



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum

63rd Meeting Minutes

9th September 2019

(Herts Sports Village, Hatfield)



LAF Members: Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Debbie Hougie, Russell Huffer, Chris Hall, Brian Worrell, Diana Collingridge, Mark Mills-Bishop, Rosemary Gilligan, Paul Christian.

HCC Officers: Richard Cuthbert (Countryside & Rights of Way Service).

Guests: David Kealey.

Member Apologies: Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop, Gary O'Leary, Diana Collingridge, Mike Hartley.

Other Apologies: Chris Beney (BADFA / OSS), John Featherstone (BHS)

1 Minutes and matters arising

- LAF Forum members - Jacob Wing - no longer technical support LL has written to thank him on behalf of LAF. No current contact with Bill Storey (no longer a Cllr). No rep from BC/DCs - to be approached by RC. Bob Fenton technical support, now retired.
- Mr J Featherstone, BHS request for meeting - supported by LAF - needs formal response from Portfolio Holder - **RC** to advise that Mr Featherstone not satisfied.
- **BW** action re; overlap with Herts Sports Partnership - LAF is now on their database of consultees.
- **LL / RC** to consider using the Health eBulletin to recruit a rep for the LAF.
- Huddle awareness still needed for those members not yet trained or given access to the system - RC / JW to arrange.
- Tarmac BOAT letter- check gone and no reply received yet? RC
- Formal reply needed from CRoW to RH and CH re volunteer training & BOAT repair activity days. Suggested that they could make direct approaches to Parish Councils. LL& RC to meet with Lee Tyson, CRoW.
- **BW** Offer of carriage driving experience - BW to ask for some more dates. Cole Green Way being driven now and has been for decades and has enough width. BW would like CGW to be recognised as an RB and protected by addition to the definitive map. It has been driven for over 20 years. Spacing of posts allows pony trap to get through. LAF suggested that a Definitive Map Modification Order is the way forward - BW to prepare.
- Jamie Bartlett - Joining HCC as Enforcement Officer on the 7th October -

	LAF invite to 21 st October business meeting and December 2019 public meeting.
2	<p>Member Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW - next Ridgeway mtg is 10th September. Issue of concrete blocks put in at Uffington, 1.5m apart to restrict vehicles being looked into. BW demonstration of carriage driving to look at issues of narrowed gaps. BW can report back. See Ridgeway website for photo or Horse Access Consortium, HAC, facebook page. • Modern carriages standard widths 1.35m or 1.45m for competition. • Widths document for all RoW plus optional other routes, e.g. 3.5m wide needed for 2 carriages to pass - BW can circulate document. JW to forward to Members & add to website. • RH - Lane clearance project - Nationally GLASS doing bigger projects including bringing clearance & surfacing equipment in, levelling etc. Offer of volunteers to help with any jobs. • CH - has met with 3 or 4 Parish Councils regarding the 10 year review of PTROs and the top few they would like reopened - mostly friendly response; understand where TRF are coming from but not all agreeing. Westmill / Clothall / Luffenhall route review of route should look at whether it is still needed, as an old 4x4 driving school is no longer in operation. • DH - training planners on local plans to look at RoWIP. New academic year students will be encouraged to come to next LAF meetings. Met with Ramblers Kate Ashbrook & Janet Davis, who reported inactive Dorset LAF and message that HertsLAF needs to keep going. • PC - Police support to clear fly-tipping and pay for infrastructure at fly-tipping hot spots. Police & Crime Commissioner's Office (PCC) scheme via Duncan Jones in HCC's Waste Management Service. Simple concrete step approach shown in 'Farmers Weekly' magazine. • Fly-tipping protocol - RC to ask Duncan Jones if public and circulate to all?
3	<p>HertsLAF AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget: spending reflects the very moderate costs of the LAF. • Admin Support: The LAF needs a person to take minutes - and need meeting minutes & agendas out far earlier & on the website. LL to write to TB about lack of secretarial support. DH will canvass for any students willing to do it for some pay. • Re-election of Members: All happy to re-stand. RC / LL to check with those not present. RC & DH looking for equestrian reps. LL to write letters to those not attending for one year or more. • Re-election of Chair & Vice Chair: DH nominated LL and seconded by RH. LL nominated IG & seconded by DH & RH. RC checking that absent members are happy to stand again? • Annual Report: None prepared as no longer a formal requirement by Natural England. • Lynn Myland sent her thanks for the card from the LAF for her husband, RIP.

4	<p>Business meeting agenda items: for the 21st October at County Hall, 19:00 to 20:30 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next field trips & future meetings. • Please advise of any other items to LL / RC - ALL
5	<p>DM Casework - RC Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlog of 280 cases. Progress and turnover of cases is highly dependent on numbers of staff. Growth of the backlog reflects the rate of new applications vs turnover. • All cases are prioritised on a points system (rather than chronological order), but Directions to Determine (DtODs) cause cases to leapfrog the list to the top. • Processing RoW cases is a statutory function, therefore the LAF considers that HCC should provide adequate resources to meet the current demand and make progress on the backlog, and logged correctly to be protected at the 2026 cut-off date. • It is expected that regulations will be made to preserve the backlogs of duly made applications at 2026. • There have been discussions with the BHS reps about the approach to cases which overlap on both the LoS and the Definitive Map & Statement. This is continuing. • Has HCC told BHS about the Discovered Cases 'DISCs' list for potential DMMO applications? • There are several key areas of work which run alongside all the above case processing, notably the drafting, checking and completing of large s106 agreements, taking a lot of officer time. • The LAF will be writing to HCC to express their concern about the resourcing of RoW. • LL to write to TB & Chief Executive about LAF concerns and cc the BHS.
6	<p>Access & RoW News & Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTRO Review - BF leaving HCC & recruiting replacement. What about taking-on project officer for use of salary saving for short term - University / College or consultant via TC's team?
	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 2nd December 2019 • Monday 9th March 2020 • Weds 17th June 2020 3rd Weds • Change of Date: Weds 10th June 2020 2nd Weds • Weds 16th September 2020 3rd Weds • Weds 2nd December 2020 1st Weds • Weds 17th March 2021 3rd Weds