

**REPORTS FOR JAN 2016 LAF MEETING**

**PLANNING AND TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman - Roy Denney)**

Things have remained busy. We are advising various local authorities on their plans and continue to monitor the Network rail crossings situation and await developments re HS2.

I have written to Blaby DC as now a member of that Council asking that the LLAF be added to the list of organisations they automatically consult with on planning issues.

Network Rail has arbitrarily closed the crossing at Little Bowden but appeared to have promised a solution by Christmas – it is still closed and they have changed their attempt at a justification and are making fresh promises

Everything seems to be slowly coming to life with HS2, and we can expect developments shortly. It is hard to separate leaks from official announcements but suggested changes in the location of the East Mids station seem to have been dropped. 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 is with the Minister for a decision which is expected shortly

The authorities in the county of Leicestershire are very close to sending in a formal request to government for Combined Authority status. If approved one of the areas where they will work together strategically is transport and hopefully the Ivanhoe line might be back on the agenda for passenger use.

North West Leicestershire district plan is out for consultation and we have fed our suggestions into the system

We are engaged with Blaby DC and the developers on the rights of way and open spaces elements of the Lubbethorpe development and public transport was raised.

We have had informal discussions with Wilson Bowden about footpath diversions around a commercial development in Glenfield and submitted our views to Blaby DC in respect of that planning application. We have also written to Blaby DC offering help with the design of the rights of way and permissive paths in a new country park being created at Countesthorpe and they are to let us have their draft plans for comment.

Wearing several hats I have been in discussions with First Bus. There are some unwelcome service cuts likely to be introduced in February and it is ever more important when looking at larger new developments that we comment on the need for not only sustainable off road rights of way links but adequate public transport services. Planners can require Section106 contributions from developers to subsidise such services at least until they have a chance to become self financing. We are discussing extended provisions in the Glenfield area as a result of the developments there.