



## Hertfordshire Local Access Forum

### 60th Meeting Minutes

12th November 2018

(Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield)



**LAF Members:** Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Deborah Hougie, Chris Hall, Diana Collingridge, Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop.

**HCC Officers:** Richard Cuthbert (Countryside and Rights of Way), Jacob Wing (Passenger Transport).

**Apologies:** Gary O’Leary, Rosemary Gilligan, Paul Christian.

#### 1 Minutes and matters arising

- Draft letter for Tarmac ready to finish to and send on.
- LL noted community leader had set up email address to co-ordinate Cottonmill Lane crossing – [saveourcrossing@gmail.com](mailto:saveourcrossing@gmail.com). Group basis of challenging Network Rail’s “dangerous” classification.
- **RC** taking petition to full County Council 27 November. Network Rail moving away from a wholesale nationwide crossing closure to a combination of ad hoc closures and Transport and Works Order process.
- Refreshing Huddle awareness still outstanding, **RC** to circulate list of names awaiting access.
- Traffic Regulation Order review – due in 2019, not started yet but plan is to start late 2018. Report to Highways and Environment Panel for recommendations on anywhere change proposed. Start of process with desktop review to identify three broad categories of “stay the same”, “amend”, “completely close”. Reviewed panel papers from 2009 review, intense work involving site visits, public consultation etc, including working in consultation with Local Access Forum. **CH** has requested mins of 2008 LAF minutes to consider what LAF’s views were. Review to include consideration of Byway User Group.
- Fly-tipping – PCC fund for barriers. Duncan Jones Waste Partnership Manager -develop protocol for difference between fly-tipping on Highways and Rights of Way, for consistent approach across the county. Complete obstruction County Council will remove, partial disruption District Council to

	<p>remove. <b>DC</b> highlighted costs and impact on farmers. <b>BF / Duncan Jones</b> to provide an update on fly-tipping protocol at next LAF meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAF Seminar confirmed for 09:30 start for 10:00-12:00 on Friday 25 January, at Robertson House, Stevenage. Continuing to seek confirmed speakers but will circulate “save the date”. Business meeting to take place directly thereafter. <b>DH</b> reminded all members to send her a photograph of themselves. Local Authorities, developers land owners invited.</li> <li>• <b>BW</b> queried definition of cycle tracks, multi-user paths and continued discussion of definitions at Bucks LAF.</li> <li>• <b>LL</b> invited suggestions for Winter Field Trip; Neighbourhood Planning.</li> <li>• Updated dates, as per agenda for this meeting:</li> </ul> <p><b>2019 meetings etc;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 25th Planning Seminar (&amp; Business Meeting) - Stevenage</li> <li>• February Field Trip - TBC</li> <li>• Monday 11 March 2019 - Health Walks</li> <li>• May Field Trip - Health Walk</li> <li>• Monday 10 June 2019</li> <li>• Monday 9 September 2019 - Neighbourhood Planning</li> <li>• Monday 2 December 2019</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LL</b> and <b>RC</b> to finish letter and send on to Tarmac</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to circulate list of names awaiting Huddle access</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to provide an update on fly-tipping protocol at next LAF meeting</li> <li>• <b>All</b> members to send DH a photograph of themselves</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Annual General Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All agreed to continue as members until next Annual General Meeting.</li> <li>• Representation of LAF members on a wide range of committees.</li> <li>• LAF expenditure minimal, £1307 committed budget for 2018.</li> <li>• Membership strong, lacking district councillor representation.</li> <li>• Suggestion of change of rules for short term membership for university,</li> </ul>

