



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum



57th Meeting Minutes - 6 March 2018

(Hertfordshire Sports Village)

LAF Members: Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Gary O'Leary, Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Deborah Hougie, Chris Hall, Paul Christian, Diana Collingridge.

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

Guests: David McCabe (Tarmac), David Kealey (St Albans Access Forum)

1	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outstanding action: Huddle awareness training for all new Members• Business meeting – 1 May (Hatfield Fire Station at 7.30pm)• BW: Ridgeway Delivery Group – strategic link priorities for 2018: Watlington, Princes Risborough and Tring. Display boards servicing, including at new boards Ivinghoe. Draft driving mechanically propelled vehicles paper sent to all relevant highway authorities (relating to non-Hertfordshire sections). RC to circulate paper for comment. Cycling UK and BHS supporting increased access rights for cyclists and horse riders, consideration of parallel Ridgeway routes.• CH: no update• IG: Cllr David Andrews at recent CycleHerts meeting – letter to Highways Major Projects regarding A602 works and possible use of old alignment for cycling, not accepted by Highways. RC had sought to make the case for underpass but not possible, but some support for a pedestrian refuge. RC/LL to write to Highways.• DH: ongoing efforts at Aldenham Country Park, pushing for lake route to be added to Definitive Map, but landowner discussions continuing. <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RC to refresh Huddle awareness• RC to circulate draft Ridgeway paper for comment• RC/LL to write to Highways regarding A602 cycling opportunities
----------	---

2

David McCabe (Development Manager, Tarmac)

- Promoter of Birchall Garden Suburb (2,250 dwellings, urban extension of Welwyn Garden City, across Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts)
- Access elements: extensive provision, encouraging non-motorised transport, pedestrian and cyclist primarily to local facilities
- Development will bring other facilities – three schools, two local centres
- Plans to upgrade existing routes through site, and grow network including new connections. Working with CMS and in discussion with neighbouring landowners, including Cole Green Way and link to Hatfield off-line from A414
- Parkland within development, seeking to define uses, aware of mix of uses on defined routes and wider use of open space – including horse riding
- Local Plan > scoping > outline application (but lots of early work to inform detailed reserved matters)
- Other Tarmac sites include Tyttenhanger and Panshanger Park. Looking at a series of events at Panshanger
- Areas of the new community will be managed by a management company, and will want to receive representation from new and neighbouring residents and groups such as LAF

Questions

- **RC:** links across roads - severing on three sides? Cole Green Way provides one link, off-line Hatfield link will also support. How to manage links into Welwyn Garden City? – looking to extend the reach of the CMS plans into towns and stations.
- **LL:** Timetabling of opening up access is important, including plans for completion and handover. Type of detail looking to agree with LPAs at master-planning stage.
- **CH:** One existing BOAT appears to be downgraded to pedestrian/cycle only – would oppose. Some concern about fly-tipping and possible safety issues from direct access onto A414. Cannot create new BOATs. **RH** and **RC** to meet with David McCabe separately to discuss details of access.
- **LL:** Main concerns about maintenance, access to new developments, and linking to community
- **BW:** Feeling that minority groups are ignored, including carriage drivers.

	<p>Acknowledgement of consultation responses would be appreciated. Open forum on Wed 14 March, 5-7pm (Hertingfordbury Cowper Primary School, Birch Green SG14 2LR)</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH and RC to meet with David McCabe separately to discuss details of access
3	<p>Major planning applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of Gascoyne Cecil Estates workshops and charrettes • Strategic Rail Freight Interchange – possibility of HCC sale to SADC for housing. Pros and cons – trip generation different, country park plans in mitigation could be removed, additional RoW at risk? • A414 Strategy development – inter-urban movements, where does cycling, walking, horse riders fit? RC to ask Highways. • LA duty to co-operate – joint local plan in south west Herts – what about co-operation of developers?
3	<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Service review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Bradford appointed Head of 'Countryside and Rights of Way Service' – will be invited to attend next meeting; RC now Team Leader for 'Definitive Map & Enforcement Team'; Lee Tyson now Team Leader for 'Countryside Management Team'. • Structure diagram shared, seeking to maintain service levels. <div data-bbox="381 1361 450 1431" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="316 1435 517 1485">CROW - new structure 2018.docx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain largely existing area-based contacts & still expect to be involved in planning matters.
4	<p>CMS Greenspace Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cole Green Way GAP consultation until 16 March – ALL to comment. One suggestion is just to the scrape mud off the surface at the Hertford end, better surface underneath. Lack of dog waste bins (no HCC policy, left to districts and parishes) – ongoing resources to empty and maintain commitment needed. • Nomansland Common link – southern half of route completed – northern half

	<p>to Wheathampstead being developed. Some issues with routing, landownership concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Way improvement plan budget £68k pa, plus developer s106 contributions <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All to respond to Cole Green Way GAP consultation
5	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Anglia line rail crossings – Network Rail closures, joint Transport and Works Act consultation with Essex. 8 crossings identified in Herts (of 130 across East of England). Herts and Essex public inquiry postponed, and will reconvene following landowner consultation – date currently unconfirmed (Oct 2018). Suffolk and Cambridgeshire inquiries underway. Various new bridges, some closures, some diversions. Ramblers have objected, HCC did not but worked with Network Rail to identify best solutions. • Cottonmill Lane, St Albans crossing – BF awaiting update evidence. Much local support to retain level crossing, despite Network Rail safety concerns. Bridge structure under consideration plus links to the Abbey station, but unpopular option. • Path damage from horse use on non-equestrian paths in Heartwood Forest. Temporary closure of some areas and for Parkrun; to allow recovery, will maintain watching brief and update • Dog attacks / protections for livestock, initiative led by Farmers Guardian. Not easy to stop, behavioural issue, but would want to share learning of good dog management. • New standard BS5709 (gates) due to be published next few weeks.
6	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to refresh Huddle awareness • RC to circulate draft Ridgeway paper for comment • RC/LL to write to Highways regarding A602 cycling opportunities • RH and RC to meet with David McCabe separately to discuss details of access • All to respond to Cole Green Way GAP consultation