

## Eleven Rivers Stakeholders Meeting

### WYSIS Way, Gloucestershire Way, Three Choirs Way

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 Maisemore Village Hall

#### Present

CM (Gloucestershire Ramblers – acted as chair at this meeting) DH (Temporary Chair and Cotswold Warden), MH (Cotswold Volunteer Wardens - Central District), JL (FoD Ramblers), PF (Stroud Rambling Club), LC (Leadon Vale Ramblers), RJ (Cotswolds National Landscape), MT (Westbury-on-Severn PC), RW (Huntley PC), PL (Gloucestershire Walking Group), JJ (Badgeworth District Council), RC (North Dean ROW), IP (Ashchurch Rural Parish Council, Save Our Lanes), DG (ARPC, Save Our Lanes), BB (Highnam PC), JW (Gloucestershire CC PROW)

#### Apologies

GS (Creator), RH (Temp Secretary and Cirencester Ramblers), HG (Gloucestershire CC PROW).

1. Introductions
2. Notes of last meeting (26/06/2023)  
Agreed
3. Matters arising
  - Noted no alternative names have been proposed. Eleven Rivers remains the working title.
  - GCC PROW has placed an order for a significant number of Gloucestershire Way roundels, we await their deliver and will then distribute to installers.
  - Wysis Way signage has been received by the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens, and is in their depot awaiting installation.
  - We have a quote from GCC PROW for Three Choirs Way roundels of approx £660. However, GCC is only prepared to fund one third of this (ie to cover Gloucestershire). **ACTION: JW agreed to sound out Herefordshire PROW to fund a third. ACTION: RJ agreed to do likewise with contacts in Worcestershire.** The meeting discussed other possible funding sources and we agreed to look into these and report back.
  - There has been no progress yet on clearance of the section of Gloucester Way along the Severn. There had been hopes that Probation Community Payback teams would be able to undertake this work, but issues around PPE and on-site requirements have created delay. It is still anticipated this work will start in coming weeks.
4. Support Groups Feedback
  - a. Leadon Vale Ramblers. Keen to get on with installation of signage. Await signs.
  - b. Cotswold Volunteer Wardens. Some GW roundels have been installed, however now await new supplies. WW signage has been sourced. Noted that North District needs to be involved in this initiative, but wait till roundels supplied.

- c. Gloucestershire Walking Group, ready to assist with route marking outside of Cotswolds, suggested from Over Bridge to Badgeworth Church. Will get going once roundels supplied.
- d. Stroud Ramblers, noted issues on the WW in their area appear to have been addressed by GCC. A survey-walk needs to be scheduled to check.
- e. Ashchurch Rural Parish Council (Save our Lanes). Ian Parker and Roger Cox introduced themselves to the meeting and provided a short briefing on the extensive house-building planned south of Ashchurch included around the Gloucestershire Way. This may have the impact of both temporary and permanent deviations to the route. Save our Lanes wishes to maintain the lines of current PROWs. A particular issue is the railway crossing near Homedowns Farm (SO 92613 32378). Railtrack is indicating it would want to close this crossing if large settlements are built. Ideally a bridge (to carry pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists) would be constructed, but so far this is not included in the plans. Ian and Roger agreed to provide Dan with additional literature, which can be posted (or sign-posted) on the website.

#### 5. PROW support

- a. As noted above, GW roundels have been ordered.
- b. The meeting asked JW if he could look into finding ways of gaining supplies of TCW roundels through liaison with counterparts in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
- c. Jeff also reported that he has taken an aggressive approach in regard to cropped in fields, and has reinstated paths (including along the GW). Currently not recharging this to land-owners, but will be ready to do so in future. Important that where path not reinstated following planting / ploughing, PROW informed swiftly. Noted LO has two weeks to perform the reinstatement after planting / ploughing.

#### 6. Other Route Issues

- a. DH noted that he has largely completed a full walk-through of the Gloucestershire Way and this has been written up with comprehensive guidance notes (and GPX) on the website. Feedback is sought. If you are planning to walk a section please download notes and GPX and check.

#### 7. Constitution

- a. Noted that although the constitution was circulated with meeting agenda, not all attendees had managed to read it. The chair asked if those that had read it had identified any significant errors or omissions. None were identified.
- b. DH explained that he had written the document having taken guidance from Forest Voluntary Action Forum, who had also provided him with similar constitutions. The main purposes are to ensure transparency in what we do and also to allow us to pursue business-like activities, such as opening a bank-account, etc. In answer to questions, DH said he did consider the organisation would be a membership one, but membership would be free and open to anyone ready to support the aims and constitution of the organisation. DH noted that the AGM next year would allow amendments to be made, but that the advantages of adopting this now, would be

that we can explore setting up a bank-account. DH indicated that he was effectively acting as chair, and RH was acting as secretary. He invited others in the group to join the committee. **CM proposed that the constitution be adopted now at this meeting. This was seconded by DH. This motion was carried unanimously.**

- c. **CM agreed to join the committee**, but “without portfolio”. No others took up the offer to join. The posts of Treasurer and Membership secretary remain vacant.
8. Funding and Future planning
    - a. Noted that as a constituted group, the next step is to open a bank account.
    - b. Meeting discussed funding sources. Noted that the current need for waymark roundels should be being funded by CC PROW.
  9. Cicerone
    - a. DH reported that Cicerone remain in contact, but have not indicated a decision on the books. He did note that they are likely to want separate books for each of the walks.
  10. Website
    - a. The website remains the work of DH and is shared with some of his personal walking and adventuring. Agreed that with funds we can look at a more professional offer, unless someone ready to take this on, or DH finds time on his hands during the winter.
  11. Social Media / promotion
    - a. Noted that someone ready to be the social media whizz for the group would be great. Watch this space.
    - b. *Post-meeting-note. DH did produce a Newsletter which was emailed far-and-wide and for which there was a great deal of positive feedback. We'll look to repeat the process over the winter. Any articles, photos etc – very welcome – please send to Dan.*
  12. Any other business
    - a. RJ, noted that CNL has £250,000 to spend on improving access to PROW within the Cotswolds. That means replacing stiles with kissing-gates (or nothing at all), and other measures to enable impaired-mobility folk to get further. Any suggestions to Beckie as soon as possible.
  13. Date of next Meeting
    - a. Provisionally set for 2.00pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Maisemore Village Hall. This will be confirmed in coming weeks. This will be a combined AGM and ordinary meeting.