

**Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at
County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 29 September 2009.**

Present

Mrs. V. Allen, Mrs. H. Brown, Mrs. R. Camamile CC, Mr. R. J. Denney (in the Chair), Mr. T. B. Kirby, Mr. J. Kitching, Mr. M. Parr, Mrs. A. Pyper, Mr. P. Tame, Mr. S. J. Warren.

Officers in attendance

Mr. E. McWilliam, Mr. S. Weston and Mr. P. Williams.

Action by

340. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

341. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Mr. Eppel
Mrs. Forman
Dr. Mason
Mr. Sutton

342. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

343. Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 320: Matters Arising from the Minutes: Wind Farm

Mrs. Allen was unable to update members on the conclusions of the public enquiry on the Swinford wind farm as it had yet to be published.

Minute 327: Castle Donington Site Visit

Members discussed the issues relating to poor ROW signage, as raised at the previous meeting. It was highlighted that this was not only an issue in Derbyshire, but also in other counties bordering Leicestershire. The importance of consistent signage was stressed and it was suggested that this matter could be raised at the national LAF Regional Chairs' meeting which was scheduled to take place on Thursday 19 November.

Minute 334: Regional Chairs' Meeting

Mr. McWilliam reported that the cost of supplying Forum members with a subscription to IPROW Magazine would be £192 per subscription. It was felt that this was not a worthwhile use of LAF resources.

Minute 336: Barrow-upon-Soar Planning

Mr McWilliam updated members on the position regarding the diversion of I13 at Barrow.

Mr. Denney reported that The Ramblers' Association had issued no formal objection to the change of route.

344. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

345. Urgent items

There were no items.

346. Feedback from Watermead Country Park site visit

Members discussed a site visit that has taken place earlier in the afternoon to Watermead Country Park. The site visit was an opportunity for members to view first hand the improvements that had been made to the Park as part of the Connect2 project.

Members felt that the visit had been worthwhile and indicated that the Connect2 funding appeared to be being put to good use to improve access for all.

The following three years of the project would focus on improving links to the Park from the adjoining areas. As part of this work, ROW I58 was likely to be re-routed to avoid industrial buildings and follow the path along Canal Street.

347. Development in Glenfield

Mr. Denney advised that a large scale development in Glenfield was at the consultation stage. The developer had already held public meetings and was in the process of finalising a planning application which would include mostly industrial properties with some housing and a Tesco Express store.

It was felt that the Forum should engage with the developer as early as possible so as to ensure better green infrastructure in the area.

AGREED:

That a generic letter be created for the purpose of requesting developers to be consulted on planning proposals.

EM

348. Walking with Dogs/Livestock

Members of the Forum were informed of a number of high profile cases of people being injured by livestock that had received press coverage. A copy of guidance leaflets for walking with livestock and dogs, marked 'B' and 'C' respectively, are filed with these minutes.

Mr. Tame advised Forum members that livestock were not docile and that walkers were required to be alert to potential dangers. In situations where livestock looked likely to attack dogs, it was important for dog owners to leave the scene as quickly as possible - without their dog.

The NFU had produced a small plastic sign which could be erected in fields populated with livestock, which warned dog owners of the actions to take in the event of a dangerous situation. Further details were available from the NFU website at the following address:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/x41621.xml>

349. Walking Week '09

It was reported that the Walking Week event had been a success, with a number of well constructed walks taking place. Walks had been organised by many different agencies and had an average attendance of around 15 people.

Feedback forms from the event were currently being evaluated by officers.

AGREED:

That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum outlining the feedback response from attendees.

EM/AP

350. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter of complaint from the Garendon Park & Countryside Protection Group in regard to the Forum's letter of non-objection to Charnwood Borough Council having selected the area for future housing development.

It was confirmed that it was not the Forum's remit to object or offer support to land developments, but to ensure that ROW access would be given adequate consideration as part of any proposals. The letter in question had been sent to the Borough Council on behalf of the Forum seeking to be consulted in regard to any access issues that arose from the development.

AGREED:

That Forum's position in relation to the development remain unchanged.

351. Orders Update

Magistrates Court, Burrough-on-the-Hill

Mr McWilliam confirmed that a county road and a restricted byway had recently been reclassified as bridleways. The works to put them in good order would be proceeding shortly.

352. Sub Groups

Local Transport Plans

No meetings had taken place recently.

353. Open Forum

Bridleway Gates

Mrs. Allen reported that in August 2009, a horse rider had had an accident on Gorse Lane where a horse had tripped and the rider was injured. The horse had fled and without any barriers, could have reached the main road.

Members felt that the access issues such as these were serious when they involved health and safety. It was questioned whether gates should be positioned near to the ends of paths to contain run away stock.

AGREED:

That County Council officers give further consideration to the issue of gate positioning along bridle paths.

EM

Forum meetings

The Chairman reported that the Forum's programme of work was now lighter than it once was and felt that the Forum could benefit from less formal meetings and more 'brainstorming' sessions. Officers felt that this approach would be beneficial to ensuring effective formal meetings of the Forum.

AGREED:

That from 2010:

(a) the Forum meet four times per year;

EM/SW

(b) in addition to (a) above, two brainstorming/training sessions be organised per year for Forum members.

EM/SW

354. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following items were AGREED for consideration at the next meeting of the Forum:

- The Charnwood Forest;
- The Soar Valley and Grand Union Canal Strategy – Update;
- Green Infrastructure bit to Growth Points.

355. Date of future meetings

AGREED the following schedule of meeting dates for 2010 (all meetings to commence at 6.00pm):

- Thursday 25 February;
- Tuesday 18 May;
- Wednesday 8 September;
- Tuesday 23 November.

SW

The next meeting of the Forum was due to take place on Tuesday 26 November 2009 at 6.00pm in Guthlaxton Committee Room.

6.00pm – 8.00pm
29 September 2009