



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum

51st Local Access Forum - Minutes

14 September 2016 at Ramada Hotel, Hatfield



- LAF Members:** Liddy Lawrence (chair), Iain Gregory, Russell Huffer, Mark Mills-Bishop, Brian Worrell, Diana Collingridge.
- Apologies:** Lynn Myland (vice chair), Debbie Hougie, Gary O'Leary, Robert Bolt, Chris Hall, Rosemary Gilligan, Mike Hartley, Bill Storey.
- Guests:** Chris Beney (Open Spaces Society), Nick Eddy, Steve Day, Andy Kenning (Network Rail), Carol Brazier (South Herts CTC).
- HCC Officers:** Richard Cuthbert (RoW), Jacob Wing (TARS)

1	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Norman Jones' funeral – RC, LL & BF will attend. <p>Lynda Abbott. West Herts Ramblers wrote the following tribute about Norman: "Norman Jones has died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home in Hemel Hempstead.</p> <p>Norman worked tirelessly for the Ramblers Association for many years and occupied many different roles at both Area and local level including Secretary of the West Herts group. He was an influential member of the Area Council, serving variously as Group Representative, Chair and then Secretary. He was a member of the Area Communications subcommittee and made a large contribution to the production of Stile magazine. He was also a long serving Footpath Secretary, a member of the Local Access Forum and represented the Area many times at General Council. He received a Good Service Award at the Area AGM in 2014.</p> <p>Norman was a great source of knowledge on all aspects of the Ramblers from how to run an AGM properly to legal Rights of Way and was always very well informed about Ramblers politics. We will miss him very much."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highway vegetation issues – Highways housekeeping budget. Phase 1: was cleaning signs, phase 2: now cutting vegetation. Chasing for confirmation of whether sites identified by RoW will be included (otherwise will be cut by RoW).• LL: How many vegetation reports? Out of a total of approximately 2000 reports a year, vegetation is one of the highest areas of complaint at approx. 12.5%. The RoW team are fully supportive of the importance of ongoing maintenance (as it compares well with up to 10x cost for
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	<p>delayed management) – but the level achievable is totally resource dependent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMB: Acknowledged from his Cllr's position that vegetation management has risen up residents' agenda. • RC: Ramada venue not available from May 2017. Future meetings will be relocated – possibly Hertfordshire Sports Village (University of Hertfordshire)? <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to update website • Book future venue
2	<p>LAF member updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH: Permit system for access to certain routes with PTROs – Permanent Traffic Regulation Orders, would be supported. • RC: Keen to trial. PTRO – can be used to ban certain vehicle types, to overcome for e.g. fly-tipping and surface damage issues, where legitimate users are not causing the problem. Currently being trialled in Kent. Physical barriers or policing (or a combination) needed, permits are issued, and permitted users given code to unlock gates. It is seen as a manageable compromise to a complete PTRO. Police have a list of the permitted users' licence & vehicle registration numbers. Gaps to allow non-vehicular access remain alongside gates / bollards. • LL: Wouldn't want gates all over county, should be case by case to where necessary. • RC: Offley byway 20 identified as opportunity for trial (or Fox's Lane, Welham Green for site of field trip). • DC: Fly-tipping particularly bad this harvest and hare coursing – much worse than previously. Requesting locally more barriers as having difficulty getting Police presence. • RC: Is there a correlation of days when household waste recycling centres are closed? DC: Not specifically. Usually building waste. • LL: BF continuing with the fly-tipping forum. Police stepped down from

	<p>chair, but HCC (Duncan Jones) has taken over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG: Local plan consultations ongoing. St Albans Cycling Campaign hosting national conference on 19th November 2016, in St. Albans, see: http://www.cyclenation.org.uk/conference • BW: Ridgeway partnership delivery group meeting happened – will send an update. • RC: National Trails Association being considered – in response to lack of Natural England funding guarantee. Looking to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty associations as a model. • LM: Update to be included.
3	<p>AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report is on the website. Also sent to Natural England who incorporate it into the national report to DEFRA. • Lots happening with Herts LAF: The report asked us to estimate volunteer time – we calculated it was in the hundreds of hours. • Also asked about any concerns – main concern being finances for the local authority RoW Team. • RC: Have collated finance report (slightly less than previous years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subscriptions £157 ○ Catering & Room Bookings £981 ○ Forums & Conferences £ 25 ○ Travel Expenses £278 ○ Total £1441 • Replacement role for NJ – not like for like replacement, but landowner / farming representative needed. Considering suggestions put forward. • RC: Skills and interests table on website will be updated. • IG: Clarifying role of members' representation (not specific organisations – more about experience) although important to feed back to outside groups. • LL: Attending St Albans charrette to represent access issues. • BW: Bucks LAF also looking at Green Lanes and White Roads <p>ACTIONS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC contact potential new members • BW to raise Green Lanes and White Roads again at Bucks LAF and report back
4	<p>Level crossings consultation (Nick Eddy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated slides to be circulated, consultation summaries available on the Anglia line consultation website below. • 1200 responses were received form the first round of public consultation sessions (Network Rail and Mott MacDonald), • Second round of consultation 21st September at Rhodes Centre, Bishops Stortford (14.30-18.30) • 3x Transport & Works Act Orders (Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex/Herts/Thurrock). • Limited response rate on each individual crossing (max 9 for Trinity Lane, 8 Twyford Road) • More information & Phase 1 & 2 consultation factsheets available: www.networkrail.co.uk/anglialevelcrossings • Hoping to present a single preferred option during second round of consultation and the public still has another 21 days to submit further comments. • Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aug/Sep Phase 2 Habitat Assessments ○ Sep/Oct Second round of consultations ○ Oct/Nov/Dec TWAO preparation ○ Submission by March 2017 ○ Decision period Mar 2017-Mar 2018 ○ Late 2017/early 2018 Public Inquiries ○ Permission to commence expected early to mid-2018. <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMB: How long will works take? Depends on site, some infrastructure already in place, just requiring rights to be applied to bridges. Other closures subject to diversion routes becoming available. Aiming to complete by March 2019. Have up to 5 years to complete following

