



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Glenfield on Thursday 25th October 2018

PRESENT

Members

Mr John Howells (Chair)	Mr. A. Travis
Mr R. Denney (Vice Chair)	Mr. D. Nicholls
Ms. V. Allen	
Mr. T. Kirby	
Mr. M. Gamble	
Ms. H Brown	
Ms. H. Edwards	

Officers

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

1. The Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and officers to the meeting.

Mr Denney gave the members an update on Stan's condition as he has been very unwell since the last meeting. He advised that Stan is currently in the Brain Injury Unit at the General Hospital if anybody wanted to visit him. The Chair wished Stan a speedy recovery and encouraged members to visit him or send him a card.

The Chair asked members to introduce themselves.

Nature Spot Presentation

The Chair invited Mr. D. Nicholls to give a presentation on Nature Spot. Nature Spot is a website that provides a reference guide for all wildlife in Leicestershire and Rutland. It includes galleries of all the wildlife and species and each picture is clickable for more information. Maps are available on the website to show each where each species has been spotted. You can create a free log-in to post your own pictures, they are then verified and evidence provided to say it has been found where claimed.

To summarise the presentation, it is a high profile platform for promoting Leicestershire's wildlife and wild places, highlighting the local area features, community involvement in adding wildlife records and a major citizen science initiative which has become the UK's leading county based wildlife recording website.

The Chair thanked Mr. Nicholls for his presentation.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr. A. Pyper, Mr. B. Sutton, Mr. C. Faircliffe and Mrs. C. Radford. The Chair also gave thanks to Mr. P. Tame who has now retired. His successor will be Mr Simon Fisher. Mr. Fisher will be invited to attend the next Forum but he may keep in contact mainly by email rather than attending the meetings.

Mr. Denney asked if there was any rule about non- attendance at the Forum. He noted that Mr. Sutton had not attended for some time. Mr. McWilliam said he would look into this but didn't seem to think that there was any rule, attendance was optional.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

Agenda Item 10 – Annual Report – timeline and update

Mr. Denney asked about the Annual Report, and why no additional information had been included in the packs. Mrs. Dann stated that she did not think she had received any information regarding the Annual Report to include. Three members had however contributed but it had been missed somehow.

The Chair asked Members if they could send in any information for the Annual Report before the next meeting.

Ms. Allen was unsure of the information she should be providing for this and asked the Chair if he could send her some headings for her to provide information beneath each heading. The Chair agreed to send some headings to Ms. Allen.

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

4. Declarations of interest

The Chairman confirmed that there were no declarations of interest.

5. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda

The Chairman confirmed that this had been discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

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

The Chairman confirmed there were no urgent items.

7. Reports from committees and working groups

(a) Planning and Travel Committee (RD) – Mr. Denney, Ms Allen and Mr Howells had attended a meeting regarding HS2 and he said that they had found the meeting very positive.

Ms. Allen updated on the maps which she suggested where HS2 is going to run through. She spoke about a bridled way that crosses the A42, that they plan to extinguish when it gets to the HS2 side of the A42, she noted that it was not safe for horses on the A42.

The Chair said that the HS2 consultation finishes on 23rd December and it will go to Parliament in 2020 with completion due for 2023.

Mr. Denney spoke about the draft response letter he had prepared for Lucy Colls regarding the HS2 consultation. The final draft needs to be sent before the consultation ends on 23rd December.

- (b) Network Opportunities Committee (CF & RD) – Mr. Denney said there would be a meeting on 15th November to discuss how to possibly migrate records into a more accessible database. On 27th November members will be attending an annual public evening at Glenfield Parish Council at 7.30pm.

Ms. Allen said she will be attending a 2026 Project presentation on Saturday 17th November in Matlock.

8. Reports from outside bodies

- (a) Heart of the Forest, Access and Connectivity Group (VA) – An update was given.
- (b) River Soar and Grand Union Canal Partnership (HE) – Ms. Edwards attended the last meeting and gave an update, the minutes have not yet been sent out. She updated that the Loughborough Road project has been delayed and is running 6 months behind schedule.
- (c) National Forest Access & Recreational Group (RD) – Mr. Denney said that most of the efforts are on the Charnwood Forest Project which is still in the development phase, and Julie Attard has been appointed as the Development Officer. The completed bid details should be accepted on otherwise by early 2020.
- (d) East Midlands Local Access Forum (EMLAF) Chairs Meeting Update (JH) – Mr. Howells stated that he was unable to attend the meeting that took place on 9th October so didn't have an update. Ms. Allen said she would circulate the minutes from the meeting when they are available.

Mr. McWilliam updated on the Barrow upon Soar crossing, the public enquiry is due to take place in the summer.

Mr. Denney asked how the bridge at Little Bowden is progressing. Mr. McWilliam advised that this would be part of the Market Harborough line straightening – an agreement has now been reached.

- (e) Charnwood Forest Regional Steering Group (RD) – Covered under item c.

9. Correspondence

- (a) Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange - Mr. Denney said he was concerned about the lack of information to help prepare a response.

Ms. Allen said she has emailed her riders and told them to attend the consultation meetings.

10. Open Spaces

Mr Denney advised that they didn't seem to be getting the management plans for country parks and that it was useful to see them. Mr McWilliam advised that he would contact Mr Roderick O'Connor who is over that area and discuss this.

Mr. Denney spoke about the open access area review, which the authority cannot carry out themselves due to funding not being available. It was agreed the Forum members should try and review one each month from the spring. It was suggested they should inform the landowner a month prior to their visit.

Mrs. H. Brown said she visits Charnwood Lodge regularly and there is a lot of evidence of people going through on bikes, there are also a lot of dogs on the site. She said there had been a lot of open access signs put up.

Ms. Allen said it would be interesting to see what effect the lack of visits has on sites, will they be overgrown.

The Chair said that they need to put together a list of sites and pull together a time table for members to go and look at them

Mr. McWilliam said it would be useful to have the landowner there to update on how the landscape is managed.

11. Orders Update

The orders plans had been circulated with the papers. The members went through the plans for members to comment.

12. Website

Mr McWilliam said that there was no update regarding the website, he said that what they have available is limited.

It was said that some authorities hold complaints on file until they receive permission to remove them by the person whom made the complaint when they feel that it has been dealt with correctly.

Mr. McWilliam is going to check whether this could be the policy to LCC.

13. HS2

HS2 was discussed earlier in the meeting.

14. Recruitment of Membership of Forum

Ms. Edwards pointed out that the reference to disabled people was still incorrect in the minutes, they had agreed that disabled people would be referred to as 'differently abled' or 'people with disabilities'.

Mr. Denney said they had a lot of members that represent the user groups and there is an imbalance, he said it would be good to have someone from the farming area to attend. Mr. McWilliam to contact the NFU. He asked whether another member of the Ramblers would be deemed appropriate given the changes in the line-up.

Ms. Allen suggested that there might be some clubs at Loughborough University that may have some potential members.

15. Future Meetings

FORUMS:

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

Suggested Future dates:

Tuesday 14th May 2019
Wednesday 24th July 2019
8th, 9th, or 10th October
Tuesday 21st January 2020

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