

MINUTES of a meeting of the **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** held in The QUAD, Cathedral Quarter, Derby on **Friday 20 September 2013**.

PRESENT

Chris Allen, David Blackburn, Councillor Mike Carr, Councillor Rob Davison, John Disney, Joan Dryburgh, Ian Else, Richard Felton, David Giles, Marilyn Hambly, Lyndsay Jones and Howard Langley.

County Council Officers:

Claire O'Reilly (Countryside Access Improvement Officer), Richard Bonner (Assistant Head of Countryside) and Susan White (Waterways Development Project Officer).

City Council Officers:

Ray Brown (Senior Planning Officer, Neighbourhoods Directorate)

39/13	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were received from Richard Curzon, Geof Cole, Edward Hicklin, Barbara Robinson and Paul Tame.	
40/13	<u>Chair's Address</u> Joan Dryburgh welcomed the newly appointed representative from Derbyshire County Council, Councillor Rob Davison. Joan advised the LAF that she would not be seeking re-election as Chair and was stepping down for health reasons. She said that she had enjoyed working with all the LAF members, the lively discussions, sub group working and access land site visits. The LAF was an effective group and she wished everyone well. Ian Else thanked Joan for the excellent job she had undertaken as Chair over the last two years. All Members expressed their thanks and wished Joan good health.	
41/13	<u>Appointment of Chair</u> Claire O'Reilly read out an email from Edward Hicklin expressing his willingness to be nominated as Chair. He stated that he would be committed to meetings of the LAF and the pre agenda meeting but would need support for other external meetings. John Disney also put himself forward for the position of Chair. He was committed to the LAF and its objectives but shared the same time constraints as Ed and would need assistance with other meetings. Both candidates were nominated and seconded. A secret ballot was undertaken and as a result John Disney was elected as Chair of the Forum for the ensuing year.	

	John Disney (in the Chair)	
42/13	<p><u>Appointment of Vice Chair</u> Edward Hicklin had also expressed his willingness to stand for re-election as Vice Chair. No other members wished to stand for election to the position.</p> <p>It was agreed that Mr Edward Hicklin be elected Vice Chair of the Forum for the ensuing year.</p>	
43/13	<p><u>Constitution</u> It was reported that paragraph 4.6 (a) of the constitution had unfortunately been activated with regard to two members of the LAF. Robert Johnson was appointed in 2012 and had not attended any Forum meetings. Robert Aspey had not attended a meeting for a year and has subsequently tendered his resignation.</p> <p>The Forum now had four vacancies and a recruitment campaign would be undertaken. It was suggested that in order to attract applications posters and promotional information should be displayed at venues such as The QUAD, colleges, universities, Countryside visitor centres, and other accessible venues.</p> <p>Copies of the recruitment information would be forwarded to each member to circulate around their individual interest groups.</p> <p>Claire O'Reilly would report back to the December meeting regarding progress with applications and appointments.</p>	COR
44/13	<p><u>Annual Report and report to Defra</u> It was reported that the Forum's own Ninth Annual Report was now in draft format. In line with Defra's amendments to timings the report was from September 2011 to March 2013. Any comments should be forwarded to the officers.</p> <p>The annual report for Defra, April 2012 to March 2013, had been prepared in readiness for submission before the 30 September 2013 deadline. It was suggested that under paragraph 4 it should be emphasised that the 3 priorities were not in any specific order and under 7 it should be denoted that the LAF had also been involved with Disabled Access and Recording of Paths a promoting use. Members should forward any further comments to the officers by Friday 27 September 2013.</p>	LAF Members LAF Members
45/13	<p><u>Minutes</u> It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2013 be accepted as true record of the meeting, subject to the following amendments:- (a) Heading to read Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock not The QUAD.</p>	LAF Secretary

