



Minutes of the October 2016 Meeting of Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum

Date: Tuesday 18th October 2016 at 7.15pm
Venue: Woodborough Institute, Woodborough

Forum Members: Alex Staniforth (Chair), Penny Lymn Rose (Vice Chair), Hilary Limb, Dennis Reeson, Mary Mills.

Officers and Guests: Neil Lewis (NCC), Cathy Gillespie (Via EM Ltd), Janet Shipley and Victoria Burgiss (BHS).

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Yvonne Woodhead, Alan Hudson, Cathy Charles Jones, Simon Wilson and Alison Pritchard.
2. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** The minutes for the 26th July 2016 meeting were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda –**
The LAF were informed of the resignation of Peter Hiley who has been a member since the beginning of the LAF, all agreed he will be greatly missed. A card was passed round for signing. The Forum will need to recruit a new representative from a trail riding background.
4. **Via (East Midlands) Ltd – Cathy Gillespie**
Cathy gave the LAF an update on the Via contract. Rights of way maintenance now undertaken by Via, while Definitive Map, Enforcement and some other functions remain with the County Council (including the LAF). Initial contract with Via is for 10 years with an option to extend for a further 15 years. So far there have been teething problems but generally everything within Countryside Access is continuing pretty much as it always has, with staff shortages being a major problem.
It was agreed that a quarterly update would be given and a representative of Via invited to attend at least once a year to keep us informed and allow any issues to be raised.
5. **Seasonal Traffic Regulation Order - Update –**
Nottinghamshire County Council is to seasonally close seven Byways in the Bassetlaw area (to 4 wheel vehicular traffic) to protect their surfaces from further damage. The Seasonal closure is due to come into force on the 1st November and will be in place for six months of the year. The LAF and other legitimate users support this. The LAF will be kept updated on how successful the closure is and consulted on any future proposals.

6. **The end of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme?**

A brief introduction to this was given by Alex at our April meeting outlining the fact that permissive routes could be lost once the financial incentives to landowners come to an end. After brief discussion it was agreed that the best way forward with this would be for a sub group meeting at TBH (Thursday 17th November) to look at all the HLS funded access in the county (33 sites) and assess which schemes are of most value, and most threatened, and decide what we can do about it.

A link to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme to be added on NCC Countryside Pages.

7. **Accessibility in the Blidworth area**

Neil outlined to the LAF an access issue involving a disabled gentleman resident in the Blidworth area, who is currently unable to access many local areas due to barriers put in place to prevent illegal use. It was agreed that a site visit to Blidworth to look at the issues would be a good first step (and a training opportunity for newer LAF members). A date for this has now been arranged (Thursday 10th November).

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

None

9. **NCC Committee update**

None

10. **Village Greens**

None

11. **PPOs and DMMOs**

Eastwood - Proposed Stopping up and Creation Order, no issue, just tidies up from previous order in 1986

Owthorpe – Proposed Extinguishment of a small section of footpath through property, part of a tidying up exercise of paths added to the map under a recent DMMO.

12. **AOB**

- **Network Rail** – Suzanne Bedford to be invited to attend the next LAF meeting in January 2017, to update us and discuss various level crossings in the county.
- **Site visit to North Muskham Level Crossing** – in July MM attended a site visit with NL from Nottinghamshire County Council, The Ramblers and Network Rail to look at possible diversions and additions to the public rights of way network should the footpath crossing be closed.
- **Archive Visit** – LAF members enjoyed an informative morning at the Nottingham Archives, learning the basics of historic path research. Thanks to Eddie Brennan for giving a good overview of the documents and systems.

- **BHS Courses** –Places booked for Alex, Dennis, Penny and Mary to attend 2026 Restoring the Record Course, run by the BHS/Ramblers in York on October 29th2016
- **Bridleway Group** – Penny informed the LAF of a new Facebook group dedicated to Nottinghamshire Bridleways.
- **East Midland Chairs Meeting** – Alex updated us on the recent meeting, various issues were raised including the implementation of the Deregulation Act, Generic advice on Planning and Development , Accessibility Issues, and the secretive roll of IPROW (Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers).

13. FUTURE DATES AND VENUES

Woodborough Institute is booked for our next meeting on January 24th 2017 and also for the following meeting on April 18th 2017.

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

Close of Meeting