

Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum Annual Report 2004/5

Introduction

This is the second report of the Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum, as required by the Local Access Forums (England) Regulations (Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Section 94).

The forum was established by Nottinghamshire County Council in July 2003. The primary purpose of the forum is to provide advice to Nottinghamshire County Council (as the appointing body) on how to make the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation. The Forum is a statutory consultee on various matters including; draft maps of open country and registered common land and on Rights Of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP). The County Council must have regard to the advice of the Forum when carrying out its functions.

Membership

Membership of the Forum consists of 18 members who were selected through a selection and shortlisting process back in the part of 2003. Currently, 5 members represent 'Land Managers and owners', 5 represent 'users of rights of way and countryside access' and 6 represent 'other relevant interests'. Included in the 18 members are two nominated by Nottinghamshire County Council Members, representing Labour and the Conservative parties.

Since the last report two members have left the forum; Beth Gardner (former vice chair of the LAF), Jill Creed and Joan Yarnell who represented conservation, carriage driving and disability issues respectively. Alex Staniforth was voted in as vice-chair at the October 2004 meeting. Three new members have recently joined the Forum (January 2004), Carolyn James (disability portfolio), Peter Dodsworth (other - conservation portfolio) and Geoff Stevenson (user portfolio).

Members biography 2005

Alex Staniforth – Walking

Alex is an active member of the Ramblers' Association in Nottinghamshire Area both at local and at county committee level. He has served as Area Secretary (for over eight years) and was instrumental in setting up new rambling groups in the county. He is a joint co-ordinator within the Area running Navigation and Leadership Courses to encourage potential walks leaders. Currently he holds the position of Area Countryside Officer dealing with many issues including all kinds of development which may adversely affect the countryside and the rights of way network. He recently completed a two-year course at Nottingham Trent University on Countryside Management and Conservation Skills, which is proving beneficial in his work. (*Other interests: conservation, countryside management, tourism*).

Carolyn James - Disabled Access

In July 2001 Carolyn had a fall which resulted in a spinal cord injury and a fracture to her neck. Before the accident she was a keen mountain and country walker who enjoyed introducing the pleasures of the outdoors to the students she taught at a Nottinghamshire Secondary School. Now she is disabled she still tries to get out into the countryside despite the many obstacles that make it difficult. As medical science improves and

people's life-span lengthens she knows that there will be increasing numbers of people like her self who will want to be able to get out and enjoy the 'great outdoors'. (*Other Interests: walking, youth and community access*).

Claire Herring - Estate & Visitor management

Claire has worked in a variety of countryside management roles for the past 12 years, as a community woodland officer for BTCV, then heading up the Countryside Ranger Service for Doncaster Council and most recently as Property Manager for the National Trust at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire. For the past 2 years, Claire has worked as an independent environmental consultant and training provider. Claire maintains an active voluntary involvement with a number of organisations, leading practical conservation projects for BTCV and acting as the National Training Co-ordinator for the Countryside Management Association. In her spare time she enjoys the local countryside and rights of way network of Nottinghamshire walking her two dogs, cycling and horse riding. (*Other Interests: Forestry, Conservation, Walking, Tourism*)

Derek Ward - Cycling

A keen cyclist covering around 5000 miles annually both on and off road, Derek has extensive knowledge of bridleways and other tracks throughout Nottinghamshire, particularly the Ashfield and Mansfield areas close to his home. He is a leader for Nottinghamshire County Council's Rural Rides programme and can be found most weekends on one of the rides. His interest in conservation and the reclamation of derelict land inspired him to complete an HND in Landscape Design & Management in 2000, leading to his employment as a Designer and Team Leader. (*Other Interests: Conservation*)

Francis Thomas – Rural Business

Originally from Kent, Frank has lived in Nottinghamshire for 50 years, and after military service has worked as project engineer for Rolls Royce. Frank is a partner in a family-run rural livery and saddlery business at Bassingfield, south of Nottingham. The Chairman of Holme Pierrepont and Gamston Parish Council and Treasurer to West Bridgford Local Area Forum, Frank is also a member of the British Horse Society and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and is on the regional consultative group for DEFRA. A keen walker, rider, cyclist, mountaineer and yachtsman for many years, Frank is keen to see better access to the countryside for all. (*Other Interests: Equestrian, Parish Councils, Walking*).

