

SHROPSHIRE RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING FORUM (SRCDF)

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 4th February 2019, 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. Elaine Newton, Broseley BWA. Jan Mees Robinson, Telford Bridleways. Nino Binns, Long Mynd & Dist BWA. Sue Evans, Ryton, Badger & Beckbury BWs, Shona Butter, Shropshire Council.

Apologies:

Pam Yuille, Underton, Bridgnorth. Andrew Kelly, Vyrnwy & Dist. BWA. Gill Eyre, BHS South East Shropshire. Mark Weston, BHS. Ann Durnell, Bridgnorth BWA

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th October 2018 (paper A) were approved, and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Helicopters

Following our last meeting Zia asked Squadron Leader Kim Leach, the Corporate Engagement Relations Officer at RAF Shawbury, email address kim.leach347@mod.gov.uk if they had granted any new landing sites. Kim has reported that they have no new field and clearings approved, but have passed on Shona's name to the person who manages their Fields and Clearings Register with a reminder that they need to liaise should they take on new landing sites. They would like to invite Shona to their next Rider Awareness Day on Thursday 16th May. Kim attended the RAF Air Safety Conference in Oct 18, with a presentation by the BHS on their Dead Slow campaign. Mr. Des Payne, BHS Deputy Director of Safety, reported that there had been a reduction of horse rider incidents reported to the BHS in Shropshire compared to other Counties, which Kim felt reflects the benefits of the Be Seen, Be Safer campaign. To obtain information on their Safety campaigns put in www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/ and go to Flying information, Safety campaigns. There are no order forms available at present as she does not have any kit left, and they have not yet had funding approval for future years. Sue Evans will let us know if she hears of any pleasure rides being held from RAF Shawbury.

(b) Cycling – Mountain Biking (MTB' s)

It is reported that there are still ongoing problems with mountain bikers in the Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park, with damage being done to the infrastructure due to the making of new trails. Strava, a mobile phone app, records routes used by MTB's there including over the Hillfort, on footpaths and down steep banks onto bridleways endangering the many horse riders, walkers, many with dogs, and families who use the Country Park. Being close to Baschurch, Ruyton XI Towns, as well as Nesscliffe, it is a popular destination for families, dog walkers, and horse riders, as it serves the local communities, as well as tourism. There is concern as it is reported that there are now electrically assisted mountain bikes, it is understood, with a 250 watt, and 15.5mph limit. There is still concern that bikers do not understand that they must give way to pedestrians and horse riders on bridleways, and that cycling sites do not make this clear. It was

asked why bikes did not have bells. It is understood that it is illegal to sell a bike without a fitted bell, but not illegal to remove it afterwards. Concern was also raised as to how to control cyclists crossing bridleways at speed. We have raised concerns in the past with cycle organisations. **It is agreed** that we should write again, and this could also be raised with the Forestry Commission.

(c) Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-2018

Noted – That the Strategy was adopted at the SC Cabinet meeting on 17th October and is available on the home page of the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website.

(d) Natural England Permissive Bridleway Routes

Noted – The list of the Permissive Bridleway Routes that are still open, with their expiry dates (attached to the Agenda). They all end in 2020. Any extensions to these schemes are unlikely with current monetary constraints. It is suggested that landowners could be approached to retain these. The gates etc are funded by DEFRA. Jan suggested a letter to Michael Gove. It is understood that there are some field edge Permissive riding routes near Loppington, but it is not known under what scheme.

(e) Any other matters arising not on the Agenda

Sue Evans raised concern over the solving of reported problems. Shona asked her to send her a list of ones she is concerned over.

4. Shropshire Council

(a) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships

Shona reported that Emily will be going on maternity leave soon, but they cannot take on anyone to cover her absence until they know whether their budget will cover this. Emily covers a large area of Northern Shropshire, and also deals with any problems reported on Helen Foxhall's area as Helen only works on Mondays. Mark Blount will also be retiring and it is thought that Richard Knight will be taking over some of his responsibilities.

Noted – that the Rights of Way User Survey 2019 is now available on line on the link given in the Agenda and also via a link on www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk, Members were asked to pass the link on, and encourage others to fill it in.

Noted - that the Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships and Volunteer Newsletters are available on www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk website on the Home page under 'Useful Links' – 'News', and that the 'Access & Rights of Way' link gives access to lots of other useful information on DMMO's Claims, Landowner Declarations, etc. Members reported difficulty in reporting problems online via the site. They were reminded that they had been sent an email with details as to how problems etc. can also be reported direct to outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk.

