



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

Mr A. S. R. Groves,
Clerk.

Tel: 01428 722988
Fax: 01428 727335
E-mail:
blpc1@tiscali.co.uk

THE PARISH OFFICE
HASKELL CENTRE
MIDHURST ROAD
LIPHOOK
HAMPSHIRE GU30 7TN

HIGHWAYS, BYWAYS & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

BYWAYS VISIT

THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2010

Members of the Highways, Byways and Transport Committee, together with representatives from the general public, including Ramblers and Riders, walked from Griggs Green to Forestside on route 49 to inspect part of the proposed route for the Shipwrights Way, returning via routes 65, 64 and 66.

PRESENT: Dr John Tough, Mrs Barbara Easton, Ms Jackie Poole (Councillors)
Mrs Gabrielle Ring (Deputy Clerk)
Mr Adrian Bird, Mrs Susan Hicks, Mrs Brenda King, Miss Janet Marr, Mr Richard Ring.
(Members of the Public – Riders and Ramblers)
Mrs Gabrielle Pike (Press)

APOLOGIES: None

REPORT:

The group met at Griggs Green at 7 pm and from there walked along route 49. The route is boggy in places where drainage is poor and the path of the natural springs are evident. Drains which were cleared a number of years ago are now filling with natural debris and this is adding to the problem. In places the users have deviated from the route to avoid particularly boggy sections, and wood from trees has also been laid in parts to enable users to navigate the route. Users have also had to deviate from the bridleway due to branches across the route which came down in the snow. There were concerns about the barbed wire fence which runs along the boundary to Birch Piece as it very close to the bridleway with one corner in particular noted as a potential hazard to horses.

The group left route 49 at Forestside and took route 65 until it is crossed by the access track for the power lines. The group found route 65 to be in reasonable condition, however where the route is crossed by the access track there is some ambiguity of the route as the fingerpost is positioned in such a way that the route of 65 it is not obvious and it could be viewed that the access track is the natural path

as it is a more defined pathway. The group walked along the access track which appears to be a well used route with the group meeting two parties of dog walkers on this stretch.

The group then picked up route 64 which is also in reasonable condition and easy to navigate, returning to route 49 via route 66 which is part of one of the village cycle routes. This path was in poor condition and difficult to navigate in places.

Discussion was held about the suitability of route 49 for the Shipwrights Way. It was generally felt that in its current state route 49 would be a difficult route to navigate therefore the higher route of 64 may be more appropriate in short term until work could be done to improve the drainage on the route. Because of being a SSSI it would also be important to have a suitable surface that was made of a stone suited to the soil type and that could accommodate riders on both horses and bicycles.

CONCLUSION: The visit concluded at approximately 8.30 p.m.
 Confirmed at the HB&T Meeting on 21 June 2010

Signed:
 (Chairman)