



ROCHDALE, BURY BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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July 2007

Dear all,

Bridleway News

- The issue about Coalpits Lane and the footpath around Lea Holme Farm went to the Rochdale Township Committee on 13th June and was passed for upgrade. This is good news; however, it is only the start of the process. The landowner was not pleased with the decision and has said that he is going to appeal. This means that it will probably go to a public enquiry with the Secretary of State so it could still be some time before we can ride this route (if at all!). There will be quite a lot of work to do in preparation for an enquiry so we made need to get some volunteers to help out. We would like to thank the people who turned up for the meeting on what was a very wet evening.
- Gwen, Joan and I attended a meeting with Rossendale Bridleways Group as they have just completed a successful public enquiry. It was a very interesting evening and we got some tips from them. One which would be useful is if you could keep a diary of the routes you ride and make a note of any obstacles or problems then if we need any evidence in the future we have a record of it without too much effort being involved.
- Those of you who ride around the Norden area will have noticed that the path from Paperhouse bridge up to Wolstenholme Fold has been resurfaced. This is now a really nice path to ride up and down but please bear in mind that it is only a footpath so please treat it as such. While the work was being done I spoke to the guys who were working there and they said that if the surface gets damaged by horses cantering up or if there are any reports of people being put in danger because of horses coming up fast the council WILL put bollards in to stop us riding it. As you can appreciate this would be devastating for this area and although we would have loads of evidence of use it is a long and drawn out process so please treat it with respect.



- The Ashworth reservoir concessionary is still closed and at the moment we have no update on when the necessary work is going to be completed. Once we have an idea of when this will happen we will be requesting all members to sign a new disclaimer form as it's probably about 15 years since some of you originally signed so it's a good opportunity to get our records up to date too. New keys will also be given out. **Sorry no more news on this.**
- The steps down into the river in the woods near Paperhouse Bridge have now been filled in and resurfaced. We used the money from the Rochdale Township, which was donated by Councillor Ann Metcalfe, to pay for this and it is a lot safer now that the mud has gone! The only problem now is that someone has been throwing huge stones into the river making that a little hazardous so take care.
- After I sent out the last newsletter and said that Gwen was trying to contact United Utilities about getting routes around the wind farm, I had an email from Chris Peat who advised us that as it is common land no fences can be erected so riding in the area shouldn't be a problem.
- We have had an update from Lancashire Council about the long saga of "The Drains". The council is currently in the processing of getting quotes to complete the work and is planning to do this during August so we do have some good news.

Future Meetings/Events

- **Monday, 30th July 2007** - 8.30 pm at the Pack Horse in Birtle.
- **Monday, 21st August 2007** - 8.30 pm at the Pack Horse in Birtle – Please note this meeting is a week early due to the Summer Bank Holiday.
- **Saturday, 26th August 2007** – Summer? barbeque at Gill's place at Wolstenholme Fold. This will be our third annual barbeque which so far has been plagued by bad weather. We have moved it back slightly this year so hopefully we will have a nice evening. Start time 6.30 – 7.00 pm ish, bring your own meat/fish and alcohol. Bread, salad and soft drinks will be provided.
- **Monday, 24th September 2007** - 8.30 pm at the Pack Horse in Birtle.
- **Saturday, 1st December 2007** – yes I know its only July but we couldn't get a table last year. Christmas dinner at the Wagon at Birtle. 7.30 pm for dinner at 8.00 pm. Numbers are limited so please let me know if you want to come. Those who have attended in the past know what a good time we have had and of course what excellent food they serve. What was nice was when I booked it they remembered my name and my association with the Bridleways Group are pleased to be welcoming us back (so we couldn't have behaved too badly).

Barbara