



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Notes of Site Visit and Meeting held in the woods on 14th September 2022 at 3pm

Present: Dr Helen Jones (Chair) Cllrs Adrian Legge, Lisa Greasley. Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Julie Hartley (Town Clerk) & Marion Jones, LDNPA

Apologies: None.

1. Items Outstanding from the previous meeting in April 22:

These are all included in the notes below.

2. Common Wood Access:

The Town Steward updated that work here will be done over winter, using the new equipment purchased by Town Council. This has been delayed due to other calls on his time, mainly the work at Bowness Bay toilets garden.

3. Civic Society Sign and Benches

The new sign which was funded by the Civic Society is now in place and the old one is stored, for now, at Langstone House.

Benches are all in place and commemorative plaques have been put on them. The one for the Mayor has been stolen, so the Clerk agreed to order a replacement and this time affix with bolts rather than glue.

4. Compartment 18: Thinning, Improvement and Boundary Fence:

This work is ongoing, but the storm has hampered progress, with some tree falls and damage to the new post and rail fence, which has almost been entirely obliterated. The Town Steward has continued work on the bark footpath and has dealt directly with some concerns from local people, whose properties back on to this area.

5. Summit:

All agreed that the grass seeding has taken well and made a marked improvement to the summit surface, where the LDNPA were unable to extend the gritted surface. It was agreed that the old benches at the periphery will not be removed but will remain in place as additional seating. There are some repairs that the Town Steward will carry out to make them more sturdy but they only need light treatment.

6. Strimming Back and path-way/hedge maintenance:

The following was agreed with the Town Steward:

- Trimming back of the undergrowth along the newly planted hedge along the access path. This is SLDC land, but it seemed sensible that the Town Steward carry this out as part of his regular duties;
- Strimming of bramble and undergrowth in the newly planted oak copse, which has grown very significantly and needs some management;

- Ferns and bracken to be trimmed back as agreed, with some left in place for habitat.

7. Access Road:

The Clerk has had only one response to her letter to the 3 property owners, which asked their views on a voluntary contribution to tarmacking the access road. The one response had been positive but on condition that all 3 property owners contribute. The Clerk was able to obtain a verbal response from one of the other property owners during the visit and this was negative. Given that one property owner (of 2 properties) has not responded, one (owner of two properties) is positive and one (owner of one property) is negative, it was agreed that the idea of completing a full re-tarmac be shelved and that the Clerk write to the property owners to notify them of this and of the reasons.

It was, however, agreed that there is a need to carry out a smaller area of tarmac work at the bottom of the access road, near the bench and signage, as part of a general duty of care to those using mobility scooters on the access path. The Clerk and Town Steward were asked to obtain a quotation for this work from the tarmac company and present this to Council for discussion and approval.

8. Any Other Business:

The Clerk had been contacted by the LDNPA tree officer about a low-lying trunk on the lower footpath section, leading to the Hoo, which carries a risk of taller visitors banging heads. It was agreed that, when there is time, the Town Steward should remove this.

Next Meeting: Clerk to organise this for late March. Final site visit for both Helen Jones and Julie Hartley