

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

6th April 2021

AGENDA ITEM 8.2 – UPDATE RE LAKESIDE BOARDWALK

1. Report

- 1.1 Members are aware that the boardwalk (located in Wincham Parish (WPC) and Cheshire West and Chester District (CWAC)) is currently damaged and theoretically closed because of the hazard it poses to users. WPC has updated your Clerk as to the current situation, and this is reported for members' information.
- 1.2 The land occupied by the boardwalk is privately owned and responsibility for ensuring the retention of public rights of way (PROW) rests with CWAC. Landowners are responsible for ensuring that PROWs across their land are not obstructed and are passable.
- 1.3 CWAC closed the boardwalk some months ago after an accident caused by its poor condition, though walkers continue to use both the boardwalk and also the land adjoining it, following the broad line of the PROW (although it is pointed out that in fact the boardwalk does not follow the line of the PROW as shown on the definitive map).
- 1.4 CWAC is apparently of the view that the current boardwalk is beyond repair. The landowner has carried out various drainage works on his land and is apparently of the view that a new boardwalk is not now required, since the works he has carried out has led to a drying out of the land such that it is walkable.
- 1.5 There are currently discussions going on among the parties as to how to move forward. A replacement boardwalk would apparently cost in the region of £70-£80k; CWAC apparently do not favour such a solution because of the cost and the absence of relevant funds. A path replacing the boardwalk would have a lesser cost, but there is concern among some residents as to the materials that might be used for such a path in terms of their effect upon the water quality of the lake and its impact on flora and fauna.
- 1.6 WPC is in the main simply observing the situation since it is not directly involved in terms of responsibility for the path/boardwalk, although clearly parish councillors, as well as Wincham local residents, have views (which are not uniform) about what solution should be chosen.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council