

## **Agenda Item 7.A**

### **Leicestershire Local Access Forum – 16 April 2015**

#### **Heart of the Forest Forum**

Report from meeting March 26 2015 – Steve Palmer the LLAF rep and Roy Denney, Chair of Planning & Travel Committee attended this meeting as it was to discuss strategic issues on the way forward.

SP has provided the papers of the meeting for circulation but a few other points came out of the meeting.

There is finally to be a visitor centre and toilets etc at Moira Furnace.

The long disputed footpath (P107) was still not resolved and the group expressed its extreme dissatisfaction with the lack of progress.

The HLF bid outcome is expected and we are very confident of a positive outcome. This will open up a number of avenues to enable us to complete a number of ongoing projects.

Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace - Planning Permission has been granted for the housing development with a number of conditions but the matter has been passed to the Ombudsman although an early decision is unlikely.

The proposed development in Willesley which would have created the link from Ashby was turned down by Councillors as it extended into the green belt. The application has been resubmitted but without apparent material change. If the Planning permission is granted, as part of the development a multi-user link will be created to Hicks Lodge. This link will be dedicated as a public bridleway to link into the permissive horse trail at Hicks Lodge

Maybury Wood to New Albion Link - Planning Application has been submitted for a housing development off Ashby Road. As part of the planning comments the National Forest Company and Ashby Woods Town Council are requesting that a route be provided into the wood from the vicinity of the Moira Village Hall. Discussions are ongoing on various issues including the status of the link. It seems we would get at least a footpath.

A number of other issues had not made any progress including the traffic calming by Hicks Lodge.

The meeting started a review of the work programme to determine where they want to focus efforts next. Many projects are maturing and just awaiting third party decisions so it is time to look where to next address the efforts.

A structure was suggested and a background document discussed and specific ideas are invited for the next meeting. SP suggested that Access should be

broadened to include encouraging the less able and school children to access the facilities in the area.

Another suggestion was to act as a pilot area within the National Forest to try and implement the ideas promoted by John Law at the last meeting. Willesley Woods being a possibility. If members of the LLAF have any ideas they will be welcome.

RD