

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  MEETING |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: | Neil Lewis (Officer NCC) | DATE:TIME:VENUE: | Wednesday 15th November 2023  13.30  Rufford Mill, Rufford |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Mary Mills (NCC) |
| MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSGUESTS: | Dave Backhouse, Mary Mills, Chris Thompson, Dennis Reeson, Andrew Osbourne, Mike Graham, Sue Jones, Hilary Limb, Debbi Smith | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Councillor Mike Quigley, Councillor Jim Creamer, Martin Smith, Penny Lymn Rose, Alan Hudson, Stephen Walker, Edmund Hopkins.

**ITEM 2 – MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the last meeting held at Rufford Mill, Rufford on Tuesday 7th February 2023 were approved as a true record by Chris Thompson and Dave Backhouse.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

It was agreed that Neil (Officer) would Chair this meeting as Penny has stood down as Chair and a replacement has yet to be appointed.

Joint meeting with Nottingham City LAF to be arranged, their next meetings are scheduled for 10th January and 10th April 2024, always a Wednesday and 6.30 to 8.30pm at Loxley House.

Mary requested an up-to-date membership list so that only those who wish to, receive all the consultations and other mailings, and we know how many active members we have and need to recruit.

The A46 Active Travel Group which includes some LAF members have attended a site meeting to look at the possibility of a route dedication over “the Rack” but have had no success so far with persuading the angling club who own the land, there is a DMMO Application with NCC.

**ITEM 4 – GENERAL UPDATE**

The 2026 deadline for Lost Ways has been dropped and after lobbying by the CLA and NFU its now 2031, Local Authorities are still waiting for guidance on how this will be implemented.

There are currently 220 DMMO applications on the ‘waiting list’ in Nottinghamshire.

**ITEM 5 – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF JUBILEE WAY, MANSFIELD**

The LAF looked at plans for residential and commercial development on an old golf course off Jubilee Way, Mansfield. The plans include changes ‘improvements’ to several public rights of way, and the provision of additional paths over land which is currently wasteland. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged so that LAF members could get a feel for the proposals and provide useful feedback to the developers and also into the planning process. Neil to send out some possible dates.

**ITEM 6 – UPDATE ON THE M2M PROJECT-TRAILS AND PATHS**

Work has been progressing with project now beginning to wind down as the first phase of the project comes to an end.

Surfacing work has been completed at Sherwood Forest Edwinstowe, some signage work done, and leaflets and self-guided walks information prepared. Still to be completed, the steps on the Papplewick Footpath at its junction with the A60 near Seven Mile House and some works at Clipstone Spar Ponds.

**ITEM 7 - TRENT VALE TRAIL**

Recent heavy rain and flooding has had its effects but most of the existing trail is ok. A Diversion and upgrade of paths at South Clifton is currently underway (pre consultation), which will provide a route on bridleways into South Clifton and permissive access for walkers to the trig point overlooking the Trent Vale.

**ITEM 8 – PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – STANDING ITEM**

No updates on PSPOs affecting public access.

**ITEM 9 – NETWORK RAIL – STANDING ITEM**

David Shorrocks of Network Rail, our contact on all proposals affecting Level Crossings is retiring, he will be replaced by Rachel Walker who was previously a Rights of Way Officer in a Local Authority, so should hopefully have the same understanding, approachability, and balanced view which we have come to expect from David.

**North Muskham Footpath 1 Crossing**: Diversion Order was confirmed, and Neil is currently negotiating with NR and Landowners to get necessary signage and other works done to enable the diverted footpath to be made available, Via EM will carry out work and NR will pay for it.

**Cross Lane, Collingham**: An application to close one level crossing and divert footpaths has been submitted by NR (a parting gift from David Shorrocks).

**Butts and Dykes Collingham:** Network Rail would like to take this to Public Enquiry.

**Moor Lane Bingham:** Network Rail would like to close it, at least to horse riders.

**Attenborough:** These crossings are back on the radar due to recent suicides, we do not consider this to be a reason to close crossings, but any safety improvements would be considered favorably.

**East Markham:** Paths which were recorded on the Definitive Map approximately 8 years ago cross the East Coast Mainline at East Markham over 2 nonexistent bridges demolished by British Rail back in the 1970s. The paths are currently closed by TTROs. The County Council are working with local landowners, Network Rail and the Parish to look at path diversions.

**Chestnut Grove Crossing, Burton Joyce**: Network Rail have made some improvements to the crossing and have also carried out some publicity to encourage safe usage.

**Kings Mill Bridge -** The bridge was surfaced by NR with around 3000 rubber tiles which are now lifting and also preventing proper drainage, Neil is meeting NR again next week to discuss a new proposal for anti-slip surfacing.

**ITEM 10 – NCC PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY CTTE – STANDING ITEM**

No Update.

**ITEM 11 – TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS/ COMMON LAND – STANDING ITEM**

No update.

**ITEM 12 – PPOs AND DMMOs – STANDING ITEM**

The Public Inquiry on Greasley footpaths 32 and 40 was concluded and an interim decision made by the Inspector. Stakeholders are waiting to hear from PINs following a number of objections to the Inspectorate’s interim decision.

DMMOs will be made for Babbington and the riverside path at Hallcroft, East Retford.

No decision yet on Ethel Avenue which went to Public Enquiry last month.

DMMO at West Markham (path above sunken lane) turned down by the Planning Inspectorate following written reps despite evidence from Enclosure Award.

**PPOs:** Rachel Williams is now in post and is currently getting to grips with the process, currently work is progressing on diversions and upgrades at South Clifton, diversion for the landowner at Normanton on Trent, and some tidying up of previous diversion at Sutton Cum Lound.

**ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ MEMBERS UPDATE**

**Boardwalk at Lindhurst –** the bridleway has been closed at the boardwalk now for several years (an alternative is in place provided by the landowner) no diversion is acceptable to all, so the route must re-open on its legal line with access to Friar Tucks Well etc., there are issues with Japanese Knotweed in the wetland which are complicating the expensive causeway proposals.

**Solar and Wind Turbines –** Chris Thompson asked what the LAF were doing regarding proposals for these, Neil responded that Via Area Officers look at all applications and provide a response where public access is affected.

**Election of LAF Chair –** Dave Backhouse has offered to consider taking on this role subject to member approval and more information from Neil as to what is involved.

**ITEM 14 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next full LAF meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 28th 1.30pm at Rufford Mill – subject to confirmation of availability of room.

Close of meeting.