



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## PRESENT

### Members

Mr John Howells (Chair)	Mr. A. Hillier-Fry
Mr R. Denney	Mr. T. Kirby
Mrs. C. Radford CC	Mr. S. Warren
Ms. V. Allen	Mrs. A.F Pyper
Mr. C. Faircliffe	Mr. J. Law
Mr. M. Gamble	

### Officers

Mr. E. McWilliam (LCC)	
Mrs. S. Dann (LCC)	Miss. H. Hudson

### Guests

Mr. S. Lattaway (National Forest)	Ms. J. Attard (National Forest)
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#### 1. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming a new member of the forum; Mrs Christine Radford who is the Cabinet Support Member for Environment and Transport. Mrs Radford advised that she has an active interest in Rights of Way and was nominated for the forum in order to provide support.

The Chairman introduced Mr. S Lattaway and Ms. J. Attard from the National Forest who are in attendance for item 6 and will be doing a presentation on the Charnwood Forest Development Project.

The Chair asked Members to go round the table and introduce themselves.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. H. Brown, Mrs. H. Edwards, Mr. P. Tame and Mr. B Sutton.

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chairman went through the minutes and the matters arising from the minutes.

#### **Agenda Item 8b**

Point 8 should read 'tapping rail', not 'tipping'.

#### **Agenda Item 9b**

Mr Law said that it was Mr McWilliam who provided the update, not himself.

Mr Howells agreed that these changes will be made and revised minutes will be kept on record.

No other changes were made and the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

The Chairman advised that he, Mr Denney and Mr Warren visited HS2 recently at their offices in Birmingham. They were pleasantly surprised by the high powered team meeting them and the amount of local knowledge those people had already acquired. The work that Mr Denney and Mr Warren presented was very professionally put together and HS2 appreciated it; very positive feedback. Mr Faircliffe said that it was important to be involved from the start and was constructive for the LLAF.

5. Declarations of interest and any items which the Chairperson has agreed to take as urgent

The Chairman asked Mr McWilliam to give an update on the membership of the River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership and who attends from this Forum. Mr McWilliam advised that now Mr. Law is standing down it is required that another member of the Forum attends as an observer. Mr. Law advised that Mrs. H. Edwards attends. It was suggested that another member is nominated and this was agreed by the Forum. It was also agreed to add Recruitment to this agenda, together with an item on Future Works.

6. Charnwood Forest Development Project (Sam Lattaway)

Mr Lattaway provided a presentation to the group on the Charnwood Project.

Mr Lattaway explained that the area is unique due to its geology and social history. He also advised that the 5-year project was lottery funded and it will be millions of pounds.

The group were shown a map detailing routes stretching from Loughborough to Beacon Hill and Quorn to Woodhouse Eaves and Beacon Hill.

Mrs Allen asked if there would be a barrier between the road and horse track. Mr Lattaway said that it was too early for those types of detail.

Mr Kirby asked whether there would be any changes to bus routes and Mr Lattaway advised that this project could not provide new bus services, but that they would be trying to influence the existing services and are looking into a feasibility study for Arriva. He also stated that the transport provision around the area would be looked at.

Cllr Radford added that the County Council have an open Public Transport Consultation and suggested that the Forum feed into this consultation. Mr Denney confirmed that the members had already done this (copy of response tabled at the meeting).

Mr Lattaway told the group that he intended to keep coming back to the LLAF to share information, i.e. about paths. Mr Denney asked if they would be able to use the small grants scheme to enhance permissive paths, too. Mr Lattaway said that they would struggle to do this under the grant scheme as they have to prove the heritage, but that there are other ways; have to get the right things funded in the correct way.

Mr Lattaway highlighted that after 5 years when the project ends it would need sustainability and will need for local business to provide support, small and often.

The Chair stated that the LLAF were fully supportive of the project and would like an active part in making sure that the project gets to the second round.

Mr Lattaway advised that there was a date for the first steering group meeting, where they will; set up a timetable for the next 18 months, identify where the LLAF can help.

Mr Denney reminded the guests that within the group there was lots of expertise on footpath networks and public transport and that member came from a number of different organisations.

## 7. Reports from committees and working groups

- (a) Planning and Travel (RD) – The Chair highlighted the sheer amount of work Mr Denney had done in this area and felt this needed to be recognised. Mr Denney thanked the members for their support and contributions. Mr Denney summarised the highlights:
- Print-outs on the Passenger Transport and Kirby Muxloe Consultations had been circulated. SW asked when the deadline for the consultation was and JH advised that it was around the end of May/beginning of June
  - Trip to HS2 head office - RD said that there were a lot of sound ideas and they had some informative discussions. RD also stated that he was impressed with HS2's knowledge and that they were equally impressed with that of the LLAF members. They identified and discussed some of the issues and RD said that it was possibly one of the most positive contributions in the history of the Forum
  - CR recommended that JA write in focusing on the park especially and what is required i.e. bus routes. She also said that they should stress the importance of the public health aspect
  - VA advised that a lot of the roads around the park are very narrow and have no parking and when there are events, parking issues are created by spectators which irritates the locals. She said that they need to be careful about what is promoting the park doesn't damage it. SL responded that they were focusing on sustainability
- (b) Network Opportunities (JL) – The Chair started by reiterating that this was JL's last meeting and that his standing down from the meeting was a big loss for the Forum. He thanked JL for the huge amount of work he had done over the years and that there are people out there who lead better lives because of the work JL has done. He told JL that whatever he does in the future, to let us know if there is anything that the Forum can do to support him. JL thanked the Chair and then went on to provide the highlights:

