



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

PRESENT

Members

Mr John Howells (Chair)  
 Mr R. Denney (DC, Vice Chair)  
 Ms. V. Allen  
 Mr. T. Kirby  
 Mr. M. Gamble  
 Ms. H Brown  
 Mr. C. Faircliffe

Mr. I. Hill (observer)

Officers

Mr. P. Lindley (LCC)  
 Mrs. S. Dann (LCC)

1. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks (1)

Mr. J. Howells advised that, as this was the first meeting of the year, the meeting will begin by electing the Chair and the Vice Chair and asked Mr. P. Lindley to introduce this process once the apologies were given.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. E. McWilliam, Mr. A. Pyper, Mr. B. Sutton, Mr. D. Nicholls, Mrs. H. Edwards, Mr. S. Warren and Cllr. C. Radford. Mr. Denney gave an update on Mr. Warren's recovery and everyone passed on their best wishes.

3. An Officer of the Appointing Authority takes Chair for the election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

Mr. Lindley asked if anybody was proposing themselves or others for the role of Chair. Mr. Denney nominated Mr Howells for the role of Chair and Mr. Howells advised that he was happy to continue if members were in support of this. This was seconded by Mrs. Brown and agreed by the Forum. Mr. Denney advised that he was happy to continue as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Mr. Kirby and agreed by members.

Mr. Lindley passed the Chair back to Mr. Howells.

4. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks (2)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year. He introduced Mr. I. Hill from Houghton on the Hill Parish Council and asked everyone to make their introductions. Mr Hill stated that he was attending to ask for advice on the rights of way access at the soon to be developed Scraftoft Golf Course.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairman went through the minutes and the matters arising from the minutes.

Agenda Item 2 – Apologies

Mr. Denney asked if Mr Simon Fisher had been invited to the meeting. Mr. McWilliam to provide an update to the next meeting.

Mr. Denney asked if there was an update on the rule about non-attendance of the Forum. Mr. McWilliam to provide an update to the next meeting.

There were a couple of minor amendments to the previous minutes and these were then approved as a true record of the meeting.

6. Declarations of interest

The members confirmed that there were no declarations of interest.

7. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

None

8. Requests for urgent items to be debated at the Chairman's discretion

The Chair confirmed that he had received a letter from Mr. B. Sutton regarding an issue with dogs on the footpaths on his land. The Chair advised he would discuss this later on in the meeting.

Mr. Faircliffe asked about when the Rights of Way Improvement Plan would be reviewed as this was last looked at in 2016. The Chair advised that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

9. Reports from committees and working groups

(a) Planning and Travel Committee (RD) – Mr. Denney advised that he had nothing further to add to his written report.

(b) Network Opportunities Committee (CF & RD) – Nothing to add to the report, there is a meeting booked for one month's time for the Unrecorded Ways group

#### 10. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (VA) – Report to be noted.
- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (HE) – Report to be noted.
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreational Group (RD) – Ongoing – no meetings have been held in the interim.
- (d) East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs Meeting Update (JH) – It was reported that there were no minutes available as yet from John Law. Mrs. Allen was in attendance in the morning. She advised that there was a presentation on HS2 (Nottingham and Derby areas). She reported that there was nothing strategic to report.
- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Steering Group (RD) – Ongoing – It was reported that this was still in the development stage with only 6 contracts having been given out. Mrs. Allen reported that a meeting had been arranged with Julie Attard, the project leader, together with other local horse riders.

#### 11. Committees for the coming year and their brief

- Planning and Travel Committee – RD agreed to continue as Chair
- Network Opportunities Committee - CF to continue to Chair – its
- Unrecorded Ways sub group would continue with RD acting as secretary and JH as treasurer
- Verges/Commons – VA was asked if she wanted to re-form this committee and she declined advising that Commons can be done under Open Access.

#### 12. Representatives on outside bodies for the coming year

River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership – H Edwards to continue  
 Heart of the Forest Access and Connectivity Group – VA to continue, JH deputy  
 National Forest Access & Recreational Group – RD to continue, VA deputy  
 Charnwood Forest Regional Steering Group – RD to continue, JH as deputy

As Chair JH will continue to attend the East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs Meetings

The Chair asked if there were any further organisations to add to the list. It was agreed that there were no others as yet.

#### 13. Correspondence

- (a) Woodland Farm Wood – Mrs. Allen advised that it had been reported in the Leicester Mercury that this planning application which we had objected to had been refused.
- (b) Correspondence issued by the Forum was with the meeting papers

#### 14. Orders update

Mr. Lindley advised that there had been no significant events to report since the last meeting. He confirmed that he will provide an update to the next meeting.

Mr. Lindley asked for feedback on the format of these reports. It was agreed that as members had no need to comment on those that had been completed, it was not necessary for him to provide a copy of the order plan for these. He would only provide a summary. For new applications he would continue to provide plans with the summaries.

Mrs. Edwards mentioned a footpath at the rear of the new primary school in Rothley. Mr. Lindley advised that his colleague had received an email from Persimmon Homes and that the developer was looking to sort this out in the next few months.

Mr. Howells asked whether the planning had been approved for the development near the golf course in Seagrave.

Mr. Faircliffe raised the issue with the delay between the decisions being made and being added to the Definitive Map. Mr. Lindley explained that there were software issues that were preventing the online rights of way map being updated properly and that rights of way were “going missing”. As this made the map unreliable he had asked the Web team to take the map down from the website temporarily.

