

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Mr Chris Faircliffe (CF) - Chair
 Mr Roy Denney (RD) – Vice-Chair
 Ms Vicky Allen (VA)
 Mr Michael Miller (MM)
 Mr Mike Bates (MB)
 Mr Peter Williams (PW)
 Mrs S Bicknall (SB)
 Mr Brian Sutton (BS)
 Mr M Gamble (MG)
 Mrs A Pyper (AP)

Officers, all representing the Council

Edwin McWilliam (EM), Access Manager
 Jessica Herbert (JH), Safe and Sustainable Travel Manager
 Robynn Beauregard (RB), Sustainable Travel Officer
 Karen Brown (minutes)

In attendance:

Tony Brookes, PROW Inspector

		Action
1.	<p>Welcome by Chairperson and apologies received</p> <p>CF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from John Howells, Maggie Wright, George Keeping and Piers Lindley.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The members confirmed that there were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3.	<p>To advise of any items which the Chairperson has agreed to take as urgent</p> <p>There were no items.</p>	
4.	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024 were agreed, subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>Page 2, Update on Highway Design Guide, final bullet point should read 'Developers to be asked to avoid using blue paint'.</p>	

<p>5.</p>	<p>Matters arising not on the agenda</p> <p><u>Update on Highway Design Guide</u> MM referred to the Update on Highway Design Guide and stated that there are 18 documents relating to the review and a quick search for references to 'footpaths' shows that they are mentioned in only 8 of them. MM asked if there was an official follow-up to this as the working group did not meet to make a formal submission to the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide Review consultation.</p> <p>VA made a comment regarding verge, cycleways having provision for horse riders.</p> <p>RD and MM to meet to send a formal response on behalf of the committee.</p> <p><u>Recruitment to the Forum</u> CF/RD/EM to meet to look at advertising through the correct channels who has an interest in recreational rights of way. EM reported that he had carried out a recruitment drive via Parish Councils recently.</p>	<p>RD/MM</p> <p>CF/RD/EM</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans</p> <p>EM reported that there would be a report at the next meeting on developing cycling and walking infrastructure and funding going forward.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the best way of using Public Rights of Way.</p> <p>Further information is available on the Council's website.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Rights of Way Inspections</p> <p>CF introduced Tony Brookes, PROW Inspector to the meeting. TB gave a summary of his role within the PROW Team and work carried out to prioritise the routes.</p> <p>Discussion took place on landowner responsibility in terms of PROWs and TB talked about the process for reporting a problem on a public right of way via the LCC website and the problem will be determined whether an LCC or landowner issue.</p> <p>SB asked about volunteer footpath maintenance. EM said that there was already a group for the Leicestershire Round but that further dialogue via the newsletter could be used as a way forward. SB to contact Ellen Senior about this.</p> <p>Discussion took place on landowners' obligations to keep public rights of way clear of obstructions. JH said she would attend a further meeting of the Forum from a comms perspective to</p>	<p>SB</p>

	<p>circulate to wider channels to develop a campaign to local landowners and partners.</p> <p>JH also added that the Choose How You Move website was a useful tool for social media channels, roadshows etc to highlight the legal requirements of landowners.</p>	
8.	<p>Reports</p> <p>Planning and Travel RD reported on the proposed Oadby Cyclops junction which was a very complex scheme.</p> <p>Lost Ways SB raised concern about the backlog of work on modification orders due to the cut off date being brought into law. CF reported that he had written to the Chief Executive on this matter. RD suggested inviting a member of the Legal Team to attend a Forum meeting.</p> <p>Other Planning VA raised the potential building on fields at Stretton Hall as affected 5 PROWs. A report was being put together.</p> <p>Charnwood Forest Geopark The Group had applied to the lottery board for an extension and they have matched funding up to £40k.</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no further business.</p>	
10.	<p>Future meetings</p> <p>Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 2.00 pm.</p> <p>LLAF Working Group: Wednesday 23 October, 2.00 pm in Room G23, County Hall</p>	