	<p>(b) Minute 26/13 paragraph 3 last sentence reading 'Aim 2 included work to publish the Rights of Way Charter; to keep the digital Definitive Map and Statement up to date and complete the priority status for legal orders.</p>	
46/13	<p><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derby City Council</u> <u>(a) Update on Draft RoWIP 2013-2017</u> Ray Brown reported that public consultation on the draft RoWIP 2013-2017 has commenced and would finish on 8 November 2013. It was noted that some aims had been changed, actions withdrawn and new outcomes added. References to the Public Health agenda and policy changes were also included.</p> <p>The comments received during public consultation would be assessed and emailed to the Sub Group members</p> <p>It was anticipated that the document would be adopted by the City Council in December 2013</p> <p>Resolved to note the report.</p>	RB
47/13	<p><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derbyshire County Council</u> <u>(a) Progress Report 2013</u> Claire O'Reilly presented the 2013/14 progress report for Derbyshire County Council and apologised for the lateness of the report.</p> <p>The Rights of Way Charter has been published and could be viewed following the link:- http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/Rights%20of%20Way%20Charter%20Approved%20Version%20tcm44-231806.pdf</p> <p>May's sample path condition survey resulted in a 75.2% pass rate. A contract has been issued to install 254 roadside signposts and £10,000 has been spent on path furniture. Through the Local Transport Plan capital works were to commence on six paths.</p> <p>The backlog of legal orders continued to be addressed with 21 cases being reported to Committee, 11 progressed to order making, 12 orders have been confirmed and 3 referred to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Improving the network has been undertaken with the Eastern Moors Partnership; discussions held with the Peak LAF on open access land; planning permission has been granted for the Broomfield section of the Great Northern Greenway and the Archaeological Way; £5m of external funding has been secured for the Department of Transport for the Peak Pedal cycling project which included the White Peak Loop.</p> <p>Signage was being developed for the Sett Valley Trail and Hopwell</p>	

	<p>to Dale Greenway and the Countryside Service has attended various local events and large festivals to provide information and key messages.</p> <p>During the first quarter of the year 110 volunteer days were generated; training days undertaken and consultation on the countryside Service Draft Volunteer Policy has taken place. 117 parish and town councils have signed up to the Minor Maintenance Scheme.</p> <p>In response to a question form David Blackburn regarding the Peak Pedal project crossing the River Derwent it was noted that it was hoped that the viaduct would be utilised, however negotiation was still underway with Haddon estates. It was felt that it would be beneficial to the project if Haddon Estates, Peak Rail and Rowsley Parish Council could meet to agree a solution to crossing the river and the A6. It was expected that most of the route would be off-road but in instances such as around Buxton this could be on-road. In respect of other cycle routes, discussions would continue to be held as appropriate.</p> <p>Richard Felton felt that the amount of work undertaken by volunteers had been miscalculated, however it was noted that the figures only referred to work on access to open up rights of way.</p> <p>Councillor Davison indicated that it was the local aspiration to extend the path running to Elvaston Castle further south and make it multi user. Claire O'Reilly stated that the greenway strategy was to form linking networks and funding stream could be looked at for this suggested route.</p> <p>Resolved to note the interim progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2013/14.</p>	
48/13	<p><u>HS2</u> <u>(a) Public Consultation on Proposed Route</u></p> <p>The Chair circulated a leaflet produced by HS2 and advised Members that consultation events were being held in the region as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 November 2013 Killamarsh Sports Centre 12-8pm 15 November Long Eaton, West Park Leisure Centre 12-8pm 28 November Bolsover Assembly Hall 12-8pm 29 November Staveley Speedwell Rooms 12-8pm 30 November Bilborough College 10am-5pm 9 December South Normanton, The Postmill Centre 12-8pm <p>Members were encouraged to attend one of these events.</p> <p>The consultation comments deadline is 31 January 2014.</p> <p>Mary Mills, Chair of Nottinghamshire LAF has indicated that they would like to work with this LAF to form a response to HS2.</p>	

