

**HEART OF FOREST FORUM
ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY WORKING GROUP
ACTIONS OF MEETING OF 1st October 2015**

Item	DESCRIPTION	For Action by
1	<p>Absence apologies from: Terry Kirby; Goff Lewis; Richard Groves; Ken Fairbrother; Alan Leather; James Lowe; Bryan Weston; Graham Knight; Mike Ballantyne; Jenny Southwell; Zoe Sewter; Alan Dowell and Debbie Warren.</p> <p>In attendance : Richard Dyason – OAD Parish Council; Gail Archer – Swadlincote TIC; Bethan Scragg – NFC; Chris Conway – LCC Country Parks; Roger Poole – Local Resident; Alan Blackburn – Local Resident; Dot Morson – S.Derbyshire Ramblers; John Howells – LLAF; Roy Denney – LLAF; Graham Morrison – HOFF Trail Network; Lynne Pass – LRBA / BHS; Mary Holland – LRBA / BHS; Geoff Pursglove – LCC Ashby Canal; Sam Lattaway – NFC; Marion Farrell – Groundwork; and Sam Ireson – LCC.</p>	
2	<p>Previous Meeting Actions:</p> <p><u>Willesley Lake</u> – Sam Ireson to write to the new owners to discuss reinstating access around the lake and update at next meeting.</p> <p><u>Obstruction of Public Footpath P107</u> – Sam Ireson reported that Legal Action is progressing. Group will be updated at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Minorca Restoration</u> – Discussions with the Planners and UK Coal are ongoing regarding the restoration of the site. The proposed N-W bridleway and E-W bridleway through the site are under discussion due to safety issues identified where they will exit onto Bosworth Road and Gallows Lane. Group to be updated at next meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SI /RP</p>
3	<p>Live Projects Update</p> <p><u>Project Priorities</u></p> <p>A. Hicks Lodge to Moira Furnace –</p> <p><u>Section A Hicks Lodge to Newfields Road</u> – Alan Dowell was unable to attend the meeting. Bethan confirmed that this section would be completed this year.</p> <p><u>Section B Measham Road Housing Development</u> – Planning Permission has been granted for the housing development. Sam Ireson has been in discussions with the developer and LCC Highways officers regarding the provision of a cycle crossing. A designated crossing has been deemed unnecessary however provision is being</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SI</p>