- JL advised that they had been looking to produce 3 route leaflets but did not have the funding. He said that someone who is willing to fight for this needs to take over; and that the base work is done
  - RD asked how this sits with the Charnwood project and SL said that he would need to look at it in more detail and look at gaps in provision. He said it was an opportunity to share information with people
  - JL replied that they'd had similar promises before where nothing came of it. SL stated that they didn't have the money before but now they do
  - JL went on to say how he had visited an event recently and that people were really impressed with the leaflets available. Unfortunately, there was nothing from Leicestershire. He explained that the maps are valuable as they show people where disabled toilets and benches are, for example. JL said that it was in all of their interests as everyone is getting older and may need to use a wheelchair
  - JL then informed the group that while some disabled toilets were of a fair size, some are not big enough for changing place toilets and advised that he wanted to put in some equipment
  - JL also said that adaptive bikes can prove invaluable in helping people with disabilities get around and access areas they otherwise wouldn't be able to
  - CR suggested that they consider using media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter) to publicise this information
  - VA said that funding for the leaflets could probably be found and asked if it was the time it took to work out the route that was more of an issue. JL replied that it does take a long time to survey the route and write-up/design the leaflets
  - The Chair thanked JL again for all of his good work
  - RD then proposed that CF replace JL as Chair of this committee and he was duly elected
- (c) Unrecorded Ways (SW) – Before the update, RD said that SW had been doing a sterling job. SW advised that they were currently sifting through volunteers and asking them what support they can provide in order to move forward. He said that there was nothing else to add.

## 8. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (VA) – VA said that the group met last month and that she will circulate the minutes in due course.
- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (JL) – discussed earlier in the meeting.
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreational Group (RD) – RD stated that he had didn't have anything else to add to his report that was in the pack. The next meeting is in June.
- (d) East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs Meeting Update (JL) – Nothing to report.
- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Steering Group (RD) – Have not met yet.
- (f) Other meetings and groups – already covered.

The Vice Chair observed that detailed minutes from meetings of outside bodies are not required and that a précis of points relevant to the Forum is more helpful.

9. Correspondence

- (a) Responses, advice and comments sent by LLAF (RD) – RD confirmed that copies of everything sent out by the Forum is enclosed in the pack. SW asked about the Hinckley Freight Interchange and RD said that the group have been informed as to where they are at and he will be providing the suggested routes to the Parish in due course.
- (b) Received (EM) – None other than those circulated via email.
- (c) Orders – VA praised Ellen for her work on E13A. SW asked about Great Glen and whether this was from user evidence. Mr McWilliam confirmed that it was user evidence.

10. Obstruction Report (SW)

Mr Warren advised that he has responded, as required, in reference to logging obstructions on the website.

The Chair referred to item 12 and the website being unfriendly to use.

Mr McWilliam informed the group that the information sent in is useful and will form part of a wider project to improve the site. Cllr Radford said that the Councillors have issues with the website too and it is definitely being looked at.

11. Annual Report – timeline and update

The Chairman advised that the last annual report on the County Council website is from either 2014 or 2015. The information for this would be the highlights from the minutes.

The Chairman agreed that each year the framework for the Annual Report can be discussed at the July meeting. The draft Annual Report will then be approved by members at the October meeting and signed off at the January meeting of the following year.

The Chairman agreed to take on the responsibility for the 2018 Annual Report.

12. Leicestershire County Council – website

Mr Denney asked if there could be a library of advice and responses from the previous meetings.

Mr Gamble queried whether there was a visitor counter for the website and Mr McWilliam confirmed that this information could be provided.

13. Agriculture and Brexit

Noted – part of the responses.

14. Any other items which the Chairperson has decided to take as urgent

Works Programme:

- The Chair proposed that HS2 and Rights of Way are added to the programme and RD went on to suggest that Unrecorded Ways and Annual Report should also be added. SW then recommended that the Charnwood project also be included.

Recruitment:

- It was noted that with JL leaving and other members not in attendance there is a need for additional members. EM said that advertising for members has worked in the past and suggested that he and JH meet to discuss how to tackle this going forward. CR requested that she be included in this meeting.
- JH said that they were supposed to be representing the community but that they weren't diverse enough. MG asked what it was that he wanted and RD suggested someone with an environmental background and people from the ethnic minorities. AP stated that they were short of people from a health background, too.
- JH confirmed that he will discuss a way forward in terms of recruitment with EM.

15. Future Meetings

FORUMS: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum - County Hall (Workshop from 4pm)  
 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall (Workshop from 4.00pm)  
 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall (Workshop from 4.00pm)

UNRECORDED WAYS:

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Executive Room, County Hall  
 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) - Executive Room, County Hall  
 October – TBA  
 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Room TBC  
 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Room TBC

Meeting concluded at 19:20.