	<p>An email has been received from Peak and Northern Footpath Association asking if the LAF would allow them to inform them of their concerns.</p> <p>Members discussed this request and it was agreed that an open meeting could be arranged on Friday 3 or 10 January 2014 to allow interested user groups to put forward their concerns. It must be emphasised that the consultation response from the LAF would be based on its own views and the open meeting was not a protest meeting. The LAF would encourage groups and individuals to put their own views to HS2. It was agreed that a plan for the meeting should be submitted and discussed at the LAF meeting in December 2013 and Martin Dowson from Derbyshire County Council be invited to attend.</p> <p>David Blackburn indicated that Derbyshire was affected by three issues:- Provision for existing Public Rights of Way - would HS2 close/divert routes; Design concerns relating to pillars and tunnels; and any disruption during the build.</p> <p>It was agreed that a sub group be formed to consider the HS2 consultation response and plan for the proposed open meeting. Members agreeing to form this group were Ian Else, David Blackburn, Richard Felton, Marilyn Hambly and John Disney.</p> <p><u>(b) Derby City Council Suggested Changes to Route</u></p> <p>It was reported that the Leader of Derby City Council had written to HS2 and government stating the economic case for the HS2 route to go into Derby, however Councillor Carr expected the proposal for Toton to remain.</p> <p>Members felt that it was imperative that protection for all rights of way throughout Derby and Derbyshire should be upheld during this consultation.</p>	Sub Group
49/13	<p><u>The Not-Quite-Definitive Map of Derbyshire</u></p> <p>Lyndsay Jones put forward a report on problems relating to the Definitive Map, specifically where the Map was known to be incorrect and the action taken or not when an Order was made. Lyndsay illustrated the problems by referring to Bridleway 8 at Dale Abbey where the used path was not the line on the Map and the used path has now been closed by the owner. The County council has advised the user groups to submit a Modification order based on unchallenged use.</p> <p>Even when an order had been obtained this did not necessarily result in a path being opened, one example being Boyah Grange, Dale Abbey.</p> <p>Lyndsay queried whether paths such as those in question were in danger of becoming Lost Ways and disappearing for ever.</p>	

	<p>David Blackburn supported the report and suggested fast tracking modification orders where the cause of the problem was mis-mapping. It was hoped that the County Council could look at cases where such uncertainties occurred and rectify the anomalies.</p> <p>Richard Bonner stated that the Legal Order Priority Framework could address fast tracking and other issues raised, however this document was still in draft format, but he would speak to the Legal Services Department about progressing the document. He said that there was no danger of the paths referred to becoming Lost Ways. It was noted that the Deregulation Bill would impose duties and fines on Local Authorities for matters where there was currently no penalty in law. Digitising the Definitive Map has shown up a number of mapping anomalies and specific anomalies would be investigated to see how they could be resolved quickly especially if there was a loss of amenity.</p> <p>Councillor Davison suggested that an officer dealing with such orders be invited to attend a LAF meeting.</p>	<p>RBo</p>
<p>50/13</p>	<p><u>Waterways Strategy for Derbyshire - Consultation</u></p> <p>Susan White, Waterways Development Project Officer, Derbyshire County Council attended the Forum to discuss the Waterways Strategy for Derbyshire consultation. Susan provided background information on the management of the canals in Derbyshire and informed members that she was the first officer dedicated to looking into canals throughout the whole of Derbyshire. Restoration, conservation and preservation were the key factors in retaining Derbyshire's canals. Culture and Heritage was a major factor for the Cromford Canal as it lay within the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. It was important to establish access via towpaths, greenways and walks along the line of an old canal. Volunteers and community groups also worked hard to revitalise the waterways.</p> <p>The draft strategy would be presented to the County Council during November 2013 and if approved the consultation process would be activated.</p> <p>If members were interested in being involved in the consultation exercise on a personal basis or could help spread the word about the consultation they were asked to email Susan White at susan.white@derbyshire.gov.uk .</p> <p>The Chair thanked Susan for her most interesting presentation.</p>	<p>LAF Members</p>
<p>51/13</p>	<p><u>Defra Consultation on Biodiversity Offsetting in England</u></p> <p>It was reported that the LAF had not been specifically consulted by Defra. However, LAF members could respond individually. The consultation ends on 7 November 2013. The link to the consultation had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>LAF Members</p>

