

REPORTS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING July 2017

PLANNING AND TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman - Roy Denney)

We continue to monitor the Network rail crossings situation and developments around the country where there are several campaigns trying to mitigate the potential damage to the network. There have been no further developments re HS2 although legislation is now proposed to move the process on at them present from Birmingham to Crewe. Stan Warren and I have met with a Network Rail Officer on site to review a proposed closure at Thornton and after circulating members for their views a response has been sent to them suggesting we feel it would be acceptable under certain conditions but in trying to see where that was going find the man concerned is no longer in that post if even still with network rail.

We continue to monitor larger planning applications and the progress of local authorities towards the creation of their various strategic plans. We had an input into the access arrangements for New Lubbethorpe and I will be attending the formal opening (17/7) of the new bridge over the M1 and associated road network.

CHARNWOOD FOREST STEERING GROUP

John Howells and I were members of some of the working groups which worked up the lottery bid which has now been submitted. An answer is expected in October then the work will really begin if we are successful.

The main steering group will now probably only meet twice a year and there will still be a stakeholders meeting annually but in my role on the Development Group we will; have to decide how to progress the development stage (2 years) before we are finally given the balance of the funds for the projects themselves.

We have employed a coordinator to produce this bid and his contract as now finished

Roy Denney Representative

LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP

This body has not met for some time and I cannot see a way forward without funding being forthcoming and I will discontinue reporting on this until anything changes.

Roy Denney Representative

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS & RECREATION GROUP

They are concentrating this year on the connectivity and access to the areas planted up and promoting recreational and sporting use of the Forest. I have represented the Forum at one of their Access & Recreation Group's meetings and advised them as what the Forum are doing in particular in respect of unrecorded ways within the forest and the wider area. I have also has a working meeting with their staff about signage at 7 hubs within the Forest.

They are currently advertising for an Access & Recreation Office to push their agenda.

Roy Denney Representative

UNRECORDED WAYS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chairman on holiday abroad I act as informal vice chairman. The working group includes co-opted members from a number of user groups and other volunteers happy to work on the research. We currently

meet eight times a year as we deal with the logistics of the project; meetings being of 2hrs30m in the afternoon either at County Hall or the Records Office.

Our basic aim to carry out preliminary investigations to identify individual routes not on the Definitive Map within Leicestershire but only suggest research where there will be a public benefit.

We seek to attract and train researchers to fully investigate such routes, with a view to collecting historic evidence sufficient to claim the route as public. Several members have been attending day long training sessions and we now feel able to role this out to our volunteers and start allocating actual research projects. Given a number of our volunteers work during the day a meeting to this end will have to be in an evening. We hope to organise this during our August meeting with a view to doing this training on Sept 7th. We will then seek to tie priority cases to researchers interested in those particular areas.

We must ensure research effort is not duplicated by maintaining a register of routes/areas under investigation and given limited funding make sure research is carried out in the most cost effective manner by.

We are working with the Right of Way team to assist them in their statutory obligation to bring their Definitive Map up to date and they are providing support. Various user groups are investing time and funds in working on the project but in addition they are contemplating creating a pool of funds for common costs of benefit to all for example obtaining and making freely available to researchers digital copies of prime evidential documents, e.g. example Enclosure Awards and Maps, Tithe Maps, 1910 Finance Act returns, Parish Definitive Map returns. It is hoped that LCC will hold this pot and the group are working on a set of standing orders to cover what these funds can be used for and how we authorise their release.

Our Chairman has been working in County Hall assisting the Rights of Way team with the digitisation of their record to enable these to be accessed by our researchers. Top date he has been checking what records have already been digitised. Parish Returns for the first Definitive Map are stored electronically for all parishes in the following areas: Ashby-de-la-Zouch UD and RD, Ashby Woulds UD, Castle Donington RD, Melton & Belvoir RD, Melton Mowbray UD, Billesdon RD, Market Harborough RD and UD, Hinckley UD, Market Bosworth RD, Blaby RD, Coalville UD, Oadby UD, and Wigston UD.

Barrow-upon-Soar has only two parishes complete so far (out of 32), and Lutterworth has 13 of 29 scanned.

He can now advise the scanning resource on what to next to digitise and carry out the necessary preparatory work. We feel priorities should include the parish statements for the remaining parishes, tribunal reports and early drafts of the definitive map

Roy Denney