

Agenda Item 8c

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Notes of meeting on August 22nd 2018, of the Unrecorded Ways Committee of the Leicestershire Local Access Forum, County Hall Glenfield at 14.30

Present: Vicky Allen(LLAF), Terry Kirby (LLAF), Chris Faircliffe(LLAF) Roy Denney(LLAF), John Howells(LLAF), Michael Miller, Barry Thomas and Piers Lindley (LCC)

Apologies were received from Mike Bates (attending a funeral)

In the absence of the Chairman, Stan Warren (*See note below*) Vicky Allen took the Chair

Notes of the meeting held on 17th May 2018 were agreed to be a true record and VA reported that a copy of Restoring the Record (courtesy of LRBA) and of Our Common Land – Law & History of Common Land and Village Greens (courtesy of BHS) had been deposited for consultation on the reference shelves of the County Records Office in Wigston. Other matters in those notes were addressed on the agenda.

It was confirmed that JH was to act as the financial officer for the group and RD the secretarial support to the Chairman. It was intended that the Chairman would concentrate on the archives and records of activity, a theme to be developed further later in the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT. JH reported no change and it was commented that apart from room hire possibly no more than once a year the only other costs likely to be incurred would be seeking material from or research at Kew national archive. PL suggested that Paul Wilcox (retired ex LCC rights of way) might be a focused and reasonably priced researcher if needed. Unity Bank has imposed a small charge for paying in cheques which we very rarely do. Leicestershire & Rutland Ramblers had budgeted for a further donation in 2019 if we need to make a further call for funds.

BT pointed out that the BHS and Sports England had created a pot of £300,000 to provide grants to people lodging valid claims that at least reach the stage of being accepted as claims for consideration by the relevant local authority - £100 could be available for each 'Part One Compliant' application submitted.

ARCHIVES (Memory stick protocols and content). The file structure had developed piece meal and it was now difficult to locate material within the record and it was agreed that a new system was required. It was felt this should be a two stage process. The Chairman spends a day in County Hall from time to time and on the next occasion PL would work with him to tidy up the archive and produce a better retrieval system and JH would attend to ensure two members of the team were aware of the new system. Once that was in a tidy state BT would undertake to try and migrate this into the improving BHS 2026 archive project

DMMO APPLICATIONS – The meeting was updated on L98 at Isley Walton. BT had written a first draft with input from VA and SW. There is some further work needed but it is approaching submission. I15 at Upper Cotes Mill is also almost ready to go. VA had found papers (an LCC letter and map) for the c.2000 attempt to get this onto the DM, and would copy them to RD. PL also said that workload had got in the way of producing a list of current orders but they would be available to future LLAFF meetings. In response to a question PL said there were a number of criteria against which an application was prioritised, so the system is reasonably flexible. A used but now closed track would probably be processed before a completely 'lost' track only revealed from historic records.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT - JH, RD and SW had almost completed a series of visits to volunteers to check progress and offer advice. In two cases a novice researcher had been introduced to a more experienced one from the same area who were to work together in tandem. It was expected that this programme of visits would be completed by the meeting in November. The couple working out of Quorn had raised one route which JH said did not seem to have much value. This was from the A6 via Bull in the Hollow to the canal. VA held that this had considerable use as a potential multi-user 'bypass' to Loughborough as, beyond the canal it linked with Moor Lane / Allsopps Lane and on the other side of the A6

with the Woodthorpe-Mucklin- Woodhouse track. It was suggested we should again try and get Parishes to claim their unrecorded Jitties etc

FIELD WORKERS – MM reported they had a dedicated team working their way through the Oadby, Stoughton, Houghton areas and probably had two more years work to do.. They had been looking at some of the permissive routes but it was felt that these were unlikely to produce new routes unless one had strong historic evidence. The Stoughton Estate (ex Co-op) has given the Fieldworkers access to the estate records which has opened new lines of investigation. Farmcare run the estate but the Wellcome Trust own some of the land which is earmarked for development. MM felt they were developing techniques which could eventually be rolled out to a wider area. They had been surprised to find themselves looking into paths off our unprotected list which were well known and it was agreed these should be low priority and that our new retrieval system should have routes prioritised to a larger extent. It was also felt that it was pointless looking at lost ways where there is to be a major development as in such cases even protected routes are not safe. PL advised that, on large developments of this kind, it may be better to rely on negotiations within the planning system to deliver a network of off-road routes. VA and RD said it was important for them to provide outlets to the wider countryside and existing rights of way network. By and large developers only provide equivalents to the PRoW that are there, so it is important to try and negotiate multi-user routes. RD said LLAF always asked for multi-user routes.

BRIDLEWAYS RESEARCH - VA reported that she was currently working on BW claims for:

- a. Pastures Lane, Donisthorpe + track through the old Oakthorpe Pit to Pastures Lane. This is mainly via user evidence with some supporting historic evidence.
- b. Help Out Mill, nr Odstone. This is via evidence of use of an old railway (to Heather) and a FP from the Mill to the Odstone-Newton Burgoland road, recently closed to riders by a new landowner. VA had been looking for a potential old road on the line of the railway but, after searching through 2 or 3 unbuilt railways, she had found the relevant strip map but the field boundaries did not support her road thesis but she had found that the FP was on the line of an old road and another E-W bridleway.
- c. W69 at Leire used to be signposted as a BW and the historic evidence is for road. No local riders were able/willing to give evidence of use so she was proceeding via Statutory Declarations from some elderly residents re the track's repute.

COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE – work being done there was advised and it was noted that the Chairman was working his way through records of old railways not all of which were built. He feels he has discovered a lot of potential routes.

FUTURE MEETINGS – The next scheduled working meeting is to be at County Hall (subject to room availability) on November 15th, 2.30 – 4.40. It was also decided to bring all the volunteers together for an evening meeting to see what progress is being made and share good practice. RD to book a room at Glenfield Parish Council on Thursday November 29th, 7.30 – 9.00

It was further agreed that at the next working meeting MM would give a demonstration on the use of LIDAR and that Jack Cornish of the Ramblers London be invited to attend the evening meeting. MM said his Group had been using LIDAR ground-searching radar in its field surveys revealing hidden features and if a claim went to Public Inquiry this evidence would be extremely valuable where the exact route of a old track could not be found on the surface.

It was also suggested that the working meeting at the start of next year should invite Geri Coop of the BHS to talk to us.

The meeting closed at 4.25

FOOTNOTES

1) It transpired that 2 days before the meeting Stan Warren had suffered a major heart attack and was in Clwyd Hospital Intensive Care under a medical induced coma. Future plans agreed in the meeting are of course to an extent dependent on his health at the time.

2) An invitation has been made to Jack Cornish and two members have said that Thurs 29th is difficult so provisionally we have reserved GPC for the 27th or 29th November and need to assess numbers and decide later on which night