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| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  MEETING |  |

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| MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: | Penny Lymn Rose (Chair) | DATE:TIME:VENUE: | Tuesday 4th February 2020  19:15  Committee Room B, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Mary Mills |
| MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND GUESTS WHO ATTENDED: | Penny Lymn Rose, Councillor Chris Barnfather, Councillor Jim Creamer, Dave Backhouse, Alison Pritchard, Mary Mills, Richard Wright, Debbie Smith, Andrew Osborne, Martin Smith, Lynne Collins, Chris Thompson, Suzanne Bedford (Network Rail) | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Alan Hudson, Dennis Reeson, Dr Stephen Walker, Hilary Limb, Sue Guy gave their apologies.

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

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 were approved as a true record.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING**

None

**ITEM 4 – UPDATE FROM NETWORK RAIL – SUZANNE BEDFORD LIABILITY NEGOTIATIONS TEAM**

Suzanne updated the LAF on various issues mainly level crossing related and listed below:

**Cross Lane, Collingham**: Network Rail are proposing to stop up Cross Lane at the level crossing, using a Section 116 Order, a new section of road will be built first and will provide an alternative vehicular route via Swinderby Road Crossing. As part of these works a new multi-user route will be provided alongside the road. Network Rail have also agreed that if the public support it they will provide a field path to the crossing away from the road. The LAF have no objection to these proposals provided the field path is agreed and will send a letter to Suzanne shortly.

**North Collingham Footpath Crossings:** This proposal provides for the re-alignment of several footpaths and the closure of the crossing on footpath 7 which is only a few metres from the alternative crossing on footpath 5. It is unlikely the LAF would object to this crossing closure as there would be no inconvenience to users and the path network would be more practical. Network Rail intend to apply to NCC in the near future.

**Butts and Dykes Collingham:** Extinguishment and Creation Orders have been made by NCC to enable the closure of Dykes End Level Crossing, objections were received to these Orders and they are with Network Rail awaiting resolution.

**North Muskham Footpath 1 Crossing**: Network Rail would like to close this crossing asap on safety grounds. The LAF would like to see mitigation measures put in place on this crossing, or a diversion negotiated, prior to the crossing being closed. NR would like to close the crossing immediately while looking at mitigation. The main concern here is that once closed the crossing will never reopen. NR may use powers to force closure and buy adjoining land for a footpath diversion. The LAF would accept paths both ways alongside the railway to bring walkers out by the existing road level crossings.

**Burton Joyce Chestnut Grove and Allotment Crossings:** Network Rail have been monitoring Chestnut Grove Crossing as there have been a number of near misses, however they accept that the crossing is very well used and would not be able to be closed without providing a bridge. The Allotment Crossing is not a registered Public Right of Way but is well used. NR will look to do some publicity and safety events in the village, to highlight the dangers and demonstrate safe crossing use.

**Meadow Lane Crossing Attenborough:** This crossing will now remain open for the foreseeable future, improvements have been made: the decking has been widened as befits a bridleway, and miniature warning lights have been installed. The LAF support NR in retaining bridleway rights over the crossing although there is currently little equestrian use. There is also a requirement that any equestrians call the signalman before trying to cross.

**Barratt Lane No.1 Crossing Attenborough:** NR are looking at this crossing (they have already closed Barratt Lane No.2 Crossing and diverted the footpath). This crossing is a well-used shortcut, and no obvious alternative route is available.

**Network Rail land at Scrooby**: Chris Thompson and NL asked a question regarding dedication of a path from Scrooby towards Bawtry (part of Pilgrim Roots Path Project) on NR land, Suzanne is not opposed to the idea and will chase it up for a response from the NR Property Services Team.

**ITEM 5 – ACCESSIBILITY**

A gentleman who uses a disability scooter has contacted the Countryside Access Team with a request to improve accessibility on various routes including sections along the Trent which have Clapper Gates.

The LAF discussed Clapper Gates which are a historic feature found almost exclusively in Nottinghamshire and which should therefore be retained. Unfortunately, they can be difficult to use on bike, horseback or disability scooter. Various options were discussed including gaps to the side or bridleway gates alongside. No one is quite sure how many of these gates still exist in the county and how many need to be restored. There is some possible funding available for restoration projects.

**ITEM 6 - TRENT VALE TRAIL – UPDATE**

Alan Hudson sent an update: the new footpath (with permissive cycle use) at Besthorpe has now been created on the ground through the reserve and is looking good. Issues with flooding and badgers have caused delays but things are on target for an official opening on 4th April 2020. The Group are now looking at the northern section of the route, towards South Clifton.

