



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday 18th July 2018

PRESENT

Members

Mr John Howells (Chair)	Mr. S. Warren
Mr R. Denney (Vice Chair)	Mrs. A.F Pyper
Mrs. C. Radford CC	
Ms. V. Allen	
Mr. C. Faircliffe	
Mr. M. Gamble	
Ms. H Brown	
Ms. H. Edwards	

Officers

Mr. E. McWilliam (LCC)
Mrs. S. Dann (LCC)

1. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and officers to this meeting.

The Chairman informed members of the decision that Mr. A. Hillier-Fry had decided to retire from the Forum after 5 years. The Chairman and Members of the Group wished Mr. Hillier-Fry well and thanked him for his help on the Forum.

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

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. T. Kirby, 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 10

An update was given on progress on the Website by Mr. McWilliam. Mrs. Radford expressed her concern on the lack of progress. It was agreed to discuss this later on in the meeting at Agenda Item 11.

No changes were made to the previous minutes and were approved as a true record of the meeting, to be signed at the next meeting.

4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

The Chairman advised that there are no other matters arising that are not otherwise on the agenda.

5. Declarations of interest

The Chairman confirmed that there are no declarations of interest.

6. Reports from committees and working groups

- (a) Planning and Travel Committee (RD) – Mr. Denney confirmed that this item includes a report on HS2 and a chance to sign off the latest advice to them re footpaths. (it had been on the agenda as a separate item) He had circulated to members a copy of the draft letter that he was proposing to send to HS2 Ltd after amalgamating the input of members (members were happy with the latest version and a copy of the letter is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Denney gave an update on a recent meeting with HS2 that he and John Howells felt went extremely well. Mr. Faircliffe asked for it to be recorded that the Forum were grateful for the amount of work that has been put in on this and asked members to not be disheartened due to the lack of results. The Chair noted that the exceptional knowledge of this area which he felt was second to none. Mr. Denney/Mr. Warren advised that they would continue a dialogue with HS2 officers and update members when appropriate. Mrs. Radford asked which County Council officers were also involved in communicating to the HS2 officers. Mr. McWilliam advised that LCC officers were visiting the Birmingham office and supplying them with data. He advised that it is progressing and changes made as schemes are being brought forward. He confirmed that the Forum will be updated where relevant.

Mrs. Radford confirmed that she had attended a couple of HS2 meetings and advised that she will try and keep on top of this. Mr. Denney advised that he will keep in contact with the ongoing process as he didn't want anything to be lost as an oversight. Mr. Warren confirmed that there was only one year left to feed in information.

Mrs. Allen advised that different members will respond about different issues. Mr. McWilliam confirmed that HS2 officers have the task in hand with other officers/ members having different views. He advised that it has to be a 2-way process with the legal issues going through Parliament. Mrs. Radford advised that she had been speaking to Warwick about what should be done at certain stages. It was agreed that it was important to constantly engage.

Mr Denney stated that as a member of the Blaby District Council Planning Committee, he is aware that in the planning of a new estate, the planning process looks at the piece of ground and nothing beyond this and opportunities to improve the footpath network are missed.

- (b) Network Opportunities Committee (CF) – It was noted that there had been a meeting of the Unrecorded Ways Group since the last Forum and this is going to be chaired by Mr. Faircliffe in the new year and revert to being under this committee, as it had been in the original years

Members were updated with the following:

- Unrecorded Ways – Mr. Denney gave an update on this and advised that the volunteers were working very constructively. Mr. Warren noted that the non-members were referred to using initials, this was due to data protection under the new GDPR rules. Mr. Denney advised that a generic identifier be used in case of members leaving in order for others to continue the work.
- Mr. McWilliam advised that Dave Waterman had left Defra. As regards the Deregulation package, the latest parliamentary time estimate is June 2019.
- Mr. Warren advised that he would like to add 2 other bridleway routes (Loddington and East Norton).
- There are a couple of archivists going through the railway plans managing 2 in a day which is good progress as there are 190 plans.
- Mr. Warren suggested that if you are interested in a particular parish please try and provide any information for recording.
- Mr. Warren advised that the Footpath Association had lots of information (half an A4 ring binder) which is simply referenced and this would be a good project for someone to progress.
- Another good exercise would be the study of the side orders at Catthorpe & Great Glen Bypass.
- It was noted that we are not looking at Rutland or the City.
- Mrs. Radford suggested contacting the University for students who may want a project for their thesis.
- Mr. Warren stated that his best contact was the Local Fieldworkers Group, who are looking for evidence which is visible on the ground.
- Mrs. Radford said that a resident had informed her by saying “I think there is a footpath there but it is very overgrown”, could this be an unrecorded way? Mrs. Allen responded that it would depend when it was built as there may have been a loss of rights, it is not recorded on any definitive map, 1949 was the deadline. If it is overgrown it may need research and it may have come up before.

7. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (VA) – Mrs. Allen said that there was nothing to report. She advised that they had finished the project and there was to be a celebrations event (walk and event) Mr. Lattaway to contact the Leicester Mercury.
- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (CR) – Mrs. Radford advised that there was nothing to report and the minutes of the last meeting had not yet been finalised and sent out. The next meeting is due to be held on 10th October at the Dock (near the Space Centre), Explanatory Drive, Leicester. Members were asked if they would like to attend. Mrs. Edwards will attend and Mr. Warren will be the reserve.
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreational Group (RD) – Mr. Denney highlighted the report on the pack and the meeting he had with Julie Attard on 8th July.
- (d) East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs Meeting Update (JH) – Mr. Howells stated that the next meeting was due to be held on 9th October. He advised that he was in contact with John Law and asked members to let

John know if they had anything to add to the agenda which will be sent out in September. Mrs. Allen asked where other LAFs are with HS2 and Unrecorded Ways i.e. Derby etc. as there might be cross border links that we are unaware of. Mr. Denney advised that if anyone is working up to the border they need to keep us posted. Mr. Howells suggested that he will put it forward that the LLAF will share best practice where relevant. Mrs. Allen advised that she intended to attend this meeting if possible.

- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Steering Group (RD) – Mr. Denney highlighted his report in the pack. A meeting is due to be held probably with Sam Lattaway, Julie Attard, Mr Howells, Mr. Warren and Mr Denney at a suitable venue to discuss where the LLAF can get involved.

8. Recruitment

A meeting was held 3-4 weeks ago with Mr. McWilliam, Mrs. Radford and Mr Howells to discuss ways of identifying possible candidates to give a balanced Forum to represent Leicestershire.

It was agreed that an invite needs to be sent out to various organisations such as landowners and user groups to see if anyone is interested in talking to us. This can include extended groups with other organisations such as those with disabilities and mental issues. Members to think of those that might be interested and contact Mr. McWilliam with ideas.

It was suggested that an advert be published to stimulate interest in attending

Mrs. Edwards stated that she felt we needed people from all over the County geographically and they need to be really keen. Mr. Hillier-Fry stated that he felt there was a gap in landowners and farmers and suggested contacting the County Landowners Association (CLA) who may want to attend.

Mrs. Radford suggested contacting the Town and Parish Councils. It was discussed that there was a disproportionate number of members from walking groups and also lack of members from the South of Leicestershire. Mrs. Radford also suggested contacting Land Agents. Mr. Denney suggested contacting those with Environmental backgrounds (i.e. wildlife, nature). Mr. McWilliam suggested contacting those in the tourism areas.

Mr Denney suggested talking to schools , PTA, teachers and parents.

Mr. Howells urged members to contact Mr. McWilliam with any ideas of organisations or individuals that we could approach. Mr McWilliam is to put together an invitation with no more than 100 words to be published in newsletters/circulars or sent out on a mailing list. If anyone has any ideas of where to publish this let Mr. McWilliam know in the next couple of weeks. Mr. McWilliam confirmed that he would ask Mr. Howell to check the final wording of the invite before sending.

9. Correspondence

- (a) Responses, advice and comments sent by LLAF (RD) – All have been sent electronically (copies on file)

- (b) Received (EM) – Nothing. No paperwork for diversions. Mr. McWilliam to have a chat with the officer that does these. There may be a bumper pack at the next meeting, it was agreed that paper copies were preferable but some members felt that it was useful to have these electronically (The Chair requested electronic versions if needed for discussion at the meeting). Mrs. Allen advised that she met a Landowner who had applied for a diversion but hadn't received anything. Mr. McWilliam advised that they were waiting for deregulation elements to come through.

10. Annual Report – timeline and update

The Chairman highlighted the Annual report attached to the pack. He advised that he will be taking this to the EMLAF meeting. Mr. Denney confirmed that this was not sent to Defra now. It was agreed that this report will be useful for recruitment purposes. Members were asked to put together some wording on the sub committees. Mr. Gamble suggested included the Forum successes. Mr. Denney suggested adding the larger Planning Applications. All additional information to be supplied to the Chair via Sue Dann (sue.dann@leics.gov.uk). Mrs. Edwards asked if the terminology for disabled people to be used 'differently abled' or 'people with disabilities'.

11. Requests for urgent items to be debated at the Chairman's discretion

Website

- An update was given by Mr. McWilliam regarding the page usage on the website. He confirmed that the LAF pages weren't included in the popular pages. He advised that the map page was used by a number of search engines. Mrs. Allen highlighted the difficulties of pinpointing a gate or style on the problem reporting system. She advised that Northampton County Council have a very good system. Mr. McWilliam advised that there was some work being carried out on this to cover the whole organisation.
- It was requested that if there are any issues for these to be highlighted at an early stage and be very clear, adding photos where possible. Mrs. Allen highlighted an issue with sending photos. Mrs. Radford asked members to always email Highways Customer Services or Mr. McWilliam.

12. Future Meetings

FORUMS:

25th October 2017 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall
(Workshop from 4.00pm)

8th January 2019 (5.00pm for 5.30pm) – Forum – County Hall
(Workshop from 4.00pm)

UNRECORDED WAYS:

15th November 2018 (2.00pm to 4.30pm) – Executive Room

27th November 2018 (volunteers evening 7.30 – 9.00pm Glenfield
Parish Council offices)

6th February 2019 (2.30pm to 4.30pm) – Room TBC