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| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  MEETING |  |

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: | Alex Staniforth (Chair) | DATE:TIME:VENUE: | Tuesday 30th April 2019  19:15  Talbot Suite, Rufford Sawmill, Rufford Lane, Ollerton. |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Mary Mills (NCC) |
| MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND GUESTS WHO ATTENDED: | Alex Staniforth, Mary Mills, Dennis Reeson, Councillor Chris Barnfather, Hilary Limb, Alison Pritchard, Dave Backhouse, Richard Wright, Penny Lymn Rose, Alan Hudson, Mike Graham (Cycling UK), Lyn Collins (BHS), Martin Smith, Chris Thompson, and Steve Little (Miner2Major) | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Debbi Smith and Dr Stephen Walker gave their apologies.

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

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2019 were approved as a true record.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

None

**ITEM 4 – MINER2MAJOR PROJECT UPDATE – STEVE LITTLE- SCHEME MANAGER**

Steve introduced himself and gave a brief outline of the project so far to refresh and update members. Miner2Major is a Landscape Partnership Scheme, made up of many individual projects within and around a designated area of the wider Sherwood Area. The Project is funded for five years, and will employ five paid members of staff, each looking after a different theme within the project. Beyond the five years it is hoped that project partners and volunteer groups will continue to work on the different themes of the project. The project area entitled Connecting Sherwood is the main one which the LAF are interested in and are being encouraged to become involved in.

Previously the LAF have put together a list of small improvements to the access network which would give maximum benefit for a relatively small financial input, and a more substantial suggestion for opening up the disused railway track linking Bestwood Colliery, Papplewick Pumping Station and Calverton Colliery, as a bridleway/multi user trail, with its obvious links to mining in the county. The LAF will review these suggestions and forward them to Steve shortly.

Steve has asked the LAF to provide representatives willing to be part of a working group advising the appointed Officer on the Partnership Board on matters of Countryside Access. Ahead of this there will be a Planning Day at Rainworth Village Hall on the 19th June to which 2 or 3 LAF members are invited to attend. Although the overall project has a £2.7million budget, the access element only has around £70,000 capital.

**ITEM 5 – TRENT VALE TRAIL – UPDATE**

Alan Hudson informed the LAF of the success of the LEADER funding application (EU Funds) £170,000 to be spent on the first section of the route between Collingham and Besthorpe. Other funding streams and donations have raised a further £15,000 for the project. This money will provide for improvements to existing public rights of way and the creation of a new public footpath and cycle path around Besthorpe Nature Reserve, which should be open by this time next year.

This was described by Alan as a ‘path for all’ which is not considered by some LAF members to be accurate as horse riders will not be permitted on the new section of path by the Notts Wildlife Trust, the landowner. While some members see this as an issue others are happy that many user groups and the general public will benefit from a safer off road joined up network of paths. Unfortunately, the Friends of Trent Vale are constrained by the wishes of the landowner.

A discussion followed on the need for realism and prioritisation of routes, to provide a cohesive network of paths in the county, suited to all users.

**ITEM 6 – LAF PUBLICITY AND MEMBER RECRUITMENT – UPDATE**

Recent advertising has worked and quite a few new faces have been welcomed to the last couple of meetings, formal appointments have not yet taken place. The LAF is still looking to recruit one or two landowners to balance the forum and ensure fair representation of all interests. There is also a possibility that new members could come forward through involvement in the Miner2Major project.

It is proposed to organize a site visit, to look at issues and opportunities and enable LAF members to meet in a slightly less formal setting and gain a better understanding of the conflicts involved in public access.

**ITEM 7 – PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – STANDING ITEM**

Mansfield District Council are looking to use a Public Space Protection Order as a way of managing football fans who are leaving the ground on match days along a public footpath within the MFC ground. The LAF will be updated when any more information on this becomes available.

**ITEM 8 – NETWORK RAIL / HS2 – STANDING ITEM**

**Kings Mill**

The new bridleway bridge is now open, there are a few snagging issues but it looks impressive, particularly as its black to match other furniture on the reservoir site.

**Meadow Lane Crossing**

The Decking has been made wider over the crossing as it is a bridleway and Miniature Warning Lights have been installed similar to those used on a pelican crossing to inform the public when it is safe to cross.

