

As previously highlighted by Shona, enforcement on UCR's is the responsibility of Highways.

Old Moors Lane UCR – (U1019/20 Moors Lane 60mph Section) – Zia read a report from the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) whose members have been doing work on opening up this route.. They have offered their time, with the use of machinery at no cost, to complete the clearance work to open it all up, but they need authorisation to clear the larger timber. They have reported that they have not had a response from Highways. Shona confirmed that they have worked with the TRF in the past on higher status routes.

Chapel Lane, Yorton U2527/10 – Highways confirmed to Matt Stephens this is a UCR. It is part of the Humphrey Kynaston Way. The finger posts, which the HKW waymarks were on, have been damaged, and there are 'Private Access no Through Road' signs erected either end.

Polemere to Hinton U4941/10 - A short section of this UCR, north of Hinton, was not improved when work was done there. It has been reported as muddy due to being used by 4x4's. There is a parallel field edge Public BW 0431/78S which is not currently clear to use. If opened up and signed it could be used to bypass the muddy UCR section.

(e) Shropshire Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review.

The draft ROWIP, which is part of the Countryside Access Strategy for Shropshire 2008-2018, will not be available for public consultation until 12th June. Zia is on the Review Working Group and has just received the draft document from Clare Fildes to look at and comment on. Shona confirmed that Working Groups will feed into the New Shropshire Great Outdoors Strategy Board which has taken over from LAF.

5. Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Frodesley Lodge BW 4 – Following the 13-15th December Public Inquiry the Inspector confirmed the through bridleway claim, but modified the BW 4 Order to the historic line to the north of the well, rather than the used line to the south of the well. The Modifications were published, and following this there were objections to the modifications, including by the owner of the field to the east, which is mostly outside of the Order route, as he wants that part of the route diverted, and on concerns over the route passing close to the well. This will now be dealt with by Written Representation. Shona is working on the Council's response. The deadline for representations is 27th June. It is important that all responses are in by the dates set out by the Order. It is not known yet what the Statements of Case of the objectors will be, as they have the same deadline. Final Statements of Case then have to be made by the 8th August, a final site visit, and then the Inspector will make her decision.

Bentley Ford Farm BW 7R outlet claim – The Inspector has confirmed this as a bridleway, but with just minor modifications to the route surface description and the name of a property.

Frodesley - Angela reported that Ron Repath has obtained BHS funds to improve gates on Mr. Davies' land to the north of Frodesley. Shona confirmed that they will have to liaise with the landowner and with Richard Knight.

Hanwood Railway crossing – Shona confirmed that she has Zia's email on this, covering the need to record the correct status of the rail line crossing. This was legally changed under Railway Acts from UCR to bridleway, but not formerly recorded on the Definitive Map..

Link to the old Coalport to Bridgnorth Railway Line – Ann raised the anomaly at the bottom of Caughley Lane. This is the link used, from a formal application bridleway route, up onto the old Coalport to Bridgnorth railway line. Shona confirmed that Lucy is dealing with the formal application, but that in addition, in order to get up onto the line, you have to use this loop of track which is not currently subject to any claim, and that the section needs recording.

Stiperstones Higher Access Route – Zia raised the problem again of how people find out about this bridleway granted by Natural England when it is not shown on the Definitive Map and not way marked. Shona said that Natural England needed to be contacted on this.

Oaks Wood BW claim - still no progress

Drumbles BW outlet to Platt Bridge claim – still waiting for the Order to be sent off.

Weston Woods BW claims – The orders have been published, and there has been an objection from the landowner. The route going east was not published as there was not sufficient evidence.

Sutton Mill - Lucy is dealing with this. It is a complicated issue.

Hilton BW claim – No movement on this at present.

Melverley RB width enforcement – Shona confirmed that this is not high priority at present due to their large workload. Zia is concerned as it is very muddy and the drainage cannot be sorted out until the correct width is available.

Purslow BW 10– The Order to divert the route to a useable line is now confirmed.

Worfield BW 36 – Shona reported this is all agreed.

Montford BW 8 diversion – The diversion to field edge has been legally confirmed.

Market Drayton BW 9 diversion – This is currently being looked at. The developers have produced new detailed plans in connection with the road crossing, and Lucy has been looking at it. It is thought that the new plans will be suitable, but Shona will contact Angela on this, as they need the BHS feedback on the proposals. Shona would like to publish this soon.

Dyas Lane UCR, Baschurch – The fingerpost from the main road, and another post with the Humphrey Kynaston Way signs on them, have been removed during development works to the lane for the access road to a new housing estate. Richard should be notified to put a new post up.

Zia reported that she had put forward some **Montford Parish** routes for BHS awards, and that three awards were presented by Mark Weston during BHS Ride Out month in May at an event covered by the Shropshire Star. These were for the dedication of the new **BW 0428/20** outlet, the improvements to **BW 0428/8** by the new landowner, following problems there with the previous

owner, and for the excellent work done by **Carl Stanton** maintaining the bridleways in **Montford Parish**.

