

Eleven Rivers Stakeholders Meeting

WYSIS Way, Gloucestershire Way, Three Choirs Way

26th June 2023 Maisemore Village Hall

Present

RH (Temp Secretary and Cirencester Ramblers), HG (GCC PROW Area Officer), JW (GCC PROW Area Officer), TF (Leadon Vale Ramblers), CM (Gloucestershire Ramblers), PL (Gloucestershire Walking Group), JL (FoD Ramblers), PF (Stroud Rambling Club), PG (Gloucester Ramblers), MH (Cotswold Wardens :Central District).

Apologies

GS (Creator), DH (Temporary Chair and Cotswold Warden), MG (Lower Wye Ramblers), MH (Gloucestershire Ramblers), TA (Monmouthshire Countryside Access, PS (North Cotswold Ramblers).

1. Introductions
2. Notes of last meeting (1.3.23)

Agreed

3. Matters arising

Confirmed 'Eleven Rivers' to be used as a working title.

4. General issues

- a. Waymark discs

The discs are to be used in both directions and need to be used where there is a change in direction. They can be installed on path furniture but permission should be sought for other locations.

WYSIS Way has a good supply of discs. Gloucestershire Way – JW still holds about 40 discs. JW retained 10 and 30 were passed to MH to distribute to the relevant Parish Wardens at the next Wardens meeting (12.7.23).

Three Choirs Way – no supply available. In order for the Leadon Vale Ramblers to ensure proper signage these are essential.

(RH – Following the meeting I was reminded than no clear conclusion was recorded as to how to obtain a supply this issue to be picked up at the next meeting)

NC (GCC) has agreed to fund discs for use in Gloucestershire. We agreed to retain the current text on the disc – Forest and Vale and High Blue Hill.

Action HG/JW will order 250 Gloucestershire Way discs. 100 to go to the wardens.

- b. Vinyl Stickers– some time ago RH ordered 100 stickers for the WYSIS Way to be used on metal posts and gates. These cost about £1.50 each.
- c. Finger posts
The plastic head boards cost about £15 for PROW and £40 for named routes.
Installing a post is more costly. NC has recently confirmed that GCC have a duty to sign a PROW from a metalled road which may include sign or notice however this need not necessarily be a finger post.
- d. Repeater signs on highways.

The GW has sections on minor public roads and on longer sections some 'repeater' signs may be helpful to confirm walkers are still on the correct route. This could be facilitated using vinyl stickers with the permission of the Highway Authority.

5. Support group feedback

Cotswold Wardens: MH will distribute the supply of discs from JW. Currently no significant issues in the CNL area,

Leadon Vale Ramblers: The 3CW discs are very faded and the group will replace when a supply of new disc is obtained.

Cirencester Ramblers: Sections of the WYSIS Way in the FoD where the route follows permissive paths (Forestry England land) are no longer signed. An audit of gaps and solutions (Waymark Posts) is required – RH to follow up.

Stroud Rambling Group: The WYSIS Way is being surveyed from Oldhills Wood towards Bisley. Damaged discs are being replaced and additional signage installed. There is some cutting back of vegetation. Further work is planned.

Gloucestershire Walking Group: The group has undertaken some survey work on May Hill, both the WW and the GW.

Cotswold Way Association: The chairman has indicated they may be able to provide support to the initiative. Note RH is a trustee of the CWA.

6. PROW support

Gloucestershire: The PROW team will obtain waymarks for the GW, officers will continue to prioritise these promoted route. HG is coordinating input from the Community Payback Team. Toilets and safety equipment have now been delivered so work can start on the Severn east bank north of Gloucester. JW reported several improvements on the route including anew kissing gate and he will investigate path signage close to Huntley Church.

Herefordshire: RH has had no response from 'footpaths'. It was suggested a contact could be LC PROW at Herefordshire.

Action – RH to contact Lisa Creed

Worcestershire: WS – County have confirmed any issues will be dealt with - no recent contact,

Monmouthshire Countryside Access: TA has made contact with RH He apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. TA thanked RH for replacing worn WYSIS waymarks and confirmed that some gates on the Monmouthshire section are due for replacement soon. Any issues in Monmouthshire can be reported to access.monmouthshire.gov.uk/
TA has recently contacted me to say the website looks good and that he now has improved contact with Forestry England to report fallen trees.

Parish Councils – Tewkesbury, Stow and Winchcombe Town Councils have all indicated to DH they may be able to provide support with signage.

7. Other Route Issues

WYSIS Way: To improve route finding in the FoD RH to identify locations for waymark posts and liaise with JW, JL and Forestry England.

Issue near Upper Hill Farm Bournes Green – site visit to be arranged with RH and PF.

PG is monitoring the housing developments at Winnycroft Farm and is talking to Gloucester Golf course about signage.

Gloucestershire Way: Wardens to improve signage when additional waymark discs available (see #4a)

Three Choirs Way – Leaden Vale Rambler confirmed they have accepted responsibility for the route in the County (see #5)

8. Aspirations: Stile free paths, public transport availability, accommodation, Google Tracker, path monitoring agreements.

Establishing a formal group – if established a community interest company would allow a bank account to be opened.

9. Cicerone No further information regarding any potential publication. DH has commenced updating the original GS text on the GW.

10. Website – We have received positive feedback for the content for the three routes.

However it was noted that the site also includes DH's own web pages which contain personal views. It may be appropriate to establish a standalone web site.

Action – RH to discuss with DH

11. Social media/promotion. DH has offered to produce an email newsletter

12. Any other business

HG will ensure that the GCC PROW Team is kept up to date with developments.

The booking for the hall is £24, the group did not have any enthusiasm for contributing to these costs.

13. Date of next Meeting

2.00pm Monday 2nd October 2023

Maisemore Village Hall