**Collingham Level Crossings**

Network Rail have submitted Diversion Applications which if successful would enable the closure of 2 footpath level crossings in Collingham. The first of these applications, Dykes End and Butts is currently out to consultation and would see Dykes End Crossing closed and users diverted over Butts Crossing which is a little further to the south of the village. The second application will potentially provide significant improvements to the footpath network further north in Collingham, while allowing the closure of a little used crossing which has an alternative in very close proximity, this one will only be processed once the outcome of the first is known.

**HS2**

Chris Thompson raised concern about access at Toton (the hub for proposed HS2), the LAF have already submitted comments on this as have Nottinghamshire County Council, and both organisations will continue to monitor the situation and talk to HS2 as and when any detailed plans become available.

**ITEM 9 – NCC PLANNING AND LICENSING CTTE – STANDING ITEM**

None, an update will go to Committee shortly.

**ITEM 10 – TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS/ COMMON LAND – STANDING ITEM**

None.

**ITEM 11 – PPOs AND DMMOs – STANDING ITEM**

Updates on recent Public Path Orders, Definitive Map Modification Orders and Landowner Dedications:

* **Collingham** – Dykes End/Butts Extinguishment and Creation Orders made and on deposit until 16th May 2019 one objection received to date.
* **North Clifton** – Footpath No.2 this path has now been extinguished.
* **North Muskham** – Highways England have erected sound barriers along the side of the A1 at North Muskham. As part of the works they realised there is still a recorded public footpath across the A1. This path should have been extinguished as part of the original Side Roads Order in the 1960s. NCC have been out to consultation to formally stop up this path. A number of comments received support in principle but refer to the alternative not being on the Definitive Map and Statement (DMS). This is because the alternative is already a publicly maintained path as part of the A1. However, NCC are investigating the addition of this path to Nottinghamshire DMS – negotiations are ongoing on this, the path remains closed by a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO).
* **Cossall / Awsworth** – A proposed upgrade from a footpath to bridleway along the old Nottingham Canal. This Order has now been confirmed.
* **Treswell** – Footpath No.13 has been extinguished, this path had not been available on the ground for many years and an attractive well used bridleway is available a few metres down the road.
* **Thurgarton** – Footpath No.4 a diversion Order has been made for a minor diversion to this path, it is on deposit until 10th May 2019.
* **Warsop** – Taylor Wimpey have dedicated a footpath at Meden Vale to avoid the long delay to development which would have occurred waiting for a DMMO to be processed.
* **Calverton** – The Parish Council are dedicating several footpaths over land which they have purchased between Georges Lane and Spindle Lane BW.
* **Annesley**- Order Confirmed by Planning Inspector, with modifications, these are now being advertised and will be circulated to LAF members after tonight’s meeting.
* **Misson to Finningley** – cross border claim for footpath based on documentary evidence, currently at pre order stage
* **Widmerpool** – Diversions and Extinguishments currently at pre-consultation stage to 15th May 2019 these are as a result of the confirmation of DMMO based on historic evidence, and its unsuitability for current use.

**ITEM 12 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ MEMBERS UPDATE**

Alex Staniforth is standing down as Chair of the LAF (again) after several stints in the role, the LAF thanked him for all his hard work, and hope he will stay on as a member as he has many years of knowledge and experience which is highly valued.

Penny has agreed to move up from the role of Vice Chair to take on the role of Chair from the next meeting.

Nominations are needed to assist Penny as Vice Chair. This is not a huge time commitment, four pre-agenda meetings a year in addition to the four LAF meetings.

Mike Graham raised an issue regarding cycling on the Millennium Bridge at Newark, there are some concerns regarding the general maintenance of this bridge.

Penny raised an issue regarding Bestwood Footpath No.3 that is the possibility of upgrading it, NCC will look into it and at other potential gains from the development in the area.

Chris T asked about a Newark Footpath continuation beyond A1 – nothing likely here in the short term, and also about a link from City to County at University Boulevard and plans to extend the City Ground and knock down the Boat Clubs on the embankment.

**ITEM 13 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next LAF meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 30th July 2019 at County Hall, West Bridgford.

The meeting closed at 21:25.