52/13	<p><u>Report of Sub Groups</u></p> <p><u>(a) Open Access</u> It was noted that Natural England was interested in the work undertaken by the Sub Group. The main issues the sub group uncovered was that the open access sites were underused, had scope to be improved; and required signing and publicity. The sub group would look into what work could be done.</p> <p><u>(b) Erewash Strategy</u> Lyndsay Jones reported that she had forwarded the route proposal for the Highways Department to consider. Claire O'Reilly agreed to follow this up.</p> <p><u>(c) Public Rights of Way</u> Ian Else reported that this matter had been considered by the Sub Group via email. He would provide recommendations to be submitted to the County Council.</p> <p>The Chair felt that it would be helpful if sub groups could provide written reports for future meetings.</p>	<p>Sub Group</p> <p>COR</p> <p>IE</p>
53/13	<p><u>Regional and National LAF Matters</u></p> <p><u>(a) East Midlands Chairs' Meeting</u> It was noted that next East Midlands LAF Chairs Meeting would take place on 1 October 2013 at Leicestershire County Council. John Disney would endeavour to attend.</p>	
54/13	<p><u>Update on Issues affecting Vehicle Users in the Peak Park</u> David Giles reported that LARA had put forward best practice documents on the management of vehicles in the countryside and these had been circulated to LAF members. However he had to report, for information purposes, that at a Peak District National Park Authority Committee meeting at which the TRO on The Roych (Old Hayfield Road) was being discussed, the authors of the reports were only allowed three minutes to speak, no questions could be asked and no discussion with members was allowed. The Peak Park rejected all suggestions made. The vehicle user groups felt that they have approached each issue with decorum and were now of the view that further discussion on the use of vehicles in the countryside was fruitless. Every offer of partnership working has been refused and they do not intend to take notice of the Peak Park's decision. David Giles concern was that the situation would deteriorate and this would affect all users of the byways in Derbyshire. A complaint against the Chairman's bias has been forwarded to the Peak Park, it also asks that the Peak District National Park Authority be disbanded because they believed it was not fit for purpose.</p> <p>The LAF had pressed for the Vehicle Users Policy in Derbyshire and it would not wish to see this put aside.</p>	

55/13	<p><u>Study to Improve Tapton Lock and High Peak Junction Visitor Centres</u></p> <p>John Disney reported on work undertaken by Nottingham Trent students. The results were in rather large files but if any member was interested please contact Anne Barrett who will make arrangements for the document to be forwarded.</p> <p>The results suggested that at Tapton Lock the visitor centre could be extended into the staff areas and this area be moved upstairs. Space could be made for a small café. The field area could be utilised for dog related events. It was felt that the signage from the town centre and visual impact of this route needed more work. The car parking was also an issue. It was noted that it was hoped to have discussion with the new owners of the old Tesco site.</p> <p>For High Peak Junction it was suggested that a café could be housed in the workshop building in collaboration with the Arkwright Society. It was highlighted that footfall was 10 times greater at Cromford Wharf and awareness needed to be raised in respect of High Peak Junction. Car parking was not an issue here however it was not well signposted.</p> <p>The study was now with the Countryside Service to decide if they wished to progress any of the suggestions and if so costings would be required.</p>	
56/13	<p><u>Woodland Festival</u></p> <p>It was noted that the Festival would take place on Saturday and Sunday 21 and 22 September 2013 and the LAF had been provided with space with the Countryside Service. Copies of the posters produced for the event were on display at the meeting. Lyndsay Jones and Chris Allen would attend on Saturday and Councillor Carr on Sunday. All members were invited to come along.</p>	LJ/CA/MC
57/13	<p><u>Gating Orders and Community Protection Orders</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
58/13	<p><u>Potential Press Releases</u></p> <p>The Annual Report and attendance by LAF members at the Woodland Festival would form the next press release.</p>	JDi/RB/COR
59/13	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Friday 6 December 2013 commencing at 10.00am at a County Council venue.</p> <p>The Chairs Pre Agenda meeting will take place on Friday 8 November 2013 at Shand House.</p> <p>Proposed future dates are as follows subject to being agreed with the Chair:-</p>	

	Friday 21 March 2014 Friday 13 June 2014 Friday 26 September 2014 Friday 5 December 2014	
60/13	<u>Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action Sheet not covered by Agenda Items</u> The Action Sheet was noted.	