

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 12 June 2007.**

**Present:**

**ACTION BY**

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

**In attendance:**

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

**By invitation:**

Mr. Andrew Poole – Access Officer, Rights of Way Team.

**102. Introductions and Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Andrew Poole from the Community Services Department of the County Council.

The Chairman informed the Forum of the death of Mr. Kenneth Vickers who had served on the Forum for a number of years. A minute's silence was held in honour of Mr. Vickers' memory.

The Chairman announced that Ms. Michelle Stratford had now left the Forum.

**103. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from the following members: Ms. A. Pyper, Mr. S. Warren, Mr. M. Parr, Mr. T. Hudson, Mr. W. Carter and Mr. J. Prendergrast.

**104. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March were adopted as an accurate record, subject to the following amendment:

That reference to 'K33' in minutes 93 and 99 be amended to read 'K43'.

**105. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**106. Matters arising from the minutes**

#### Minute 91: Misuse of tracks

Mr. McWilliam distributed an information note on the Misuse of Small Vehicles, produced by the Department of Transport.

#### Minute 91: Connect2

Mr. Williams reported that the Connect2 Steering Group's first meeting had been well attended and supported. The bid to improve cycle links at Watermead Country Park and the surrounding villages was the ninth most popular from 74 schemes nationwide.

#### Minute 91: Charnwood Forest

Mr. Williams reported that a conference was to be held on the 25 June 2007 to discuss the future of the Forest.

### **107. Urgent items**

The Chairman asked members to raise any urgent items to be added to the agenda at his discretion. Members raised the following urgent items:

- Bosworth Festival;
- A453 widening.

### **108. Presentation by Mr. John Law – 'Involving Schools and Local Communities'**

Mr. Law delivered a presentation to the Forum entitled 'Involving Schools and Local Communities'. A copy of the slides forming the presentation is filed with these minutes.

Mr. Law's presentation covered the following points:

- School children to design ROW sign posts, covering crop and wildlife descriptions;
- School children to design kissing gates to be used across the County;
- A local outdoors festival to take place throughout the County.

Arising from the presentation the following points were made:

- The Walking Festival at Market Bosworth was due to take place in the summer and this was an example of a local outdoors festival;
- The NFU had produced a number of posters on crops and these could be erected on farmland to

educate the public about what sorts of crops were grown in their area. It was noted that any activity regarding the promotion of crop education would have to be undertaken in conjunction with the NFU.

AGREED:

**E. McW**

That Mr. McWilliam would inform the Forum about the availability of NFU crop posters at its next meeting.

**109. Urgent Items**

**Bosworth Festival**

Mr. Poole reported that promotion for the Festival had begun and a number of publicity postcards were available at the meeting for members to distribute if they wished to publicise the event more widely.

Members suggested that a promotional stand should be made for events of this kind to publicise the work of the Forum.

AGREED:

That the promotions sub group discuss ideas for a promotional stand to Forum members.

**E. McW**

**110. 'The slabs', Barrow Upon Soar**

A site visit to 'the slabs' at Barrow Upon Soar had taken place prior to the meeting. Members noted that the site visit had been a useful exercise.

The Forum expressed the following views on 'the slabs':

- Lighting was not viewed as necessary;
- If cycles were to continue to use the path, then limited widening was viewed as acceptable;
- The views of local people should be sought prior to any action being taken.

AGREED:

That the above views of the Forum be forwarded to the County Council's Community Services & Highways Departments.

**E. McW**

**110. Liaison with Leicester City LAF**

Mr. McWilliam reported that the Leicester City LAF had similar views to the Leicestershire LAF in wishing to retain a separate identity.

AGREED:

- (a) That copies of minutes and agendas be circulated between secretaries in order that both LAFs were aware of any crossover issues between Forums;
- (b) That Leicester City LAF be invited to Leicestershire LAF site visits that dealt with issues on the County/City border.

**S.W/E. McW**

**111. Sub Groups and Working Parties**

It was AGREED that:

- (a) The Loughborough West LTP Sub Group meet on Monday 5 July at 10am.
- (b) The Oadby and Wigston LTP Sub Group meet on Monday 25 June at 2pm.

**112. The LAF Annual Report**

Mr. McWilliam asked that Forum members give their opinions on how to make the LAF Annual Report more appealing to members of the public.

AGREED:

That agendas and minutes be taken out of future Annual Reports. This should be further developed in the Promotions sub group.

**113. LAF Logo**

The Forum considered two draft LAF logos created by Mr. McWilliam. There was support for the overall design and the following suggestions were made:

- That the logo be green and not black (when printed in colour);
- That an alternative graphic be created instead of the 'arrow' design;
- That the website address of the Forum be included.

AGREED:

That Mr. McWilliam submit two further designs incorporating the suggestions of the Forum.

**E. McW**

**114. Order Making Consultations**

The Forum considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding future consultation arrangements for restricted byway I10 Walton on the Wolds. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

That the Forum welcomed the offer to broaden consultations in future, including the Forum itself.

**E. McW/J. P.**

**115. Correspondence**

Letter from Barry Gardiner MP regarding implementation of ROWIPs

The Forum considered a letter from Barry Gardiner MP, Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape & Rural Affairs regarding the implementation of ROWIPs. A copy of the letter marked 'B' is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

That a letter be drafted in response to Barry Gardiner MP's letter in support of requests for further funding for LAFs.

**E. McW/R.D/  
S. W**

Invitation to LAF members to attend consultation event regarding access to the English coast

Mr. McWilliam reported that the Forum had been invited to a consultation event in Peterborough to discuss access to the English coast.

AGREED:

That the Chairman and Ms. Foreman attend the event and that any other members who wished to attend contact Mr. Denney or Mr. McWilliam.

**116. Right to Apply Consultation**

Mr. McWilliam reported on a briefing note prepared for all LAFs regarding a response to Defra's public consultation on the Right to Apply. A copy of the note marked 'C' is filed with these minutes.

AGREED:

That the Forum not respond to the consultation at this stage.

**117. District Council Planning Matters**

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

**118. Open Forum**

It was AGREED not to discuss matters under this item due to time constraints.

**119. Discovering Lost Ways**

Mr. McWilliam reported that 'Discovering Lost Ways' project was currently under review and was proving time consuming, and hence, costly.

**120. Terms of Reference**

Mr. McWilliam reported that the Terms of Reference for the Forum were currently under review.

AGREED:

That all Forum members consider Defra's Guidance Notes and suggest any amendments to the Terms of Reference via email to Mr. McWilliam.

**121. Definitive Map 2026**

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

**122. Further urgent items**

A453 Widening

Ms. Allen reported that widening was to take place on the A453 which would infringe on ROW. All Forum members were happy that the utmost was being done by the Highways Agency to limit the impact that the widening would have on ROW.

**123. Agenda items for the next meeting**

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

- District Council planning matters;
- LAF promotional stand.

**124. Dates of future meetings**

The next full meeting of the Forum would take place at 6pm on Thursday 6 September 2007 at County Hall.

An informal meeting of the Forum would take place at Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford starting at 4pm on Tuesday 17 July 2007. (No formal business is to be conducted at this meeting)

12.06.07  
6pm – 8.50pm

CHAIRMAN