

HOFF Access & Connectivity Sub-Group Meeting, 13 December 2018 – Report

This meeting was scheduled to say goodbye to Bethan Scragg as the Black to Green project finishes. She is taking up a job with the National Trust and we all wished her well.

Bethan presented a report on the October workshops facilitated by Shephard & Moyes Ltd with 5 of the HOFF working groups. This looked at what had been achieved, what had not been achieved or had not worked, under a number of headings, and then looked to the future by identifying key learning which will be useful for future projects and set out a 5-year strategy. These were put into a matrix:

Low/impact/low resources
4 items

High impact/low resources
11 items

Low impact/high resources
No items

High impact/high resources.
10 items

Many of the specific points related to information availability, not just signage on the ground (although that is not perfect) but getting advance “*where can I go?*” information about the planned activity – whether walking, horse-riding, cycling or if disabled.

There was a long discussion on this, highlighting that OS mapping does not show everything available (mostly due to the complexity of the law, that some access is permissive or time-limited, and how this impacts on OS publishing policies), and the difficulties of keeping websites relevant and up-to-date. Horse riders and the disabled are frequently overlooked when information boards or websites are designed/written.

The paper included a number of targets that are specifically welcome to riders, cyclists and possibly the disabled, such as dealing with the many changes of status by upgrading the lower to the higher (FP to BW), extending connectivity in all directions, particularly by multi-use paths between each settlement and each of its neighbours and all-user access being part of the design brief for all new links.

There was then a review of the original Priorities, based on a 2011 map tabled by Samantha Ireson (LCC)

- A. Hicks Lodge to Moira Trail link at the Furnace – almost achieved
- B. Hicks Lodge to Ashby link – awaiting outcome of negotiations with landowner to add FP (although the original intention was for cycleway if not BW).
- C. Hicks Lodge & Willesley Woodside to Moira Trail link via Thortit/Oakthorpe Pit and Pastures Lane – awaiting submission of BW application based on user evidence (imminent).
- D. Conkers to Rosliston link – in Derbyshire and no representative from DCC or SDDC comes to these meetings. Possible problems with Rosliston.
- E. Maybury to New Albion link – reported that tipping at New Albion is finishing so the restoration plan needs revisiting.
- F. A42 crossing links - now also need to be “defended” from HS2 which will closely shadow the A42.

Those present were asked to take the map home and suggest a new list of Priorities for the next 5 years.

Date of next meeting TBA.