	college or school student representation - Agreed by all.
3	<p><b>Changes in the LAF 2003-2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in public attendance; how to attract? <b>RC</b> refreshing mailing list for publicity.</li> <li>• Recruitment – not initially a problem, but very shortly afterwards. Consider promoting on Rights of Way signs / interpretation boards?</li> <li>• Reduction in support from Natural England, declining profile on national agenda.</li> <li>• The health agenda now has a higher profile - links directly to healthy access.</li> <li>• Variation in LAF meeting format - originally moving around the county, now at one location.</li> <li>• Regional (chairs and vice-chairs) meetings continue, although national meetings irregular &amp; infrequent.</li> <li>• Admin support from county council diminished over previous years, but now better supported through HCC.</li> <li>• There has never been a lack of issues to discuss or presenters.</li> <li>• Rights of Way Improvement Plan – some things delivered, some areas no change.</li> <li>• Thanks to all LAF members and Richard and Countryside &amp; Rights of Way Service for continued support.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>2018 update to British Standard BS5709 for Gaps, Gates and Stiles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public involvement has included Country Land and Business Association and National Farmers Union and other groups. Informed by testing at National Land Access Centre trial facility.</li> <li>• Updates included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protruding features such as latches which could hurt horses</li> <li>○ How hard the gate is to push or pull, e.g. if disabled, or on horse-back.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disappointing that £199 per copy from British Standards Institute, but useful “10 rules” summary from Pittecroft Trust (see: <a href="http://www.pittecroft.org.uk/5709.pdf">http://www.pittecroft.org.uk/5709.pdf</a>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Start from the least restrictive option</li> <li>○ Manoeuvring space cut back either side of gate</li> <li>○ Location of structures, away from carriageways</li> <li>○ Visibility of latches and handles – noting not retrospective application of yellow latches and handles</li> <li>○ Ongoing maintenance and compliance checks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ground level &amp; firm either side of gate</li> <li>○ No barbed or electric wire within one metre of manoeuvring space (generally considered as a safety or enforcement issue with existing structures)</li> <li>○ Protrusions painted yellow or turned into loops to remove risk of injury, inc. finger trapping</li> <li>○ Self-closing times – contentious, but maximum eight seconds.</li> <li>○ Nomenclature for authorisations (“BS5709: 2018” standard vs just “BS5709”).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noted that not a statutory requirement to comply with the standard - guidance only; but seek to comply wherever possible as best practice.</li> <li>● <b>DC</b> noted very few suppliers of gates to the British Standard – had to order six months in advance. If on a Right of Way, could order through Local Authority which could be more cost effective in bulk. <b>RC</b> to raise awareness of gate ordering opportunity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>RC</b> to raise awareness of gate ordering opportunity</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Member updates</b></p> <p><b>IG</b> - 1) Sustrans have released the report on their review of the National Cycle Network (Paths for Everyone); <a href="https://www.sustrans.org.uk/pathsforeveryone">https://www.sustrans.org.uk/pathsforeveryone</a>. This includes a map, which you can zoom-in, to look at routes in Hertfordshire. It clearly shows the missing link in route 57 near Wheathampstead.</p> <p>2) At the last CycleHerts meeting Nick Truran (HCC) said that budget had been committed for a new edition of the popular Hertfordshire Recreational Cycling Map. Two people from each cycle campaign in Hertfordshire will be invited to get together and examine the draft map for errors and suggest changes.</p> <p><b>CH</b> - The main focus in last few months has been on the Permanent Traffic Regulation Order review. The national Trail Riders Fellowship organisation will be assisting me with the reviewing process &amp; working through the list of PTROs, there are 6 that we will be targeting.</p> <p><b>BW</b> - 1) Report on Ridgeway Delivery Group meeting 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018, Avebury (minutes not yet available). Notes relevant to the LAF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chiltern Gates project continues successfully. 18 new gates installed, including 5 from Bucks.</li> <li>2. Signage upgrade continuing.</li> <li>3. Next Strategic Links will be Tring, Watlington and Princes Risborough.</li> <li>4. Promoted Routes spreadsheet to be re-circulated.</li> <li>5. Project Officer, Sarah Wright will discuss with Jonathan Clarke on HS2 to ensure a joined up approach and reduce any overlap.</li> </ol>

	<p>6. The draft paper entitled Driving on the Ridgeway is nearing completion for comment. It will include a list of TROs for review of their continued requirement.</p> <p>7. The relevant county LAFs will be asked for details of any historical DMMOs to ensure the recorded rights of way are correct on the published maps.</p> <p>2) Horse Access Campaign, see: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/HorseAccessUK/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/HorseAccessUK/</a> It seems that the many equestrian organisations have created a single voice with this 'Facebook' group. Worth a look and get involved if an equestrian and want to lend a voice to the various lobbies going on. But others may find it of interest as well – Agricultural Bill, Highway Code, etc.</p> <p>3) See Transport for New Homes Association, see: <a href="http://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/">http://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/</a> - with funding from the Foundation for Integrated Transport have produced a report (in July) which talks about walking and cycling: <a href="http://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/transport-for-new-homes-summary-web.pdf">http://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/transport-for-new-homes-summary-web.pdf</a></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LL</b> and <b>RC</b> to finish letter and send on to Tarmac</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to circulate list of names awaiting Huddle access</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to provide an update on fly-tipping protocol at next LAF meeting</li> <li>• <b>All</b> members to send DH a photograph of themselves</li> <li>• <b>RC</b> to raise awareness of gate ordering opportunity</li> <li>• <b>All</b> to circulate LAF member updates</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Dates for future meetings:</b></p> <p><b>2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 25th Planning Seminar (&amp; Business Meeting) - Stevenage</li> <li>• w/c 18 February - Field Trip - surface pressures at Heartwood</li> <li>• Monday 11 March 2019 - Health Walks</li> <li>• May Field Trip - attend a local Health Walk</li> <li>• Monday 10 June 2019 - Impact of electric vehicles</li> <li>• Monday 9 September 2019 - Neighbourhood Planning</li> <li>• Monday 2 December 2019</li> </ul>