

4. Broadmoor Trail

Background

Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council applied for grant funding from the RPA for the trail. This was agreed and the project was given a completion date of 10th March 2021. The LDNPA advanced the funds to EKPC for the construction of the path, on the understanding that it would be repaid to them once the grant money was received.

The memorandum of understanding between the partners (LDNPA & EKPC) states that the partnership will “Appoint a Project Development Officer – Ric Outhwaite, Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council - to lead on the preparation and submission of a grant funding application in conjunction with support and guidance from Rec Cathey, Lake District National Park.”

Concerned that EKPC may ultimately be left with a debt if the trail failed to meet the RPA specification and the application was refused, LDNPA gave an assurance to EKPC that they would not pursue them for repayment under those circumstances.

Recent Progress

From the January 18th Parish Council Meeting there was the following discussion:

[Broadmoor Trail](#)

DY said that an extension had been granted until May for completion and until June for submission of forms. He asked if there were any issues. SG and LC said there were some areas where it was wet and people were detouring around them. DY said that we would write to the National Park, to a senior manager, to arrange a site meeting urgently to agree what work still needed to be done.

A site meeting was arranged on 10th March 2022 which was attended by Councillors Outhwaite, Sharpe, Taylor and Young and Steve Tatlock from the LDNPA. A number of areas for improvement were identified

At the meeting on March 15th the following was minuted:

[Broadmoor Trail](#)

[There had been a significant improvement and this was now ready to move forward to final funding.](#)

This statement was made by Cllr Outhwaite and from the recording that is still on file, we can hear comments from councillors Coverley, Guise and Sharpe that the path track had been done well. Councillor Taylor commented that the remaining money could be used for dust on the first part of the track and councillor Outhwaite agreed. Signage was also discussed, but all agreed with Cllr Outhwaite’s statement as minuted.

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May, Cllr Young said that “We’ve completed the Broadmoor footpath, we’re just going through the final governance with the RPA to reclaim the money” A resident raised at that meeting that the Broadmoor Trail was too soft and you would have a hard job to push a wheelchair. Cllr Young stated that “it might need some bedding in because it is fresh on that path, but if it is a concern, it’s classed as a multi-user track, disabled, bikes, cycling, bridleway, footpath”.

On 12th May, Cllr Young forwarded the final version of his chairman’s report which stated, “Broadmoor Footpath – congratulate the completion of the Broadmoor footpath, this is now

going through the final governance procedures with the RPA. An official opening of the footpath will be organised later this year, I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to use the new path, and note the significant changes that have been made over the past 12 months. The site is being proposed to be part of the Coast to Coast National Trail.”

On 20th May Cllr Young emailed the RPA to say that he was no longer a signatory.

On 29th May Cllr Young emailed the RPA with a document titled “Handover Details” and copied in the clerk, and Cllrs Outhwaite and Sharpe. This listed a number of alleged problems with the path and stated that it did not comply to the specification. The Council was not consulted before this was sent, nor was the council made aware of any reason for a sudden change of heart by Cllr Young. Such a document could obviously have an adverse effect on the likelihood of success of the grant claim.

Current Position

The LDNPA have been made aware of the correspondence sent by Cllr Young in order that they can take any necessary action. An urgent site visit was made by Cllr Sharpe, the clerk and Steve Tatlock to look at the condition of the track. From the previous site meeting in March progress was noted: The passing places had been put in, branches cut back, roots cut back and removed, top surface had been put on the path from Braemar corner to sawdust lanning and the bridge over the beck had been improved. It was agreed that the following actions still remained outstanding: The section of path on UU land was to have vegetation cleaned back to ensure the path was widened to 2m and the path would have dust/stone applied to stop standing water after heavy rain. Steve Tatlock gave assurances that the outstanding actions would be completed in time for the claim to be submitted.

Although in the Handover Details document Cllr Young writes “Noting the RPA email a further extension can be sought until September 2022 to resolve any shortfalls if required.” The RPA view is that it is nowhere near as straightforward as that. They state “The final claim for grant is due to be with us no later than 30th June 2022. At this time the project should be complete in its entirety with all elements of the project (including the bridge over the stream in Broadmoor Plantation) completed and in everyday use. If this is not likely to be the case you can apply for a variation for an extension of time in which to complete the project and lodge the claim. This project has already had 9 variations where the average number of variations per project is 3 - 4. Given the Grant Funding Agreement was issued on 28th July 2020 with a project completion date of 10th March 2021 you will need to provide photographic evidence of what has been completed so far. We will not at this stage automatically agree to a tenth variation.”. “You will need to provide robust evidence the project is well advanced and close to completion, including detailed photographs. An agreement to this is not guaranteed.”.

Steve Tatlock from LDNPA has agreed to be present at the meeting to provide up to date details and answer any questions.

Decision

The council may choose to apply for an extension, but this is not guaranteed to be granted. If it is not granted, the claim must be submitted by 30th June.

The council may choose to submit the claim, which has to be submitted by 30th June. Evidence of completion, photos etc, will need to be included with the claim. Cllr Outhwaite would be the person responsible for submitting this claim.