

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** held at the Hollingwood Hub, Hollingwood, Chesterfield on **Friday 7 December 2012**.

**PRESENT**

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

**County Council Officers:**

Claire O'Reilly (Countryside Access Improvement Officer), Richard Bonner (Assistant Head of Countryside) and Steve Cresswell (Volunteer Project Officer).

**City Council Officers:**

Ray Brown (Senior Planning Officer, Neighbourhoods Directorate)

**Observers:**

Edwina Edwards (Chair, Peak District Local Access Forum) and Mike Simms (Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Ramblers Footpath Maintenance Officer)

**Joan Dryburgh  
(in the Chair)**

<b>74/12</b>	<b><u>Apologies</u></b> Apologies for absence were received from Robert Aspey, Geof Cole, Edward Hicklin and Councillor Jean Wharmby. A late apology was received from Robert Johnson.	
<b>75/12</b>	<b><u>Membership and Recruitment</u></b> Joan Dryburgh welcomed new members Marilyn Hambly and Chris Allen to the meeting. Edwina Edwards and Mike Simms were also welcomed as observers.  Claire O'Reilly reported that Chris Allen, Marilyn Hambly, Robert Johnson and Paul Tame have been appointed as Members of the LAF. Two vacancies still existed in the user group category (1) and landowning/occupiers category (1).	
<b>76/12</b>	<b><u>Minutes</u></b> <b>It was agreed</b> that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2012 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
<b>77/12</b>	<b><u>Access to Inland Water for Bathing</u></b> It was agreed that this item be deferred until Robert Aspey could attend the meeting.	

78/12	<p><b><u>Working with Volunteers on Access Projects in Derbyshire</u></b></p> <p>Steve Cresswell, Volunteer Project Officer, Countryside Service, Derbyshire County Council made a presentation on how the Countryside Service was working with volunteers in Derbyshire.</p> <p>Steve started in the post in June 2012 to provide a consistent approach to volunteering within the Countryside Service throughout the County. He offered guidance and skills development for volunteers; and supported existing volunteer groups. Melbourne and Findern Parish based groups and Ramblers Association groups in Erewash and North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield were already benefiting from the process. He was also working on producing a Volunteer Policy and associated information which he will bring to a future LAF meeting for comment.</p> <p>The initial aim was not to recruit individual volunteers but facilitate new and established groups. In this economic climate volunteering helped to gain knowledge and develop transferable skills.</p> <p>David Blackburn asked if there were other areas of volunteering apart from the physical tasks on site, such as route ideas and website planning. Steve stated that he would be interested to explore any suggestions.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that volunteers were often retired people. Younger people usually volunteer to gain work experience and it was hoped that they would return to volunteering in the future.</p> <p>Chris Allen referred to the inconsistently in accepting volunteers for training and Steve Cresswell confirmed that there were some anomalies from area to area and he would endeavour to create a consistent policy throughout the County.</p> <p>Reward and recognition for the volunteers was raised by Barbara Robinson and the preparation of references, testimonials and recognition via publicity was discussed.</p> <p>John Disney asked if volunteers could gain experience in repairing and running small countryside centres. It was noted that it was important not to use volunteers in a role that should be staffed, however volunteering for visitor services could be considered.</p> <p>A number of excellent ideas were put to Steve Cresswell and he was happy for members to contact him to discuss them further, his email address is :- <a href="mailto:steve.cresswell@derbyshire.gov.uk">steve.cresswell@derbyshire.gov.uk</a> .</p> <p>Members thanked Steve for his presentation and agreed to contact him with their ideas.</p>	LAF Members
79/12	<p><b><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derbyshire County Council</u></b>  <b><u>(a) Update on Public Consultation for new Statement of Action</u></b></p>	

