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| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  MEETING |  |

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: | Penny Lymn Rose (Chair) | DATE:TIME:VENUE: | Tuesday 7th February 2023  13.30  Rufford Mill, Rufford |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Mary Mills (NCC) |
| MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSGUESTS: | Penny Lymn Rose, Dave Backhouse, Mary Mills, Stephen Walker, Chris Thompson, Dennis Reeson, Edmund Hopkins, Mike Graham, Andrew Osbourne, Alan Hudson, Rob Bacon  Wendy Bannerman (BHS)  Helen Swift (NCC) | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Sue Jones, Hilary Limb, Councillor Richard Butler, Councillor Jim Creamer, Councillor Fielding, Martin Smith, Debbi Smith, Alison Pritchard, Lynne Collins, Richard Wright.

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

The minutes from the last meeting held at County Hall, West Bridgford on Thursday 3rd November 2022 were approved as a true record.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

**Update on vacancy for PPO Officer** – advertised today with interview date of March 8th and expectation that officer will be in post from sometime in April.

**A52 Underpass** – Currently footpath but usable by cyclists, there is a request and lobby to make it more accessible and pleasant to use, will probably need mounting blocks end for horse riders as headroom is limited.

**ITEM 4 – BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY – WENDY BANNERMAN**

Wendy introduced herself and her role with BHS and gave an interesting talk on the issues faced by equestrians on the Rights of way and Road Network. An app (Horse-i-app) to report incidents has unfortunately received a very high number of recorded incidents mainly with motor vehicles passing to close to horses or passing at speed.

A lack of connectivity of the Bridleway network makes riding for any distance difficult, better use can be made of multiuser routes if active travel plans include consideration of equestrian use which is more often for leisure and therefore not competing for space at peak commuting times.

Wendy outlined the demographic of Equestrians and highlighted that for many riding is their only exercise, their only activity in the outdoors and therefore of huge benefit to mental and physical health.

Economic benefits of Horse ownership are also huge with contributions to Tourism, veterinary services, farming, farriers, stabling, food etc. There are 19,000 horses registered in Nottinghamshire alone.

Opportunities to improve access were discussed, these include DMMOs, Dedications, Parking for horse boxes, and including routes within Country Parks.

Discussion on how to allow horse access, including for carriage drivers on Byways, without also allowing motorbike access was inconclusive, with frequent legitimate use being the only way to dissuade illegal use.

Further discussion on best road crossings included talk on segregated and combined crossing points and on what is available in Nottinghamshire.

Wendy concluded an informative talk with a reminder that the BHS offer some very good training courses in Rights of Way which are open to LAF members and other individuals and are well worth attending.

*Since the LAF meeting the following requested information has been provided by Wendy.*

*“The incident reports did go down ever so slightly, for 2020, potentially due to it being a lockdown year, but certainly not significantly.*

*And in general incident reports are on the rise year after year – more so potentially because people are aware they can report incidents to us…”*

*2021 incidents reported to the BHS in Notts 59, in 2022 there were 66.*

**ITEM 5 – A46 NEWARK BYPASS SCHEME UPDATE**

Following our last LAF meeting in November a meeting was held jointly between the LAF, Active Travel Partnership and other organisations to discuss responses to the current round of consultation on the Newark Scheme. The LAF response was a balanced one with emphasis on providing improved links for non motorised users on completion of the scheme and the least possible disruption during the construction phase. Our response was fed into the consultation. It was agreed that the LAF would be involved in further meetings as the scheme detail is worked out.

It is likely that any improvements to the path network outside of the ‘red’ area would have to be funded seperately.

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

LTP money is soon to be released which will pay for the following tasks:

Replace steps on the Papplewick Footpath at its junction with the A60 near Seven Mile House

Resurfacing of a bridleway in Sherwood Forest,

Improvment works at Clipstone Spar Ponds,

Signage, waymarking and gate installation,

production of a new Booklet featuring walks and rides in the project area.

**ITEM 7 - TRENT VALE TRAIL**

Alan reported that the Trent Vale Trail is almost complete, only ¾ mile to go (!) and only another £180,000-£200,000 needed to complete it!

Recent donations from the Landfill Communities Trust and the District Council are helping.

Only downside there are some surfacing issues becoming apparent which will need further work to compress and compact them.

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

No updates on PSPOs affecting public access.

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

**North Muskham Footpath 1 Crossing**: Network Rail have closed this crossing on safety grounds. Following the site visit by the LAF and others, a proposal for a diversion to the north of the crossing was put forward by Network Rail- this didn’t satisfy all users however Network Rail have now asked us to go ahead and make the Order. Its likely there will be objections and that the diversion will end up at Public Inquiry.

**Cross Lane, Collingham**: There has been no progress on the footpaths since the last meeting.

**Butts and Dykes Collingham:** There has been no progress on this since the last meeting.

**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.

**Coney Green, Collingham:** No progress yet on proposal to close the foot crossing and divert the footpath to use the barriered road level crossing, this is a skewed crossing and not particularly safe for pedestrians – mitigation would be required.

**Crifton Lane, Burton Joyce**: Network Rail are looking at this crossing which is not a public right of way but is well used, there are several users with private rights.

**Kings Mill Bridge -**Neil, Helen Swift and Wendy Bannerman attended a site meeting this morning to look at the surface treatment on this bridleway bridge which was installed to replace the level crossing. The bridge has been surfaced by NR with around 3000 rubber tiles which are now lifting and also preventing proper drainage, alternatives are being looked at.

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

**Applications recently taken to committee**: Bridleway upgrades on Welbeck Estate land at Cuckney, 3 objectors spoke at the meeting including the Robin Hood Way Society who want to keep the paths as footpath, the routes met the ‘reasonably alleged’ criteria so it was agreed the Order would be made.

**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, amendments to the Order are now out on consultation until 19th Feb 2023.

An Elston Footpath Order has also been confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate with minor modifications, some tidying up will be needed at some stage with PPOs, as not all routes are needed or available on the ground.

**PPOs:** There is a temporary lull in PPOs as the dedicated Diversion Officer has left the County Council, normal progress will resume once the vacancy is filled.

**DMMOs:** In progress for paths at: Warsop, Babbington, Mission to Finningley, Pleasley Vale, East Retford and West Bridgford. With PINS: Elston, Ethel Avenue, West Markham, Bilsthorpe, Trent Hills, Everton and Gringley, and Nettleworth.

**3 New applications received so far this year.**

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

**BHS Ride by your side Gate Fund:** The BHS have funding available to replace two bridleway gate in each County, any suggestions welcome, Helen Swift from the CA Team has suggested Strelley BW1 at Oldmoor Farm.

**Joint LAF Meeting:** The City LAF have proposed a joint meeting to discuss City/County issues, including a potential bridge over the A52, it was agreed this would be a good idea. Neil to communicate with John Lee (City Council) and sort a date probably in April.

**Robin Hood Way at Farnsfield** – Concern was expressed that with the upcoming improvements to roundabouts on the A614 the White Post Farm crossing point would need additional safety measures.

**Calverton Railway Track Path** – a feasibility study has been carried out and a report is expected shortly, hopefully some works will then commence on this potentially very useful multiuser trail.

**Dead Slow Campaign** – Helen Swift provided a brief update on this; signs are being temporarily located around the County where there has been an identified risk to horse riders from fast moving inconsiderate motorists.

**ITEM 14 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next full LAF meeting is scheduled for 19.15 on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at County Hall, West Bridgford.

Close of meeting.