



Notes of the Meeting of Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum

Date: Tuesday 28th July 2015, 7.15pm
Venue: Woodborough Institute, Roe Lane, Woodborough

Forum Members: Peter Hiley (Vice Chair), Dennis Reeson, John Barlow, Simon Wilson, Cathy Charles-Jones, Alison Pritchard, Cllr Yvonne Woodhead, Hilary Limb, Penny Lymn Rose, Alex Staniforth, Alan Hudson

Officers and Guests: Chris Thompson (Ramblers'), Neil Lewis (NCC)

1. **Apologies:** Mary Mills (Chair)
2. **Minutes of the Meeting 21st April 2015** Accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda** – none
4. **Nottinghamshire Rights of Way Management Plan (aka ROWIP)**

NL introduced and explained the background to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), now known as Rights of Way Management Plan. NL updated the Forum on the work undertaken so far. The first draft was presented to members back in April 2015. A brief overview of the Plan was provided. NL asked members for their feedback on the draft prior to further consultation and distribution internally at the County Council and thereafter to members of the public. NL provided a draft timetable.

5. **Network Rail - level crossing closure programme**

NL updated the Forum on Network Rail's scheme to close all the level crossings in Nottinghamshire on the East Coast Mainline (ECML). NL informed members that Network Rail has decided not to go ahead with the single programme of level crossing closures on the ECML. Instead, they will continue to close crossings as part of their National Level Crossing Closure Programme. Members expressed their disappointment with this decision. LAF members agreed in principal with the programme i.e. working strategically and looking at each crossing in context with the other level crossings. Members are now worried that there won't be the strategic overview and the funding to provide suitable alternatives. Also members acknowledged that rather than using a Transport and Works Act Order, any crossing closures / diversions will have to be dealt with by the Highways Act. This will require work by an already under resourced Countryside Access Team. Members agreed that the disappointing end to the ECML scheme is unsatisfactory and suggested a letter to the regional manager of Network Rail.

6. **Gating Orders / Public Spaces Protection Orders**

NL informed the Forum that he'd received an enquiry from NCC's Community Safety Officer regarding a footpath in Rainworth (Rainworth Footpath No.1) linking Kirklington Road and Westbrook Drive. Apparently there have been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour taking place on the footpath and in the surrounding area. A meeting attended by the local MP and other stakeholders has taken place to discuss the ASB issues; those present also

discussed possible closure of the path. NL advised the officer of the limited highway options available. At the time of the meeting NL had heard nothing since the initial enquiry.

7. NCC Committee update

No new reports since the last meeting. NL informed members that he was planning to take an update report on the current Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) case load to September's Planning and Licensing Committee meeting following the summer recess. NL also informed members about the proposed new NCC website which will include an updated DMMO on-line claims register.

8. Village Greens

There were two reports presented to Culture Committee at their July meeting; an application for a village green in Mansfield and one at Toton. The recommendation for the Mansfield application was to turn it down as it didn't meet the criteria for a village green. The land at Mansfield was used 'by right' rather than 'as of right' due to the official designation of the land by Mansfield District Council as a 'Pleasure Ground'. The Toton report recommended that members reject the application based on the reasons highlighted in a public inspector's report following a public inquiry in April and May. In summary the application was found, by the inspector, to be 'flawed in a number of ways and my firm view recommendation is that it should be rejected'.

9. PPOs and DMMOs

A brief discussion regarding a number of recent DMMO referrals to the Planning Inspectorate.

10. AOB

Forum member, Simon Wilson, asked members if they were aware of work at Kings Mill reservoir, mainly the dredging of the old mill lake. Some members were aware of an algae problem? It was suggested that members and NL investigate further, and report back.

CT expressed concern about the number of solar farm applications in the county. NL confirmed that the Countryside Access Team receive both pre-applications and full applications regarding solar and wind farms and respond appropriately.

CT informed the Forum that he was trying to arrange a training session at Nottingham Archives for Nottingham City Forum members and asked if Nottinghamshire LAF members would be interested. Notts LAF members expressed an interest but NL and some members suggested some more basic training on claims etc. would be beneficial prior to any training at the Archives. NL and CT to arrange and report back.

The next full LAF meeting will be at Woodborough Institute on Tuesday 20th October 2015. Provisional dates for 2016 are Tuesday 26th January and Tuesday 26th April 2016.

The Chair concluded the meeting, thanked all those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Close of Meeting