

Meeting: Leicestershire Local Access Forum

Date/Time: Wednesday, 18 July 2018 at 5.30 pm

Location: Guthlaxton Committee Room - County Hall

Contact: Sue Dann Ext 57122

Email:

Membership

Mr John Howells (Chairman)

Mrs. C. M. Radford CC	Mr. R. Denney
Ms. H. Brown	Mrs. A. Pyper
Mr. C. Faircliffe	Mr. B. Sutton
Mr. M. Gamble	Mr. P. Tame
Mr. A. Hillier-Fry	Mr. S. Warren
Mr. T. Kirby	Ms. V. Allen

AGENDA

Item

1. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
5. Declaration of interest
6. Reports from committees and working groups:

(a) Planning and Travel Committee (Roy Denney)

(Pages 3 - 8)

We still await the hearing about the Barrow crossing and have prepared material to be ready for a public enquiry when it arises. We also responded to a request for opinions on a proposed new training ground for Leicester City FC but the final proposals largely ignore our suggestions. I am sure user groups will object to the formal application when made and we propose to reiterate our views at that stage. We also advised Charnwood BC on their local plan.

We have been advising Elmsthorpe Parish Council as regards the proposed Rail Freight Interchange between the village and Burbage Common. We asked to meet with the developers but had no response and will make our views known when the planning application is lodged. We have also been advising Elmsthorpe about the long standing problems with footpath U50 and Stan Warren and I met with their Clerk and Chairman.

Following the meeting three of us had a meeting with HS2 in Birmingham we now have the detailed proposal as they are to date for each crossing point. Whilst some reasonable diversions are included there are still issues we would wish to see addressed and we are working up a further advice which will be sent to them in the next few weeks. Members have now had a chance to go to their roadshows and talk with representatives.

They have agreed to further meetings as things develop and we may well wish to visit them to look at some of the specific designs of various junctions and when it affects a bridleway, one of our equine representatives can join us.

(b) Network Opportunities Committee (Chris Faircliffe) -
Unrecorded Ways

The first phase work on unrecorded ways is now completed and we have staged such promotional roadshows as we can to find and recruit volunteers. Unrecorded Ways (URW) was a sub group of Network Opportunities but during this busy stage has been constituted as a separate committee but is now reverting to a sub group again. It is also now to be more structured to spread the load of work involved. Chris Faircliffe will Chair the parent committee, John Howells will act as Treasurer as regards the pot of money collected to cover research costs, I will provide the secretarial requirements and Stan Warren will be the archivist. Five LLAF members have been nominated to authorise payments of expenses. It is disappointing that after all our efforts we have only attracted a few volunteers but those we have are getting stuck in. John Howells, Stan Warren and I have been meeting with them individually or in small groups to track their activities and offer any needed assistance. Some of the volunteers have been co-opted onto the URW group and it may be that the active other ones also be invited to attend.

John Howells and I have been working on a path at Cotes assisted by Stan Warren and AP a member of the Ramblers and hope to present a claim shortly. I am also exploring the historic evidence for a path near Anstey again with assistance from Stan Warren and from BJ of the Leicestershire Footpaths Association. I have also looked into West Street in Glenfield but as yet have found no evidence of its status and that may need a claim based on usage. HH is working on paths in the Wigston area, DS those in the Hinckley area and MM in the Hugglescote and Donington-le-Heath

area. ST and GC are interested still and we are to meet with them early August. MB is actively involved and is a co-opted member and SG and SH are still showing interest and have been invited to meet with us.

It is proposed that we try and get all these together for an evening meeting to be arranged in October.

There is nothing else to report on Network Opportunities at this stage

7. Reports from outside bodies:

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Forum (Vicky Allen)
- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (Christine Radford)
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreational Group (Roy Denney)

A lot of their endeavours continue to be the Charnwood Forest project but they are working on a new 25 year plan with a large focus on recreation and access

They are looking to fund an as yet unidentified large new plot on the Derbyshire / Leics border.

The next National Forest Walking Festival was held on 6/7/8 July and as yet the success has not been assessed although I have heard people saying they enjoyed their walk.

The Forest are looking at providing more short walking loops off the National Forest Way long distance trail.

The £1M Black to Green 3 year project is coming to a close and the celebrate it and launch the end result they are to have a big event on August 25th. Part of the project has been the erection of 7 large information displays in metal and amongst events on offer on the day an orienteering type treasure hunt may be staged using them. There will be walks and numerous other activities but this is still being worked up.

- (d) East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs meeting update (John Howells)
- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group (Roy Denney)

I continue to serve as a member of the board of the regional park. I am also on the steering group of the Local Nature Partnership project looking to protect, promote and enhance the park.

Stan Warren, John Howells and I have had a meeting with Sam Lattaway of the National Forest, the lead partner in the project. We discussed in broad terms how the LLAF might be able to assist.

The steering group met in June and elected Sam Lattaway as Chairman. They looked at the make-up of the group and it was suggested that a number of sectors or groups could be represented on the steering group such as Woodland Trust, Environment Agency, health and education. There is a balance between keeping the group small to be effective in decision making and not missing potential partners and they agreed they would co-opt people with expertise to discuss specific projects rather than extending the membership of the Steering Group.

They will continue the Stakeholder meetings where all interested parties get together to discuss ideas etc but it was thought community representation is missing from the group and ways to achieve this were discussed specifically with reference to the diversity of communities in the project area. It was agreed that the Parish Councils should form the basis of this representation and that they should set up a separate Community Forum to input ideas, head off any objections and identify enthusiastic individuals.

The Projects Development Officer Julie Attard has suggested that I meet her in a month's time to develop the areas where the LLAF can get involved and the Chair of LLAF and Committee Chairs are invited to join us. The meeting will be in Leicester on August 8th.

- 8. Recruitment
- 9. Correspondence: (Pages 9 - 11)
 - (a) Responses, advices and comments sent by LLAF (Roy Denney)
 - (b) Received (Edwin McWilliam)
- 10. Annual Report - timeline and update (Page 12)
- 11. Requests for urgent items to be debated at the Chairman's discretion

12. Future meetings:

Forums:

25th October 2018 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall
(Workshop from 4.00pm)

8th January 2019 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall
(Workshop from 4.00pm)

Unrecorded Ways meetings:

22nd August 2018 – 2.30pm – 4.30pm – Executive Room, County
Hall

2 or 4th October (evening volunteers meeting)

22nd November 2018 – 2.30pm – 4.30pm – Room tbc

6th February 2019 – 2.30pm – 4.30pm – Room tbc