

Good morning Graeme

Thanks for the opportunity to chat about the footpath provision during the transitional stages of your development.

Since the meeting and in the light of the comments made during it, members of the LLAF group have further researched the area and can provide some information which may assist you.

We still strongly wish for an off road path up the side of the road from the A511 up to Copt Oak and the introduction of the off road cycle way along the A511 as soon as practical.

The Whitwick road to Copt Oak is equally dangerous and road safety is a problem whichever way people elect to set out for that destination if it cannot be achieved off road. It is essential to provide at least one safe route to choose and we have checked the Whitwick road taking note of the verge. We think it would be possible to make a single width path to walk on with some careful cutting and pruning. The verge is presumably not your property and the local authority will probably cry lack of funds but we would suggest that a contribution from you to achieve this either by way of funds or carrying out the work should make this a realistic option.

On signage and new routes etc, the path by Rise Rock Farm where it goes up a steep bank needs making easier. The fencing suggests the new line but following it is a bit precarious.

There is a gap in the high fencing at Old Rise Rock where the footpath to Copt Oak goes and it would give walkers a bit more confidence if a yellow arrow was put on these posts.

There is also a need a yellow post/arrow at grid ref 462 143 where there is a gate across the path at the moment presumably to stop motor bikes etc. It does however look like you are not supposed to go that way which should be made clearer. This will be a well used path as it goes to the summit.

One of our local members has twice walked the O35 diversion, since our meeting. The diversion is very good and we would welcome consideration of making this permanent as it will make a good circular walk from Whitwick end. On the diversion signs it says that O35 is permanently removed from Upper Greenhill Farm to Kellam Farm. We understood from yesterday's meeting that we would get it back eventually.

Some of the diversion signs as you go along the path include "you are here" arrows, but some are in the wrong place, e.g. at grid ref 463129, We noticed others whilst walking the Ivanhoe Way.

There's plenty of high fencing at the edge of Ivanhoe Way making it look rather strange. Several people were met on the route and some hadn't a clue where they were; the diversion signs had confused them. It is important that we keep people properly informed as things develop as otherwise they may stray into really dangerous locations.

A number of us have looked around the summit, especially the north side looking towards Whitwick, reminding ourselves what good example of a heathland it is; lots of heathers etc., much better than the top of the Beacon. One of the best ways to keep people away from even

slightly more dangerous areas is to provide interesting and practical routes by which they can access the summit and enjoy the views and we do feel the additional route we suggested to you would create just such a welcome circular.

I hope these further observations are helpful to you.

Regards

Roy

### Roy J Denney, Chairman, Planning & Travel Committee

Leicestershire Local Access Forum,  
c/o Room 700, County Hall, Leicester, LE3 8RJ  
([www.leics.gov.uk/laf](http://www.leics.gov.uk/laf))  
Telephone - County Hall 0116 305 7086  
Private 0116 233 8604

*The Leicestershire Local Access Forum (LAF) is an independent statutory body, set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, and exists to represent the interests of everyone concerned with access to the countryside and the public rights of way network including footpaths, bridleways and byways, cycleways and areas of open access.*

*Section 94 of the CROW act makes it a statutory function of the forum to give advice to a range of bodies, including local authorities, on access issues in respect of land use planning matters. The Secretary of State advised that in particular forums were to focus on the impact and options for minimising possible adverse effects of planning policies and development proposals, in respect of future public access to land. Forums are tasked with identifying and expressing support for opportunities to improve public access, or associated infrastructure, which might be delivered through planning policies or new developments.*