	<p><b><u>2012-2017</u></b>          Claire O'Reilly reported that consultation on the new Statement of Actions closed at the end of October 2012. 188 responses had been received with 160 being completed on-line. The data received was currently being collated, however initial feedback was that the responses were of high quality and detail.</p> <p>The Joint RoWIP Sub Group would be convened when all the data had been collated, to assess changes that might be required to the Statement. It was expected that the new Statement of Action for 2012-2017 would be available in March 2013.</p> <p><b><u>(b) Interim Progress Report on RoWIP 2012-13</u></b>          Claire O'Reilly presented an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2012/13.</p> <p>A summary of the main work in progress in relation to the existing network: definitive map and statement; connected, safe and accessible network; promotion and publicity and community involvement in local Rights of Way was detailed in the report.</p> <p>Following a question on the planning difficulties holding up the White Peak Cycle Loop (Aim 3e) it was noted that the original planning application for the Matlock to Oker link, which has funding in place, had been refused and other possible routes were now being considered including a possible quiet lane scheme.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to note the interim progress report for delivering Derbyshire's ROWIP in 2012/13.</p> <p><b><u>(c) RoWIP Sub Group</u></b>          The Sub Group had no comments as they had not met recently.</p>	
80/12	<p><b><u>Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Derby City Council</u></b>  <b><u>(a) Update on Draft RoWIP 2012-2017</u></b>          Ray Brown reported that further work had been carried out on the Draft RoWIP 2012-2017.</p> <p>The Plan was an update on the original RoWIP 2007-2012 and officers at the City Council, including the cycle team and neighbourhood teams have provided feedback on its contents. It was envisaged that the document would go out for public consultation early next year.</p> <p>Councillor Carr asked if timescales would be added to the document, he was particularly keen to see this for the completion of the Definitive Map.</p> <p>Ray Brown stated that time scales would be added when the document was worked through again and in respect of the Definitive Map he had had discussions with the City's Highway Solicitor in order to try and progress this matter faster.</p>	

Marilyn Hambly referred to the comment at 1b in Appendix A to the Draft City RoWIP, which stated that only a few recommendations had been received from disabled people's groups and individuals and asked that the City Council takes a more proactive approach in obtaining such comments.

It was agreed that the neighbourhood teams should be utilised to gain information and comments.

**(b) RoWIP Sub Group**

The Sub Group met on 16 November 2012 to discuss the draft City Council RoWIP 2012-2017. The draft was governed by the success of the 5 aims, however none had been completely fulfilled during the life of the last RoWIP.

There were a number of policy influences on the Plan including the Derby Plan Derby Local Transport Plan 3, National and Local Frameworks; and Partnership and Forums. The £5million Local Sustainable Transport funding would be used to encourage people to walk and cycle.

The new Plan would work towards six aims – to support growth and economic competitiveness, to contribute to tackling climate change, to provide learning and health benefits, to contribute to better safety and security, to provide and promote greater choice and equality of opportunity and to improve the quality of life for all people of Derby. This would be a challenge due to budget pressures on local authorities.

It was hoped that the Definitive Map would be completed during the early stages on the new Plan. Five schemes had been proposed to improve the network and it was anticipated that all would be implemented

The introduction of social media to promote the work was commended but it was noted that this would exclude all who did not own or have access to a computer.

The Sub Group acknowledged the difficult financial time and supported the contents of the Plan.

David Blackburn asked if the County Council had assisted with the Definitive Map as agreed, however Ray Brown explained that the County could provide assistance with digital mapping but the City was struggling with the statutory order making process.

The aim relating to health benefits was discussed. It was noted that Public Health issues were now the responsibility of the County Council and there was an active partnership promoting healthy lifestyles. It was also the intention to discuss healthy lifestyles with the advisors dealing with referrals from GPs. Marilyn Hambly

