



## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of Safe Routes Working Group held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 1pm via Zoom conferencing.**

**PRESENT:** Malcom Eastwood (ME), Gill Perry (GP), Steve Sample (SS), Roger Noel (RN), Samantha Leader (SL) and Lyn Shepherd (LS).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Belinda Samrah (BS)

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Were received from Richard Kendall, Julia Simpson and Julie Coultas.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

These were approved.

#### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

#### **3. SIX ROUTES – TO RECEIVE UPDATES**

1. **Safe cycling link between Small Dole and the Downs Link - Led by ME and SS** – BS had emailed WSCC Ranger about supplies or labour or grants with projects to improve footpath surface.

SS confirmed that neither Landowner will not give permission for using their land as a bridleway and therefore he had looked at an alternative route. With the Green route (on SS's Map) being a footpath and the Red route is a track, not an official footpath for the first bit. ME suggested it might be better to talk to the farmer first as part of the route is over his land it was also thought that he might know the owner of the other area. Section A-B appeared to be another landowner's land and section B-C-D is in the farm. LS reminded everyone the alternative route to the Downslink is via Upper Beeding. ME confirmed that the works officer did clear the river bank of fallen branches and debris to make the portion of the river bank route passable.

**ACTION POINT - BJS to organise a meeting with Farmer and ME, SS and possibly GP.**

2. **Safe walking/cycling link between Business Parks and Henfield Village perhaps then extended to Woods Mill and SDNP - Led by PC, SL and GP** – BS had emailed WSCC Ranger about the new fencing with gates not marked clearly and not following direct route. BS confirmed the name of the landowner, PC said that he agreed.

**ACTION POINT: BS to ask JC if she knows landowner and if so ask her to introduce ME and SL or PC to ask him for a permissive route discussion**

ME stressed the need to have a link between the Business Park and the Village and that it can be made navigable. The recent fatality on Barrow Hill makes this even more important.

RN said that he had spoken to the owner of Hascombe Farm, and that he is happy to have footpath re-instated as it was before Rampion have worked on it, RN also said that he is happy to liaise with the owner about his plans for the site. SL said that there is a lot of concern amongst those living in Oreham Common about how large

the site will be and what effect it will have on the neighbourhood. GP confirmed that it was expected to employ about 30 people working at the Equestrian Centre and there would be a lot more traffic. SL asked whether SWT were aware of the plans. RN agreed to speak with new owner again about his plans. ME said that he felt that it would be a good idea if someone else went too, GP SL and PC all agreed to a meeting.

**ACTION POINT: RN to liaise with Owner and arrange a face to face meeting including GP and SL or PC.**

**3. Safe cycling link between Henfield and Sussex Prairie Gardens avoiding the need to use the busy Wheatsheaf Road - Led by LS and RK**

ME confirmed that the Walk for Louise on 22<sup>nd</sup> August would follow part of first route. He also said that he had walked the route with PC and another resident, there were five stiles which would be difficult for horses to navigate without some major reengineering of crossing points. PC confirmed that some stiles were complex styles, ME also said that there is also a stream and barbed wire he also said that the secondary route had the same number of stiles. RN confirmed the owner of the land northwest of Bilsborough and he is adamant that he doesn't want access through his land. ME said that he wanted the Walk for Louise to go ahead and see how it is received, hoping that it may be a trigger for having a discussion around a permissive route there. ME said that HPC could help the landowners by providing ramps or bridges which may appeal to landowners.

