

REPORTS FOR 06/10/15 LAF MEETING

NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT (John Law and Roy Denney)

1. COUNTY FARMS

Possible route for the disabled at Quorn

Still awaiting cost estimates.

There is an enquiry outstanding to see whether WREN still operates for Leicestershire and whether they would fund this type of project in this location.

Hall Farm Blaby

The sub group are still waiting a decision by LCC, on the recommendations provided. It was noticed that the site was being surveyed during August. **John Law had asked at the previous LAF meeting for an official request be made to the councillors on the LAF, to provide a response to the recommendations made by the sub group.**

Plans for 2015

These will be with the sub group to examine within the next three months.

2. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Inclusive Countryside Access Training

South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF are applying for further funding on a range of Countryside For All initiatives. One of which includes a number of inclusive countryside access courses. PADOs from Melton District Council are interested in attending one of the next courses and a minimum of two places will be reserved for them. It is hoped they will use this to prepare route information for their country park. Leicester Centre for Independent Living (LCIL) is also keen to have representatives on one of these courses.

We may hold a separate course for LCIL in Leicester. Funding of this course will be discussed further with LCIL and the City LAF. LCIL would like see similar leaflets for town and City parks. Whilst the park paths are built to different design standards; paths, path routes, surfaces and pinch points are not identified on many park leaflets. Hence people are not aware of what is suitable for them. LCIL also represents people in Leicestershire and Rutland so it might be an opportunity for them to assist the districts in producing "Countryside for All" route literature. Once again asked what the Leicestershire County Council was doing to provide Countryside For All route literature.

Embarrassingly, John Law had to explain yet again that it is contrary to Leicestershire County Council Policy to provide this type of route information and the LCC will not sanction their volunteers to undertake these tasks. He also went on to explain that should any outside organisation do the job for the LCC at no cost, the LCC will not endorse it or allow their logo to be displayed on any of the information. He further stated that he would ask the councillors on the LAF to investigate whether this policy can be changed to ensure the LCC Country Parks become

more accessible. Councillors please investigate and respond formerly to the LAF (this request was also made at the last meeting which was not quorate).

Dementia Friendly Walks

South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF are investigating further funding opportunities for dementia friendly walk leader training to enable the districts and county councils to deliver more walks for people with dementia. One funding source has been identified and discussions have been undertaken with both county councils to ascertain the number of courses required. If the LAF apply to this funding source they will also be in a position to offer three places to Leicestershire districts. This will provide an introduction for the districts to understand the training and what could be achieved. Discussions are underway, but at an early stage with a separate funding source, which may also provide funding for a number of courses in Leicester City and Leicestershire districts.

Slideshow for Health Centres

The Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF are working with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote Countryside For All routes, walking for health, dementia friendly walks and walking PRoW. In December it is envisaged we will be talking to the East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG to promote what is and will be available in Rutland. It would be helpful if the Leicestershire LAF could also produce a slideshow promoting what is available in Leicestershire which also could be discussed with the CCG and displayed at their health centres.

Leicestershire Countryside For All routes

We are still waiting to see the first Countryside For All route in Leicestershire. Further discussions will take place with the district councils which have received the training, in order to understand their plans for producing the routes. **These discussions may include district councillors with the LAFs permission.**

Meetings due to take place

A request has been received to talk to the physical activity officers at their PADOs meeting in relation to dementia friendly walks. This will take place after more detailed discussions have taken place with the Alzheimer's Society.

3. HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

Ex Co-op Farms routes

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

4. OPEN ACCESS SURVEYS

Dates have been agreed for further surveys of Breedon and Mountsorell commons in Apr & May next year

5. COUNTRY PARKS

We did have a dialogue with Countesthorpe Parish about a park on their patch which in the end they did not agree to take forward. Blaby DC has now allocated funding to create it themselves and it will be just less than 40 acres.

6. UNRECORDED WAYS

The sub group met at the County Records office. An introduction re the history and operation of the records office was provided by Robin Jenkins of the Records Office staff – We discussed whether they could provide researchers with certified copies of documents and whether they were necessary and whether copies of documents would be provided free of charge to researchers working on this project. He showed us example of various types of plans and maps they have on file including Enclosure Act maps etc, Tithe maps, early OS plans and Inland Revenue maps. He also touched on Railways and Canal maps. He did point out these were all produced for a purpose and whilst anything shown was good evidence the absence of a path on such maps is not evidence that it did not exist. He also pointed out that the Scottish Archive was on line and included many English Maps.

Piers Lindley of LCC then produced an updated list of results requirements from research in a standard format to assist with processing and a list of material thought to be available which could assist research. He offered to add the locations of this material before our next meeting in November. He also offered to provide such information they have on file at County Hall from their earlier research which could be added into our data base.

Jim Storer then updated us on progress with the base info log we have been working on. Members thanked him and Stan Warren for the immense amount of work that had been done. They are to add the last few that have come in recently before we meet again and are to sort them by category of case to enable us to start prioritising.

It was then thought that at our February meeting we can agree to target various Parish Councils and Historical Societies where we have identified valued but unprotected routes asking them to do local research. It was felt that they would be unlikely to have the expertise to see cases through and where they turned things up we might have to take them forward. We might also feel able to seek individuals to volunteer for researching but some training would have to be put in hand. Depending on what comes in we might need to meet again but otherwise would review the situation in August.