	<p>TWAO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DK: How did you advertise consultation? All crossings had flyers for two weeks. Letter drops to nearby dwellings. Local newspapers. • CB: Statutory consultees? Mott Macdonald managing – will ensure have your details. • LL: All 9 staying open? Depends on definition – different nature of access (diversions etc), but access will remain. • MMB: Links with Crossrail 2? Depends on powers sought to undertake Crossrail 2 works. But some could be seen as enabling works (for example Trinity Lane being downgraded to bridleway, but required Crossrail 2 to build bridge), others still to be resolved. Possible Crossrail 2 hybrid bill, initial works 2020/2022. • Major changes since phase 1? Tednambury 4 proposals revised to 1.
5	<p>Green corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council consultation on green corridor between Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield • As previously mentioned, proposed green corridor may represent an actual reduction from 100m to 50m in width for public access and wildlife. • BW: Understood it to be 100m minimum for wildlife corridor • DC: Farmland or parkland? Some areas identified as “characterised as abandoned meadow”. • RC: Need to scrutinise proposals in detail • LL: Will put out a request for comments to be collated <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LL to put out a request for green corridor consultation responses
6	<p>Outbreak of Strangles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly contagious horse disease around St Albans area – London Colney gravel pits. • Notices up initially said path closure, but later found that no powers due to that specific disease. Notices replaced with a request to take another route.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign has started to have the disease registered as ‘notifiable’ to allow closure rights.
6	<p>HCC Rights of Way updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 year review of ROWIP – strategy update rather than maps & lists. • All HCC internal departments being asked to update their information (such as health and wellbeing, passenger transport). • Will go to December HCC Environment, Planning and Transport panel. • Will circulate both ‘track changes’ version and new draft and questions for review pre-public consultation. RC • Consultation events and engagement for approximately 3 months. • Take back to EPT panel in March/April 2017 for adoption. • Do not have same capacity as 10 years ago, but always referred to maps and lists as ‘live documents’ – so have grown and changed across the period. This is a strategy review rather than specific routes. • Consultation meetings with user groups – ALL let RC know what would be favoured. • Update report on ROW work to be circulated with map files online or burn CDs if needed. RC <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG: Any of Network Rail Anglia route rights of way in ROWIP? Network Rail are not offering upgrades – anything additional has to be locally funded. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to circulate ROW report
7	<p>Local Plans update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planometer available for circulation c/o Jon Tiley, HCC Planning. • Broxbourne: at consultation – 69 responses so far. 7000 new homes, mainly greenbelt sites, new village green in Goffs Oak. 3 “town hall” consultation meetings • LAF invited to comment on all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Core strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preferred options ○ Technical consultation • Good example of success is ROWIP references into St Albans' local plan. • LAF letter to be updated & go out to all districts. <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to circulate LAF local plan consultation response letter
8	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW: Highways England “Accessibility Strategy: our approach” consultation – anybody aware / responding to it? RC to send link. • DC: Green Corridor response – as a LAF but also as individuals. • IG: mentioned Welwyn Hatfield consultation events. • MMB: County/district representation on LAF to be confirmed? Next year is Year of Environment for Broxbourne. Programme to be forwarded to RC. • LL: Symondshyde proposed development – RC to look up and send link. • MMB: Raybrook stables, Brookmans Park – now has beware rider signs (for drivers) including flashing signs. • LL: May be useful between St Albans and Harpenden. • RC: LTP4 consultation circulated – see email.
8	<p>Dates of next Public meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 December 2016 • 7th March 2017 • 7th June 2017 • 12th Sept 2017 • 6th December 2017 <p>Next Business meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd November 2016 – County Hall – planning consultations. • 17th November – site visit to Fox's lane re PTRO example. <p>Field Trip</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th January 2017
9	Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to update website • BW to raise Green Lanes and White Roads again at Bucks LAF and report back • LL to put out a request for green corridor consultation responses • RC to circulate ROW report • RC to circulate LAF local plan consultation response letter