	<p>suggested that the Patient Participation Forums should be approached to promote and raise the profile of public paths.</p> <p>David Giles suggested, and it was agreed, that healthy lifestyles should be the subject of discussion at a future LAF meeting.</p>	LAF Secretary
81/12	<p><b><u>Report of Sub Groups</u></b></p> <p><b><u>(a) Open Access</u></b></p> <p>David Blackburn reported that the LAF Open Access sub group had visited nine identified open access sites in the LAF area. The sites were small but interesting, however other than the definitive footpaths there were no desire line paths. Bumper Piece and Harborough Rocks were remarkable sites.</p> <p>It was felt that these sites required promotion and detailing on a wider plan which indicated where they were, how to access them and where you could go to from the site.</p> <p>A meeting of the sub group has been scheduled for January 2013 to discuss the sub groups' suggestions and agree the next steps.</p> <p><b><u>(b) Erewash Strategy</u></b></p> <p>Lyndsay Jones reported that she had written, on behalf of the Sub Group, to Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust regarding options for using land in the ownership of the Trust. The Director of the Trust had advised that the matter would be considered at their meeting in the New Year. Mr Bonner reported that the footway along the road from the bridge at Borrowash to Elvaston Country Park was currently being widened.</p> <p>Lyndsay Jones appraised the new members of the work of the Erewash Strategy Sub Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that Lyndsay be commended for her hard work and perseverance with this project.</p> <p><b><u>(c) Public Rights of Way</u></b></p> <p>The Chair stated that this item referred to a matter John Clarke wished to raise with the LAF relating to the Defra consultation on Improvements to the Policy and Legal Framework for Public Rights of Way. A report titled 'Don't Ask - Don't Get?', prepared by John Clarke, had been circulated to Members. The LAF had responded to the consultation and the County Council had responded separately. The question being asked was should Derbyshire County Council have consulted the LAF before putting their response to Defra.</p> <p>John Clarke asked members to read the report and digest the information presented with a view to debating the issues at a future LAF meeting. He felt that the County Council's response to the consultation was at odds with the LAF's response. The LAF has a remit for giving advice, however the County Council as a section</p>	Open Access Sub Group

94(4) body had limited duties to consult or inform the LAF, except for matters such as the RoWIP, but could consult on matters relevant to the LAF.

John Clarke reported that it would be appropriate for the LAF to ask the County Council to consult on items of interest to the LAF. Any unsolicited advice should be marked as this in any correspondence. The LAF should also ask for feedback on advice given. Defra's monitoring of the performance of LAFs appeared to relate to the advice given to section 94(4) bodies and the feedback received.

John Clarke apologised to the County Council for his misunderstanding of the duty to consult on this consultation. He thanked the Sub Group for their consideration and response to the Defra consultation.

David Giles stated that as the Forum had a remit to give advice, when it was given feedback should be provided in order to inform the LAF on the benefit of their input.

It was pointed out that the County Council has consulted the LAF on policy documents relating to rights of way and the LAF has responded to many consultations.

The Chair stated that the LAF's influence on the Local Authorities could take the form of either formal or informal advice, for example members views on any topic could be conveyed via officer support at the LAF meetings, and formal advice related to those matters referred to in Defra Guidance where the Councils were required to consult. Feedback should have been asked for and would be asked for in any future consultations/advice given.

The Chair felt that the sub group should be reconvened to consider the responses made by the County Council and the LAF with a view to making representations to the County Council if this was thought necessary. Marilyn Hambly also suggested that the sub group should give consideration to John Clarke's report.

It was felt that it would have been more helpful if the County Council had corresponded with the LAF on this consultation, however members could not recall if this had occurred with any other national consultation.

The Chair proposed that the Sub Group comprising Geof Cole, Ian Else, Richard Felton and David Giles, be reconvened to consider the responses made to the Defra consultation by the County Council and the LAF with a view to making representations to the County Council and to consider the contents of John Clarke's report in relation to this issue.

