

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2014 to March 2015

Name of LAF	Hertfordshire (HertsLAF)
Name of LAF Chair	Liddy Lawrence
Name of LAF Secretary	Richard Cuthbert

Total number of LAF members	14
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	8
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	4
Number of members representing other interests	5

1. LAF achievements? (Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area)

Conclusion of P4C Project, creating new bridleway in Sandridge, further improvements are underway.

Friends of Panshangar Country Park are advising Herts County Council and Lafarge on opening the whole park to the public, as part has already been opened.

Part cycle route links created into Hatfield Town Centre, the intention is to increase links, routes and access for cyclists.

Community Payback Scheme - a pilot is running successfully in St. Albans.

2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

P4C project is no longer running due to lack of funding.

Budget cuts for Access and Right of Way teams - leading to reductions in path clearing and maintenance standards.

National Rail level crossings issues of severance and Right of Way as access for all needs consideration and either difficult or costly.

Future of the Countryside Management Service with potential outsourcing risks.

3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?

Green Lanes / Lists of streets for definitive map cut off in 2026, action to record urban alleyways and unrecorded roads before the cut off date, so that they are not 'lost'.

Encourage more volunteers for countryside maintenance - especially on key county sites of Panshangar Country Park, Ellenbrook Fields and Aldenham Country Park.

HCC Year of Walking and continuing health walks project.

4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?

Ongoing support of County technical RoW advisers & admin support - essential in times of resource cuts.

Continued linking with other LAFs - regionally & nationally for advice, guidance and encouragement.

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2014 to March 2015

LAF activity in 2014/15

Number of full LAF meetings held	4	Number of sub-group meetings held	4
Number of working groups led by others	2	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	2

Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice
Green Infrastructure strategies		
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)		1
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	1	1
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)		1
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)	1	1
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders		1
Planning applications		5
Housing development schemes		5
Local development frameworks and planning strategies		5
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each		1
Right of Way Improvement Plan review		4
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)		1
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area		6
Definitive map and recording PROW		2
Parish Council or other grant schemes		1
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?		4
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW		4
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)		2
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	1	1
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	1	
Open Access land restrictions	1	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	2
NNR dedication		
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.		2
Forestry and woodland		1

Any other LAF activity (please specify)

Fly tipping on PROW

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2014 to March 2015

Outsourcing of LA RoW & Countryside services

5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies¹

LA RoW & Countryside services cuts

District Council owned park & development of cycleways on existing footpaths

Equestrian access to disused railway / cycleway and resurfacing works.

Minerals plan review.

LNP - Letter from Chair regarding LAF communication & involvement.

6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

Despite cuts to the Access & RoW service, resulting in the loss of the specific LAF Secretary's post, we continue to aim to give admin support along with the ongoing technical advice from officers.

We welcome the advice from the LAF on the huge variety of access issues covered; especially support on contentious issues, such as the recent Network Rail level crossings closures.

7. Comments from LAF Chair

HertsLAF continues to enjoy excellent working relationships with the HCC Access & RoW Service, although the lack of dedicated admin support puts a greater pressure on those staff to enable LAF to continue its business.

LAF Membership continues to be very stable but once again there is always a lot of work for each member of the forum.

We continue to be involved in many aspects of access life in Herts and I am extremely grateful to all members for all their work this year.

We look forward to 2015-2016 when we hope to see more improvements to access, particularly in various Parks where this has been promised for some time!

8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England

Loss of direct LAF Secretary admin support post with RoW Technical support officers now fulfilling admin support function as well.

¹ The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2014 to March 2015

9. Any other comments

LAF Members have enjoyed communications and meetings with other LAFs and we would wish for NE support to enable this to continue.