Geoffrey Stevenson – Walking

Geoffrey is a retired soldier and civil servant and passionate about maintaining a strong countryside heritage, conservation and caring for the environment. He is realistic to the needs of all users and open minded about sympathetic development needed to meet the changing demands on the countryside. In particular, he is keen to see improved access for the less able bodied and those with children and pushchairs. He has a wide experience in dealing with Government Departments, Local Authorities, Statutory Bodies, land owners, pressure groups and the public, all of whom have an important role to play in protecting and developing our countryside. He is a keen Rambler and fisherman and his recent retirement has renewed his interest in inland waterways. (*Other Interests: fishing*).

Hilary Limb – Horse riding

Hilary has many years experience dealing with rights of way issues for horse riders. She was the British Horse Society's County Access and Bridleways Officer for Nottinghamshire between 1993 and 2002 and also ran a local bridleways association campaigning for

better access and road safety for horse riders. Hilary is a member of CPRE and is interested in all countryside issues, and she would like to see multi-user rights of way developed to improve access to the countryside for all users on a fair and equal basis. (*Other Interests: cycling*).

John Dunn – Conservation

Conservation is one of John's primary interests, and he works for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. He is also actively involved in the practical work of the Countryside Restoration Trust, being Chairman of a committee which is managing woodlands and farmland in West Yorkshire. John is a member of Everton Parish Council, being Parish Path Warden, Tree Warden and manager of a closed churchyard nature reserve. He is also a member of the Woodland Trust, Friends of the Earth and the Notts Wildlife Trust. John has considerable experience of youth work through involvement in the Scouting movement, and is a keen walker. (*Other Interests: walking, parish councils*).

John Goddard - Farming

John is an agricultural contractor from a farming family and has lived in East Drayton for 37 years. He has several public rights of way on his farm, and maintains these and other local paths through his involvement in the Wayfinder Farm Partnership scheme (set up by Nottinghamshire County Council) for the last 9 years. John is a long standing member and former Chair of East Drayton Parish Council, and has also served as a member of Bassetlaw District Council. (*Other Interests: land management and parish councils*).

Paul Ainscough – Land Management

A land agent with Smith Woolley, Paul has been managing rural properties in the East Midlands since 1987. He is currently vice-chairman of Nottinghamshire Country Land and Business Association, and believes that sensible access improvements can bring opportunities to all. In addition to his professional interest in the land, Paul has a keen amateur interest in the environment, and can regularly be found walking his dogs on the footpath network near his home in Grassthorpe.

Peter Dodsworth – Conservation

Peter is from a farming family and has lived in South Nottinghamshire all his life. He still has strong connections with agriculture through three brothers-in-law who are farming in the county. Originally a physical chemist working on new agricultural and pharmaceutical chemicals, he became involved with the use of computers and information systems in research and before retiring was Research Information Services Manager. He is also an enthusiastic amateur photographer and, as such, has a keen interest in nature conservation and responsible access to the countryside.

Peter Hiley – Motor Vehicle Use

A life-long resident of Nottinghamshire, Peter has been involved in the Trail Riders Fellowship, (TRF) a national organisation for those using legal motorcycles on legal vehicular rights of way, since 1979. In this capacity he was a delegate to the Nottinghamshire Rights of Way Liaison Group for 14 years. From 1986 to 2002 Peter served as a Magistrate. He also assists as a marshal at long distance and cross country horse events. (*Other Interests: walking and equestrian*).

Robert Clough – Farming

Robert Clough runs a family-owned arable farm at Tuxford in northern Nottinghamshire, producing wheat, barley, oilseed rape, sugar beet and combinable peas. He attended agricultural college in Bedfordshire before returning to the family farm in 1985. Robert is

currently the Nottinghamshire County Chairman of the National Farmers Union and branch chairman of Retford NFU. He is keen to ensure that farming in Nottinghamshire stays profitable and is environmentally aware. Robert is married and has one son and a black Labrador.