Concern was raised over Shropshire Council's proposed cut of £50,000 from the Rights of Way budget. The Shropshire Council Consultation closes on 18th February. The BHS have put in a letter of concern over the proposed cuts. Members discussed the implications of these cuts. The BVPI (Best Value Performance Indicator) for Rights of Way, which shows routes ease of use, is already down from 85% to 67%. It is not being done this financial year. The cuts could also impact on jobs. Shona reported that they can only deal with some of the issues reported due to current staff constraints. Budget cuts could impact on the number of volunteers if there is not adequate support for them. **It is agreed** that a letter be sent from the Forum raising our concerns over the impact of the proposed ROW cuts.

The £100,000 Public Health cut will impact on the Wild Teams and Walking for Health.

(b) Public Inquiries and Definitive Map Issues

Shona reported on ongoing issues:

Frodesley Lodge BW4 – They have consulted on a diversion which would go from the side of the barns straight ahead up the bank alongside the fence line with a BW gate into Mr. William's field then straight across to the eastern hedge line. They have had good support on this line.

It is important that the ground is suitable. It may require some levelling work.

Bentley Ford Farm BW 7R outlet – They are still looking into a solution to the difficulties with regard to the opening up the definitive line of the connecting bridleway route by the farm, and the practicalities of opening up the line, due to the deep ditch, and 6ft revetment wall.

Hanwood Railway crossing – Shona is hoping to resolve the issue of the correct recording of the definitive status of the railway crossing. Lucy is working on railway crossings.

Old Coalport to Bridgnorth Railway Line and Link – Sweeney Bridge. Lucy is still dealing with this.

Stiperstones Higher Access Route – Shona reported that they have been looking at waymarking for another route in the area, and that they still have problems with Natural England in getting routes waymarked on The Stiperstones, including the now higher status of BW for the FP92 & 92A route off BW108 to the ridge BW 95, an easier route to ride than BW 108. Zia reported that she eventually got a BW waymark put on the Stiperstones ridge. She had asked for at least a stone with a blue arrow on it, and they eventually agreed to a waymark post in the middle of a stone cairn, to camouflage it, but people have since added stones to the pile which can obscure the wooden post with the bridleway marker on!

Oaks Wood BW claim – Shona reported that there was a possible line amendment at Hunters Lodge. She suggested a site visit attended by Linda who knows the used routes there.

Drumbles BW outlet to Platt Bridge claim – This Order is due to be done, but this depends on budget cuts and the staff available. Concern was raised that people who could give evidence are dying. 2/3rds of the route is now BW. It is important that this last section of the route gets done.

Weston Woods BW claims – There is now a new landowner, and the BW claim has been withdrawn, as permission had been given to use the route. The footpath use was not permissive. Zia raised again the outlet of RB 4 to the road, as the diverted end section to the road is only registered as a FP - FP4Y. It is road access to properties. The link to, and the outlet of, RB1 on the opposite side of the A49 road is also only registered as a footpath, UN1. This should be a Restricted Byway from the A49. **Agreed** this should be sent to Emily with a copy to Shona.

Sutton Mill – It is not too late to submit any new evidence for this order.

Hilton BW claim – No change. Unlikely to be dealt with for some time due to work pressures.

Bishops Castle, Banks Head, RB Addition – The Order was published, and they have received objections from both the TRF, and Alan Kind of LARA, that the route should be higher status than the claimed Restricted Byway. It will now have to go to the Inspectorate for determination.

Adderley BW addition – They have now received objections to both parts of the Order, but there is good evidence. They will now send the BW claim to the Inspectorate.

Taddymoor Lane, Hopesay nr Craven Arms – New evidence is still needed.

Linley Estate northern outlet for UCR URS U5999/10 – The outlet was discussed. A definitive footpath goes up to the gate and returns to the road. There needs to be a restricted byway outlet.

Colebatch – BOAT claim – There is no update on this Order which was made prior to CROW.

(c) Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Implementation Team

Richard Knight reported to our last meeting that his team is now at full strength.

Richards Castle BW addition Mitnell Lane – RK reported that following some enforcement work by Shona's team to get some rails obstructing the route removed, his team had opened up the route with some new gates, and it should now be available for use.

BW10 Diversion Upton Magna – RK reported that following the confirmed Diversion Order to take the bridleway around the barn, which had been built over BW10, his team are now working on getting it sorted and improved, and just await the delivery of BW gates to fully open it up.

Sansaw BW 0210/31 There is no progress reported on the problems there.

