

Minutes of Loxley Environment Group – 25/4/17

Present: Julie Fewins (chair), Jonathan Baker, Dan Bate, members of Kenilworth Footpath Group (Jim and Ian)

Apologies: Glynn Jones, Maria Garcia

1. Welcome – Outline of Kenilworth context and history of group

- Paths are surveyed continuously to ensure they are maintained. Need for a reliable map. Jonathan to get map from Kenilworth group as it was superior to ours.
- Work parties go out on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
- Group gets income from the footpath books they produce: kenilworthfootpaths.org.uk.
- Their paths are much further afield than the parish boundary. Do we want to work outside the parish boundary?
- PR – The group have a plaque that they use to show they have completed work on a path. That way, members of the public can feedback to the group.
- Building relationships with landowners is key.
- Landowner has duty to maintain path, stiles etc but in practice, footpath groups maintain.
- If you complete work on land with permission from a landowner you are under their liability insurance
- Training and first aid?
- Dog walking signs – ‘keep dogs on leads’ can be got from the council.
- Paths don’t fall out of use – they are permanent public land and are definitive.
- Council want to know what is done in terms of maintenance, all work must be approved and logged in advance.
- Cutting back foliage can be done without recourse to the council.
- Kenilworth always seeks approval from local landowners and do the work themselves.
- Council used to have a stock of kissing gates but have run this down so you need to order in advance if you need any. 2/3 hours work to put in a kissing gate. Concrete in way mark posts for permanency.

2. Meeting with Footpaths Officer – Richard Barnard

Jonathon fed back on his meeting with the footpaths officer who has provided us with yellow and blue signs.

- Surfaces
- Public rights
- Way mark paths, point of confusion
- Fences, stiles, gateposts are landowner responsibility
- Use map provided by council if path is unusable obstructing a path is a criminal act

3. Meeting with Wellesbourne Councillor – feedback

Julie fed back on meeting with Wellesbourne councillor Ros Bolton:

- They had used Lengthsman scheme to clear paths and done most of the work without landowner consent, as paths are public land. Work had not been extensive nor was it regular.
- This seemed a less rigorous approach and Kenilworth seemed extremely rigorous. We now have examples of both ends of the spectrum as far as footpath work goes so need to decide our next steps. Certainly pursue Lengthsman scheme to do work as we have this funded in Parish Council budget. Discuss further next meeting.

4. Feedback on walks allocated last meeting

Jonathan and Dan still to do theirs, Julie had done hers. Left to next meeting when all were present to decide next steps starting in Loxley village

5. Communal walk – 29th April 11am

- Leaflets have now gone out (thanks to Dan for this) so we just need to keep fingers crossed for the weather and turn up!
- Maria to bring first aid kit
- Write up for Grapevine afterward with a photo

Next meeting: - tba June 2017, The Fox