



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum
61st Meeting Minutes – 11th March 2019
(Hertfordshire Sports Village)



- LAF Members:** Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Deborah Hougie, Chris Hall, Diana Collingridge, Mark Mills-Bishop, Gary O’Leary, Paul Christian, Rosemary Gilligan, Mark Mills-Bishop.
- HCC Officers:** Richard Cuthbert (Countryside and Rights of Way), Jacob Wing (Passenger Transport).
- Guests:** John Featherstone, Bronwyn Scholes, Abby Ord, David Kealey, Chris Beney.
- Apologies:** Mike Hartley, Sian Price.

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| 1 | <p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great success at workshop, but recent cancelled Cole Green Way field trip rearranged for the 1st May 2019. RC to update 2019 meetings schedule on the web.• Sian Price not available this evening - will rebook for next mtg.• Jane Wadey (JWa) to circulate papers from LAF Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.• RC Cottonmill Level Crossing paper went to County Council – robust support to advise Network Rail to think again.• JWa to request list of those requiring more Huddle awareness.• Some feedback from LAF seminar – RC to collate and circulate.• Tarmac BOAT letter prepared, RC to organise for it to be sent on.• Chris Beney’s minute amendments accepted – RC to revise last minutes accordingly. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JWa to circulate papers from LAF Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting• JWa to request list of those requiring more Huddle awareness• RC to collate and circulate from LAF seminar• RC to update 2019 meetings schedule• RC to revise minutes accordingly |
| 2 | <p>BS5709 Gaps, Gates and Stiles (Chris Beney, British Standards working group member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on “access-inhibitors”, generally erected for the benefit of landowners<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ongoing standard – installation must continue to comply○ Functional○ Achievable standard – meeting the landowner’s requirements but |

needs to be the least restrictive method possible

- LAF might like to advise HCC Countryside and Rights of Way to “continue to specify BS5709 for new path structures” – and ensure difference between BS5709:2018 and BS5709: (ongoing compliance with 2018 standard versus compliance with whichever is the most up to date version of BS5709).
- Advise to aim for more precise wording in orders & authorisations – to include the flexibility to ensure the structure meets BS5709 even where landowner requirements change.
- Advise to:
 - Ensure truly least restrictive option is specified
 - Ensure a compliance check at installation
 - Ensure an ongoing enforcement strategy to maintain checks (standard requires a minimum of one check every two years)
- Reasonable exceptions to the standard are allowed, but must be written into the authorisation
- 31 point checklist to test compliance (although 11 are mandatory as a minimum at installation)
- Minute corrections noted – **ALL** to note above and see slides on website
- Perhaps better communication with suppliers, local stockists and installation contractors needed to clarify what required in structure and its installation to meet the Standard. **RC** noted there is an existing option for HCC stock to be sold on or offered for installation (at cost – either through volunteers, local contractors or self-installation) in addition to use for county council’s own works. **RC** to check purchasing information is available on county council website.
- CB recommends a Standard-compliant installation manual - Advised all to see Pittecroft Trust guidance (diagrams to be added soon hopefully)
- Exceptional circumstances for stiles – and landowner under obligation to keep maintained. Query about acceptable heights of stile rails – noted 350mm maximum.
- National Land Access Centre – including recommendation for LAF to advise county council officers visit.
- **BW** asked if 'Kent Gap' listed for carriage driving? Hoping for support for appropriately specified structures on restricted byways. Waiting for regulations.
- **GL** – P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) – could structure improvement be appropriate for P3 grants? Has changed significantly in terms of delivery – but fairly confident it would be a good candidate
- **DH** – tick list of things to look for – any use in trying to merge with ease of use surveys “what to look for” checklists?

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| | <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute corrections noted – RC to arrange • RC to check purchasing information is available on county council website |
| <p>3</p> | <p>Member updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH – Byway User Group update? County council committee report gave recommendations about TRO review period (every 10 years) and consider establishing a Byway user group. Seen as good practice elsewhere for getting the right people engaged and consulted. RC asked if all LAF members interested could use LAF as one and the same, or have a sub-group – preference for a sub-group, including involvement of external members. CH and RC to discuss who else interested, and will seek interest from LAF members. CH to share experience from Essex Byway User Group. • TRF Interest in motorcycle-based survey of TRO byways. CH to circulate list of Byways of interest to Trail Riders Fellowship. RC reported that internal discussion resulted in request being declined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partly due to ecologically or archaeologically sensitive routes ○ Neighbour, landowner etc perceptions and complaints ○ Ability to properly survey on foot whilst positively taking into account needs of all users • RH – queried what the guidelines of survey requirements are – suggestion about ease of use surveys. RG – mentioned available training on surveying, being offered by communities colleagues in CROW. RC to circulate details of training course. • CH – positive feedback about Foxes Lane work. • CH to make contact with JF regarding experience of horse riders. • CH – noted conflict between surfacing and increasing user speeds. • MMB – query about equine flu. JF updated that was not as serious as feared so concern has waned. • MMB – ash dieback? Tree Health Officer funded by various partnerships, with a new employee in post, could be invited to LAF. • BW – Ridgeway update: Overton to Streatley section, has been invited to identify appropriate connecting circular routes. • BW - 2026 cut-off and saving for duly-made orders. RC circulate Worcestershire LAF ltr & create draft Herts response. • CB - what is LAFs view of extending 2026 cut-off to 2031? All agreed to do HertsLAF letter to SoS & all local MPs in Herts. Circ draft for all to see & respond individually as well. • BW & JF - HertsCC A414 Corridor Strategy & LTP 2018-31, no refs to equestrian users (despite refs in LTP3 2001) or RoWIP - JF Would LAF ask for mtg with Portfolio holder, P Bibby / M Bright to stress need to include? Attendees BW, LAF; JF & RG, BHS; RC, CRoW; etc. IG involved with |

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| | <p>responses to the strategy for cycling & suggestions for improvements. Concerns that RoW heritage is being lost, e.g. A414 London Colney longabout crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOL - Issue for PCs about parking on Village Greens and guidance on law etc. • DH - Aldenham Country Park DMMO progress required. • JWa - scan E of England LAF mtg notes and circ to all. Next mtg in July. <p>ALL Please note letter from Suffolk LAF member on Agriculture Bill.</p> <p><u>Actions Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH and RC to seek interest from LAF members in a Byway group. • CH to share experience from Essex Byway User Group. • CH to circulate list of Byways of interest to Trail Riders Fellowship • RC to circulate details of volunteer surveys training. • CH to make contact with JF regarding experience of horse riders. |
| 4 | <p>Access & RoW News & Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTRO Review - circ update to all. |