

**Minutes of the 4th Staveley Nature Reserve Liaison Group (SNR-LG)
held in Staveley & Copgrove Village Hall on 23rd January 2013 at 19:00**

1	<p>Present at the meeting:</p> <p>Ken Barker Dorothy Griffin Bill Kirkpatrick Paul Smith (Chairman) Jenny Hayward (YWT) Nick Stringer as a Parish Council in lieu of Lynne Manby</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>John Thornton Lynne Manby (Parish Council)</p>	
2	<p>Pre-amble</p> <p>There were no residents of Staveley & Copgrove present.</p> <p>Should there be any issues residents wished to raise with the SNR-LG they should contact one of the committee, e-mail snr-lg@staveley-yorks.org.uk.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the last meeting 9th October 2012</p> <p>Were accepted with the following amendments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DG said that at the meeting she held about the footpath at the church end of the village that Mr Lloyd-Davies had agreed to remove the styles at either end of the footpath that crossed his garden. 2. At the same meeting it was recorded that the five residents with properties abutting the track, with the exception of the Lloyd-Davies, do not wish people to walk down the track and noted that it is not a public footpath. 3. We discussed at the last meeting how the group is to inform Staveley & Copgrove residents of the work being done and it was agreed that the Staveley web site, the Link and via the Newspaper were to be adopted as communication channels. 	<p>DG BK</p>
4	<p>Registration of interest</p> <p>There were no additional registrations of interest..</p>	
5	<p>Actions from the Last Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overflow Parking CW agreed previously to include a notice about overflow parking on the interpretation panel to appear in the car park. JH indicated that the interpretation panel would be complete by April and would include the wording "Should 	

	<p>you find this car park to be full, further safe parking can be found on Main Street in the village of Staveley to the west”.</p> <p>2. LM was asked to bring this (over zealous volunteers were responsible for “dogs to be on leads” signs that appeared within the reserve and these have been removed) to the attention of the Parish Council as the “dogs on lead signs” issue was raised with NYCC by a resident and parish council member and could easily have been raised with the SNR-LG and handled locally. This was agreed to be the preferred route to handle NR problems. Action completed. NS indicated that the PC will be e-mailing PS regarding access to the SNR from the church end.</p>	
6	<p>YWT Report on progress against previously disclosed plans</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Car park markings of car parking spaces was done but the wooden poles identifying the spaces were removed by persons unknown. Other options for marking out spaces will be considered by YWT. 2. KB said that the car park was overflowing on New Year's day. JH stated that no YWT events were taking place on that day and the group thought that the parking issues were likely due to the yearly new year's day hunt. 3. The poor weather of 2012 has adversely affected footpaths and overflow of the river has caused further problems. YWT are investigating remedial action. 4. There is insufficient funds to complete the second hide at present and further funds are being sought. YWT still wishes the smaller hide to be built if funding can be found. 5. The new flower meadow was seeded but conditions were not good so the method of creating the meadow was less than perfect. There is sufficient funding available to re-seed if necessary. 6. The interpretation panel is currently with the designers and Andrew Cochrain, YWT's field officer, will install it, probably in April as he has other tasks to perform at present. 7. The Heritage Lottery funding was completed in December 2012. 8. The scrapes and bunds work is still outstanding and is being planned. It is too wet to do any work on the scrapes at present. 9. There are problems with the pipe connecting the east and west lagoons – it is blocked – and YWT are seeking solutions. 10. The River Tut is overflowing & YWT are addressing this with the Claro Drainage Board who bear the responsibility. 	

11. It was noted that the mill pond has maintained its level so remedial work done last year is working to some extent.

12. There was a protracted discussion about the footpath access to the reserve from the Church end and DG brought the group up-to-date regarding the conversations she had had with Mr Lloyd-Davies and NYCC.

It had been agreed at previous meetings that access to the SNR from the Church end of the village is not adequate and needs improving.

There is a neighbourhood dispute involving the five residents whose properties abut the track leading to the main road, the Lloyd-Davies and NYCC and DG had arranged a meeting previously in order to try and resolve this amicably.

Since the meeting DG has spoken to both Mr Lloyd-Davies and NYCC. NYCC have marked out the definitive line of the footpath and there are discussions in progress between the Lloyd-Davies and NYCC about the final line of the footpath.

If this can be agreed NYCC have agreed to re-surface the path and Mr Lloyd-Davies has agreed to remove the styles at either end of the path that crosses his garden.

KB said that he had been approached by residents who wanted a pedestrian gate to be installed at the end of the track to make access easier. He proposed a survey of residents and asked YWT why they would not put in a pedestrian gate.

It was generally agreed that the majority of villagers would welcome access to the reserve via a pedestrian gate but that it has been the policy of the SNR-LG to avoid further village conflict if this is at all possible.

JH indicated that YWT would not object to a pedestrian gate and would not object to the track being used for access to the reserve.

It was agreed that there was an impasse and that the current situation is unsatisfactory. BK suggested that both the existing footpath should be improved and a pedestrian gate be installed at the end of the track.

It was agreed that PS write to the Parish Council to request a speedy resolution to this problem as a solution was not possible by simple negotiation between parties and the SNR-LG.

