



Notes of the Meeting of Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum

Date: Tuesday 26th January 2016, 7.15pm

Venue: County Hall, Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7QP

Forum Members: Mary Mills (Chair), Peter Hiley (Vice Chair), Dennis Reeson, Simon Wilson, Cathy Charles-Jones, Alison Pritchard, Hilary Limb, Alex Staniforth

Officers and Guests: Suzanne Bedford (Network Rail), Neil Lewis (NCC)

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Fielding, Alan Hudson, Sue Guy, Penny Lymn Rose, Councillor Yvonne Woodhead, Gary Wood
2. **Minutes of the Meeting 20th October 2015** Accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda** – none
4. **Network Rail - level crossing closure programme**

Suzanne Bedford, Liability Negotiations Manager for Network Rail (LNE / EM) introduced herself and explained what her role is at Network Rail. Suzanne explained what Network Rail's aims and objectives are and informed the meeting they want to work with the Forum and local communities in reducing danger to users on public right of way 'at-grade' crossings. There followed a detailed discussion with reference to a number of public right of way crossings in the county. The Forum debated the closure of Whitehouse Lane, north of Newark Northgate Railway station and discussed the alternatives to crossing the east coast mainline. Members also considered very early draft proposals for a bridge at Attenborough and a scheme working with Nottinghamshire County Council at Aslockton. This entails the surfacing and minor improvement work on a footpath which leads to a full barrier controlled crossing enabling users a safer and more suitable access than the current provision over the railway line. Network Rail are keen to work with the Forum and Suzanne will attend future LAF meetings when appropriate.

5. **Discussion re: the new proposed company for Nottinghamshire Highways with Gary Wood, NCC Group Manager - responsible for NCC's Rights of Way Team**

Gary Wood sent his apologies. NL updated and discussed the proposals with Forum members.

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

MM reminded Forum members about the proposal by Mansfield District Council for a Public Place Protection Order (PPPO). The proposals included a ban on drinking alcohol in public places and the continuation of the 'Gating Orders' at Mansfield Woodhouse and an alleyway in Mansfield town centre. Also included was a night time only closure on a jitty path in the town centre. MM made a number of comments and raised concerns on behalf of the LAF. MDC responded, they still propose to keep the gates on the jitty paths. There was no general feedback on how MDC propose to police the PSPO.

7. NCC Committee update

No updates.

8. Village Greens

A report was taken to the Authority's Culture Committee in the New Year regarding an application for a TVG in Mansfield. The recommendation was to turn it down based on the fact that members of the public had used the application site 'by right' rather than 'as of right'. The site was subject to a bylaw allowing members of the public access.

9. PPOs and DMMOs

NL informed the meeting about a proposal to divert a footpath in East Retford (FP33) in the interests of the landowner. A short discussion followed, there were no objections from members present.

10. AOB

MM informed members about the British Horse Society training day on 21st November 2015 attended by MM and PLR. MM said there may be other workshops planned including a 'Lost Ways' workshop arranged by Lincolnshire LAF.

MM asked members if they would be interested in attending a national LAF conference at either Bristol or Leeds in February and March respectively.

The next full LAF meeting will be at County Hall, West Bridgford on Tuesday 26th July 2016.

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

Close of Meeting