

**REPORTS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM*****Meeting April 2018*****PLANNING AND TRAVEL COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman - Roy Denney)**

This has been a very busy period. One item receiving attention at the moment is the infamous Barrow crossing. Network rail were applied for an Extinguishment Order for the bridleway across the rail lines, something we have been fighting for years. We have prepared material to be ready for a public enquiry when it arises.

We responded to a consultation from DEFRA re the new options for support for the agricultural sector and have made overtures to Charnwood to try and re-ignite our involvement with the Broadnook project. It seems the original agents are no longer on the scene.

We have responded to a request for opinions on a proposed new training ground for Leicester City FC and have been advising Elmsthorpe Parish Council as regards the proposed Rail Freight Interchange between the village and Burbage Common. Two of us are due to meet with the developers the day before our meeting so will be able to update members then. We have also been advising Elmsthorpe about the long standing problems with footpath U50

Three of us have had a meeting with HS2 in Birmingham to add to the written advice we sent to them. This was a high powered meeting with six of their top people there and we went along the whole length of the line expanding on our suggestions and reinforcing our views as to where crossings were essential.

They have agreed to further meetings as things develop and they get down to the specific design of various junctions and have asked that when it affects a bridleway, one of our 'horse' people join us.

We all feel we had a very meaningful dialogue and were impressed how detailed their knowledge was of the minutiae of the area.

**CHARNWOOD FOREST STEERING GROUP**

John Howells and I were members of some of the working groups which worked up the lottery bid and expect to continue our involvement with the project.

The individual projects within the bid include our suggested Access for All at a few sites which John Law has been promoting and we have offered other ideas for consideration. A new Development Board is being set up to progress the projects and a Projects Development Officer has been appointed. The name is embargoed at the moment but I hope this person will be able to attend our meeting with Sam Lattaway who has accepted our invitation to update us on the project. I have invited to be on the board representing the public interests on your behalf One suggestion is that at the end of the process, the map we were instrumental in having produced should be updated and I have arranged that the head of the production company will come up shortly to have a look rounds with me. He is also keen to bring out some form of walkers guide to the area and possibly a similar production for horse riders if the network is sufficient to make it viable.

Roy Denney Representative

**NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS & RECREATION GROUP**

Their new structure and staffing line up is now bedding in. A lot of their endeavours though have been targeted at the Charnwood Forest project. They are looking at providing more short access loops off the National Forest Way.

The next National Forest Walking Festival will be held on 6/7/8 July

Roy Denney Representative