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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 18th May 2021  19:00  Microsoft Teams online Meeting |
|  |  | NOTE TAKER: | Mary Mills (NCC) |
| MEMBERS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSGUESTS: | Penny Lymn Rose, Councillor Richard Butler, Stephen Walker, Martin Smith, Dave Backhouse, Sue Jones, Alan Hudson, Hilary Limb, Mary Mills, Richard Wright, Chris Thompson,  Rachael Rickell (Miner2Major) | OFFICERS: | Neil Lewis (NCC) |

# MINUTES

#### ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES

Councillor Chris Barnfather, Alison Pritchard sent their apologies.

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

The minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2020 were approved as a true record.

**ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING – UPDATE FROM NEIL LEWIS**

No specific issues were raised from the minutes of the last meeting which was 15 months ago.

Neil Lewis gave an update on how the Rights of Way and Countryside Access Teams had been affected by and managed the network during the Covid Lockdowns:

The rights of way network has been used a lot more intensely than usual with the public being told to stay local, many people have taken up walking for the first time, this causes problems but also offers opportunities, managing user expectations has been hard, several members of the team have had Covid or had to isolate, all have been working remotely as much as possible, there have been issues with public consultations, getting works done, and with managing paths close to properties. Hopes are that the increased appreciation of local footpath networks and what they provide will help with protecting paths and fund maintenance and improvements.

**ITEM 4 – UPDATE ON THE MINER 2 MAJOR PROJECT – RACHAEL RICKELL**

Rachael updated specifically on the Connecting Trails aspect of the project, where expectations have been reduced somewhat by Covid restrictions and time restraints.

The project will now look at using M2M funding to assist the Area Rights of Way Officers with resolving existing issues in the project area which otherwise would not get done for some time.

There are also plans to produce a Routes and Rides Booklet for the Miner 2 Major area, which would provide a lasting legacy for the project. As part of that production it is anticipated that volunteers including Notts Wildlife Trust, Ramblers and the LAF will be able to assist with various tasks including, routes, waymarking, checking of routes, leading guided walks, interpretation, and maintenance tasks.

Chris Thompson volunteered the Robin Hood Way Guided Walks as part of the M2M publicity.

Rachael also informed us that a new full time Engagement Officer, Helen, has been recruited to the project.

Alan Hudson asked about cycle routes and gaps in the network, some had been identified in earlier consultations

Dave Backhouse asked about a link near Sherwood Heath/Ollerton.

It is still possible that some of these improvements can be made particularly where there is a safety element involved.

The LAF had made a “wish list” at a previous meeting and this has now been forwarded to Rachael Rickell and will be attached to the minutes.

**ITEM 5 – A52 ACCESS AND CROSSINGS-PENNY LYMN ROSE AND SUE JONES**

Highways England are undertaking consultation on plans to improve access over the A52 between Nottingham Knight, Wheatcroft and Gamston islands, current proposals are just to install public crossings at the roundabouts. These proposals do not address any of the access issues associated with severed footpaths and bridleways between the roundabouts of which there are quite a few.

There is an old Cattle Creep underpass between Wheatcroft Roundabout and Nottingham Knight which could be improved to provide a safe crossing for the public, the Ramblers are working with local MPs, Councilors and other organizations to gain support for this project, which currently Highways England seem reluctant to engage with.

There is an online petition (currently around 1700 signatures) which LAF members have been asked to support and to share in order to increase pressure for action, this has now been circulated.

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

The official opening of the trail through Besthorpe was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid, but 2 major surveys have provided lots of positive feedback, the route is very accessible and well used. Feedback from disabled users has been particularly positive.

Agreement with landowners has been reached for all bar 70 metres of the route North to North Clifton.

**ITEM 7 – LAF SITE VISIT/WALK**

It was agreed that a site visit/walk would be useful as a safe and less formal way for members to get together and chat and to act as a bit of a training session for new members. Neil to circulate a questionnaire to find preferred date, time and destination.

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

No updates on PSPOs affecting public access.

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

**HS2**

No update

**NETWORK RAIL**

**North Muskham Footpath 1 Crossing**: Network Rail have closed this crossing on safety grounds. Representatives of the LAF, Ramblers, Local Users and other bodies met with David Shorrocks (Network Rail) on site to look at acceptable alternative paths to be created as replacements for the crossing footpath. Various options were looked at and it was agreed that David would attempt to negotiate a route to the west of the railway beside a watercourse between Bathley and Vicarage Lanes, and also a footpath link from Norwell Crossing to join North Muskham Footpath 1at its northern end.

**Burton Joyce Chestnut Grove Crossing:** Network Rail have temporarily closed and padlocked this crossing, sighting damage to the crossing surface and safety concerns.

Improvement works are due to take place in early June 2021 and were already scheduled. Once these are done the crossing will reopen.

There have been a number of near misses and foolish behavior incidents on this popular crossing and it will be closely monitored once re opened.

**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. Some progress has been made with this.

**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.

**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.

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

Recent County Council elections have led to some changes to committees, this one will become the NCC Planning and Rights of Way Committee, new members will be elected shortly, and the committee will meet on 22nd June.

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

No updates

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

Various PPO and DMMO are currently being processed, these were not discussed in any detail due to time

restraints and the difficulties of sharing information on an online forum.

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

Neil brought to the attention of the LAF the “Dead or Dead Slow” Campaign which Helen Swift (NCC) has been working on with the BHS highlighting the danger of roads for horse riders, a leaflet and signage has been produced. Neil will circulate a list of proposed locations of the signage for any additional input from LAF horse riders.

Chris Thompson highlighted issues with illegal Motorcycling, scrambling and Quad bike use and also pointed out that electric scooters are becoming a serious problem, and one which should be considered.

Tollerton Development was raised but there are no updates at present.

**ITEM 13 – FUTURE DATES AND VENUES**

The next LAF meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd August 2021 it is hoped that it will be in person and probably in County Hall.

Close of meeting.