

MID LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2018

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER AND VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT REPORT

As we all know, and I have no intentions of going into the argument today, vehicle access to unsurfaced rights of way is a contentious issue. However, I and many believe, there are tools in place to control access and reduce potential damage to unsurfaced rights of way.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC). 2006 Section 6 extinguished many unrecorded vehicle rights of way. Since then, the government has decided no more national legislation and for problems to be sorted out locally. Hence, the introduction of the Local Access Forums.

Earlier this year a House of Lords Select Committee reviewed the NERC Act and in particular section 6. One of the items recommended was a simplification of the Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) system.

National organisations representing vehicle rights of way users have also initiated a Voluntary Restraint (VR) system which, although not legally binding, can help in preserving the conditions of rights of ways. I, and many responsible vehicle users, have ideas for possible implementation of VRs and TROs to enable us to sensibly use rights of ways.

An example is Claxby BOAT. This is a lovely lane over the Lincolnshire Wolds. However, because of misuse it has become damaged and has migrated out from the original line of course.

This is a contentious issue with the landowner and Countryside Access Officers are doing their best to help the problem.

As responsible vehicle users we are offering a VR on a one way system down hill. I also suggest, although maybe more difficult to implement, a TRO from 30/10 to 30/4. There are already gates at either end. The addition of a sign and a lock on the gates could be easily done?

This is one example of how both VR and TRO can be used to reduce the damage to a beautiful lane.

Further details will be presented at the meeting.

Thank You

David Salkeld

This page is intentionally left blank