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| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  MEETING |  |

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: | Alex Staniforth | DATE:TIME:VENUE: | Tuesday 29th January 2019  19:15  Rufford Suite, County Hall |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Rachel Williams (NCC) |
| MEMBERS THAT ATTENDED:GUESTS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS THAT ATTENDED: | Alex Staniforth, Alison Prichard, Councillor Chris Barnfather, Dave Backhouse and Mary Mills  Bob Ward, Dr Stephen Walker, Richard Wright, Martin Smith, Chris Thompson, and David Shorrocks (Network Rail). | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Alan Hudson, Dennis Reeson, Mike Graham, Edmund Hopkins, Hilary Limb, Penny Lymn Rose, Councillor Rachel Madden, Councillor Francis Purdue and Debbi Smith gave their apologies.

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

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 were approved as a true record.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

**Miner 2 Major Project** – NCC has received £2.4 million grant from the National Lottery for a project in the wider Sherwood Forest project area. The project will be looking at working with the local community, restoration, local access improvements and promotion and publicity. A plan of the defined Sherwood project area will be distributed, and the Forum will invite the recently appointed project officer to a future meeting for an update and how the LAF can get involved. Dr Stephen Walker is on the steering board for Miner 2 Major, so he will be able to keep the LAF up to date with the project. The Forum also discussed the proposal of providing a public bridleway along the disused Calverton railway line from Bestwood to Papplewick. Gedling Borough Council are working with Groundwork and the County Council on putting together a funding application for LEADER funding.

**ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION BY DAVID SHORROCKS, NETWORK RAIL**

Network Rail are a Government owned organisation, they work towards a five-year plan and are approaching the end of this five-year control period. Within this period, they were targeted by central Government to reduce the risk to all users of railway crossings. Some of the risk is reduced by modifying and updating rail crossing infrastructure, however, some crossings are closed after close scrutiny, and access rights, for example, are diverted away from the railway or by means of a bridge. There are a number of current diversion and level crossing closure applications in Nottinghamshire.

**Kings Mill Crossing –** NR are building a major bridleway bridge, to replace an at-grade bridleway crossing over the Robin Hood Railway Line. Bridleway rights will be diverted on to the 3 metre wide bridge and the new structure should be open and available from the 1st April 2019.

**Midland Mainline - Attenborough Meadow Lane Bridleway Crossing**

Network Rail has been out to consultation and are looking at ways of reducing the risk to all stakeholders using this crossing. The railway line here is very busy with trains running at varying speeds depending if they are ‘express’ or local stopping trains. A number options are being looked at including a bridge. It is planned to install miniature ‘traffic’ lights for users at the crossing.

**Nottingham to Barnaby Line (Lincoln) - Collingham**

NR are considering options to improve the crossings along this line. In Collingham, Cross Lane is a two way single carriage road, the level crossing is wide enough for one vehicle with automatic barriers which are life expired. It’s estimated it will cost £2 million pounds to replace the barrier equipment. The proposal is to close the crossing completely and build a new road. NR are working with NCC and Via East Midlands Ltd who have designed the carriageway. A number of local consultation events have taken place in Collingham. The new road will also have a public footpath running alongside and link in with new access for non-motorised users back to the village.

**Collingham FP8 and FP8A**

NR have proposed a diversion scheme at two footpath crossings south of Collingham village. The scheme proposes to remove one crossing but connect the remaining crossing with the creation of a new linking path. The diversion proposal is current out to pre-consultation.

**Whitehouse Lane, Newark**

The footpath crossing over the railway is now extinguished and a new path, funded by NR, along the riverside is now open and available for members of the public to use.

**General**

A question was raised to David Shorrocks regarding the signaling scheme between Kings Cross and Doncaster where there was a proposal to remove all at-grade rail crossings, however, this scheme was put on hold.

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

Neil Lewis provided an update on behalf of Alan Hudson. For background information, Alan is a Nottinghamshire LAF member and a Sustrans volunteer ranger in the Newark area. Alan’s also part of the Friends of Trent Vale Trail (FOTVT). The friends of group have been working on a project to provide a walking and cycling trail from the existing Sustrans route at Collingham to the multi-user route at North Clifton, that is the Fledborough to Lincoln route. FOTVT have summited a bid for LEADER EU funding. The bid is for £170k to provide an accessible route for walkers and cyclists from Collingham to Besthorpe via the Nature Reserve. FOTVT hope to find out if they’ve been successful at the beginning of April 2019.

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

The Forum have recently advertised for new members. The LAF have had a lot of interest from members of the public and new prospective members. The Forum welcomed those who had come to the meeting for the first time. A number of other members of the public expressed an interest in the LAF but unfortunately couldn’t make it to tonight’s meeting and gave their apologies. A double sided threefold leaflet was published late last year, explaining who and what the LAF are. The aim is to distribute copies of this leaflet around the county including at local agricultural shows and through the National Farmers Union in order to try and attract more landowners / farmers on to the Forum.

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

Public Space Protection Orders, in essence, replaced former Gating Orders which were used to ‘gate’ public highways where there was proven ASB and crime taking place. PSPOs are managed by the District and Borough Councils. There are a number of footpaths in Mansfield and Mansfield Woodhouse which are subject to PSPOs, they have been gated at either end. There are no new orders to report.