PS

	<p>13. JH indicated that disabled access to the new hide would be implemented by providing a wooden ramp. She also indicated that the footpath down to the hide will be improved to make it easier for wheelchair access.</p> <p>14. PS indicated that he had had very positive comments about the hide.</p> <p>15. JH said that the track potholes will be repaired.</p> <p>16. Residents had asked about the grazing of animals and why there was not more – thistles and himalayan balsam had been mentioned as issues for residents. JH said that grazing would not be continual but that a grazing plan, based upon rotation and what is best for conservation, was in place.</p> <p>17. JH confirmed her role as SNR Manager and she works two days a week. Andrew Cochrain is the reserve field officer.</p> <p>18. JH also confirmed that SNR is now under YWT's normal reserve management plan that has been agreed with Natural England.</p> <p>19. A family event is planned for 2nd or 9th April.</p> <p>20. Lack of signs indicating the location of the SNR from the footpath near the Royal Oak were discussed and JH said that YWT cannot put signs up on land that does not belong to them.</p>	
7	<p>Feedback and Staveley and Surrounding Area Events</p> <p>Events are often published on the Staveley web site www.staveley-yorks.org.uk and it was suggested by the chairman that group members consult the web site for event details.</p> <p>The current list of events known to the group and being held in 2013 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staveley Stampede 16th June • Garden Party 7th July • Cycle Race 14th July <p>The issue of toilets on the reserve was raised again by DG but was generally not supported by YWT.</p>	
8	<p>Future Plans for SNR</p> <p>Planning permission will be sought for the wetting of the east fields at some stage.</p>	
9	<p>Intentions to communicate with the parish</p> <p>There are no intentions to communicate with the parish at</p>	

	present.	
10	<p>AOB</p> <p>1. KB asked for clarification regarding the riding of cycles on the reserve. JH indicated that cycling is not permitted.</p> <p>KB asked whether toddlers on cycles would be allowed and JH said that the policy remains the same but that action is unlikely to be taken if a parent with a cycling toddler uses the reserve,</p> <p>2. PS retired from the committee and as chair. DG agreed to take over as chair and one of Jennifer Simmonds, Robin Barker and Margaret Stringer would be asked if they would like to join and replace PS.</p>	DG
11	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 23rd April 2013 in Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall at 19:00.</p>	

Summary of Correspondence Received:

Mr Em Lloyd-Davies, 11th May 2012

- Sent on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Requested clarification of the discussion about the footpath at the last SNR-LG meeting.
- Generally supportive of the pedestrian gate at the church end of the track citing the previous SNR-LG meeting where it was discussed on 8th May 2011.
- Included an edited version of a letter sent to the CEO of YWT supporting the pedestrian gate.
- Suggests that the SNR-LG should consult with the village.

Mr John and Mrs Janet Netherwood, 25th May 2012

- Generally against the provision of a pedestrian gate at the church end of the track.
- Suggest improvement of the existing footpath.
- Belief that YWT should implement only those changes agreed when the planning consent was approved and reviewed by the parish.
- The planning application was reviewed and approved by the parish.
- Suggests that there is no further need to consult with the village regarding the footpath.
- Included an e-mail sent to David Hargreaves (ex of YWT) objecting to the pedestrian gate.

Mr Paul Walters, 15th June 2012

- Noted that the issue of the footpath was raised by Mr Lloyd-Davies at the PC meeting without a declaration of interest.
- Indicated that he had written to the PC about this issue also.
- Mention of acrimonious meetings in the village resulting in final acceptance of YWT's submitted plans that did not include a pedestrian gate.
- Suggest that we should not be considering any changes to the agreed plans.
- Suggests that assurances were given by YWT to residents along the track that no pedestrian gate would be installed.
- Suggest that the current footpath should be improved.
- Included an original e-mail to YWT objecting to any re-routing of the footpath.

Ms Chris Parkin, 23rd June 2012

- YWT's proposal, agreed with residents close to the track, was that the gate should be locked and a radar key used to gain access to the disabled car park.
- Objections were raised about a pedestrian gate in August 2011 with David Hargreaves (ex of YWT) and these were accepted so no further discussion is necessary.

- Suggest that styles are replaced by gates on the existing footpath.
- Survey of villagers is not required as a survey would not address the households that would be affected by a pedestrian gate.
- Nothing should be done outside of the currently agreed plan.

Mr Em Lloyd-Davies, 1st July 2012 as a resident

- Clarification of his position as a Parish Councillor and the limitations to his involvement in discussions about the footpath as a result of this.
- Request for clarification on the “Open” nature of the SNR-LG meeting.
- Noted that Ian Burgess had been invited and clarification on the ongoing legal dispute between himself and NYCC [the SNR-LG do not wish to interfere with this due process].
- Statement that the footpath was discussed at a (previously constituted) SNR-LG on 8th March 2012 and a proposal to open the footpath at the end of the lane put to YWT. Clarification about the (currently constituted) SNR-LG representation to YWT regarding the pedestrian gate.
- Comments on the last minutes:
 - SNR-LG there to represent the village and to consult, not dictate.
 - Should have a balanced view of all villagers and not minorities.
 - Two villagers objected to the YWT plans on the grounds of inadequate access: HBC did not put a condition on the planning, YWT informed the SNR-LG that this would be considered once planning consent was achieved.
 - It is unclear why the pedestrian gate is unacceptable to residents close to the track.
 - Access roads and gates are owned by YWT and they should decide how they are used.
 - A village survey was suggested conducted by the Parish Council.