

**LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 11 DECEMBER 2007**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**UPDATE ON WALKING EVENT PLANS 2008**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To update members on progress of plans for the Leicestershire Walking Festival 2008 and other walking events with which the Rights of Way Team is involved.

**Background Information**

2. The Leicestershire Walking Festival 2008 is to be on Saturday 5th July at Snibston Discovery Centre and Country Park, Coalville. The new venue has been chosen so as to reach a different audience, due to the better public transport access, and because it is within the National Forest.
3. It is planned to have a similar event to that held at Bosworth Battlefield in 2007. Planning and preparation for this is progressing. Leaders of walks have been asked whether they are willing to participate again. An initial meeting was held recently with marketing and country park staff at Snibston. The event fits well with other plans at Snibston.
4. There is also to be a National Forest Walking Festival 2008 from 17-26 May 2008. This is being co-ordinated by South Derbyshire District Council though a representative of the LCC Rights of Way service has recently been invited to join the steering group. The aim will be to ensure a reasonable coverage of the Leicestershire section of the Forest.
5. There will also be a Festival of Walks in Loughborough on Saturday 15th March centred on an event at Charnwood Museum promoting walks and walking. This is to coincide with Loughborough University's series of art walks, in which commissioned artists have created walks in response to the town. The Rights of Way service will have a stall at the Museum.

**Recommendation**

6. Members may wish to note the proposed events and contact the officers below should they wish to become involved in any of the events.

**Officer to Contact**

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