6. Claiming Lost Ways

Shona confirmed that the 2026 cut-off date for Lost Ways claims only applies to routes being claimed on historical evidence. Claims based on User evidence will be able to be made after that date. A number of the routes that will need to be claimed are old roads, and higher status routes.

It is important that claims for key routes that provide important links are put in to protect these. Linda raised the missing link from BW 0562/9/6 up to Cold Hill Farm, just south of the Stiperstones. It is a very long bridleway with just the last short section missing. This is being looked at by the Long Mynd BWA.

If there is strong historical evidence for a route, then it could be done through a Creation Order with the Landowner's agreement.

Angela asked how safe Unclassified County Roads are which are not shown at any status on the Definitive Map. Shona confirmed that they are protected. Zia said she understood that UCR's dual registered as footpaths would need to be claimed unless they are tarmac and used by motor vehicles.

Angela raised a route at Sodylt which goes across a field right on the North Shropshire Border. It is down with Lost Ways as a Restricted Byway. It is on the CDs. Shona confirmed that all of the case files done for the Discovering Lost Ways Project are effectively claims, and that Lucy is looking at these. Any routes that are not on the CD's and are not one of the 80 case files, Shona's team need to know about. It is important that all key routes are highlighted to her team.

The Project did not do all of Oswestry. They only did all of the North Shropshire Area.

Angela confirmed that she had put a lot of information forward for the Oswestry area. Shona said that lots of the reviews had started in Oswestry, and that they have formal applications for some of the routes in that area, but Oswestry Rural Review was not finished and any other key routes in that area should be sent to Shona.

Shona confirmed that wording 'to' and 'from' on old maps is a good indication that it had higher rights, but would need to have other historical evidence to support it.

7. Minutes and Feedback from LAFs and other Forums

The **Agenda** for the last meeting of the Shropshire Local Access Forum held on 19th January 2017 is noted, and that the minutes of that meeting have not yet been released to the public. The minutes of the previous LAF meeting held on 20th October 2016 and amended on 19th January 2017 are noted, and that the 20th October meeting was not quorate. The 3rd April 2017 LAF meeting was cancelled.

The Minutes/Notes of the Walking Forums are noted. The following points were raised: -

North Walking Forum Notes 24th April 2017. - On p2 concern was raised over Macanthus/elephant grass on a public Right of Way. Shona confirmed that this would be counted as a crop.

Shropshire Hills Walking Forum Notes 3rd February 2017. - On P5 it stated that Carding Mill Valley had to be closed due to numbers. Concern was raised that closure could make it difficult for riders supported on a long distance route if they were being dropped off, or picked up there, and when doing long distance routes, as both the Jack Mytton Way and Humphrey Kynaston Way go through there, and other circular routes.

P7 Delivery of the Enterprise Plan – Business Planning, fundraising and income generations, including the development of a charitable organization and promoting of the contracting teamThe Strategy Board would take on the role of the Local Access Forum. Concerned was raised that fundraising is taking over from Access.

Central Walking Forum Minutes 24th May 2017 mention a multi user path at Buildwas Power Station. Shona confirmed that she has received an email on this from the Ramblers. Kate will be keeping an eye on this, as the only thing to have gone through planning is the application for the demolition of the Power Station.

LAF Meeting papers are available on Local Access Forum go to 'browse meetings and agendas' for this committee.

Zia reported that she had applied to the new Strategy Board, but was told that she had not been appointed as there could only be one representative for horse riding. Mark Weston has been appointed as he represents the BHS. He was not able to attend the first meeting. There is currently no carriage driving representative on the Strategy Board. Shona reported that no carriage drivers had applied. There are currently 11 members of the Strategy Board, including representatives of the Ramblers, NFU, CLA, BHS, Off road Cycling, Disabled Access, Heritage, and two County Councillors. There can be up to 22 members. Concern was raised that if Mark Weston was unable to attend there would be no representative for equestrian users. It was felt that there should be at least two members of each of the main user groups; Walking, Horse Riding and Cycling. The CLA representative, who chaired LAF, is Chair, with Mark Weston as Vice Chair.

8. Any Other Business or items to Note

Power Lines – Zia has looked at the proposed route for the Wem to Oswestry Power line on small scale, and not very clear maps, and has not so far identified any impact on riding routes.

Countryside Stewardship Routes – There are now only 11 permissive bridleway routes with time still to run, with the last ones finishing in 2020. The route parallel to the road from The Bog car park to link to BOAT 76 and the green lane UCR U5052/10 onto the Stiperstones, ended in April. Shona understood that they were raising access again with Stewardship. It might be worth looking at any possibilities for continuing key well used schemes.

9. Dates of the Next Meetings

The next meeting is to be held at the Shirehall on **Monday 9th October 2017 at 5.00pm for a prompt start at 5.30-7.30pm.**

The date of the following meeting is agreed for **Monday 5th February 2018.**

Zia said that she will do the minutes for this meeting, but may find it difficult to continue with doing the Forum papers, as she would not have the information to feed back as she did when a member of the LAF, or the contacts. She will not now be able to take things forward, as she has done, on behalf of the Forum. She is also concerned at the dwindling number of those now able to attend this Forum's meetings following the change to the earlier meeting time of 5.30 pm.