



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum
55th Local Access Forum – Minutes

11 September 2017 at Hertfordshire Sports Village



LAF Members: Liddy Lawrence (chair), Ian Gregory (vice-chair), Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Gary O’Leary, Chris Hall, Paul Christian, Diana Collingridge

Apologies: Mark Mills-Bishop, Debbie Hougie, Rosemary Gilligan, Mike Hartley

HCC Officers: Richard Cuthbert (ROW), Jacob Wing (TARS)

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| 1 | <p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome new member – Paul Christian representing farming community, introductions• Dates for field trip to be circulated soon – ALL to respond to Doodle Poll to agree dates (trip to discuss pressure points from high dog numbers and see dog agility course at Lea Valley Park)• RC to chase district/borough council representative• Central Herts Green Corridor Group meeting 9 June – outcome was to hold a charrette style meeting of stakeholders• Lantern festival cancelled• Radlett Strategic Rail Freight Interchange – parcels of country park around site in mitigation, seeking to discharge conditions. Will include a horse box parking area, pony exercise area, commuter and recreational routes. Two sticking points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Talking with HCC and St Albans about access requirements, including reviewing railway underpass bridleway width.○ Spine road and new roundabout by Hedges Farm, with bridge for farm vehicles should include bridleway (but not high pressure oil pipeline, as HCC would not want to adopt). <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALL to respond to Doodle Poll to agree dates (trip to Lea Valley Park) |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to chase district/borough council representative |
| 2 | <p>AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LAF members re-elected last year (2 years standing remaining) • Chair: elected annually (continued) • Vice-chair: Ian Gregory (recently elected) • Robert Bolt stood down • Pursuing: Dog Walking rep, “hard to reach” groups, horse rider • Can invite members of specific organisations if thought useful • ALL to Email in suggestions. • Walking groups other than Ramblers? Circulate with Health Walks information (via CMS) • Public Health / Health and Wellbeing – have invited Bethan Clemence to present (Environment Public Health lead) • Herts Sports Partnership – may be interested <p>LAF Spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC presented accounts – total for 2016/17: approximately £2,127.50 (final total around £2,000 for 2017/18) • Decrease from last year <p>Annual report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet prepared – awaiting information from Natural England • No national report or national conference report yet • LL / RC to chase Natural England <p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No secretariat support since 2014 • Around 1 hour per week required, but not available • MMB could be approached to raise this matter • Member website profiles out of date information – to be updated • RH noted lack of reference to motorised users and carriage-drivers • Huddle access? Update would be useful |

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| | <p>Future challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next 12-18 months ROW and CMS savings (around 10% budget) • Seeking to minimise number of posts reduced – looking to increase income (for example to process Town and Country Planning Act Orders for districts, charging to developers; internal services from CMS to Highways and ROW, preparing management plans, Cycle Tracks orders; maintaining inflation on prices) • Resilience needed and will be helped by maintaining posts within team – shifting priorities between “core” work and income raising • GO'L: suggestion of Neighbourhood Plan support work (each Parish entitled to a budget of £9k) <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL to email in suggestions for new members • ALL to update Member profiles |
| <p>3</p> | <p>Member updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BW: came across The Blue Book for Roads (prepared by LAF members through Huddle), useful history, highlights issues in other counties regarding Definitive Map issues. Raises questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is (or could be) status of Blue Book? ○ Should Herts LAF contribute to editing? - Members have a look at it on Huddle. • BHS sub-committee: Herts Access Committee – a couple of useful items for this forum. Developments with access issues a common thread, is there a way of addressing common issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barley Mow Farm ○ Land at Cucumber Lane ○ Land at North Drive ○ Sandon Bury Farm ○ Brambles Wood bushcraft centre • Invite John Featherstone to present on the common issues relating to each of these developments? |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IG: St Albans Cycling Campaign meeting on rights of way for cyclists – two different legal processes (footway to cycle track, footpath to cycle track). See paperwork: http://groupspaces.com/STACC/. Lack of primary legislation to support a legal definition of Cycle Track – but must keep raising with MPs. Not popular in a time of de-regulation. Could at least maintain the countywide audit and create GIS mapping. Difficulty in defining – on and off carriageway, and others. • Village Green application approved (Bunchley’s Pond, New Barnfield) • RH: Permits update - and learning from other authorities which have trialled this. Offley 20 example in place for around 4 months in Herts, some issues. Foxes Lane, Welham Green is next (experimental traffic order for 18 months), but nothing planned after that. PC advised against chains, as can be continually removed – recommended gate lock boxes. • Green Lane volunteer day? Offer of support, some interest amongst GLASS members – recommend via CMS. Insurance levels and details of tasks to arrange. Bucks TRF also have volunteer days. RC to chase • DC: continuing spate of fly-tipping. Barriers help, but push issue elsewhere. 'Axle-twisters' staggered bunds to deter access? • GOL: WHBC and EHDC local plans to Inspector (21/09 and 1/10). Did LAF comment? Standard letter to all Local Planning Authorities. RC to share copy of letter. • CH: TRF – Definitive Map Modification Order issues ongoing at Oakridge Lane, Radlett, TRF will respond appropriately – partly in river course but BOAT “blocked” by section of restricted byway. Gone to inquiry twice and ruled that should be BOAT for whole length • LL: Upcoming vote (21/10) at National Trust AGM on excluding trail-hunting, and all hunting on NT land. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to chase volunteering opportunities • RC to circulate LAF local plan letter • RC ensure everyone has access to Huddle |
| 4 | Symondshyde |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign against the development – article in The Odyssey cinema newsletter (September 2017) • Appearance of developer at Public Health Conference – planned to be healthy, green, high quality development, shared public spaces, lower car usage. Except that only route in/out is a single track road, with few “mixed use” facilities within the development, though may be s106 contributions. • Master-planning phase, but moving towards planning application • Symondshyde developer representative invited to present to LAF. RC to chase <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to chase Symondshyde presentation |
| 5 | <p>Greenspace Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two phase process (briefing and plan) • Cole Green Way GAP in development for comment: https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/recycling-waste-and-environment/countryside-management/news/20170905-new-greenspace-action-plan-for-cole-green-way.aspx • Feedback: Engagement with local groups is critical for ownership, for example Parish Council, and wider. Community empowerment rather than standard “consultation”. GOL happy to support local meeting. • Surface material and drainage issues along route – possible 50/50 options. Little local support. • Deadline for first stage: 12 October • Second stage: up to 19 February |
| 7 | <p>Panshanger Tarmac - Minerals planning application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear public access routes through (including from Cole Green Way) • Strategic north-south and east-west definitive links (public bridleways, built by Tarmac but adopted) with permissive links joining as part of application for importing waste • Hertingfordbury Parish Council to push for all Country Park areas to have rights of access as soon as gravel extraction completed. |

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| 8 | <p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee report prepared for Environment, Planning and Transport Panel (1 November), for recommendation to Cabinet • Cabinet report prepared (for 13 November) |
| 9 | <p>Future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th December 2017 • 5th March 2018 • 4th June 2018 • 3rd September 2018 • 26th November 2018 |
| 10 | <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALL to respond to Doodle Poll to agree dates (trip to Lea Valley Park) • RC to chase district/borough council representative • ALL to email in suggestions for new members • ALL to update Member profiles • LL / RC to chase Natural England • RC to circulate LAF local plan letter • RC to chase Symondshyde presentation |