

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at Park House, Glenfield on Monday, 31 July 2006.**

**Present:**

**Action by**

Mr. Roy Denney (in the Chair), Ms. Vicky Allen, Mrs. Ruth Camamile CC, Mr. Terry Kirby, Mr. Michael Parr, Mr. Peter Sapsford, Ms. Anne Mather, Mrs. Josephine Pattinson,

**By invitation:**

Mr. Dave Luscombe – Auto Cycle Union  
Ms. Jane Beech – Countryside Agency

**In attendance:**

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

**17. Welcome, introductions and opening remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Dave Luscombe from the Auto Cycle Union and Ms. Jane Beech from the Countryside Agency.

**18. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mrs. Ruth Fenney, Mr Mike Sheldrake, Ms. Alex Pyper, Mr. Peter Lancaster and Mr. Mike Cheeseman.

**19. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2006 were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting subject to Minute 8 to read "If farmers did not maintain rights of way they may not qualify for a subsidy."

**20. Matters arising from the minutes**

- (a) Minute 5: Stone Hole (Forest Rock) site, Woodhouse Eaves

Mr. McWilliam commented that little progress had been made on the site and that he would be meeting with Chris Traill (Head of Culture and Leisure Services at Charnwood Borough Council) on this issue and would report back at the next meeting.

E.McW.

- (b) "Down Your Way"

Mr. McWilliam reported that the newsletter had now been circulated to Libraries, Service Shops and museums.

**21 To advise of any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent**

There were no urgent items.

**22. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest with regard to items on the agenda for the meeting.

**23. Presentation by the ACU (Auto Cycle Union)**

Mr. Luscombe gave a presentation entitled 'Working in partnership with rural communities for a sustainable future'. A copy of the slides from the presentation are filed with these minutes.

The presentation covered the history of the ACU and focused on their hopes to work with the LAF in future in order to find appropriate sites at which to hold some of their events.

The Forum discussed the issues of legal and illegal motorbike use in rural areas and public perception of the sport.

Peter Williams undertook to advise the Forum on the requirements of the regulations which enabled certain activities to take place without the benefit of planning permission as long as the period was less than 28 days in any calendar year.

The Forum expressed their willingness to help the ACU in finding appropriate venues for future activities.

**24. East Midlands LAF Learning Network**

Ms Beech took members through an offline version of the Learning Network website.

Members were informed that they could sign up to the website by visiting the following address and clicking on 'Members Area'.

<http://lafsem.net.countryside.gov.uk/>

For further information members should contact Ms Beech at:

Countryside Agency  
Block 7, Government Buildings  
Chalfont Drive  
Nottingham  
NG8 3SN

By phone: (0115) 9005463  
Or by email: [jane.beech@countryside.gov.uk](mailto:jane.beech@countryside.gov.uk)

Ms. Beech indicated that some funding would be available in the Countryside Agency's budget for training members of Local Access Forums and the Chairman said that they would provide Ms. Beech with the minutes from the previous meeting at which training needs had been discussed.

S.W.

**25. Correspondence**

The Forum considered the various correspondence which had been received since the previous meeting.

Mr. McWilliam circulated:-

'Discovering Lost Ways'  
the Draft Diversity Action Plan Consultation Document.  
Copies of these documents are filed with these minutes.

It was noted that the Draft Diversity Action Plan was available to view online at: [www.diversity-outdoors.co.uk](http://www.diversity-outdoors.co.uk) Ms. Beech said that views on the 10 year draft Action Plan were sought by 30 September.

Officers advised that the County Council was considering an appeal against the Secretary of State's decision with regard to the open cast mine at Long Moor (North West Leicestershire). Whilst recognising that there might be eventual long-term gain in terms of additional access over the site, the Forum supported the County Council's stance.

Members expressed concern at the proposed quarry site at Long Moor. The Chairman added that the LAF should do whatever it can to encourage the County Council to act.

Ms. Allen commented that she had been assured that there would be more bridleways to increase access after and during works.

The Chairman referred to views at the previous meeting (minute 6 refers) that the LAF should be a consultee on minerals/restorations applications, seeing planning applications at an early stage in order to make comments at the earliest opportunity.

AGREED:

- (a) That the Draft Diversity Action Plan be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum;
- (b) That it be noted that details of upcoming restoration proposals [at Minerals sites] would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum;
- (c) That the letter to the County Council's Planning Group Manager requesting to be a consultee on planning proposals be amended to include a request for

S.W.

S.W.

information on all current proposals.

**26. ROWIP consultation update/LAF consultation returns**

Mr. McWilliam gave a presentation on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation process. A copy of the slides from the presentation are filed with these minutes.

Mr. McWilliam reported on the generally positive response that had been received.

NOTED:

That an update report would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.

E.McW.

**27. Reports from subgroups**

The Chairman agreed to defer this item until the next meeting when more information would hopefully be available.

**28. Publicity & Education**

It was suggested that the County Council be asked to assist with production of the newsletter and that its design/content be discussed further at the next meeting.

AGREED:

(a) That the LAF should produce 2 issues of "Down Your Way" a year;

E.McW.

(b) That the format of the newsletter be considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

S.W.

**29. Expenses**

It was noted that the issue of members' expenses had since been resolved.

**30. Member renewal process**

Mr. McWilliam reported that renewal forms had been sent out earlier that day, and the advert to appear in the Leicester Mercury had also been circulated for members' information.

Officers advised members of the selection process, which was based on the requirements set out in the Regulations.

**31. Dates and venues of future meetings**

Mr. Weston reported that it would not be possible to hold an evening meeting at Brock's Hill Environment Centre, as previously proposed, due to staffing issues at the Centre.

AGREED:

- (a) That members would investigate an appropriate venue in the south of the County for the November meeting and report back at the next meeting of the Forum;
- (b) That the date of the next meeting be changed from that previously agreed (12 September 2006) and that the revised date be advertised to all at the earliest opportunity.

S.W./E.McW.

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

NOTED:

- (a) Items for the next meeting of the Forum as follows:-

- Draft Diversity Action Plan
- Reports from Sub Groups
- Format of "Down Your Way"
- Stone Hole site, Woodhouse Eaves
- Restoration Proposals at Minerals site

S.W.

- (b) That the following information would be circulated to Forum members:-

- A list of all the officers connected with the LAF (within the ROW department and any other departments, if possible) – contact details and responsibilities.

E. McW.

- A list of paths relating to the Definitive Map Modifications that have yet to be 'claimed', and information about what is being done about them.

E. McW.

- A list of un-reclassified RUPPS (Roads used as public paths) that have become Restricted Byways.

W.C.

**33. Open forum**

No items were discussed.

6:45pm – 8.55pm

31.07.06

CHAIRMAN