



**Hertfordshire Local Access Forum**  
**59th Meeting Minutes – 3rd September 2018**  
(Hertfordshire Sports Village)



- LAF Members:** Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Deborah Hougie, Chris Hall, Paul Christian, Diana Collingridge.
- HCC Officers:** Richard Cuthbert (Countryside and Rights of Way – CROW), Jacob Wing (Passenger Transport).
- Guests:** David Kealey (St Albans Access Forum).
- Apologies:** Mark Mills-Bishop, John Featherstone, Rosemary Gilligan, Lee Tyson (CROW).

**1 Minutes and matters arising**

- Outstanding action for **CH** to prepare draft letter to Tarmac for **LL** consideration and sending off.
- **LL** queried Cottonmill Lane petition. **RC** reported that a paper will be taken to Hertfordshire County Council's Highways and Environment Panel (15 Nov, 10-11am in Committee Room B, County Hall). Network Rail working through list of mitigations, including an origin and destination survey. **RC** to ensure Network Rail survey dates include school term time. **BW** noted from Ridgeway Delivery Group the Princes Risborough experience of Network Rail high risk crossing closure, including a minute that new technologies may help (eg self-closing or locking gates, lights, CCTV). **RC** to contact Sarah Wright for Princes Risborough advice. **LL** to share minutes when available.
- Outstanding action for **RC** to refresh Huddle awareness.

**Actions**

- **CH** to prepare draft letter to Tarmac for **LL** consideration and sending off.
- **RC** to ensure Network Rail survey dates include school term time.
- **RC** to contact Sarah Wright for Princes Risborough advice.
- **LL** to share minutes when available.
- **RC** to refresh Huddle awareness.

2	<p><b>Member updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CH</b> noted Walkernbury Lane; <b>RC</b> had been in contact with Mark Allen regarding the National Street Gazetteer, and confirmed no legal change to its status, and that Mechanically Propelled Vehicle rights had been extinguished following the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). <b>CH</b> queried whether to challenge, <b>RC</b> advised that research needed to gather evidence of usage. <b>CH</b> referred to Trail Riders Fellowship successful cases in Powys and Dorset.</li> <li>• <b>RH</b> noted he had Green Lane Association members keen to undertake some clearance works on Byways Open to All Traffic or Bridleways, with successful volunteer works in Essex. <b>LL</b> queried responsibility for footpath vegetation maintenance; <b>RC</b> explained in highway responsibility of county council, overhanging from sides individual landowners. <b>RC</b> to pass on St Albans to Sandridge example to officers. <b>RH</b> noted Trailwise 2 software launch and offered <b>RC</b> access.</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> provided an update from the summer field trip, including missing signage, good work to drainage along route, and challenge to need for Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Re-opening not popular amongst local residents, particularly for noise reasons. <b>LL</b> suggested experimental TRO to re-open for 6 to 12 months, and use of counters to provide evidence. <b>RC</b> indicated that this consultation would be used as a model for remaining TROs under review. <b>BW</b> gave members a trial run down various routes with and without TROs. Members also observed the heavy use of a BOAT to access an open farm, and <b>RC</b> noted definition of extra-ordinary use. <b>DH</b> highlighted that the fieldtrip was particularly useful in sharing the range of experiences of all LAF members. <b>LL</b></li> <li>• <b>BW</b> had attended British Horse Society workshop. A delegate from Barton-le-Clay, Central Bedfordshire had formed Charitable Interest Company of 12-14 volunteer members, a private limited company doing paid work under contract to CBC and private landowners. Maintenance equipment owned by CIC and trained by manufacturers. A “Green Gym” licence and “Hazelnut” scheme allows Public Liability Insurance coverage. A local metal fabrication</li> </ul>

company has provided modified equipment. CIC see Barton Countryside Conservation ([www.b-cc.org](http://www.b-cc.org)). **LL** highlighted a similar example elsewhere in the East of England which used charitable status to raise money. **BW** noted that all proceeds invested in equipment and training.

- **BW** reported that Buckinghamshire LAF Shire Lane, Holloway Road (Valley Farm / Chess River) to be considered mid-2020. Second part of meeting considered Bucks draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan, **BW** offered to share update at next meeting. **BW** noted Bucks concern at lack of legal definition of cycle routes (tracks, paths, designated routes, and cycleways). **DH** to share published article on the issue of cycle routes. **RC** pointed out difference between having a public right of way and recording on Definitive Map. **IG** drew members' attention to footpaths converted to cycle routes which have therefore dropped off the Definitive Map.
- **BW** reported from Ridgeway Delivery Group list of delivery risks, gates installation project, and a notice that National Land Access Centre will be launched 14 September, 10.00 at Lewknor in Oxfordshire. **DH** suggested members attend.
- **JW** noted Department for Transport guidance placing a hold on shared space transport schemes.
- **DC** noted landowners under "siege" from hare coursers and fly tippers, with five tips in a single field recently. **DC** noting a change in Police views, including expectation that there will be barriers to prevent. **PC** supported this view and referred to a recent petition. **RC** highlighted a fly-tipping summit, to represent LAF views and share an update. **DH** asked for an update from MMB on select committee work.
- **RH** raised the LAF planning seminar, intention to invite large landowners, developers, district planning departments to highlight best practice ahead of major planning applications. Community Infrastructure Levy has not delivered against expectations. **DH** noted revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). **All** LAF members invited to attend seminar to help facilitate. 6-8 November, two hours, aiming for 30 participants. **All** LAF members to share a photograph representing their LAF area of interest. Written outputs to share with planners would be beneficial.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Bill and food production post-Brexit. Path around Aldenham Reservoir, and concern about public footpath over private dam.</li> <li>• <b>IG</b> noted Woodland Trust pleased with revised NPPF, with slight increase in protection of ancient woodland. New Woods Avenue cycle route affected by parking, but difficulty with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council enforcement. <b>RC</b> to flag Woods Avenue cycle route parking issue to Highways. Earlier concerns about vegetation overgrowth adjacent Hatfield Road, recent improvements to footway. <b>RC</b> noted and to circulate Welwyn Hatfield Greenbelt Study Stage 3 report recently published. <b>DH</b> reminded members that NPPF encourages planning authorities to first consider brownfield land.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RC</b> to pass on St Albans to Sandridge example to officers.</li> <li>• <b>DH</b> to invite horse-riding contact.</li> <li>• <b>DH</b> to share published article on the issue of cycle routes.</li> <li>• <b>All</b> LAF members invited to attend seminar to help facilitate.</li> <li>• <b>All</b> LAF members to share a photograph representing their LAF area of interest.</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to flag Woods Avenue cycle route parking issue to Highways.</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to circulate Welwyn Hatfield Greenbelt Study Stage 3 report.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Forthcoming public meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 12 November 2018</li> <li>• Business meeting and Winter field trip (January to March 2019 – to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Tuesday 12 March 2019</li> <li>• Monday 10 June 2019</li> <li>• Tuesday 10 September 2019</li> <li>• Monday 2 December 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>All</b> to flag Winter field trip ideas, suggestions included visiting past successes such as Heartwood Forest, links to health agenda. <b>BW</b> mentioned sport and physical activity through Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, including an upcoming</p>

	<p>conference.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All</b> to flag Winter field trip ideas</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to arrange update of website papers.</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Attached:</b> new county council Countryside and Rights of Way team structure.</p>