

**Notes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at  
County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 31 March 2009.**

**Present**

Mrs. V. Allen, Mrs. H. Brown, Mr. H. Eppel, Mrs. L. Forman, Mr. T. B. Kirby, Mr. J. Kitching, Mr. J. Law, Dr. G Mason, Mr. M. Parr, Mrs A Pyper, Mr. B. Sutton (in the Chair), Mr. S. J. Warren.

**Officers in attendance**

Ms. S. Jefferies (for Minute 305), Mr. E. McWilliam, Mr. S. Weston and Mr. P. Williams.

**Action by**

**299. Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the following two new members:

Dr. Geoff Mason (area of interest: outdoor pursuits and climbing)  
Mr. John Kitching (area of interest: motorcycling and trail riding)

The Chairman also welcomed the following visitors to the Forum:

Ms. Pat Crane (Desford Community Action Group)  
Ms. Susan Eppel (Kirby Muxloe Parish Council)  
Martin O'Connor (Leicestershire County Council – Highways Department)  
Mr. Andrew Tokeley (Leicester Spokes Cycling Group)

**300. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following members:

Mrs. Ruth Camamile CC  
Mr. Roy Denney  
Mr. Jeremy Hefford  
Mr. Paul Tame

**301. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2009 were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

That in Minute 279 'Chairman's welcome' – 'Mrs. Brown's husband' be amended to read 'Dr. Geoff Mason'.

**302. Matters arising from the minutes**

Minute 289: Member recruitment

Mr. McWilliam reported that two new members had been recruited to the Forum (as referred to in Minute 299).

**303. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**304. Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

**305. Green Infrastructure**

Ms. Jefferies delivered a presentation on Green Infrastructure (GI). A copy of the slides forming the presentation is filed with these minutes.

Arising from the subsequent discussion, the following points were noted:

- It would be important for the Forum to submit comments on the River Soar & Grand Union Canal Emerging Strategy;
- Partnership working with Leicester City Council was ongoing in respect of flooding issues and Strategic River Corridors;
- Access issues would be an important consideration in the ongoing GI work.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

**306. Bardon Quarry Expansion Plans**

Mr. McWilliam reported that he had written to Aggregates regarding the proposed expansion of Bardon Quarry. Members of the Forum had been formally invited to attend the next round of exhibitions that would explain in more details the plans for the new quarry. The exhibitions would be held at Bardon Hall on:

- 4 April 2009 between 10am and 5pm;
- 5 April 2009 between 10am and 5pm;
- 6 April 2009 between 2pm and 8pm.

A representative of Aggregates had also offered to come and speak to the Forum at its proposed meeting on 27 July 2009.

AGREED:

That members contact Mr. McWilliam if they wished to attend the exhibitions and that the representative from Aggregates be confirmed as a speaker for the proposed Forum meeting on 27 July 2009.

**ALL**

**307. Wind Farms**

Ms. Allen informed members of the following in respect of wind farm applications in the County:

- Charnwood Borough Council had refused an application at Queniborough. This decision had now been appealed.
- An application at Swinford had been 'called in' and a decision would be made by the Secretary of State in due course.
- Two applications had been submitted at for Farms in Ashby Magna and Desford.
- A decision on an application at Bottesford had been deferred by Melton Borough Council until June.

Whilst the Forum expressed concern about the appropriate siting of Wind Farms, it was generally acknowledged that wind energy was a positive development and should be encouraged, where appropriate.

AGREED:

That the information be noted.

**308. Connect2 and the proposals for the Soar Valley Canal**

Mr. Williams reported that good progress was being made with the Connect2 work, with £1.4 million of funding in place to commence further construction work to cycle ways and footpaths in the Park. One newly constructed footpath was already being well used by visitors. Any path closures as part of the construction works would have to be well signed, and alternative routes well marked.

Some members noted that the new footpath was a significant improvement over the previous route.

AGREED:

That the information provided be noted.

**309. Temporary Closures**

Mr. McWilliam updated members on progress on procedural issues relating to temporary closures, arising from previous discussions on the temporary closure at L87, Donington.

Arising from meetings between officers, the following had been agreed about future temporary closures:

- Orders would only be granted when necessary;
- Closures should not exceed the necessary period;
- Better information should be provided to members of the public on the closure;
- Closer working would be necessary between the parties involved in the closure.

In regard to the closure at Donington, the Forum had been invited to visit the site. It was suggested that this take place on a week night in order to allow all members the opportunity to attend.

EM

AGREED:

That Mr. McWilliam organise a site visit to the Castle Donington temporary closure site on an appropriate week night.

### **310. Walking Week '09**

Mr. McWilliam delivered a short presentation on 'Walking Week '09'. A copy of the slides forming the presentation is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

### **311. Correspondence**

#### **(i) Local Development Framework (LDF)**

All of the Forum's LDF consultation responses had now been submitted to the respective district councils.

#### **(ii) Marine and Coastal Access Bill**

The Bill had now been introduced into Parliament. The House of Lords would be looking further at the Bill.

### **312. Watermead Country Park visit**

In regard to the previous item on Connect2 work being carried out to

Watermead Country Park, it was suggested that the Forum might benefit from a site visit to the Park to see first hand some of the improvements being made.

AGREED:

That a site visit to the Park be arranged and that the possibility of incorporating a meeting into that visit be investigated.

EM

### 313. Sub Groups

#### Local Transport Plan

The Sub Group had discussed improvements to current routes in Charnwood, West Leicestershire and Broughton Astley.

AGREED:

That details of the improvements be circulated to all members with a reply slip giving members the opportunity to make suggestions.

EM

### 314. Open Forum

#### (i) M1 - Junction 19

The junction was going to be rebuilt. It would be important for this development to go through the formal consultation process in order to ensure that ROW were given adequate consideration.

#### (ii) Wood Fair '09 – 31 August 2009

A leaflet on this event was circulated by Mr. McWilliam and is filed with these minutes. Further details could be found at [www.leics.gov.uk/woodfair](http://www.leics.gov.uk/woodfair).

#### (iii) Member expenses

Mr. McWilliam would no longer be responsible for Forum members' expenses. As volunteering was being considered as part of a wider Departmental initiative, 'uniform' expenses would be allocated to all volunteers (including Forum members). Mr. McWilliam circulated a revised expenses form to members. Any claims should be submitted at each meeting using the form. Members were also updated on the new volunteer registration forms. A copy of the form was to be circulated with these minutes and members were asked to bring the completed form to the next meeting.

### 315. Agenda items for the next meeting

There were no items.

### 316. Date of next meeting

NOTED:

That the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 27 May 2009 at 6pm in the Guthlaxton Committee Room at County Hall, Glenfield.

6.00pm - 8.10pm  
31 March 2009