

PLANNING AND TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT (Roy Denney)

Things have become very hectic again

We continue to monitor the Network rail crossings situation and await developments re HS2.

Network Rail has arbitrarily and illegally closed the crossing at Little Bowden. LCC are trying to get it re-opened and we have written to Network Rail making our views known. The Safety Officer for our region has passed it on to his superiors as the decision was taken at a higher level and we have been awaiting a response for some weeks.

Everything seems to have been on hold with HS2, but we can expect developments shortly. HS2 Company did say they would engage with us but as yet we have heard nothing and perhaps we should invite them to a future meeting.

The East Midlands freight gateway enquiry has now closed and will report later this year to the Minister. We can only hope my brief presentations and arguments promoting the Forums views gain his agreement to a proper protection of the substitute route through this site, assuming he is to recommend the development to the Minister who does of course make the final decision. We made a number of observations but principal objection was a permissive cycleway in substitution of a well used right of way.

North West Leicestershire district plan is going out for consultation shortly so members can start considering [it.](http://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/documents/s7137/Local%20Plan%20Appendix%20A.pdf) <http://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/documents/s7137/Local%20Plan%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

We have issued advices to a number of authorities in the past three months. We submitted observations to Blaby DC re their audit of open spaces and provision for sport and recreation and to Harborough DC on their Open Spaces Strategy. We also formally responded to Harborough on two massive developments at Magna Park.

We have engaged with Blaby DC on the rights of way and open spaces elements of the Lubbethorpe development and have submitted comment to the County Council on their new Minerals & Waste strategy. Stan Warren and I have since met with the Lubbethorpe Developers and Blaby to further discuss the rights of way impacts, open spaces provision and public transport.

We have been having discussions with Everards about their ideas for their new site and the improvements offered to the rights of way in the area and have met with the Aggregate Industries about the transitional period as quarry work at Bardon progresses and have made suggestions to improve the short and medium term footpaths.

Charnwood Council have had a pre-application enquiry on a proposed 'tourist hub' at the site of the former Isolation Hospital off Meadow Lane, Syston. The site is where the River Wreake and Grand Union Canal meet and is close to the Syston Marina. The proposals include refurbishment/reconstruction of existing dilapidated buildings and a proposed camping area on the associated surrounding land. We are in discussion with the applicant and are probably to meet with them to discuss possible links into the RofW network.

We have been in touch with North West Leicestershire DC about a development at Hugglescote where management plans indicated a long term path closure which should not be necessary. As a result both NWL and LCC have made it clear that permission will be needed and that any closure should be strictly limited.