

MINUTES of a meeting of the **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** held at the Quad, Cathedral Quarter, Derby on **Friday 19 April 2013**.

PRESENT

Chris Allen, Councillor Mike Carr, Geof Cole, Richard Curzon, Joan Dryburgh, Ian Else, David Giles, Marilyn Hambly, Lyndsay Jones and Paul Tame.

County Council Officers:

Claire O'Reilly (Countryside Access Improvement Officer) and Richard Bonner (Assistant Head of Countryside).

City Council Officers:

Ray Brown (Senior Planning Officer, Neighbourhoods Directorate)

**Joan Dryburgh
(in the Chair)**

1/13	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were received from Robert Aspey, David Blackburn, John Disney, Richard Felton, Edward Hicklin, Howard Langley, Barbara Robinson and Councillor Jean Wharmby.</p>	
2/13	<p><u>Quorum</u> The Secretary advised the Chair that the meeting was not quorate and decisions could not be made on any matters which required this. Members discussed the position and it was agreed that the meeting would go ahead on the understanding that any recommendations from this meeting would have to be ratified by the next meeting on 14 June 2013.</p>	
3/13	<p><u>Membership</u> Joan Dryburgh welcomed new member Paul Tame to his first meeting. All members present introduced themselves with a short description of their interests relating to the LAF.</p>	
4/13	<p><u>Minutes</u> The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2012 would be reported to the meeting on 14 June 2013.</p>	LAF Secretary
5/13	<p><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derby City Council</u> <u>(a) Update on Draft RoWIP 2013-2017</u> Ray Brown reported that the first draft of the RoWIP 2013-2017 had now been updated. The points raised by LAF members had</p>	

	<p>been addressed and the document was now ready for public consultation. The Council's consent to consult was currently being sought. The draft would then be forwarded to members.</p> <p><u>(b) RoWIP Sub Group</u> The Sub Group had not met since the last Forum meeting.</p>	RB
6/13	<p><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derbyshire County Council</u> <u>(a) New Statement of Action 2013-2017</u> Claire O'Reilly reported on the summary of responses received following public consultation on the RoWIP Statement of Action 2013 – 2017. The responses totalled 200 of which the majority were from individuals. 45 responded on behalf of organisations.</p> <p>The report detailed the responses to the Aims of the RoWIP and also the comments received from officers and the Joint RoWIP Sub Group. A detailed report on Council's responses to all the specific comments would be published on the County Council's website in due course.</p> <p>The Joint Sub Group had expressed surprise and disappointment about the lack of support for promoting the wider benefits of using the access network. The LAF had worked hard to widen access and suggested that this result at Aim 4 was not representative of the population of Derby and Derbyshire.</p> <p>Paul Tame was aware that most of the comments from farmers related to the effect of greenways and proposed greenways across their land. Claire O'Reilly pointed out that the County Council worked hard with landowners to agree a workable solution for new Greenways. Of the 60 kilometres of greenway developed during the first RoWIP Statement of Action there had only been one compulsory purchase which was for Long Horse Bridge and involved an Angling Club. In the main disused railways were utilised. Members discussed path furniture, path surfaces, the benefits and disadvantages of stiles and kissing gates, all of which affected people's ability to access the countryside.</p> <p>The New Statement of Action 2013-2017 would now be submitted to the County Council's Cabinet for approval. A further report would be made to the Forum meeting in June 2013.</p> <p><u>(b) RoWIP Sub Group</u> The Joint Sub Group had met in January 2013 to discuss the responses received following the public consultation on the new statement of action 2013-2017. Marilyn Hambly stated that in order to ensure that the priorities listed were appropriate, the sub group had debated these, along with other possible priorities, before agreeing the proposed priorities. Monitoring and review of delivery could ensure that lower priority works would not be ignored.</p>	COR

