

HOFF Access & Connectivity Sub-Group 29.10.18 report.

Black to Green project formally ends on 31 Jan 2019. Bethan Scragg finishes working at Christmas. Another meeting of the sub-group is proposed in mid-December to wish Bethan *bon voyage* as well as to look at the maps/plans being prepared by Zoe (see below).

Zoe Sewter is working (part-time) for National Forest Company on Access across the Forest so will pick up on the few items that have not been completed. Volunteers will have to take charge of various schemes.

The pattern for future HOFF Working Groups is likely to bring the Landowner Group closer to the Access Group.

The 7 Interpretation Hubs have been installed with impressive steel screens relevant to each locality. £20K from B2G funds has been given to improve car parking at the Thortit Pit hub. [A BW claim based on use, through the car park to Pastures Lane and for Pastures Lane to Willesley Woodside will shortly be submitted to LCC.]

Planned Links:

- The Measham Rd to Moira Furnace link is complete and the Hicks Lodge to the Furnace link is progressing alongside the house-building.
- The Hicks Lodge to Ashby link via the Shelbrook Cattle Arch has not been progressed by the FC; the farmer may be obstructive!
- The alternative route for the **Ivanhoe Way** through Hicks Lodge is now complete and signposted. The signposting in Hicks Lodge has been refurbished courtesy LCC.
- The Willesley to the Woulds Heritage Trail link has made little progress.
- No progress on a Conkers to Rosliston link although volunteers are trying to put together a practical route; unfortunately Jenny Southwell has now left DCC.
- The Maybury to New Albion link is dependent on planning permission. The Moira Village Hall to Maybury Wood link is dependent on the new restoration scheme for New Albion quarry.
- Reservoir Hill underpass is dependent on Mike Ballantyne's negotiating skills to find future maintenance funds so that this vital link for the non-motorised can be preserved.
- Minorca Mine restoration has not produced the PRoW expected but LCC are negotiating with the owners of Wynns Wood for a BW to Snarestone [which has good BW links to and round Diamond Jubilee Wood].

Aspiration maps for the Forest are being finalised by Zoe Sewter, based on recent consultations. These will be the base for funding bids. Making the NF website easy to use and informative was felt to be essential. Any user group with disconnected routes needs good information on where they are allowed to go. The disabled are in particular need of precise information about what they will have to negotiate.