

TOWANS PARTNERSHIP Meeting

Report from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer for Hayle Towans

13 October 2010.

Progress Report

- Cut back encroaching scrub on 'bends' in road at Gwithian Towans.
- Ragwort removal by BTCV at 3 pony grazing sites at Gwithian Towans.
- Led Guided Walk on history & folklore of St Gothian Sands Local Nature Reserve – 26 July.
- Installed & maintained Beach Zoning Signs at St Gothian Sands & Gwithian Towans between 10 July – 5 September.
- Litter picked at St Gothian Sands & Gwithian Towans Top Car Parks once a week & as necessary through summer season.
- Removed graffiti from information signs at Gwithian Towans.
- Liaised with Dog Warden re patrolling Towans sites & additional 'dog information' signs put out on Towans sites.
- Inspected several cliff falls reported to be affecting access to the beach at various sites on the Towans. Where not on CC land reported to landowners. Also maintained hazard warning & diversion signs at 'High Tide Access' point at west side of St Gothian Sands – vandalised twice.
- Meeting with Richard Hocking, CC Engineer, to discuss beach access provision.
- Requests for Countryside Information & Events Diaries received – deliveries made to 9 local Holiday Parks this season.
- Sand Dune Code of Conduct Signs updated to show 'No cycling/mountain biking'. Installed at St Gothian Sands & Gwithian Towans sites & with agreement from Mr James, at the entrances to St Gothian Sands LNR from Churchtown Farm Campsite in an attempt to stop fires, camping & mountain biking on the Towans.
- Attended 'Gwithian Green Advisory Group' Meeting 21 September.
- Several meetings held with Natural England & landowners at Mexico & Lethlean Towans & Gwithian Green to discuss Higher Level Stewardship agreements for various sites on the Towans. Current Countryside Stewardship Schemes are coming to an end in this autumn. If successful, this should allow conservation grazing to continue on the Towans during the winter months. Also to discuss changes to arrangements for provision of ponies' by Natural England from the Lizard this season.
- Pot hole filling close to Top Car Park at Gwithian.

Winter Work Programme

- Conservation grazing with ponies, to be resumed on several Towans sites. CC to continue to manage the grazing project.
- Scrub clearance to be carried out on Towans & along road at Gwithian Towans, probably funded through Countryside Stewardship & Natural England Schemes.
- Look at improving countryside information provision at the Towans – Sand Dunes Code of Conduct etc.
- Maintenance work at Peter's Point steps to be carried out by Duchy College students.
- Improvements planned for Top Car Park & along road to Gwithian Towans; drainage, dragons teeth & resurfacing/pothole filling.