**4. Safe bridleway/walking link between Furners Lane/Furners Mead and Blackstone - Led by JC and RN - BS had emailed WSCC Ranger to alert them to the aggressive signage. RN said that he had been unable to speak with the owners of Woodmancote Place, but is aware that they really don't want horses on their land. He said that he believed that there is a kissing gate or gates to prevent further thefts. ME said that this route would need to wait for WSCC's decision which will not come forward for consideration until 2022.**

GP said that this group had talked about having a good relationship with landowners, and making sure that good landowners were recognised and applauded. ME said that in turn they should be helped with clearing of footpaths. GP raised a query about insurance for volunteers on private land even if there was a footpath and ME said he thought that the Works Team were covered because they are working on behalf of WSCC but that they must not deviate from footpaths. ME said he would make contact with Nigel Bird about volunteers may be working with Works Team on footpaths on private land

**ACTION POINT: ME to contact Nigel Bird and ask about volunteers working with works team and insurance.**

**5. Safe walking link between the Downs (at Fulking) and Henfield avoiding A281 wherever possible - Led by PC and SL - ME said that he felt that we had reached a dead end, he had hoped that WSCC would consider rumble strips but RN said that rumble strips would not be permitted on A roads, those near Sussex Prairies are on a B road. He also said that WSCC had allowed the 40MPH stretch of road from Swains Farm Shop to Woodmancote.**

**6. Safe bridleway link between Henfield and Woodmancote Place avoiding A281 – Led by JC, DJ and RN. ME confirmed that the route is overgrown, and that he would be happy to offer HPC works team to clear if Woodmancote would be happy for that RN confirmed that would be fine but asked ME to confirm with the Clerk of Woodmancote PC.**

**ACTION POINT – BS would liaise with Works Team at HPC and ME would advise the Clerk at Woodmancote PC.**

ME also said that it would be helpful to have a meeting with landowner when JC when she was available.

**ACTION POINT – BS would liaise with JC and ask her to speak with landowner and arrange a meeting for him, JC and ME.**

**7. Safe Permissive Bridleway from Henfield Common to Furners Mead**

ME confirmed who owned the footpath and that he would be happy to chat with her and offer help with maintenance in return for permissive route for horses and cyclists. It is likely to need more surfacing more often.

**ACTION POINT – ME would arrange to have a talk with home owner.**

**4. AGREE NEXT STEPS**

ME and PC produced updated map –All agreed that this was an improvement although it was noted that it would need updating in view of changes at Small Dole.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Horsham District Cycle Forum. GP said she had met some of this group at a fair and that had been willing to talk with Safe Routes Group. She agreed to make contact and see if they might be able to join the next meeting (likely to be in September) RN said that he would also make contact with Mike Croker, a local Green Councillor.

SL asked whether a west to east route could be considered with the view of connecting Hassocks Station and it was agreed that this could be looked at later once the Local Plan has been finalised. RN confirmed that Mid Sussex would need to be involved at that stage.

**ACTION POINT – GP to make contact with Horsham District Cycling Forum. RN agreed to contact Mike Croker.**

2. Email from Steve Sample about cycling in Henfield. RN asked whether the lane by Tanyard is a bridleway, and GP confirmed this. Although there is a sign on it to say it's a bridleway ME agreed that there were other paths without signage. SS said that it would be helpful for walkers to be aware of cyclists using certain paths and to encourage cycling. ME agreed that he would make sure that this was raised at the next VA and ROS Committee Meetings.

**ACTION POINT – BS would make sure that Chair of VA Committee had a copy of SS email and that the matter was raised at the next Committee Meeting. BS would make sure that it was also included on the next ROS agenda.**

SS asked whether the path from Sobel Court to Deer Park was a bridleway and ME said that the Parsonage Track is not a formal Bridleway as it was not adopted because it is not wide enough but that if it was HPC managed an approach could be made to PROW at WSCC.

3. Email about footpaths on website from GP, who hoped that some input from this group would help to populate the footpath pages on the HPC website, all agreed to think about which footpaths could be "advertised" there.

RN left at 2.06pm

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Community Highways Scheme – ME said that this matter had come about after the latest fatality on Barrow Hill, he confirmed that two County Councillors had visited the site and that one of the councillors had suggested that Henfield might consider preparing and submitting a Community Highways Scheme, which looks at how we improve navigation around the village/parish. He confirmed that there was still some discussion to be had with Jane Jones, Chair of VA Committee before taking things further.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

ME said he anticipated that a meeting could be arranged for a couple of months' time and that he hoped to have made progress with meetings by then. It would be a positive step for the group.

The Meeting closed at 2.14pm