Russell Price – Farming

Russell Price runs a mixed farm in the south of the County. He is married with two young children, and his interests include conservation and country sports. He is keen to see access to the countryside improved whilst striking a balance with farmers and landowners. (*Other Interests: conservation*).

Sir Edward Nall Bt – Land Owning (Chair of the Forum)

Sir Edward's family have been landowners in Hoveringham for nearly 150 years. He has a variety of public rights of way across his land, which includes a small area of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). He is a trustee of Papplewick Pumping Station Trust, a member of the Country Land and Business Association committee and is the Secretary of the Notts branch of the Game Conservancy Trust. A retired soldier, he is now also the County Chairman of Macmillan Cancer Relief. (*Other Interests: conservation and shooting*).

Steve Taylor – Youth & Community Work

Having worked in coal mining for 10 years, Steve started his own countryside and woodland management business in 1990. Steve is now a Community Ranger for the Forestry Commission, and has a broad experience of working with youth and community groups in rural and urban fringe areas. Steve's interests include woodland crafts, conservation and walking. (*Other Interests: Conservation, equestrian, landowning*).

Jim Napier

Nottinghamshire County Councillor (Labour, Retford North). *Other interests: Heritage, Greenwood Community Forest.*

John Hemsall

County Councillor (Conservative, Tuxford). *Other interests: Parish Councillor, Police Authority Member.*

Brief summary of meetings

The Forum has met 5 times since the previous annual report:

Tuesday 27th July 2004 (7.00pm)

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting 27th April 2004 – copy enclosed
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
4. Review of Forum structure:
 - Draft Annual Report (copy enclosed)
 - Position of Vice-Chair vacant
 - Forum Members (do we have any gaps in expertise we want to fill?)
 - Formation of sub-groups for ROWIP and motor vehicles as proposed at the last meeting

5. Defra Consultation: Guidance to Access Authorities on access to open country (copy enclosed)
6. The new Countryside Code (leaflet copy enclosed). A short presentation by Steve Jones.
7. Open Country Mapping
 - opportunity to view the provisional maps
 - Guidance on dedication of land (copy enclosed) and options open to the Forum
8. Any Other Business
9. Future Dates, Timings and Venues

Items discussed: the previous year's annual report, guidance on access to open country and registered common land, the Countryside Code, and open country mapping. Sub-groups were formed to discuss the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and motor vehicles in the countryside. Beth Gardner stood down as Vice Chair.

Tuesday 26th October 2004 (7.00pm)

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting 27th July 2004
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
4. Membership issues:
 - New Vice Chair
 - Recruitment update (report from Stephen Jones)
 - Resignation of Joan Yarnell
 - Sub-groups
5. Motorbike access – the current situation from the police perspective (Inspector Ken Heydon, Notts Police)
6. Quiet Lanes Initiatives (Presentation by Paul Hillier, LTP Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council)
7. Common Land in Nottinghamshire (Mike Maher, Legal Services, Nottinghamshire County Council)
8. Any Other Business
9. Future Dates and Venues

Items discussed: motorbike access presentation by guest speaker Nottinghamshire Police Inspector Ken Heydon, a Quiet Lanes Initiative presentation by guest speaker Paul Hillier. Alex Staniforth was elected as Vice Chair. Joan Yarnell resigned from the Forum.

Tuesday 25th January 2005 (7.00pm)

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting 26th October 2004 (enclosed)
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
4. Membership issues:
 - Introduction of New Members: Carolyn James, Peter Dodsworth, Geoff Stevenson
 - Resignation of Jill Creed
5. Sub-groups: Feedback on the first sub-group meetings
 - ROWIP (Report by Alex Staniforth)

- Motor Vehicle Issues (Report by Peter Hiley)
- 6. Milestones Statement (copy enclosed, briefing by Stephen Jones)
- 7. Traffic Regulation Order proposals in Clarbrough and Sturton le Steeple. (Summary to be tabled on the night)
- 8. Common Land in Nottinghamshire (Mike Maher, Legal Services, Nottinghamshire County Council)
- 9. Any Other Business
- 10. Future Dates and Venues

Items discussed; feedback from Nottinghamshire's ROWIP and motor vehicle sub-groups, a Milestones Statement briefing by Steve Jones, Traffic Regulation Order proposals in the parishes of Clarbrough and Sturton Le Steeple, and a Common Land in Nottinghamshire presentation by guest speaker Mike Maher. The Forum welcomed new members Carolyn James, Peter Dodsworth and Geoff Stevenson.

