



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 6th April 2022 at 3pm

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

Also, Jo Wilmott, LDNPA Area Ranger.

Apologies: None.

1. Items Outstanding from the previous meeting in November 2021:

Benches

- The benches have been ordered and delivered and are currently being treated by the Town Steward before being installed. This will now be done asap. The Clerk will then order the necessary plaques to commemorate Fred Atkinson and Kathleen Atkinson.
- It was agreed that, given that the Town Steward has installed a very nice natural bench close to the Gruffalo, the Mayor's bench should be installed to the right of the kissing gate, to take in the lovely view.

2. Storm Arwen Recovery:

It was confirmed that all key routes are now safe to use and that the vast majority of work has been completed. There are a number of large trees still to be moved (although these are not presenting safety issues). This includes the large tree which has fallen but is securely in position over the lower footpath. There are also a number of larger trees to be removed in the Common Wood area. It was agreed that, once a full list is established, the Town Steward will commission Will Hicks to do this work.

The Town Steward has, with Town Council support, purchased a chain-saw and will be arranging for training. This will enable him to remove some of the smaller trees particularly along the Common Wood footpaths.

3. 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.

4. Common Wood Access:

See above under Storm Arwen recovery.

5. Response to recommendations from Don Greaves:

The recommendations in the letter from Don Greaves were fully considered and the following responses agreed:

- That there is no case for removal of the Kissing Gate. This is needed for access, particularly to repairs of the dry-stone walling. It is also a part of the heritage of the woodland.
- The siting of the summit panorama. It was accepted that this can be tricky to access, but that it has been sited in this position for a reason and it was funded by the Wainwright Society who wished it to be in this position. There is no case for re-siting it and, indeed, there are few if any totally safe positions for it given the sparsity of level ground on the summit.
- The platform on which the summit “Green Bench” sits is a natural rock formation and actually assists with drainage, so there is no case to change this. However, it is accepted that the state of the summit after all the gravel was laid, is still not satisfactory and that there is much more that could be done to make the summit area less muddy and slippery. It was agreed that this is something that the LDNPA need to take on to finalise the project.

The Clerk will write to Mr Greaves and set out these responses.

6. Access Road:

The Clerk has spoken to three local tarmac companies and two have said they will contact the Town Steward to arrange a site visit. Once estimates are obtained, the Clerk will draft suitable letters to those properties along the access road, to obtain funding contributions.

It is hoped that the work can take place to re-surface this road in late Autumn 22 or early Spring 23, depending on Council funding approvals.

7. Any Other Business:

Cllr Greasley asked if the Clerk could send a letter to Mr Unsworth, who is the owner of the metal fencing along the lower access path. This has become very dangerous and there have been complaints. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask that Mr Unsworth makes the railings safe via letter.

The Town Steward raised the issue of deliberate vandalism of some of the dry-stone walling and it was accepted that there is little that can be done to stop this, but that it underlines the importance of the stone-walling work that the Town Steward carries out.

Next Meeting: Weds 21st September 2022 at 3pm.