



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Minutes of Elleray Woods and Orrest Head Advisory Group meeting: 1st November 2017

Present: Dr Helen Jones (Chair) Cllrs Adrian Legge, Ian Telford, Lisa Greasley, Sue Bloy, Mike Stafford. Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Julie Hartley (Town Clerk)

Absence no apologies: Cllr Peter Jewell

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017 were reviewed. Questions were asked about the following actions not on this meeting's agenda:

- Fence bordering Windermere School: the school have removed the barbed wire, but it is unlikely that they will replace the whole of the collapsing fence. It was agreed that the Town Steward will continue to manage the growth of laurel around the fence, so that it becomes an attractive hedge.
- New leaflets will need to be drafted. Helen Jones took a copy to review over the winter. The Clerk will bring up the issue in February/March next year, so that new leaflets can be designed prior to the summer season.
- Label for Millennium Yew: Clerk will progress this in the Winter period.

2. LDNPA proposed flood repair work:

Gary Hancox had met on site the representative from the LDNPA (Scott Duncanson) to go through the planned flood repair work. The work planned is extensive and will result in an almost level path around the boundary area of the woods, encompassing Elleray Bank and North Cottage. This will be a new path made with crusher run gravel, the same as the new carriage drive. A larger catchment will be created for water running off the summit, to alleviate flooding and a new drain will be installed at the final exit point. It is hoped to carry out the works in December this year. There will be a footpath closure whilst the work is being carried out. Councillors responded positively to the proposals and can only support work to alleviate flooding in the woods and make the pathways and access safer.

Recommendation to Council:

That the Council respond formally to the LDNPA to confirm that they have no objections to the work.

3. Carriage Drive issues (LDNPA):

Gary Hancox was able to confirm that the "cut through" area in the new copse above the cottage occupied by Steve Hicks, has now been fenced off. This should solve the problem of a new, slippery path being created in the interim and, over the longer term, it should be possible to plant the copse up to the hedge and remove the fences. Gary also confirmed that the LDNPA have responded that they will carry out maintenance and cutting back of grass on the path by the copse, which is already overgrown and encroaching on the width of the access path. This will be reviewed at the next site visit in April next year.

4. Recent tree felling & new Forestry Commission licence:

It was agreed that the latest batch of felling, which has thinned out tree coverage and opened up new views, has been a success. The Forestry Commission licence that gives permission for periodic and planned felling in the woods, is due for renewal and Gary will do this in the Spring of 2018.

5. New Signage to control parking and access:

All signs are in place and appear to have worked to minimise the number of cars attempting to drive to the summit. There are still problems in the woods with cyclists, even though “no cycling” signs are clear. Cllr Greasley agreed to approach the two cycle hire shops nearby and ensure that they are not advertising the woods as a cycle route.

6. Railings at the bottom of the access road:

Quotations have been received to provide replacement fencing for the blue/green old iron fencing, which is in very poor condition and visually ugly. The rust is so bad that there is no possibility of re-painting the existing fence. There are two options - black powder coated hooped fencing, to match that further up the roadside opposite the Windermere Hotel or galvanised silver hooped fencing. Either option will last maintenance free for more than 25 years. The Clerk had asked a number of local blacksmiths to quote and had received two quotations for galvanised fencing (£4,200 or £3,585 + VAT) and one quotation for black powder coated (£3,250 + VAT). Councillors felt that the black fencing would be better from a visual point of view and would prefer to accept this quotation from Steve Hicks.

Recommendation to Council:

That the quotation for £3,250 for new fencing is accepted and the work placed with Steve Hicks. The work should be funded from Council reserves.

7. Helen’s Walk sign:

This sign is now in place and all agreed it looks good and is fitting.

8. Orienteering event:

A request has been received to hold a small evening event on 8th November by the group who regularly organise such events in the woods. There have not been any problems in the past. The Group agreed that there was no objection to the event but that the Clerk should check the insurance situation with the organiser, especially given the higher risk of running these events in the dark.

9. Any Other Business:

The Clerk agreed to follow up with Gordon Greaves on getting the graffiti polished out of the summit viewfinder.

10. Date for next meetings

Site Visit: 4th April 2018 at 3pm (meet at Elleray Woods)

Follow Up Meeting: Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 5pm at Langstone House.