

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at Donington-le-Heath Manor House, Coalville on Thursday 6 September 2007.

Present:

ACTION BY

Mr. Roy Denney (Chair), Mr. T. Kirby, Mr. G. Mabbitt, Mr. P. Tame, Mr. M. Parr, Ms. V. Allen, Mr. J. Law, Mrs. L. Foreman, Mr. B. Sutton, Mr. S. Warren and Mrs. R. Camamile CC.

In attendance:

Mr. Peter Williams, Mr. Bill Carter, Mr. Edwin McWilliam and Mr. Sam Weston.

By invitation:

Mr. Kingsley Cook, Team Leader (Adoptions and Records), Highways Transportation and Waste management, Leicestershire County Council.

125. Introductions and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Kingsley Cook from the Highways, Transportation and Waste Management Department of the County Council.

126. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

127. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June were adopted as an accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

That reference to Mr. Barry Gardiner MP in Minute 115 include his full title as Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape & Rural Affairs.

S.W.

128. Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 108: Presentation by Mr. John Law - 'Involving Schools and Local Communities'

The Forum was informed that, as the NFU no longer produced educational crop posters, it would not be possible to provide copies to the Forum.

129. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

130. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

131. Subgroups and working parties

Verges Subgroup

There were no updates from the Verges subgroup.

LTP Subgroups

It was reported that the Subgroup meetings were running smoothly.

AGREED:

That members of each of the sub groups be sent the final works plan to confirm what had been agreed and would be implemented.

E.McW

ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan) Subgroup

It was reported that a database was being developed to include the details of ROWIP scheme responses.

AGREED:

That Forum members be permitted to view the database at County Hall, but that it be not sent out as a public document due to its confidential nature.

ALL

(Members wishing to view the database should contact Edwin McWilliam on 0116 3057086)

Publicity Subgroup

A summary of the last group meeting was circulated. It was reported that the Subgroup had discussed the development of a leaflet to highlight the work of the Forum. A draft was then circulated.

It was further reported that a discussion had taken place about the design of an LAF promotional banner to take to events in the County. A draft was circulated.

The Subgroup had discussed the name of the Forum and whether the inclusion of the word 'Access' in the title was misleading and indicative of disabled access.

AGREED:

That suggestions for a new LAF name be sent to Eddie McWilliam before 1 October 2007.

ALL

132. Terms of reference

Mr. McWilliam reported on amendments to the Forum's Terms of Reference in accordance with the Guidance Notes from Defra.

Mr. McWilliam clarified that, after having discussed the matter, there was little merit in significant changes to the Terms of Reference previously agreed, other than to make reference to the new guidance notes and statutory instrument already distributed to members.

AGREED:

That the Terms of Reference and new statutory instrument and accompanying Guidance Notes be published on the LAF website and to check that all members had received copies.

E. Mcw.

133. Presentation: 'List of Streets' by Kingsley Cook

The Forum received a presentation by Mr. Cook regarding the list of streets.

Mr. Cook explained the reasons why the County Council had developed a list of streets and how the Council's website could be accessed to search the status of County roads.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

134. Feedback from LAF visit to Bradgate Park

The Chairman reported on the Forum's visit on Tuesday 17 July to Bradgate Park.

It was noted that the visit had been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience and it was further noted that the car parking charges at the Park would have to continue, due to the need to meet current running costs.

AGREED:

That a letter be sent to Mr. Harrison, Land Agent and Surveyor of the Park on behalf of the Chairman, thanking him for his hospitality.

R.D./E.McW

135. District Council Planning Matters

The Chairman emphasised that that the Forum's profile should be raised with district councils. It was proposed that an event be staged in order to achieve this. A potential seminar had been discussed at the last Promotions

subgroup.

AGREED:

E. McW

That Mr. McWilliam liaise with his colleague Mr. Poole about such an event and report back at the next meeting of the Forum.

136. Discovering Lost Ways

Mr. McWilliam circulated a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document concerning the Discovering Lost Ways Project. A copy of this paper is filed with these minutes.

137. Definitive Map 2026

It was AGREED that this item need not be discussed as the issues had been covered under previous items.

138. 'The slabs', Barrow upon Soar

Mr Law summarised a report on 'the slabs', a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Carter informed the Forum that, despite some useful comments from members in respect of 'the slabs' at Barrow, that the matter was unlikely to progress in the short term.

The post that would deal with the matter was currently vacant. In addition, the project had attracted negative publicity and was having to compete for funding with projects elsewhere that were being supported more actively.

139. Connect2

Mr. Williams reported on the status of the Watermead Country Park Connect2 scheme.

The following would be taking place in the lead up to a televised vote on ITV1 between 3 and 12 December 2007:

- The Connect2 Project Steering Group would be meeting on Wednesday 12 September to discuss the status of the bid;
- A Connect2 Day on 27 September would highlight the benefits of the Watermead Country Park scheme.

140. New members

Mr. McWilliam reported on the current state of the membership of the Forum. He confirmed that he was hoping to fill five vacancies on the Forum.

AGREED:

That members inform Mr. McWilliam of anyone they believed to have appropriate knowledge and enthusiasm to contribute to the forum.

ALL

141. Walking Festival

The Chairman reported on the Walking Festival which had taken place on Saturday 4 August 2007. It was felt that the event had been a success and had received 95% positive feedback from some 180 attendees.

142. LAF logo

Further to discussion at the Forum on 12 June 2007 (minute 113 refers) Mr. McWilliam presented two more draft logos for the consideration of the Forum, after having consulted the Central Design Section of the County Council.

AGREED:

That the green design incorporating the way marker be adopted as the Forum's official logo, subject to the Forum's possible change of name, and that it be incorporated on the Forum's website and any correspondence.

E.McW

143. Promotional banner

It was AGREED that this item need not be discussed as the issues had been covered under a previous item (minute 131 above)

144. Open forum

It was AGREED that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

145. Agenda items for the next meeting

The following items were AGREED for discussion at the next meeting:

- The Sustainable Community Strategy (PW);
- The Local Area Agreement (PW);
- Growth Points (PW);
- Charnwood Forest (PW);
- Country Parks (PW);
- Non-management of common land (VA);
- Footpath on land at Barton;
- Tamsin Phipps of the River Access Group (presentation).

Mr McWilliam passed on details of a LAF member training

event taking place at Elvaston, near Derby on 15 October 2007. It was highly recommended that Forum members attend.

(Members wishing to attend should contact Edwin McWilliam on 0116 3057086)

146. Dates of future meetings

The next meetings of the Forum would take place at 6pm on **Tuesday 23 October** and **Tuesday 11 December 2007** in **Guthlaxton Committee Room**, County Hall.

06.09.07
6pm – 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN