

Agenda Item 6.C

Leicestershire Local Access Forum – 16 April 2015

Reports from Committees and Working Groups.

Network Opportunities Committee

1. UNRECORDED WAYS

At the Forum meeting in January it was stated that our remit entitled “Policy” was not appropriate and other suggestions were put forward. The sub group has now removed the word policy and replaced it with Guidelines.

Ken Brockway from the Leicestershire Footpath Association has joined the sub group. We are still waiting a response from Charnwood Roots, as we wish to discuss how we can work together. Stan continues to add records to the master spreadsheet. At our meeting 24th February Stan informed us that he had mapped 900 routes which require investigating. Jim (from the Ramblers) and Stan have designed a pro forma for researchers to follow.

Jim will be transferring the routes Stan provides to ViewRanger, these can then be downloaded into PDF or GIF images for GPS and this will be carried out for every route. The routes will then be in a format to provide to the people/teams undertaking the research.

Vicky has informed the sub group that training on Lost Ways was being offered by the BHS. Following discussions with Ed, LCC should be able to host and fund the training for a small number of delegates, providing the costs are between £30 - £50 per delegate. The sub group are going to request more accurate costs closer to when the training is required.

Ed will provide a template for the information the LCC require for a claim. If we follow the template, this will streamline the process. This should then enable the claim to go direct to the decision makers without the LCC having to check all the information is provided.

LCC is still in the process of scanning the parish returns. Once completed, this will aid researchers.

2. OPEN ACCESS LAND

10th February a meeting took place with Ed and the sub group to discuss the completed reports and our findings for Altar Stones, Loughborough Meadows, Charnwood Lodge and Billa Barra. The reports discussed can be found in the previous LAF meeting packs. Ed agreed to investigate the issues raised and has arranged a meeting with the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust to discuss the issues. Following the meeting with the Wildlife Trust Ed will be contacting the Markfield Parish Council to discuss their parcel of land at Altar Stones.

The March interim meeting was held after a site visit to Burrough Hill Country Park. Much of the meeting was taken up with discussing our findings but there was also a lengthy discussion on the problems of finding a suitable venue for these working meetings. It was felt they were essential to give continuity between formal meetings and to allow members to

discuss and explore issues in a way not possible with the time constraints and agenda of the formal meetings. Members expressed considerable dissatisfaction about the lack of support in this area from the appointing authority notwithstanding their own web site laying out what their role is.

Burbage Common investigation is due to be organised by Terry and Stan

The roadside verges common land is still being checked by Vicky Allen

3. COUNTY FARMS

Possible route for the disabled at Quorn

Still awaiting cost estimates.

Hall Farm Blaby

Still waiting a decision by LCC, on the recommendations provided by the sub group.

4. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Countryside For All training

The Mid Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire & Rutland LAF disability subgroup organised a Countryside For All training course. This was delivered by a professional trainer in Countryside For All. The course was created to enable external organisations to create Countryside For All routes. A number of organisations attended which also operate in Leicestershire. The delegates included members from the Woodland Trust (including Chris Williams), Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust and members from the Canal and River Trust - East Midlands.

Leicestershire County Council - Public Health

Discussions took place with Mark Braham, Senior Public Health Manager, to identify whether there was a possibility of any funding being available for Countryside For All projects at the end of the 2014/15 year or in 2015/16. Unfortunately there are no funds available from the LCC Public Health team for Countryside For All projects. It was agreed that John (L) would provide a list of the projects the Lincolnshire & Rutland disability sub group were undertaking to enable Leicestershire CC to investigate whether they could undertake a similar activity in the future. This information will be included in the next Network Opportunities report.

Outdoors For All Working Group (Natural England)

At a previous meeting with the working group it was agreed that they would investigate a suitable one stop web site for the Countryside For All routes across England. They have come back with a number of options. John (L) has requested a further meeting with the group to encourage NE to discuss the options with the various organisations for the disabled.

Meetings due to take place

Scope has suggested we should contact Mosaic (<http://www.mosaic1898.co.uk>), in relation to countryside access issues for the disabled. A meeting with Mosaic has been requested.

5. **HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP**

Ex Co-op Farms routes

Meeting to be arranged with the Wellcome Trust to encourage the Trust to continue to provide access after 2020

Sites due to lose access grants in 2015

There are no sites due to lose access grants this year.