	<p><u>(c) Update on Finance and Projects</u></p> <p>It was reported that the departmental budget cuts had reduced the countryside revenue budget for rights of way work by £50,000 for 2013/2014, however the capital LTP programme had approved £787,000 for countryside projects; (£240,000 for capital maintenance; £190,000 for RoWIP improvement schemes; £197,000 for greenway work and £160,000 for work on the Archaeological Way and Batley Lane Bridge).</p> <p>Geof Cole informed the forum that the Ramblers Council had reported that many Councils have made sweeping cuts to their rights of way sections. He was delighted that Derbyshire had not imposed such cuts.</p> <p>The County Council was involved with the Peak District National Park in a bid to the Department of Transport's Linking Communities grant to support cycling in National Parks which would include delivery of the White Peak Cycle Loop to extend the Monsal Trail to Matlock. This was a bid for part of the £12 million allocated for these schemes. The Vice Chair of the Peak District Local Access Forum had asked if this Forum would provide a letter of support for this bid. Members thought that the letter of support should be forwarded by the Chair.</p> <p>Discussion was held on the route of the White Peak cycle route and landownership.</p> <p>The National Forest has prepared a bid for submission to the Paths for Communities (P4C) funding to extend the Conker Circuit in Swadlincote. A letter of support from the LAF had also been requested for this bid and it was felt appropriate that a letter be forwarded by the Chair.</p>	<p>JDr</p> <p>JDr</p>
<p>7/13</p>	<p><u>Public Health Agenda in England – Briefing Note</u></p> <p>Claire O'Reilly and Ray Brown provided a briefing note on recent developments in relation to the Public Health Agenda in England.</p> <p>Previous Health responsibilities undertaken by Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts have been divided between a new body, Public Health England, upper tier local authorities and the NHS.</p> <p>Elaine Michel has been appointed as the Director of Public Health for Derbyshire and Derek Ward as Director for the City. Both Authorities have established Health and Wellbeing Boards and produced Health and Wellbeing Strategies and there were opportunities to link into these.</p> <p>The Derbyshire new Statement of Action has several references to the public health agenda, the key link being the Healthy Lifestyles priority and the section on tackling physical inactivity. Officers were also represented on the 'Active Derbyshire Partnership' which</p>	

	<p>included Derbyshire Sport and Derbyshire NHS. Officers within the Countryside Service have produced an internal paper, which was attached as an appendix to the report, which identified possible linkages between the work of the Service and the contributions that could be made towards the health agenda.</p> <p>The City RoWIP contained a theme on recreational access and health promotion. The new Statement of Action has references to the public health agenda. The idea was to encourage people to use local public paths and cycleways to get more active and enjoy the natural environment. The City Council ran b-active, which was part of the Neighbourhoods Partnership's Cultural strategy. The Council and NHS Derby City introduced a joint venture called b-You, where GP's refer individuals and the venture offered a personal approach to healthy living.</p> <p>This topic was relevant to DADLAF work in advising on and promoting opportunities relating to outdoor recreation, rights of way and access to the countryside. The challenge was to raise the profile of access to the countryside in general and the RoWIPs in particular within the health agenda and to try and tap into extra resources.</p> <p>A number of issues were discussed by members including the LAFs understanding of the strategies, raising the profile of the LAF, making contacts within public health and exploring ways of assisting, inviting one of the Directors or a Health and Wellbeing Board member to make a presentation to the LAF including how they could see the LAF supporting the health agenda.</p> <p>David Giles stated that maintaining access to the countryside was the role of the LAF and he did not think the LAF should expand its role into health issues, but to promote rights of way. Richard Curzon had sympathy with this statement. Marilyn Hambly felt that the LAF should explore the possibility of accessing public health money for the promotion of available access routes and to disseminate this information to public health groups.</p> <p>It was agreed that the LAF should explore how it could assist and what it could offer the Directors of Public Health or Health and Wellbeing Boards and this be discussed further at the June 2013 forum meeting when more members would be present.</p>	
8/13	<p><u>Attendance of LAF Members at the Woodland Festival</u></p> <p>Members were offered the opportunity to publicise the workings of the LAF at the County Council's Woodland Festival at Elvaston Castle on 21/22 September 2013. The Countryside Service offered to assist the LAF with any publicity material that they required.</p> <p>Joan Dryburgh, Councillor Mike Carr, Geof Cole, Chris Allen and Lyndsay Jones (Lead) agreed to form a group to develop exhibition material. Interested LAF members would attend the Festival.</p>	LJ