**ITEM 7 – LAF SITE VISIT/WALK**

It was proposed and agreed that the LAF site visit/walk would take place on the evening of Tuesday 9th June. Details will be forwarded to members nearer the date.

**ITEM 8 – PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – STANDING ITEM**

No updates on PSPOs affecting public access.

**ITEM 9 – NETWORK RAIL / HS2 – STANDING ITEM**

**HS2**

No further updates regarding public access.

**ITEM 10 – NCC PLANNING AND LICENSING CTTE – STANDING ITEM**

A report was presented to the Committee in December 2019 with regards to a Diversion Order in the parish of Southwell.

An Objection had been received at pre-consultation. It was recommended that an Order be made. This was agreed by the Committee and an Order is currently on deposit.

A report to approve the conversion of West Bridgford Footpath 63 to a publicly maintained Cycle Track, and its removal from the Definitive Map will also be considered. The LAF were assured that this would not make the path vulnerable in any way.

**ITEM 11 – TOWN OR VILLAGE GREENS/ COMMON LAND – STANDING ITEM**

Cllr Barnfather raised an issue regarding a village green in Farndon, dedicated by the Parish in 1967. Part of the village

green is a car park and has apparently been so since registration in the later 1960s.

**ITEM 12 – PPOs AND DMMOs – STANDING ITEM**

Penny introduced this item and commented on the volume of Orders being made by the CA team (particularly by Steph-

who is currently on a 1-year fixed contract as a Diversions Officer).

Updates on recent Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders:

**Rempstone** – Bridleway 11 Diversion and Footpath 16 Creation confirmed. Now out to Pre-consultation on Temporary

Diversion of Footpath 1 to enable next stage of gravel extraction.

**Arnold –** Pre consultation temporary Diversion to allow for approved quarry extension

**North Muskham –** Order to divert Footpath 1 (current legal line crosses A1 at grade) north along existing non-definitive roadside path and create a link south along existing non-definitive path, Orders are now Confirmed.

**Warsop –** Extinguishment of Footpath14 and Creation of an alternative Bridleway to remove path from a waterlogged woodland route, has been agreed with landowner and is now out on pre consultation.

**Balderton** – awaiting response from landowner regarding an upgrade of a footpath to bridleway as part of a wider

extinguishment (across the A1) and creation of paths in the Parish.

**Eastwood/ Awsworth/ Beeston and Stapleford –** (a big tidy up exercise) is out on pre consultation.

**East Retford –** Diversion around the edge of sports field – out to pre consultation – objections received.

**Kinoulton –** Pre consultation objections received on width of Crossfield path- should be resolved.

**Stanford on Soar** – Pre consultation diversion of Bridleway 7 – objections received.

**Mansfield** – Order made to extinguish unrecorded path on Bradder Way and create a footpath- objection received.

**Mansfield** – Diversion Order made as part of a tidying-up exercise following Network Rail’s Transport and Works

Act Order and the provision of a bridle bridge – confirmed.

**Babworth** – pre-consultation to divert part of a bridleway to the field edge and extend consent for a permissive bridleway.

**Everton and Gringley –** Definitive Map Modification Order to upgrade footpath to bridleway, add a bridleway and upgrade a footpath to a Byway open to all traffic – at pre consultation

There are Public Inquiries coming up, both regarding footpath claims in Mansfield Woodhouse, the dates are Tuesday

31st March 2020 and Tuesday 7th April 2020. Subsequent to the LAF meeting the Mansfield Inquiry has now been

cancelled due to lack of objector submissions and will be dealt with by an exchange of written representations.

**ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ MEMBERS UPDATE**

Richard Wright asked about reporting and getting a response on illegal antisocial driving at “the Dessert” and at Eakring Road, Neil stated that there are also issues in a couple of other places including Watnall Brickworks, Annesley Woods and Narrow Lane, Worksop. The police are aware but are not responding promptly to reports, advice was to keep reporting and police operations will be targeted and vehicles seized will be crushed (Neil is currently working with the police on this).

Richard also asked about volunteering, what could be done whilst out using a route if it way impassible due to vegetation.

Councilor Barnfather would also like to see more volunteer involvement, as would Chris Thompson.

Issue with insurance was discussed, use of tools etc, it was pointed out that while there are many benefits of using volunteers it does have an impact on staff time to arrange, and landowner permission is required on private land, hence volunteering in Country Parks and Friends groups is more straightforward.

**ITEM 13 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next LAF meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5th May 2020 at Rufford Mill, Rufford Country Park.

Close of meeting.