



Hertfordshire Local Access Forum



58th Meeting Minutes – 5th June 2018

(Hertfordshire Sports Village)

- LAF Members:** Liddy Lawrence (Chair), Ian Gregory (Vice-chair), Russell Huffer, Brian Worrell, Deborah Hougie, Chris Hall, Paul Christian, Diana Collingridge, Mark Mills-Bishop
- HCC Officers:** Tony Bradford (CRoW), Richard Cuthbert (CRoW), Jacob Wing (Passenger Transport)
- Guests:** Chris Beney, Phil Escritt (Ramblers), David Kealey (St Albans Access Forum)
- Apologies** Rosemary Gilligan, Gary O’Leary, Lee Tyson (CRoW), Bob Fenton (CRoW),

1	<p>Tony Bradford (Head of Countryside and Rights of Way)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions, and apologies from Lee Tyson, Team Leader • Countryside Management funding, external contributions and partners key • Three main areas of activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land management ○ Engaging communities, including volunteering ○ Hertfordshire Health Walks • Many volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours per year • Support health and wellbeing, and focus on physically inactive • Unprecedented pace of change: local government finance, housing and transport growth, Brexit, environmental pressures, diseases and non-native species (e.g. Oak Processionary Moth, Ash die back) • New combined structure to bring teams together and share knowledge • LL: concern about impact of efficiency savings. Challenge to meet statutory obligations, better use of volunteering time, doing things differently, more entrepreneurial approach, growing income
2	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <p>Outstanding actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to refresh Huddle awareness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH to prepare draft letter for LL consideration and sending off • RC to circulate CRoW revised structure by email • ALL to note upcoming LAF dates
3	<p>Member updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LL: 60th anniversary meeting format for 12th Nov 2018 will be a review of the 1st meeting Agenda items and progress since then. And LAF Seminar 6th to 9th Nov any morning TBC – for LAF members and planners to highlight which access issues should be considered in planning. • CH: definition of recognised user group. Impact of motorcycling. Noted issue with definitive map. Walkernbury Lane – reappeared on List of Streets. Request for gate to be opened - RC. • RH: update requested on the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) permit scheme. Experimental TRO at Offley, minded to make permitting scheme permanent (success in addressing fly-tipping, criminal activity and safety issues) – would wish to undertake consultation before making decision. Foxes Lane – continued monitoring. • BW: Ridgeway Delivery Group – permit system of interest to that group. Land owners concern about smartphone app use. Carriage driving symbol for Ridgeway sign markers. Working with colleagues elsewhere to identify carriage driving routes for promotion. Bedfordshire group concern about how to manage PTROs, including a checklist of what to look for. • MMB: Local Government Association Environment Committee member, and national spokesperson for fly tipping – recent meetings with Ministers. Anticipated fly-tipping Select Committee inquiry, and will provide evidence. Liaising with Duncan Jones (head of Hertfordshire fly-tipping forum). • IG: Attended recent Rickmansworth festival event - Sustrans and Spokes there. Ebury Way needs a scrape at Rickmansworth end towards aquadrome. • DC: Natural England struggling to process stewardship scheme requests - considerable delays in response times to applications. • DH: Surprise at references on local social media to horse droppings on bridleways. High pressure on rural and environmental courses in academia. Have been approached by CDA Herts regarding rural crime.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC: 10 June last date to register thoughts about crime in the countryside with National Rural Crime Network – generally considered chronic under-reporting. Link: www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net.
4	<p>Planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symondshyde – no further updates currently. • Strategic Rail Freight Interchange – permission granted, land owned by HCC, identified in St Albans Local Plan for housing. New County Council leader, but not currently clear of preferred approach. LAF interest in access and rights of way regardless of land use, much time has been spent considering what mitigations would be required for rail freight – some more work required for housing site. • Herts Living Ltd – joint venture housing development partnership to raise revenue income.
5	<p>Cottonmill Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates at this time, but keep receiving examples of their concerns. Network Rail’s planning and design team are looking at crossing options (bridge not a locally favoured option). Have previously provided a list of points for implementation, but most not yet carried out.
6	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE: GDPR – RC to circulate Phil Escritt email address and ALL to confirm in writing to continue receiving copy of Ramblers magazine • Summer Field Trip – Back Lane proposed to consider PTRO review. RC to circulate Doodle Poll to confirm dates.
	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC to refresh Huddle awareness • CH to prepare draft letter for LL consideration and sending off • RC to circulate CRoW revised structure by email • ALL to note upcoming LAF dates • RC to circulate Phil Escritt email address • ALL to confirm in writing for copy of Ramblers magazine • RC to circulate Doodle Poll to confirm dates