	Richard Bonner would provide contact details of officers able to assist with the materials.	RBo
9/13	<p><u>Social Networking</u> Ray Brown briefed members on social media and its potential use by DADLAF.</p> <p>Social media websites were becoming increasingly popular and were allowing individuals, groups and organisations to connect directly with each other. The best known services were Facebook and Twitter. There were also many blogging sites which allowed people to post articles and receive comments in return.</p> <p>Herts LAF has joined Twitter and tweets about local events and other local access stories. They have 240 followers and followed 97 individuals and organisations. The Herts LAF account was accessed for members to view.</p> <p>The item would be further considered at the 14 June 2013 meeting and in the meantime members agreed to look at the social media websites available and what information the LAF might wish to convey to a wider audience.</p>	LAF Secretary LAF Members
10/13	<p><u>HS2</u> This item would form part of the Agenda for the 14 June 2013 meeting.</p>	LAF Secretary
11/13	<p><u>Five Pits Horsecatch and Countryside Access Group – Love Lane, Tibshelf</u> A letter has been received from Jane Kirby BHS Bridleways Access Assistant, Five Pits Horsecatch & Countryside Access Group.</p> <p>The group expressed concerns over the decision to re-instate Love Lane, Tibshelf, Derbyshire as a "road open to traffic and was seeking the LAF support to help keep the lane as a non-motorised access.</p> <p>The matter was too specific for the LAF to respond and the Chair would reply to the correspondence in this vein but express general support for the group.</p>	JDr
12/13	<p><u>Report of Sub Groups</u> <u>(a) Open Access</u> Joan Dryburgh reported that the sub group had made numerous visits to open access sites and a detailed update would be made at the June 2013 meeting.</p> <p><u>(b) Erewash Strategy</u> Members were made aware of the consultation on the planning application for development at the former Stanton Ironworks. Lyndsay Jones in consultation with sub group members, and</p>	LJ

	<p>countryside officers would be formulating a response for submission.</p> <p><u>(c) Public Rights of Way</u> The group had not met. Ian Else agreed to pursue this matter.</p>	
13/13	<p><u>Regional and National LAF matters</u> <u>(a) East Midlands LAF Chairs' Meeting</u> Nothing to report</p> <p><u>(b) National Conference Event</u> It was noted that topics evolved around health and wellbeing; Monitoring Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE), which Swindon LAF were using to guide their deliberations; and Local Nature Reserves (LNR).</p> <p><u>(c) East Midlands Regional Forum</u> The Forum meeting would now take place in June 2013.</p>	
14/13	<p><u>Annual Report</u> It was noted that following changes made by Defra to the annual report year end, the matter would be brought to the June 2013 Forum meeting.</p> <p>The Forum had previously agreed to retain the format of previous reports for distribution within the LAF and City and County Councils. This would include an element of forward planning.</p>	
15/13	<p><u>Gating Orders and Community Protection Orders</u> David Blackburn had raised an issue relating to an order in the Killamarsh area and the County Council would discuss this directly.</p>	
16/13	<p><u>Open Access/Town and Village Greens</u> This would no longer be a Standing item but would be added to the agenda when matters were raised.</p>	
17/13	<p><u>Huddle</u> Huddle was now available for all members. The Chair would be happy to speak to any member who was interested.</p>	LAF Members
18/13	<p><u>Potential Press Releases</u> It was intended to issue a press release on the annual report and social media, if appropriate.</p>	
19/13	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u> It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Friday 14 June 2013 commencing at 10.00am in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock.</p> <p>Claire O'Reilly offered to see if she could arrange a tour of the newly opened Local Records office following the meeting.</p>	

	The Chairs Pre Agenda meeting will take place on Friday 24 May 2013 at Shand House.	
20/13	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action Sheet not covered by Agenda Items</u></p> <p>The Action Sheet was noted.</p> <p>It was reported that the Volunteer Policy at 78/12 had been submitted to the Assistant Director – Environmental Services for approval. It was hoped that comments from the LAF would be sought at the June or September 2013 meeting.</p>	COR
21/13	<p><u>LARA</u></p> <p>David Giles apprised members of the information contained in the Land Access and Recreation Association's (LARA) document entitled Traffic Management Hierarchy, it was a straight forward contribution and in effect an update on 'Making the Best of Byways'.</p> <p>A LARA Press Release on Good Practice in Traffic Management on Unsealed Public Roads and an advice note on Unsealed Unclassified Roads had been forwarded to members.</p>	