<p>made for cyclists with a 3m wide footway, dropped curves and on-road cycle markings. Sam Ireson to update the group at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Section C Measham Road to Moira Furnace</u> – A Land Registry Search has identified that all of the land affected is within the ownership of Moira Furnace. Sam Ireson to write to the landowners to discuss the proposal.</p> <p>The £40K funding for the link is still available from NWLDC if the link between Ashby and Hicks Lodge is constructed by developers. Estimate for works is between £60k and £80k depending on surface specification, so further funding needs to be sought.</p> <p>B. Hicks Lodge to Ashby Link -</p> <p>The Planning permission for the housing development, which includes a link between Willesley Lane and Hicks Lodge has been refused for a second time. The developers have appealed and a decision is due next month. Sam Ireson to update the group at the next meeting.</p> <p>If the housing development does not go ahead, other options will continue to be explored.</p> <p>C. Willesley to Ivanhoe Trail Link –</p> <p>Sam Ireson carried out a preliminary Land Registry search which identified that Pastures Lane and the link to the picnic site is not registered. Roger mentioned that the land was once owned by British Coal and it may still be in their ownership. Sam Ireson to investigate further the landownership and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Roger Poole presented to the group the Woodland Trusts proposal to create a surfaced route around the lake at Willesley Wood. The group agreed in principal that they supported the project and a letter of support from the group should be sent to the Woodland Trust.</p> <p>Graham Morrison confirmed that he still wished to lead on the project and it was agreed that Graham and Sam should meet with Helen Shepherd of the Woodland Trust to discuss their proposal and whether they are still happy for the route along the southern boundary of the wood to be constructed.</p> <p>D. Conkers to Rosliston Link</p> <p>Marion Farrell reported that the South Derbyshire Greenways Planning Document was progressing. Marion is currently looking at the best routes for the link. Update to be given at next meeting.</p>	<p>SI</p> <p>SI</p> <p>SI</p> <p>SI</p> <p>GM/SI</p> <p>JS / MF</p>
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<p>E. Village Hall, Moira to Maybury Wood Link</p> <p>General approval for the housing has been given but discussions regarding the size of the farmhouse are ongoing. Bryan Weston to update group at next meeting.</p> <p>Interpretation and Orientation Masterplan</p> <p>Bethan reported that the Masterplan was the biggest element of the Black to Green project with £180K in funding. She is currently finalising the brief for the consultants. With regards the signage and waymarking element she has met with the landowners group and they are supportive especially the removal of the existing signage which is cluttering routes.</p> <p>One of the main issues is getting a coherent mapping style between landowners. Bethan would like to set up a small working group to discuss the potential mapping style. Anyone interested in the mapping working group to contact Bethan via email at bscragg@nationalforest.org.</p> <p>Another issue is whether an App. would be used or not. If you have any feedback on the use of Apps to find your way around or visitor interpretation, please contact Bethan.</p> <p><u>Other Project Updates</u></p> <p>Millennium Milepost</p> <p>Sam Ireson reported that Keith Drury, Sustrans Ranger has agreed to restore the Milepost. James Lowe the Sustrans Manager is considering the wording to be on the fingers and this will be discussed at a future meeting. LCC will arrange for the installation of the Milepost. Awaiting Landowner agreement regarding the location. Sam Ireson to update the group at next meeting.</p> <p>Hicks Lodge Access From Willesley Lane</p> <p>Alan Dowell was unable to attend. Update at next meeting.</p> <p>Alternative Route for Ivanhoe Way</p> <p>No action required until new link between Hicks Lodge and Newfields Wood is completed.</p>	<p>BW</p> <p>ALL / BS</p> <p>ALL / BS</p> <p>SI</p> <p>AD</p>
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	<p>Maybury to New Albion Link</p> <p>Sam Ireson passed round a copy of the New Albion Restoration Plan. Some members identified errors and had comments to make. All to email comments to Sam Ireson to pass onto the Planning Officer ASAP.</p> <p>A Project Lead is required to look into possible links between Maybury and New Albion. Roger Poole stated that he was interested. If anyone else would like to assist Roger, please contact Sam Ireson.</p> <p>Countryside For All</p> <p>Sam Lattaway reported that the project is moving forward steadily and the proposed route around the lake at Willesley Wood is a good start. Sam Lattaway to update the group at the next meeting.</p> <p>Horse Riding Access south of A42 to Minorca Site</p> <p>Alan Blackburn reported that he has had initial discussions with the landowner Mr Fowkes and in principal he was favourable to the proposal, however does have concerns regarding motorbike access. The link is also part of the wider horse riding circuit being investigated by Roger and Alan. B. As previously mentioned discussions regarding horse riding access at Minorca are ongoing.</p>	<p>ALL / SI</p> <p>SI / RP / ALL</p> <p>SL</p> <p>AB / RP</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Funding and Bids:</p> <p>Bethan gave out a handout detailing the Black to Green funding. Bethan to send an electronic copy to Sam Ireson to distribute to the group.</p>	<p>BS / SI</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Future Project Proposals for Discussion:</p> <p>A. Proposed Bridleway Circuit</p> <p>Roger and Alan's proposal was discussed during the meeting. It was agreed that the project was worthwhile to look at. As it is predominantly outside of the HOFF area it was agreed that it would be better progressed as part of the National Forest Access Group with Roger and Alan reporting back to the Access and Connectivity group in progress.</p> <p>Sam Ireson offered to provide assistance on behalf of the County Council and Sam Lattaway agreed to offer assistance on behalf of the National Forest.</p>	<p>AB / RP</p> <p>SI / SL</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>HOFF Update</p> <p>Bethan reported that the Landowners Group and the Community Engagement Group have met recently and they both have a renewed energy with the Black to Green project progressing.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Connection of National Waterways Towing Path Network</u></p> <p>Geoff Pursglove presented to the group a project which he is progressing to create a permissive footpath to connect the existing Ashby Canal at Snarestone to Measham and the Ashby Woulds Heritage Trail. The group supported the proposal. If you have any comments please contact Geoff Pursglove directly.</p> <p><u>Ken Fairbrother</u></p> <p>Sam Ireson informed the group that Ken Fairbrother has decided to resign his position as the project he was leading on, the extension to Rosliston he successfully completed. Sam Ireson had thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the group.</p> <p><u>Group Attendance and Representation</u></p> <p>Roy Denney asked whether representation on the group could be looked at as it is a very large group with some organisations sending 2 or 3 representatives which stops other interested parties joining. Sam Ireson agreed to look at representation and contact those organisations who send more than one representative.</p> <p>Sam Ireson to also contact Steve Palmer to discuss future attendance at the group.</p> <p><u>Hoff Trail Network</u></p> <p>Bethan passed on a message from Zoe Sewter regarding an error on the network map with the route in Swadlincote. Sam Ireson to send the details to Graham Morrison to investigate.</p> <p><u>Horsebox parking at Hicks Lodge</u></p> <p>Alan Blackburn informed the group that horsebox parking when visiting Hicks Lodge may possibly be available in the first two fields off Willesley Woodside. Landowners are the Wrights.</p>	<p>SI</p> <p>SI</p> <p>SI / GM</p>

	<p><u>Hicks Lodge Road Crossing Improvements</u></p> <p>Roy Denney requested an update on the improvements to the road crossing outside Hicks Lodge. Sam Ireson to provide update at next meeting.</p>	<p>SI</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting: tbc</p>	