Loders Parish Council Rights of Way Liaison Officer
Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024

April 2023 - March 2024 has been my tenth year as Rights of Way (RoW) Liaison Officer for Loders' Parish Council (LPC). I am grateful for the support of the LPC, Eggardon Ward Cllr Tony Alford, Dorset Council officers, local land-owners and local residents.

Local residents have reported problems, provided advice, expressed gratitude or simply taken an interest. I am particularly grateful for volunteers assisting with practical help. Again, a special mention must be made of Tony Richards who has taken a much appreciated lead by organising a gang of locals to maintain New Street Lane which is probably the most well used RoW in the parish linking the main parish settlements of Matravers, Uploders and Loders along the River Askers valley.

My routine work involves clearing overgrown signs & paths, replacing way-markers where needed, maintaining finger-posts, responding to residents' concerns, reporting to LPC meetings as well as responding to and raising concerns with land-owners and Dorset Council (DC).

Additional activities include;

- input to planning applications,
- emailing seven updates to 'Friends and Volunteers of Loders RoW'; 24/4/23, 25/5/23, 2/6/23, 23/6/23, 25/8/23, 5/9/23 and 18/1/24,
- contributing seven RoW articles to 'Eggardon & Colmers View'; July, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec, Feb and March.

I continue to rely on and appreciate residents acting as my 'eyes & ears' (especially from the more distant eastern end of the parish) as well as volunteers for their 'hands-on' support.

I'm pleased to report that the following two LPC Business Plan priorities have been improved during the past year;

- BR11 New St Lane; drainage though issues remain due to a particularly wet winter,
- FP37 three access points between the bottom of Yellow Lane and Hole House Farm.

I also led 'Transport' issues on LPC 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' (C&EE) working party. This includes a non-road route to Bridport to encourage 'Active Travel' and reduce carbon based travel. LPC arranged a public C&EE meeting in October when Loders Transport Group (LTG) was formed which I Chair. A priority for the next year is for the LTG to facilitate 'Active Travel' between Loders and Bradpole.

Please find appendix attached which includes a map showing parish RoWs followed by a more detailed description of their location and record of my activities; the most important but most boring bit!

David Cannon, April 1st 2024.

APPENDIX

On the map below, Loders parish RoW numbers are all prefixed with 'W13'. Footpaths (FP) marked in pink and Bridleways (BR) marked in green. Unclassified County Roads (UCRs aka 'D' roads) marked in blue (except New St Lane which, unusually, is designated both as a Bridleway and a UCR. UCR's are also numbered and are maintained by Highways not RoW.

Issues raised by local residents are in ***bold italics*** and help provided by volunteers in CAPITALS.

BR1 from Church Farm to Smishops Lane

31/5/23 I cleared veg. From BR3 to Smishops.
20/8/23 I cleared fallen tree above village with THREE VOLUNTEERS,
7/11/23 ***Local resident reported metal gates installed restricting longstanding vehicular access. 16/11/23 I reported to Dorset Council (MNT62213) as they had removed past barriers. 21/11/23 Dorset said it was a private matter between local residents. 16/1/24 Local resident reported exposed open 'well'. 16/1/24 I reported to Dorset Council (MNT62617). 17/1/24 'resolved'.***

BR2 extinguished

BR3 from Village Hall lane opposite Farmers Arms to join BR1

FP4 from Smishops Lane to Bell Cottage (10/1/14 reported to DCC it's blocked and no longer used)

BR5 from Whetlands Lane UCR to Powerstock Parish boundary

26/5/23 Local resident reported churned mud to Dorset Council (MNT59790). 2/6/23 'Under investigation' and referred to Highways.

FP6 from FP7 to Powerstock Parish boundary

FP7 from The Forge, Uploders to BR14 at disused railway line

5/9/23 Local resident reported Dorset Council had agreed to address root trip hazard. 24/9/23 resolved.
24/10/23 VOLUNTEER and I cleared two overhanging trees; Cherry Lane and Crutchley's Field.
23/11/23 After I consulted LPC, DC and landowner THREE VOLUNTEERS and I built bench overlooking Askers River.
20/2/24 ***Local resident reported dangerous collapsed barbed wire fence.*** 19/3/24 THREE VOLUNTEERS made safe.

FP8 from New Street Lane to Askers bridge at Yondover

3/3/24 I reported collapsed fingerpost at New St Lane (MNT63000). 4/3/24 resolved.

FP9 from New Street Lane to Wellplot
21/3/23 Last year, PC Chair reported witnessing local resident slip over on muddy section at southern pedestrian access to Well Plot field. 23/3/23 I reported on Dorset Council website; MNT59170.
16/6/23 This year, Dorset Council email reported visit established not a big problem so 'resolved'.

