

Ridgeway Delivery Group Meeting 30th March 2020: points of interest

This was a teleconference meeting which was reasonably successful and certainly saved travel time, even though of course the Coronavirus kept us in.

1. Police Liaison

Sarah Wright and Andy Mawer met with TVP and a number of officers from across the TVP area attended. One outcome was to hold annual meeting to share information and ideas.

Officers found the draft leaflet 'Driving on the Ridgeway' to be of interest. In particular, in the discussion they didn't regard motorised traffic on the Ridgeway bridleways and restricted byway as a crime and so failed to do anything. Plus they had other priorities.

The leaflet will be updated and split into two versions – one for the public to discourage motorised use, the other for the police and similar organisations. This version will list the offences of motorised use of the Ridgeway, plus a link to the TROs in force as these change over time.

Sarah Wright offered similar meetings in other counties.

2. Riding Route Survey

This survey has been running from November 2019 and is still open, but will close shortly. Some preliminary findings are interesting:

- 1065 responses from all sectors of users;
- 15% were not aware that footpaths are for walkers only, and not for cyclists or horse riders;
- Circular routes were the most used as normally completed in the day;
- Large majority of users support opening up the Ridgeway east of Streatley to cyclists and horse riders where it is possible; and
- 29 carriage drivers responded but there are no further statistics as they were not included in the questions.

3. Vehicle Barriers

Latest BHS advice on vehicle barriers was tabled and it was noted that any new location that required a barrier would use the new guidance rather than the Kent Gap.

4. Road Crossing Table

This was discussed and comments sought, particularly on the health & safety aspects.

5. Other updates to be sent in to add to the Minutes. Mine covered proposed alternatives for carriage driving around Liddington Castle bridleway anomaly, the closure of Gypsy Lane due to a boundary and historical reasons, an update of the proposed circular carriage driving routes.

Brian Worrell

31st March 2020