

NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES REPORT FOR

28/01/16 LAF MEETING

1. COUNTY FARMS

Possible route for the disabled at Quorn

Further discussions have taken place with Jamie Foreman (Operational Real Estate Manager, Leicestershire County Council), in relation to the River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership. It was agreed that contact should be made with the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, to see if they were interested in working on this project with the County Council and ourselves. The Wildlife Trust has stated that they will investigate this proposal and let us know the outcome mid January. A meeting will then be arranged with interested parties to see how we take this project forward.

Hall Farm Blaby

Following disappointment that the recommendations presented by the sub group were not going to be adopted, there were other issues raised at the last LAF meeting which are awaiting a response. The sub group agreed that if the recommendations were not adopted it was imperative that the permissive route known as the Long Walk was dedicated as a PRoW and this was to be taken back to the appropriate officer. There was also a concern re the speed of traffic on Hospital Lane and the difficulty in crossing. It was recommended that a permanent 20 mph limit was created prior to the crossing from Z53 to Z43. A response has not been received as yet on either of these issues.

2. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Access to the countryside for the disabled

2015 has seen the number of complaints raised by disabled users increase dramatically across a number of counties in relation to countryside access. This may be due to people being more aware of what we are doing but also worryingly it may be due to organisations which allow public access, not thinking about the needs for the disabled. In a number of cases funding is said to be the problem but when examining the issues this is clearly not the case. Discussions have taken place with Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCiL) to see how we can educate and change the attitude of these organisations. LCiL has suggested we run a workshop at the Choice Unlimited event held at the Tigers in April. Further discussions over the coming months will take place with LCiL to see how we take this forward.

The response received from Leicestershire County Council, in relation to their policy on access to country parks for the disabled, is attached to this report.

Dementia Friendly Walks

South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF have submitted two separate funding bids for Dementia Friendly Walk Leader training. Each of the funding bids is for fourteen places, which is the maximum per course. One of the funding bids is for Lincolnshire, the other is for Rutland and Leicestershire districts which have shown an interest in learning more about dementia friendly walks. Ten of these places are for Rutland and the other four are to be offered to the four Leicestershire districts in the

East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This will give the Leicestershire districts a better understanding of dementia friendly walks and the training required.

A meeting has been arranged with the East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG to explain what we are doing in terms of countryside for all routes and dementia friendly walks. The CCG will also be asked about funding streams for both of these projects.

A presentation will be delivered in February to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Dementia Action Alliance. This will focus on how we are delivering the dementia friendly walks in Lincolnshire, how we aim to increase the walks programme in Lincolnshire and develop a programme for Rutland. The aim is to see if we can discover any other funding streams for ourselves and also encourage Leicester and Leicestershire to create a dementia friendly walks programme. Bob Eglinton, the chair of the Leicester City LAF will also be present.

3. **UNRECORDED WAYS**

We are still waiting for the guidelines from the Deregulation Bill to become available. However, there is still plenty work we need to undertake, to ensure we have everything necessary for the researchers to enable them to identify unrecorded ways. We are working with the LCC to ensure the checklist for researchers is complete. The LCC have also provided the sub group with the location of material available for research. Stan has added the agreed priorities to the individual routes on the Unrecorded Ways Index spreadsheet. The sub group is now working through parishes to prioritise them for research. These have been split between high priority, low priority and those which require no investigation.

4. **HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP**

Permissive Access Agreements ending 2016

Oak Lodge farm, Broughton Astley site A/B and Manor farm, Long Whatton are the routes where grants for permissive access will end this year. Letters are with the chairman for signing and sending to parishes along with the plans of the routes.

Ex Co-op Farms routes

A meeting is to be arranged with the Wellcome Trust to encourage the Trust to continue to provide permissive access.