With regard to “past event” modification orders bringing into effect on the Definitive Map legal changes to the network a back log had developed, owing to a change of staff in the legal Services Team and the new member of staff being taken off rights of way temporarily to do other things. Mr. Lindley advised that he is going to see if he can have this back log of “past event” orders resolved.

It was suggested that members have a snapshot of the Definitive Map provided on a dvd. Mr. Lindley suggested that members could explore the use of the QGIS software. The Forum requested that Mr. McWilliam provide an update to the next meeting. It was agreed that this would be added to the next agenda with possible timescales.

Mrs. Allen asked Mr. Lindley about the number of routes where Town & Country Planning Act diversions had been agreed but then the decision paperwork has not been finalised and seem to be forgotten. A similar thing seems to occur with Section 106 agreements. Mr Lindley advised that officers do attempt to keep track of these but some developments may take several years to complete. The Chair advised that this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### 15. Annual Report update

A discussion was held about the updates received for the Annual Report. It was agreed that the information received will now be used for the final version.

16. HS2 update

The information in the pack was noted. It was advised that the consultation period ended on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 so now awaiting a response from HS2.

Mrs. Allen advised that she had made a separate submission on equestrian issues and informed the group that she had almost created a parallel bridleway.

The Chair advised that once the comments have been received from HS2, these will be discussed at a future meeting.

17. Country Parks Management Plans

This was deferred to the following meeting.

18. Area Surveys

Mr. Denney introduced this item and referred to the list and the template that was sent with the papers.

Mr. Denney informed members that it was 5 years since the 10 year review had been done. He requested that members get involved with the review. He advised that it would take about 2/3 hours per review and suggested that the aim would be to do one per month.

Mr. Denney said that he and Mrs. Brown will be arranging to review the programme and order of reviews and let members know the dates.

Mr. Denny enquired as to who is responsible for common land and village greens. Mr. Lindley suggested that the Parish Council have responsibility for enforcement, while the County Council holds the register and also has certain powers of enforcement. Mr. Lindley advised that the Register of common land and village greens is kept and updated by Legal Services. Mr. Lindley will enquire further and report back to the next meeting.

Mrs. Allen advised that she would be doing the review on Burton to Six Hills.

19. Barrow Crossing public enquiry (hearing 4<sup>th</sup> June)

Members noted that the enquiry was scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at County Hall. It was advised that the County Council were taking a neutral stance on this.

20. Any other items which the Chairperson has decided to take as urgent

Mr. Faircliffe enquired as to whether the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is due to be reviewed. He went on to say that this was due in 2016 and he raised concern that there was no positive actions. Mrs. Allen asked for a copy of the last plan. The Chair asked that Mr. McWilliam provide a draft improvement plan to a future meeting for LLAF members to make comments. Mr. Denney said that he would like to see what progress had been made on the ambitions of the last plan. Mr. Lindley advised Members to remember that there are now reduced resources so commitments and targets made in the previous update might have to be reviewed in light of this.

Mrs. Allen requested more guidance on planning matters within the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Mr. Denney stated that we are not a Planning Authority, and that unless there is an overview the Planning Authority are not able to agree, it is easier if you have got a reference point. Mr. Lindley stated that the County Council's comments on developments are more specifically covered by its Guidance Notes for developers.

Mr. Faircliffe suggested that if the answer is that nothing can be done due to resources, can members have this in writing. He agreed that the last plan was very good but it does need a review. Mr. Lindley agreed to pass on the comments to Mr. McWilliam for him to update members at the next meeting.

The Chair advised that Mr. Sutton, in his absence, had sent in some information on an issue that he wanted discussing at this meeting. The information had been given out and noted.

Mr. Faircliffe advised that he had done some research on this and, although he was sympathetic, Mr. Sutton should do some research himself. He did say though that there is legislation for owners that haven't got their dogs under control. If a dog is off the lead and on other people's land this is classed as trespass. If a dog is chasing sheep/livestock the landowner can be on watch with a gun but that would be a civil matter between the landowner and the dog owner. Mr. Lindley advised that there had been a case where a landowner had taken out an injunction against a dog owner and was successful.

Mr. Gamble advised that Mr. Sutton needs to use his phone and video the dog and its owner and then he would have evidence.

## 21. Any Other Business

The Chair went round and asked members for any other business.

Mr. Gamble advised that he was working on the filing system for the Unrecorded Ways. He asked whether the Unrecorded Ways meetings could be in the evening but he advised that he will try and attend the next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

The Chair asked Mr. I. Hill to introduce his item. Mr. Hill advised that there are plans to move Scraftoft Golf Course in the Harborough Local Plan. This will cover  $\frac{3}{4}$  square mile and there are lots of access paths that are regularly used by Ian and others. Mr. Hill asked members for suggestions on what to do to try and save some of the access paths.

Mr. Denney advised that Mr. Hill might need to separate complete for each path used and that each person who is claiming use would need to fill a separate user evidence form (this is much better than a petition or a list of users). He should encourage as many people as possible. It was suggested to do a proforma plan although Mrs. Allen suggested caution as she had used some pre-completed plans dismissed previously. Mr. Lindley advised that he will email Mr. Hill the application forms as the County Council have their own version. Mr. Lindley agreed that an agreement between the developers and the Parish would be preferable going forward.

22. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum County Hall (Workshop from 4.00pm)

Future dates are confirmed as follows:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 – FORUM
- 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – FORUM
- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - FORUM

The meetings of the Unrecorded Ways Group are as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Framland
- 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Room tbc
- 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm or 5.30 to 7.30pm ) – Room tbc
- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Room tbc
- 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm or 5.30 to 7.30pm) – Room tbc
- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm or 5.30 to 7.30pm) – Room tbc