FP10 short section from BR11 to BR14 at Matravers

BR11 includes New Street Lane (Unclassified County Road) then on to Matravers
9/5/23 I emailed RGoff (DC) to remind him re need to improve drainage. ***17/5/23 Local resident pursued issue.*** 24/5/23 VOLUNTEER used his digger to improve drainage. 25/5/23 I emailed Dorset Council to suggest thanking volunteer.
30/5/23 I cut back nettles with VOLUNTEER.
22/9/23 & 27/9/23 VOLUNTEER cleared veg.
16/10/23 Local landowner delivered hardcore at muddy eastern farmgate. Two VOLUNTEERS spread the hardcore.
17/10/23 VOLUNTEER and I cleared encroaching veg.
24/10/23 VOLUNTEER and I cleared ditch and created new channel to improve drainage.
12/1/24 VOLUNTEER dug out ditch.
20/2/24 Local resident asked landowner to clear to sites of encroaching brambles.

FP12 from Askerswell Parish boundary at Knowle Hill across disused railway to to Powerstock Parish boundary

FP13 from Matravers to Folly Cottage

BR14 from Matravers to Powerstock Parish boundary

BR15 from Perwen Farm through Upton Manor farm, turning NW to BR11

BR16 from Cuckold's Corner on A35 to Spyway Road at Matravers

BR17 from Spyway Road to Matravers Farm

FP18 from Traveller's Rest on A35 to Spyway Road

FP19 from Moens Farm on Spyway Road to Perwen Farm, Matravers

FP20 from Traveller's Rest to Shipton Gorge Parish boundary

BR21 from Vinney Cross on A35 to Shipton Gorge Parish boundary at Shipton Hill

BR22 from Vinney Cross to Uploders (known as Locks Lane)

FP23 from New Road to Uploders Chapel
13/5/23 Local resident reported collapsed tree prevented access to Chapel Lane. 16/5/23 I cleared collapsed tree.
12/10/23 Local resident reported overgrown Chapel Lane, barriers across board walk across Jordan River and overgrown farmgate at New Road. 16/10/23 I cleared some veg, scraped boardwalk and cleared New Road farmgate. I also reported boardwalk to Dorset Council (MNT61962). 19/10/23 2 VOLUNTEERS and I cleared Chapel Lane. 16/11/23 Dorset Council improved boardwalk.

FP24 from FP23 to FP25

FP25 from New Road to old Bridport road at Stony Head

FP26 from Shipton Lane to join BR27 at Innsacre Farmhouse

BR27 from A35 to FP26 at Innsacre Farmhouse

BR28 removed from parish list in 1997.

BR29 from Loders Mill to Green Lane via Boarsbarrow Farm
22/11/23 I reported finger-post down (MNT62260). 28/11/23 resolved.

FP30 from Bar Lane to Yondover

FP31 from Yondover to join FP32

FP32 from Boarsbarrow Farm to Church Lane

13/5/23 Local resident reported broken kissing gate. I immediately reported (MNT59641). ***3/7/23 and 14/7/23 Local resident emailed Dorset Council re kissing gate refurbish.*** 19/7/23 I emailed Dorset Council re kissing gate refurbish. Jan 24 refurbished.

FP33 from Hole House Farm to Bradpole Parish boundary

FP34 from Church Farm, Yellow Lane to BR35

BR35 from Lower Mangerton to Spinney Kot on West Milton road

FP36 from Clover Leaf Farm, Yellow Lane to West Milton Lane

FP37 from Hole House Farm, Bradpole to Church Farm, Yellow Lane
9/5/23 I emailed Dorset Council to improve three access points. 25/5/23 3 access points improved. 29/5/23 I spoke to landowner who was happy and I fixed waymarkers on farmgate by Church Farm campsite.
21/11/23 I reported fingerpost down at bottom of Yellow Lane (MNT62253). 28/11/23 resolved.

FP38 from New Street Lane to Smishops Lane cemetery
31/5/23, 23/6/23 and 25/8/23 I cleared from Highacres to New St Lane.

FP39 from FP26 Bradpole to FP3 Bradpole

I also monitor the following five Unclassified County Roads;

Bar Lane from Yondover to Dalrymple Copse
17/4/23 Local resident reported tree across UCR and had also arranged removal for 19/4/23.
1/6/23 and 26/8/23 I cleared encroaching veg length of Bar lane.
3/3/24 I cleared veg from Bar Lane and reported rock fall blocking access to Highways (1245957). 3/4/24 still blocked so asked for update.

Green Lane from Dalrymple Copse west to parish border

Extension of BR29 from Dalrymple Copse south to A35

Knowl Lane from Higher Yondover Farm to Stoney Head
16/1/24 Local resident reported concerns to LPC re mud washing down to Yondover. LPC secretary will contact Dorset Council.

Whetlands Lane from Smishops Lane East to BR5