

***THE LEICESTERSHIRE WAYMARK 2000 PROJECT***

***A PARISH GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN***

***LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL***

***AND***

***CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL***

***TO COVER THE PERIOD APR 93 - MAR 1994***

*A Parish Paths Partnership initiative of*

*Leicestershire County Council and the Countryside Commission*

## *Introduction*

The network of footpaths, bridleways and byways covering the county extends to some 3,500 miles (5,600 kilometres). Around the Carlton area the network extends to about 10 miles (32 kilometres). This is the most important means by which the general public and the local community can enjoy the Leicestershire countryside and represents the greatest recreational asset the parish and the county as a whole possesses.

The Leicestershire Waymark 2000 project is a countywide initiative to improve and promote the entire rights of way network. The primary aims of the project are:-

- a. To ensure that the entire rights of way network within the county is waymarked and available for use by the year 2000.
- b. To promote and encourage the use of the rights of way network by as wide a range of the public as possible.
- c. To develop links with District Councils, Parish Councils, landowners, farmers, voluntary groups and user organisations to ensure that the above aims are implemented in ways that will have a lasting and productive impact.

On a national scale, it is one of the waymarking projects to qualify for funding under the Countryside Commission's Parish Paths Partnership scheme.

The County Council carries out a large amount of path improvements each year. In 1992 this resulted in over 400 kilometres of paths being improved and waymarked. Carlton benefited from a widespread waymarking programme in 1991. All the paths were cleared of obstructions, stiles renewed, ditch crossings put in place and waymarker posts erected to define the way ahead. Bridge crossings and fingerposts were also brought up to standard. The routes were then waymarked by the parish council.

Involvement from the local parish has been important in helping the County Council to get works in place, as well as providing a framework within which to maintain the paths in the future. With help from the Countryside Commission under its Parish Paths Partnership scheme the County Council can now offer grants to local parish councils wanting to participate in on going maintenance and the promotion of local paths.

This agreement sets out what grant the County Council can offer to Carlton Parish Council and also the undertakings by both parties in respect to supporting the scheme. It should be stressed that this agreement is not a legally binding contract but a statement of intention by both parties to carry out a variety of works and activities on rights of way to provide a suitable network for local people.

The document is in two halves. The first part sets out how the Highway Authority (Leicestershire County Council) intends to support the Parish Council in its efforts to help the local path network. The second part of the agreement sets out what the Parish Council feels it can undertake to implement such a scheme. The intention of the scheme is not to shift responsibilities of the Highway Authority onto local councils. It is rather to provide further opportunities for the local council to become actively involved in rights of way development, management and promotion. Both sides are intended to benefit from the partnership; the Highway Authority in receiving information and help from the parish council and the Parish Council in receiving expertise and financial backing from the County Council.

## **Part 1 - The Highway Authority will:-**

HA1. Offer a parish grant of £400 to the Parish Council. This represents a payment of £40 per mile. The grant is intended to cover a number of areas of activity set out in part 2 of the agreement. Carlton is a small parish council with less than 1000 charge payers. In recognition of the additional workload imposed by the partnership, a premium for small parishes of an extra 10% of the grant can be paid. A total grant of £440 is therefore available to the Parish Council.

This agreement commits the offer of this grant annually for three years. The Parish Council will apply for the grant on an annual basis, and at least half of the total sum will be paid in advance.

The decision as to how this money should be deployed on rights of way work within the area is at the discretion of the Parish Council provided that it falls within the framework set out in part 2.

HA2. Make available the support of the Project Officer for the scheme, Eddie McWilliam, to the Parish Council. He can offer advice, expertise and training and information to the Parish Council. He can be contacted on 0533-657086 or alternatively write to the Countryside and Recreation section, Department of Planning and Transportation, County Hall, Leicester LE3 8RJ.

HA3. Undertake to ensure that high priority is given to dealing with any major problems identified for which it will remain responsible (major bridges, large scale drainage, major obstructions, legal matters) and keep Carlton Parish Council informed of progress.

HA4. Provide waymarkers and materials for stiles, waymarker posts, gates, and signposts for work undertaken by the Parish Council.

HA5. Through the Parish Paths Liaison Officer, arrange training tasks and seminars as required for volunteer groups, also open to lengthmen and farmers/contractors wishing to take part, in order for them to tackle their work programme effectively.

HA6. Make available written information and specifications for carrying out works on rights of way. The publication 'A Guide to improving and waymarking Rights of Way, for Parish Councils' provides most information that the parish council would require.

HA7. Make available a board for public display, depicting the network and other areas with public access.

HA8. Make available graphic design and printing services necessary for the production of the Parish Walks and Rides leaflet, including the finance to print the leaflet.

## ***Part 2 - The Parish Council will:-***

- PC1. Make all reasonable effort to work toward restoring and maintaining the whole of its rights of way network through the means set out in this partnership agreement.
- PC2. Carry out six monthly condition surveys on the entire network of paths within the parish.
- PC3. Draw up a programme (extending in some cases over a full three year period) to restore and maintain the local paths network. This should include vegetation clearance and a headland maintenance scheme.
- PC4. Decide how it wishes to carry out this programme, using any of the means described above. The Parish Council agree to meet the costs of the work it elects to undertake. The full costs of this work can be recovered from the highway authority, subject to the agreed maximum of £440.
- PC5. Compile landownership details for land affected by the local path network. Before any remedial works or maintenance is carried out the Parish Council will consult both landowner and tenant prior to works being carried out. The Liaison Officer will provide support should problems be encountered.
- PC6. Arrange for the programme of work to be carried out. Remedial works will include the repair or replacement of stiles, kissing gates, waymark posts and sleeper bridges and the replacement of missing waymarkers.

The following means might be used to deliver the work:-

- Community groups;
- Individuals;
- Volunteer groups;
- Employment of a lengthman, possibly a farmer;
- Farmers/landowners;
- Private contractors.

In addition the following expenditure would be considered eligible:-

- Purchase of equipment for use by volunteers or lengthmen;
- Reasonable volunteers' out-of-pocket expenses;
- Insurance of volunteers and equipment;
- Costs of training required by the Clerk, Councillors or volunteers;
- Payments to contractors/farmers for works or headland maintenance.

- PC7. Be responsible for overseeing the work where necessary, checking that it has been carried out to an acceptable standard and informing the Highway Authority when it has been completed.

PC8. Take note of the Highway Authority's guidelines for the standard of work to be carried out. This is set out in full in the County Council's document "A Guide to Waymarking and Improving Public Rights of Way for Parish Councils".

PC9. Establish adequate insurance and public liability cover.

*6/1/93 seek to ensure*  
PC10. ~~Check~~ that all headland paths within the parish are adequately maintained and cleared of surface vegetation throughout the year.

PC11. Write to all landowners and farmers within the parish to request their cooperation with the maintenance programme, and to remind them of their obligations in respect to rights of way. Suitable literature will be provided by the County Council.

PC12. Select a route or routes for promotion and provide the information for a Parish Walks and Ride Leaflet.

PC13. No responsibilities accepted by the Parish Council within the terms of this partnership agreement shall continue beyond its three year term without being the subject of a separate negotiated agreement with the Highway Authority.

PC14. Be responsible for applying for the parish grant covering the period 1994-5. A simple report will have to be submitted to the Liaison Officer at the end of this year, together with a request for further funding. The report will set out how this year's grant has been spent. A pro-forma is attached for this purpose with explanatory notes.

Signed *G. Lucas*  
on behalf of Leicestershire County Council

Date *June 28 1993*

Signed *R.H. Edmunds*  
on behalf of Carlton Parish Council

Date *28/6/93*