On a show of hands, it was agreed 10 to 3 that the Sub Group be

	<p>reconvened.</p> <p>John Clarke said that he would be available to give advice and provide information if required.</p> <p><b><u>(d) Appointment of Sub Groups</u></b>  Membership of the active sub groups was agreed as follows:-</p> <p><b>(a) Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Derbyshire County Council)</b> – Geof Cole, Ian Else, Howard Langley, Marilyn Hambly and Chris Allen</p> <p><b>(b) Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Derby City Council)</b> – Richard Curzon, John Disney, Joan Dryburgh, Edward Hicklin and Lyndsay Jones</p> <p><b>(c) Erewash Strategy</b> – John Disney, David Giles and Lyndsay Jones (Lead)</p> <p><b>(d) Codes of Conduct</b> – Joan Dryburgh, Richard Felton, Lyndsay Jones and John Clarke. Paul Tame would also be asked to join this group.</p> <p><b>(e) Open Access</b> – David Blackburn, Geof Cole, Joan Dryburgh, Richard Felton, Howard Langley and Barbara Robinson</p> <p>Membership of the ‘mothballed’ <b>Lost Ways</b> Sub Group was agreed as David Blackburn, Richard Curzon, Lyndsay Jones and John Clarke.</p>	Sub Group
82/12	<p><b><u>Regional and National LAF matters</u></b></p> <p><b><u>(a) East Midlands LAF Chairs’ Meeting</u></b>  The next East Midlands LAF Chairs’ meeting would take place on Wednesday 16 January 2013.</p> <p>The Chair reported that she had taken part in the regions first LAF webinar conference call, which had been very successful.</p> <p><b><u>(b) National Conference Event</u></b>  It was noted that the National Conference Event would take place in Sheffield on 27 February 2013. The topic suggestions were noted.</p> <p><b><u>(c) East Midlands Regional Forum</u></b>  It was noted that the East Midlands Regional Forum would take place on 24 April 2013.</p>	
83/12	<p><b><u>Huddle</u></b>  The Chair urged members to join Huddle as it was now available for all members. Members should contact Ray Brown to apply for access.</p> <p><b><u>Opportunities for Social Networking</u></b>  The Chair reported that Hertfordshire LAF had started to post information on Twitter. They had looked in to using Facebook but</p>	LAF Members

	<p>felt that this network would not be useful.</p> <p>Lyndsay Jones was aware that the City of London used Twitter and agreed to look into this.</p> <p>David Blackburn felt that the LAF should proceed with care. He was aware that Chesterfield Canal Trust he had suspended their Twitter account due to offensive and inappropriate 'tweets'.</p>	LJ
84/12	<p><b><u>News Items from Members</u></b></p> <p>David Blackburn reported that the Ramblers Association had produced a paper detailing Local Authority cuts for Rights of Way budgets and intended to follow these disturbing developments closely. It was understood that some councils have cut staff by 100%.</p> <p>Richard Bonner reported that Derbyshire did not appear on the Ramblers Association list of 'Councils of Concern'.</p>	
85/12	<p><b><u>Potential Press Releases</u></b></p> <p>It was still intended to issue a press release on the opening of the Hopwell Dale route.</p>	JDr/COR/RB
86/12	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>It was agreed</b> that the next meeting be held on Friday 22 March 2012 commencing at 10.00am at a City Council venue.</p> <p>The Chairs Pre Agenda meeting will take place on Friday 1 March 2012.</p>	
87/12	<p><b><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action Sheet not covered by Agenda Items</u></b></p> <p>The Action Sheet was noted.</p> <p>It was noted that the Rights of Way Charter (Minute 61/12) was still not accessible on the County Council website. It was also felt that Rights of Way should be visible on the home page of the website.</p>	RBo
88/12	<p><b><u>Lost Highways and Unsurfaced Vehicular Highways</u></b></p> <p>David Giles provided an article from 'Pennant' by Alan Kind, editor of Byway and Bridleway, on the network of ancient ways that criss-cross Britain. David also provided a short document prepared by him on the history of unsurfaced vehicular highways in Derbyshire. There was also a recent article in the Guardian on the shared use of canal towpaths which he could provide to be distributed to members.</p>	DG
89/12	<p><b><u>Events</u></b></p> <p>Claire O'Reilly reported that the Countryside Service attended events such as the Chatsworth Country Fair, the Derbyshire Food Fair and the Woodland Festival to promote the service. The LAF was asked if they would like to share the Countryside Service stall</p>	

	<p>to promote the aims of the LAF.</p> <p>It was agreed that the matter be discussed in detail at the March 2013 meeting.</p>	LAF Secretary
<b>90/12</b>	<p><b><u>Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation</u></b></p> <p>John Clarke thanked Ray Brown for the information provided on the proposed Anti-Social Behaviour legislation.</p> <p>It was agreed that any information received on the bill would be forwarded to members.</p>	LAF Secretary
<b>91/12</b>	<p><b><u>Training</u></b></p> <p>Following the meeting officers provided training for new LAF members on the aims and objectives of the LAF. The training was also open to other members as a refresher session.</p>	