

Notes from Zoom Meeting held with Chris Spencer, AONB held on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 12.30pm

Mawbray Banks AONB and SSSI

- \*More dog poo bins and recyclable bags

- \* No consultation with local residents and Parish Council – CS had talked with people on site and ABC

- \*John Callion had done survey in 2017 from Dubmill to Silloth pointing out bird species that are on the red and amber list, there was no mention on the management plan, willing to continue surveys for ABC on voluntary basis

- \*No more gorse to be removed at present, could be revised by Natural England

- \*Natterjack toad management ponds have been remodelled so that the cattle can keep grass down and if they wander into the ponds they do not damage the liners

- \*Important waxcap site

- \*At present the site is nowhere near reaching the potential flowering plants and heathers with cattle grazing this could be achieved

- \*Assisted Science Project – grants for students to be part of the project

- \*Field Studies Site at Blencathera – can download app to follow work

- \*Cattle Insurance – by Allerdale – Cattle liability held by grazier part of the business tenancy

- \*Cattle are from an Anthorn site – experienced graziers used with public walking through site and dog walkers

- \*Cattle to be looked every ¾ days by grazier and ABC when passing – RA said it should be everyday

- \*Response time if there is a problem

- \* Motor cycles on the Banks and Shore have been reported to police – police reply to pop in when passing

- \*What would happen with vandalism, broken fences, cows next to a main road could take up to 2 hours to get to site

- \*Signage at each access point to sight with 'Expectation that dog walkers keep dogs under control'

- \*Concerns about deaths by cattle

- \*Would it be possible to postpone the work until after lockdown and consult with PC and locals

- \*Cows are expected in April

- \*Management of the area should have been undertaken years ago said CS

- \*Since lockdown user groups have changed with increased pressure with the amount of people using the Banks

- \*These people think the Banks are just for them no consideration for other users

- \*There is to be revision of the Countryside Code being undertaken Natural England are being consulted along with other bodies
- \*Concerned by the amount of litter left after the boardwalks were removed, this was shredded not taken away (micro plastics etc)
- \*There will be information coming on website
- \*There will be handling pens from a central access area crossing the cycleway – plain wire along the road side, a metre from the cycle track where there is gorse 3 – 4 metres from the track on the northern side
- \* Southern end was a sand extraction site – northern site used as a land fill area for large west Cumbria companies
- \*It was stated cattle can be unpredictable (if dogs started barking etc)
- \*Will cattle dung enrich the soil – they will not be getting any concentrates or buffer feeding
- \*Cattle grazing will nibble new gorse growth this will keep in check, allowing species to emerge through regrowth
- \*Car parking at Newtown junction will be cleaned up and extended – increased car park size with picnic area
- \*Tracks to shore - expand car park size nearer road and eventually close car park near the shore
- \*Mussel fishery almost certain not to reopen (number of things to sort out)
- \*Still concerned about dogs mixing with cattle
- \*There are public events COVID allowing to explain what is going to happen keep everyone informed using ‘Only in Mawbray’ and other sites
- \*Better signage notice of events
- \*Talk with the public
- \*Dynamic Dune Scapes Team – online – letting everyone know about dune management

The meeting closed