Adcote Mill Bridge BW 0202/54 linking BW0202/UN3 & BW 0425/54 and opening up of adjoining Ford 0202/UN3. – Shona reported that they have the budget in place to do the work, and she has done the final report on works and legalities for replacing the bridge and reinstating the ford alongside. This awaits approval, then they will be writing to all concerned, but that no work can be started before May.

BW 0419/25B Nesscliffe – Shona reported that there is no progress to report in setting up a meeting date with the landowner, to try and resolve the dug away definitive line of BW25B. Zia reported that the landowner's unofficial diversion is dangerous, and that, until the line is resolved, it needs way mark posts to sign a safe route, as close to the original line as possible.

Melverley RB1 - drainage. This is still waiting to be dealt with when staff area available.

Hopton, Nesscliffe – Shrubbs Common BW 0419/UN14 to BW to Pine Car Park – The surface work on this and drainage work on the adjacent Shrubbs BW is still awaited.

Acton Round - Shirlett RB 0101/UN1 – Shona has not had a recent update on this, but was not aware of any further incidents since the Police had spoken to two people. It is understood that statements were to be taken by the Police. It is hoped that this will bring an end to this matter.

Shawbury RB 0225/1 – Shona reported that this route is now fully open and available for use.

Members are reminded that, if members have problems with the Interactive Map on the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website, which can be very slow, and can take several attempts to open it, the Outdoor Recreation Map on the home page of Shropshire Council's website can be used to look up Definitive routes, but that you cannot get the different layers of ROW on it.

(d) Shropshire Council Planning

Planning Applications - Members were asked to check and respond to any Planning Applications in their area on <http://planningpa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications> that might impact on off-road riding routes, promoted routes, and on the lanes used to connect routes.

Agricultural Buildings – Following concern raised by Zia that Permitted Development Right applications for Agricultural Buildings were not being consulted on, and that Parish Councils were not notified of them, Shona confirmed that they have now asked to be consulted on all applications for Agricultural buildings with permitted development rights, as these could impact on public Rights of Way.

Ebury Hill 18/04179/FUL impact on BW 0435/23/3 – Shona reported that a BW gate has now been put up next to the area obstructed by the boulder. The route is currently clear, and the BW line is now shown as unobstructed on plans. ROW will need to agree any surface changes.

It is important that a link from BW 23 to BW 19 is resolved. It is feasible, as Zia has ridden it. Walkers can use FP30Y & FP18, but currently horse riders have to use the road going north from Ebury Hill, and it is understood that they then use FP22 to get to BW19.

Oxon Link Road – There is no update on the lack of provision for horse riders along the road side path, or to cross this road.

Gypsy Lane, Gledrid - Planning Application 18/00056/FUL impact on the UCR and **BW0309/UN1/10 – Gypsy Lane** – No update on the impact of the proposed Caravan Park on this route, the underpass is the only safe way for some distance for equestrians to cross the A5.

Baschurch Railway Yard 17/02174/REM – There is no recent update on the new plans which now show a proposed bridleway route through the site, but with the last section north through the middle of a proposed car park. Shona is hoping to address the BW continuation to the south.

Valeswood Lane, Nesscliffe – The Planning Application 18/04176/FUL for 12 Holiday Chalets on this narrow access lane to Nesscliffe Countryside Heritage Park has now been reduced to 10,

but this will make little difference to the extra traffic which will impact on users of the Country Park, as the lane dissects it.

REPORTED – that Item 7 on SGO Strategy Board Agenda for Thursday 7th February is on ‘Ironbridge Power Station Site Development’ when Anne Suffolk (Telford & Wrekin LAF) is to lead a discussion about walking, cycling and riding aspirations for the Ironbridge Power Station redevelopment. Elaine went to a meeting today. It was reported that they said that they had not heard from horse riders. Neither Broseley nor Telford Groups had heard anything back following the previous 15th October 2018 meeting. You need to notify the Strategy Board two clear days before in order to speak at a Strategy Board Meeting. There is a network of dead ends in the area. Shona said that it needs well thought out plans now. There is a DMMO in for the Buildwas link. **Agreed** that Zia will write to the Strategy Board raising the Groups concerns.

NOTED – that the Shropshire Council’s ‘Local Plan Review’ ‘Preferred Sites Consultation’ has been extended to 8th February 2019, and that it is important that members check their areas for sites and any impact on riding routes or opportunities to improve or add routes within plans. Members should also note that Cross Subsidy Exception Sites can be put anywhere, including outside village boundaries. There was great concern over this and the possible impact on country lanes. Kate Nore has looked at all the Plan Reviews. Planning the open spaces etc. will be much better for all. **Agreed** – that a letter be written on behalf of the Forum.