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

**Kings Mill**

As mentioned in item 4 NR are building a large metal bridge. It is a 3 metre wide bridleway with long ramps leading to a span across the Robin Hood Line. Ashfield District Council asked for the bridge to be in black which matches their proposed HLF bid for furniture around the reservoir site.

**HS2** - consulted with stakeholders towards the end of last year, NCC and the LAF were invited to an interesting and informative HS2 workshop at Loxley House (City Council). The route in the county runs from near Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station in the south to the Derbyshire border in the north near Huthwaite. Both NCC Countryside Access Team and the LAF have submitted written responses to HS2. In summary these responses relate to general principles and requirements to take in to account where public rights of way are affected, and a more detailed response looking at individual paths affected by the building of the high speed railway. The hub station will be located at Toton where a number of associated projects are planned such as a new public transport interchange and other business development. At the LAF meeting in October 2018 members spent time examining draft HS2 plans which formed the basis of the Forum’s submission, a key point being continuous consultation with the LAF by HS2 Ltd.

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

No recent updates. Following two reports presented in July 2018 an application to add a public footpath to the Definitive Map and Statement for Worksop was turned down. The applicant appealed to the Secretary of State, a Planning Inspector was appointed and agreed with the County Council’s assessment. The second report referred to a cul-de-sac bridleway claim in Elkesley, the recommendation was to make a legal order which was approved. The Order has since been made and confirmed.

In November 2018 the Rights of Way Management Plan 2018 – 2026 was approved, copies are available upon request. Councillor Barnfather confirmed a report was approved at committee in the morning of the LAF regarding the creation of a street lit and suitability surfaced walking and cycling route from Mapperley Plains to Arno Vale Road.

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

A couple of reports of obstructions on Common Land and unauthorised works on a Village Green are being investigated.

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

There have been some Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders over the last few months;

* **Collingham** – No objections received so far to the pre-consultation for the diversion of FP8 and FP8A as referred to in Item 4.
* **Cottam** – Historically there have been some alignment anomalies on Bridleway No.2. The Area Rights of Way Officer has successfully negotiated an alternative and an additional bridleway. The Order has now been confirmed.
* **East Bridgford Footpath No.40** – A Diversion Order in the interests of the landowner and paid for by them. The Order has now been confirmed and work to put it on its new line has started.
* **North Clifton** – A proposed extinguishment, this path has not been available to users for a number of years. The path goes through nine different properties and would have been very difficult to reinstate. The alternative is a separated footway alongside a country road to the south of the village.
* **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.
* **Balderton** – This is an anomaly on a footpath that was partly extinguished in the 1980s and a section was left on the DMS. Therefore, this is a tidying up exercise.
* **Cossall / Awsworth** – A proposed upgrade from a footpath to bridleway along the old Nottingham Canal. The Order is currently on deposit.
* **Moss Drive, Bramcote** – Pre-consultation has been sent out for a DMMO to record a public footpath along Moss Drive, Bramcote.
* **Lady Bay** – Claim for a number of public rights of way alongside the River Trent at West Bridgford. A lot of interest from users, over 350 User Evidence Forms has been received.
* **Attenborough Nature Reserve** – With reference to a permissive path which runs parallel to the railway line from Barton Lane towards Long Eaton, Cemex has sold some land (to the west of the site) to a private land owner who has withdrawn support for the permissive path. The Ramblers are looking at claiming the path as a public right of way based on evidence of use prior to the permissive path agreement in the mid to late 2000s.
* **Warsop** – proposed creation of a new path between Warsop FP39 and Netherfield Lane, Meden Vale.
* **Sutton in Ashfield, Stanton Hill –** Following an application for planning consent for development, local residents applied to add two well used footpaths to DMS near Stanton Hill. ADC and NCC are in discussions with the developers.
* **The Mount, Mansfield Woodhouse -** An Order made by Mansfield District Council to extinguish an unrecorded path through a recent housing development. The land was owned by MDC previously used a community centre, the original planning application for housing identified a footpath but the path was subsequently removed following concerns about ASB. There is now a claim for a public right of way, and the Planning Inspector dealing with MDC’s contested extinguishment Order has turned it down. The path will need to be diverted.

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

Richard Wright – the Forum were informed of an obstructed (by a shed) vehicular highway at Maplebeck. NL to report to colleagues in Via EM Ltd. The Forum discussed a number of issues regarding ‘Green Lanes’ and byways including an update of Seasonal closures on a number of Byways Open to All Traffic. Richard expressed an interest in a volunteer task day on a byway.

Mary Mills informed members about a future Chesterfield Canal Walking Festival. David Blackburn, Footpaths Officer for the Canal Society contacted NCC asking if the LAF would like to get involved with leading a guided walk?

There is a ‘Creating Active Community’ conference coming up soon regarding all types of access such as the use of parks and the public path network, how to get people more active and GP referring people to exercise programs. It is within the LAF remit to be encouraging members of the public to use the access network. Please contact Mary Mills for more information.

**ITEM 13 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next LAF meeting is scheduled on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at The Mill, Rufford Abbey Country Park.

The meeting closed at 21:10.