

## Environment Working Group

**Meeting date : 07/02/17**

**Venue: Julie Fewins, Stratford Road, Loxley**

**Attendees: Julie Fewins (Chair), Jonathan Baker (Co-chair, NDP), Dan Bake , Glynn Jones (LPC)**

**Apologies: Katherine Sutherland, Maria Garcia**

### Introduction

The meeting focused on the key points arising from a discussion between GJ and Richard Bernard (County Footpaths Officer, WCC). This note serves a dual purpose: a minute of the meeting, plus a statement of ambition for the group in relation to work on footpaths for discussion with Richard Bernard (RB).

### Background

#### *Environment Working Group*

The Environment Group is an informal working group set up by Loxley Parish Council - to whom the Group formally reports. LPC is represented on the Group, with further overlaps in membership with the current Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group. There are currently six active volunteer members in the Group with several other residents that have expressed interest, but have not yet attended a group meeting, including the Head Teacher at Loxley School (with a view to maximising involvement of local schoolchildren.

The Working Group has been established to advise the Parish Council on a range of environmental matters. Priority has been given in the first instance to footpaths reflecting the interests of the Group and the clear priority accorded to this issue in the recent Community Survey commissioned by the NDP Working Group : [Loxley NDP Household Survey - Results](#).

The minutes of the Working Group are posted on the Parish Council website :

<http://www.loxleyvillage.com/village-notices/environment/>

### A. AMBITION STATEMENT

In the first instance, the Group is looking to focus its resources on local footpaths, taking a pro-active approach to:

- Involving local residents and schoolchildren
- Organising local walks
- Improving signposting in discussion with – and agreement of - local landowners
- Liaising with WCC, LPC and landowners regarding footpath improvements
- Advising LPC as to appropriate actions involving the support from the Lengthsman Scheme.

### B. ACTION PLAN

The Group have agreed the following areas of activity to progress the above objectives :

**1. Build on good practice / learning from others**

- Gathering and disseminating key documents eg. Countryside Code, anything from CLA, DCLG etc (and post on website)
- Meeting with other local groups – including notably Wellesbourne and Walton footpath group which is longer established (may be others eg. Hampton Lucy?)
- Reflect on good practice in approach / principles adopted

**2. Walk local footpaths**

- Confirm local footpath network
- Identify barriers / signposting issues - missing signposts, lack of way-markers, overgrown etc.
- Highlight work required, including that required by lengthsman
- Map issues and illustrate with digital photo's

**3. Identify and hold discussions with landowners**

- A preliminary list of local landowners has been drawn up:
  - Richard and Tommy Dancer – Dancers Farm
  - Max Kendry – land to rear of Manor Lane
  - Scott Johnson – Loxley Manor
  - Elliots – Woodlands Farm
  - Peter Gregory Hood – Loxley Hall
  - Richard Dobedoe – Meer Hill Farm
  - John Hutsby – Fishing Ponds (towards A429)
- There may well be additional landowners that need to be approached; to be identified from list of known landowners above.

**4. Develop an action plan jointly in discussion with local landowners to implement remedial actions**

- Meet with landowners
- Approach to be adopted to be informed by good practice review (item 1 above)
- Consider potential for Geocache pages

**5. Community outreach and involvement**

- Opportunities from Annual Parish Council meetings; NDP Community Meetings; Website; Notice Board, Grapevine and/or flyers delivered to all residents
- Involvement of local school and Head Teacher (Mathew Watson), also represented on the Group.
- Plan community walk (tentatively agreed for April (Wellesbourne)
- Collect e-mails of residents interested in joining local walking group

**6. Publish local walks guide**

- Written commentary and illustrative maps
- Appoint editor to ensure consistency of style and content
- Clarify OS copyright issues (contact Liz Taylor, WCC); consider option to scan and annotate
- Clarify funding requirements and potential sources
- Publicise, promote, distribute, launch Local Walks Guide.

**C. NEXT STEPS**

1. Liaise with Wellesbourne and Walton Footpath Group – **JF**
2. Meet with Richard Bernard – **JB** (and any others available to attend)
3. O/S large scale map – **JB**
4. Informal sounding of local 'friendly' local landowner – **DB**
5. Reporting to LPC; posting minutes on website, distribute minutes to Group and RB – **GJ**
6. Next meeting dates (mid-March?) – **JF**  
(*Agenda to include discussion of Community Walk in April and confirm preferred date – beginning / end April*)

Actions noted above to be completed in time for next meeting in March (Julie to confirm).

**D. RESOURCES AND TIMESCALE**

- Materials, posts, ready mix and waymarkers – WCC
- Labour – Loxley Environment Group
- Clearance / maintenance – lengthsman scheme
- Walks guide booklet – Loxley Parish Council
- Advertising and promotion – LPC and Loxley NDP.

Timescale – 18-24 month work programme.

**Glynn Jones**

***Environment Working Group***

8<sup>th</sup> February 2017