NOTED - Kate Nore, kate.nore@shropshire.gov.uk deals with all the Searches and Planning Applications, so one person sees it all through. She consults with the area ROW Officers.

(e) Shropshire Council Highways

There is no change on the funding for UCR’s previously maintained by Richard Knight’s team. It is important that members look at lanes to check their status, and the need to claim them.

Petton – A green lane to the north of Petton off the Ellesmere road, an important route for local horse riders, which connects two public roads, was given to Zia on a list of public roads by Don Pearce former BHS County Representative. Lost Ways has it with good Public Road evidence, but it currently has no status and is not on current highway maps.

Local Transport Plan – It is important that we input to any new LTP as the last unapproved Plan was not consulted on, and consideration of horse rider’s needs were omitted. The previous adopted LTP was given an award by the BHS for inclusion of horse riders’ needs.

Flax Mill stopping up order on UCR outlet to BW 0443/UN52 – Zia has still not had a response from Mark Wootton of SC Highways on the recording of the UCR route to be stopped up as a Bridleway. It is currently only proposed as a cycle route and pedestrian path. Zia has raised this with a National Heritage representative.

North West Relief Road – There is no update on the funding for this. It is important that the provisions for horse riders, agreed at the Consultations held some years ago, which Zia attended, are still included. The link at Hencote needs claiming. It will link to the Oxon Relief Road (also addressed under 4 (d) Planning) where we are already encountering problems in provision of safe routes along and across the road for horse riders, including a bridge at Shepherds Lane.

Chapel Lane, Yorton. UCR U2527/10 – Still no change on the incorrect signing of this UCR.

Old Moors Lane UCR U1019/20 St. Martins – No update on progress in opening up this route.

6. Claiming Lost Ways

The way forward on claiming routes and funding was discussed. Zia read an email received this afternoon from Will Steel, 2026 Project Manager for the BHS, on the current position re the BHS Project 2026. They have logged over 100 DMMO applications across England. The grant

scheme to cover volunteers research expenses in submitting applications is up and running. He reported that there is more and more work happening in Shropshire and that they are supporting the digitisation of the Finance Act maps for the county at Kew for use by local researchers. They now have the ability to view and plot routes, and are continuously developing their Research Record facility which includes the ability to upload images of documents and incorporate them in a Summary of Evidence document.

Angela reported that she could help if people needed information on the Tithe Maps. Nino reported that she has not yet received any maps. Zia has photographed the old Shropshire Council Highway Maps.

Shona reported that, as her department holds all the information from the Lost Ways Project in northern Shropshire, it is not necessary to submit claims for any of the routes in that area with case studies, as the Council will be submitting these claims. We can just send any evidence of use or other information to support these routes to her department.

There is concern that there might be duplication of work on claims. It is important that we know who is working on which areas. Shona suggested that all those working on claims send details of which Parishes they are covering to her, and she will compile a map so we can see where the gaps are. We need to focus on routes that have a use, and will add to the network.

NOTED - Highways and Landowners Statements and Declarations, Formal Applications & Public Path Orders are available through 'Useful Links' on the right side of the home page of www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk click on 'Access & Rights of Way' to access these.

6. Minutes and Feedback from SGOSB and other Forums

Noted – the Minutes of the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board meetings held on 11th June and 25th October 2018, and that the next meeting is on Thursday 7th February 2019.

We have discussed several items from this Thursdays Agenda, including the Green Infrastructure Plan at our last meeting, and the Ironbridge Power Station Site Development, Local Transport Plan, and Local Plan Site Allocation Consultation at todays meeting.

For Strategy Board papers and list of the members so far appointed go to.
<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=727>

Previous LAF Meeting papers are available with ctrl+click on: - [Local Access Forum](#).

Noted – That there are no Walking Forum Minutes to circulate, as there is currently no one to run these Forums.

7. Any Other Business

Road Safety Debate – Parliament – 5th Nov 2018, Zia reported that she wrote to the local MP raising the omission of Horse riders from the Review of the Highway Code.

8. Dates of the Next Meetings

The date of the next meeting, to be held at the Shirehall at **5.00pm for a prompt start at 5.30-7.30pm**, is agreed for **Monday 10th June 2019**.

The 14th October 2019 is confirmed for the date of the following meeting.