

**AREA NORTH COMMITTEE
27 JANUARY 2010**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The items for information do not form part of the agenda. Should members have questions regarding any of the items please contact the officer shown underneath the relevant report. If, after discussing the item with the officer and it is felt appropriate, a member may request an item to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

- 1. Action List From Joint Area Committee – North – November 2009**
- 2. Area North Service Enhancements – Update Report**

1. Action List From Joint Area Committee North – November 2009

Action	By Whom	Outcome
Members to forward details of any groups meeting within their area, and contacts for village magazines, who may benefit from information details about the Welfare Benefits service.	Members	Community Regeneration Officer to promote the Welfare Benefits service to local groups
Request the continued presence of an SCC Highway Liaison Officer during consideration of planning applications	Committee Administrator	Discussed with the Development Manager. The attendance of County Highways at every meeting is outside of SSDC control. Highways officers have indicated that they will still attend but only when they consider it necessary or when they have been asked directly - rather than be present for every meeting. The issue has been forwarded to the Leader of the Council.
Report on SSDC Area North Assets Register to be added to Forward Plan to discuss their management and future at an area level	Committee Administrator	Added to Forward Plan for March 2010
Co-op Shop, South Petherton: Officers to arrange a meeting with the applicants, the Parish Council and the Ward Members to discuss future deliveries to the shop was the best way forward to resolve the issues	Planning Officers	Meeting now held and issues resolved.

2. Area North Service Enhancements – Update Report

Strategic Director: Rina Singh – Place and Performance
Assistant Director: Martin Woods, Communities
Service Manager: Charlotte Jones, Area Development (North)
Lead Officers: George Montague – Countryside Ranger (Rights of Way Projects)
Peter Keenlyside – Countryside, Volunteer Co-Ordinator
Contact Details: george.montague@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435084
peter.keenlyside@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01963) 435024

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on a current programme of service enhancements – on the theme of Improving access to local rights of way in Area North.

Public Interest

In February 2009 the Area Committee allocated up to £15,000 from the 2009-10 service enhancement budget towards improvements to local countryside or rights of way access. This report provides a summary of the schemes supported, which were agreed in consultation with local volunteers and Parish Councils.

Recommendation

(1) Note the report

Background

Area North parish councils and an audit of recently published parish plans identified the local rights of way network as a top priority.

The Area North service enhancement programme is designed to address local priorities over and above those services provided across the district.

Following a period of consultation with local representatives (mostly the Parish Path Liaison Officers – PPLOs) and Parish Councils, a number of local schemes were agreed for a service enhancement to be completed by the SSDC, these were previously reported.

Report

An update on the progress and status of each scheme is attached at Appendix A.

Financial Implications

None from this report

Corporate Priority Implications

None from this report

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None from this report

Equality and Diversity Implications

None from this report

Background Papers: Report to (Joint) Area North Committee – Rights of Way Enhancements – February 2009.

Appendix A

Area North Service Enhancement Rights Of Way Projects - January 2009/2010

Agreed assessment criteria:

1. Work should not lead to increased future maintenance
2. Should enable/improve access for local people
3. Should fit with SSDC priorities
 - a) Promoting active lifestyles
 - b) Promoting alternatives to the car
 - c) Tourism and educational benefits

Ref	Location	Project Description	Assessment Criteria (see above)	Why will this work make a difference?	Estimated cost	Status
1	Aller	3 replacement gates behind church near to recreation ground	Meets 1,2,3a and 3c	Existing stiles reaching end of useful life, replace with self-closing gates. Better connectivity with the advertised Parrett Trail	£800	Project complete
2	Barrington	Replace flight of wooden steps destroyed by ancient badger sets and run-off water	Meets 1,2 and 3a	Existing route has had to be closed. Compliments work to improve drainage to fields above. Solves long-standing problem	£1200	Project complete
3	Curry Mallett	Improving access to network of local paths. New gates as required	Meets 1,2 and 3a	Better access to network Greater access for less mobile people Reduce future maintenance liabilities	£1700	Project complete
4	Drayton	Three stiles need replacing	Meets 1,2,3a and 3c	Existing stiles reaching end of useful life. New self closing gates to be fitted	£800	Project complete
5	Fivehead	Culvert water course on footpath leading to bridleway see 9 below.	Meets 1,2,3a and 3c	Reduces future maintenance costs.	£1000	Currently waiting for improvement in weather conditions

6	Kingsbury Episcopi	Fence line to be moved from proximity of ditch. New gate to be installed	Meets 1,2,3a, 3b and 3c	Move fence line to increase width of path for walkers. On Parrett Trail, well used but very slippery when wet	£1000	Project complete
7	Lopen	Surface improvements at Kitchen's Lane/ School Lane Approx 80m	Meets 1,2 and 3b	Well used by locals but very poor surface especially in wet weather Will reduce future maintenance costs	£1000	Project complete
8	South Petherton	Improvements at Y24/17. Remove existing stiles, remove trees and level. Segregate route and provide gates	Meets 1,2 and 3a	Creates easier access. Replaces a total of 5 stiles with 2 gates and gaps	£1500	Project complete
9	District-wide (Wigborough, South Petherton)	Parrett Trail Diversion. Formal diversion onto longstanding permissive/ advertised route.	Meets 1,3a, 3b and 3c	To meet requirements and commitments of legal diversion of the route at Wigborough. The advertised trail, since inception follows this route.	SCC have agreed to meet costs	Diversion to be made by Somerset County Council
10	District-wide (Fivehead)	Improvements to drainage on bridleway. Stoning, pipe-work and re-contouring. Long term – infrastructure project.	Meets 1,2,3a and 3c	Bridleways are scarce in South Somerset Part of newly promoted route (Horse Riding in South Somerset Aug 09) Also improves access for cyclists and walkers.	£3500	Currently waiting for improvement in weather conditions
11	Area Wide	Training of volunteers. Various Courses	Meets 1,2 and 3 a	Improves capacity and skills of local community and volunteers	£1000	Currently looking at holding 3-4 courses around March/April 2010

NB: Actual costs to be confirmed