Crosthwaite Village Path Project

The Parish Council is planning ways to improve road safety in the village. We are working with the Lake District National Park Authority on one project to create a new off-road path to link parts of the village together. Together with Marian Jones, National Park Area Ranger, we are talking to landowners about creating a path, in the fields, next to the road, between the recreation field and Hollow Clue. This path will be suitable for pedestrians, children's bicycles, prams and wheelchairs

This new path will help people living in the west end of Crosthwaite to reach the village hall and recreation fields without having to use a narrow section of road which has poor visibility.

The path will have a hard packed gravel surface and will be fenced off from the rest of the fields. Gates will be installed where the path meets the road so that dogs and children cannot run out in front of traffic. The west end of the path next to Hollow Clue will include some switchbacks to make sure that the gradient is not too steep for users. Matting will be laid under the path in areas around large trees to protect their roots. There will be an opportunity for the schoolchildren, and others, to get involved with planting a new hedge alongside the path.

The path construction work will be supervised by the National Park Field Rangers. It will be maintained by the Parish Council, although we are working on agreements to get the path dedicated as a Right of Way.

The total cost of the path is estimated to be approximately £11,000 if the work is carried out by National Park labour and £16,000 if we use a construction company. There is also a third option to take a DIY approach, employing local groundworks contractors and supplementing this with volunteer labour. Obviously, this would be much more cost effective but we would then be looking for lots of local support to assist in the construction.

To finance this work we will need to apply for grants and ask for contributions from individuals. There is no public money available. It would be good to hear from anyone with good ideas for sources of grants. There will be an opportunity for individuals or businesses to sponsor the furniture items along the path.

Before we proceed with, what will be, a substantial project, we would like to receive the views of residents. There is no point proceeding if the path is not wanted. If the results of this consultation are positive, the next step would be for the Parish Council to submit a planning application for the work and start fundraising activities.

Please send your comments or questions to the Parish Clerk (crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk)