Tuesday 26th April 2005 at County Hall (7.00pm)

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting 25th January 2005 (to follow)
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
4. Nottinghamshire's Definitive Map (presentation by Tim Hart, Senior Def Map officer)
5. Sub-groups: Feedback on the sub-group meetings
 - ROWIP (Report by Alex Staniforth)
 - Motor Vehicle Issues (Report by Peter Hiley)
6. Countryside and Public Rights of Way Survey
7. Any Other Business
8. Future Dates and Venues

Items discussed; a presentation on the Definitive Map and Lost Ways by guest speaker Tim Hart, feedback from ROWIP and motor vehicle sub-groups, the Countryside Access and Public Rights Of Way Survey (part of the ROWIP process).

Tuesday 26th July 2005 at Boughton Pumping Station (7.00pm)

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the meeting 26th April 2005 (enclosed)
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda
4. A46 presentation by Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick
5. LAF membership matters
6. East Midland's LAF summary report
7. Feedback from sub-groups:
 - Motor Vehicles (report by Peter Hiley)
 - ROWIP (report by Alex Staniforth)
8. ROWIP update
9. Open Access update
10. Letter from British Canoe Union
11. Any Other Business / members update
12. Future Dates and Venues

Items discussed: a presentation on the A46 development by representatives of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick, Local Access Forum membership matters, the East Midland's LAF summary workshop report, feedback from ROWIP and motor vehicle sub-groups, a ROWIP progress update from Neil Lewis, Open Access update, and a letter received from the British Canoe Union / Alan Michael .

Information about the Forum

The Chair is Sir Edward Nall and the Vice-chair is Alex Staniforth. Members of the forum are unpaid, albeit they are able to claim travel and subsistence allowances and expenses.

Neil Lewis is the Forum secretary and the Countryside Access Development Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council. Andrew Oliver is the Forum's administrator, who is also employed by the County Council as an Office Support Manager.

The minutes of all meetings are available from the Forum Administrator and on the website www.nottslaf.org.uk Contact the administrator on 0115 977 4549 or e-mail countrysideaccess@nottscc.gov.uk

LAF member meeting attendance (second LAF report 04/05)

Name	Jul-04	Oct-04	Jan-05	Apr-05	Jul-05	Comment
Alex Staniforth	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	
Carolyn James			☺	☺	☺	New member 25 th January 2005
Claire Herring	Xa	Xa	☺	Xa	☺	
Derek Ward	☺	Xa	☺	☺	☺	
Frank Thomas	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	
Geoffrey Stevenson			☺	☺	☺	New member 25 th January 2005
Hilary Limb	Xa	Xa	☺	☺	☺	
Jill Creed	☺	Xa				Resigned 26 th October 2005
Jim Napier	☺	☺	X	X	☺	
John Dunn	☺	☺	☺	☺	Xa	
John Goddard	☺	☺	☺	Xa	☺	
John Hempsall	☺	☺	☺	X	Xa	
Paul Ainscough	Xa	☺	☺	Xa	Xa	
Peter Dodsworth			☺	☺	☺	New member 25 th January 2005
Peter Hiley	☺	☺	☺	☺	☺	
Robert Clough	X	X	X	☺	X	
Russell Price	Xa	☺	☺	☺	Xa	
Sir Edward Nall	☺	☺	☺	Xa	Xa	
Steve Taylor	Xa	☺	☺	☺	X	
Joan Yarnell	Xa	X				Resigned 26 th October 2005

Notes: a – apologies received