

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Report for LAF meetings 18 & 26/10/16

1. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL ROUTES

1.1. Lincolnshire

1.1.1. The 4 routes funded by Bromhead Medical Charitable Trust have all been surveyed. The routes are:

The Water Rail Way, Southrey – Stixwould

Freiston Shore – RSPB

Grantham Canal, Denton Lane Bridge – Longmoor Bridge

Whisby Nature Park, Coot Lake

We have asked Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust if they are willing to fund a leaflet for another route at Whisby, the route around Thorpe Lake. If we have a print run for 5 leaflets rather than 4, the production of the 5th leaflet will be at a discounted price. We are still waiting for a response on this issue.

We are now drafting the wording for the leaflets for the site owners/managers agreement. We are also discussing the route improvements to take place to make the routes more accessible to people with a wider range of disabilities.

The lack of car park signage on the Water Rail Way at Southrey and Stixwould is a concern. We are currently trying to identify the site owners to enable us to resolve this issue.

1.1.2. A site meeting was held at Owlet Wood. The Woodland Trust are examining how to make the site more accessible and will be exploring funding options to carry out the work. The meeting included representatives from the Woodland Trust, RNIB, the disability sub group and Ian Brown from Lincolnshire Sports who we had invited.

1.1.3. County News has published an article promoting the Countryside For All routes and other Public Rights of Way.

1.1.4. We are aiming to attend the Activities For All event in Lincoln to promote our Countryside For All routes, advertise for expressions of interest for accessibility ambassadors and advertise the vacancies on the two LAFs. The event has been postponed and we are waiting for the new date to be announced.

1.2. Rutland

Anglian Water will be funding the majority of the printing costs rather than the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. We have received the first set of proofs from the printers and are hoping to have the leaflets printed and available for the Rutland Choice Unlimited event.

The Woodland Trust stated in 2015 they would be planning a Countryside For All route in Rutland in 2017. The sub group will be contacting the Trust to see how we can assist in this project.

Further discussions by email have taken place with Councillors and Council officers in relation to Yew Tree Avenue. We have been informed that the Council are waiting for responses from the Forestry Commission and MP before further progress can be made. We have offered to apply for funding to improve the accessibility of this site and once this is carried out we will aim to get funding for a Countryside for All route leaflet for this site.

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WALKS

2.1. Lincolnshire

2.1.1. West Lindsey is the district which according to a LCC Public Health report will have the highest level of growth of people with dementia across the County. City of Lincoln requested funding for training volunteers to enable them to lead dementia friendly strolls in West Lindsey. The training was delivered, then unfortunately City of Lincoln did not receive decommissioning funding from the West Lindsey contract. This meant City of Lincoln were not able to continue to support the work in West Lindsey. Due to the lack of support from councils the group of keen volunteers which were trained in the West Lindsey District, have decided not to continue with the project of delivering dementia friendly strolls. We are keeping regular contact with one member of the group to see if and how we can change that outcome in the future.

2.1.2. East Lindsey is the district with the highest number of cases of dementia. Magna Vitae requested further dementia friendly walk leader training. This training will have been delivered 6th October. Unfortunately due to the staffing changes at Magna Vitae the amount of time available to attract volunteers has been reduced. A verbal update will be provided at the LAF meeting. Unfortunately it may be necessary to return some of the money to the funding source due to the course cost per delegate. We have funding for 10 places, however it is doubtful that we will fill all the places.

2.2. Rutland

2.2.1. The date for dementia friendly inclusive walk leader training has been arranged for 30th November. Again we are having problems recruiting enough volunteers to fill the course. Work is still going on to attract volunteers.

3. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENT

3.1. Rutland

The Rutland event will have taken place 19th October at the Active Rutland Hub. A verbal update will be provided at the LAF meeting.

Action: Verbal update to be provided

3.2 Lincolnshire

We have been encouraging a number Lincolnshire organisations, to attend the Rutland event as visitors, so they can find out more about the Choice Unlimited event. Hopefully this will encourage partner organisations to help us have an event in Lincolnshire.

4. WOLDS WALKING FESTIVAL

We have decided to take part in the Wolds Walking Festival again and are hoping for better weather this year and some people to come along. The Countryside For All route which will be used, is Chambers Farm Wood. It has been agreed that we will not be charging for people on this route as we wish to attract the disabled and young families with pushchairs. There will be a talk as we go round the route, kindly provided by Wally Grice the Forestry Commission beat officer. The walk will be supported by Sam Tate, Richard Graham and John Law. Other helpers from both LAFs will be welcomed.

5. FUNDING BIDS

We have decided if we are obtaining funding for external organisations, the external organisations should have their name as the applicants. This will help ensure the external organisations are accountable for complying with the statements made in the applications.

We have interest from a number of organisations in another inclusive countryside access course. We will wait until we have an expression of interest from 10 delegates prior to seeking funding for this course.

If we can find a further four reasonably accessible countryside for all routes in Lincolnshire we will apply for funding for the route leaflets early 2017.

It has been decided to utilise the existing countryside for all folders for Lincolnshire by splitting the routes into two areas. We are looking at having a separate folder for the Rutland routes.

Whilst we are awaiting Natural England to inform us on whether they will be able to fund the improvements we require to Chapel Six Marshes, we will be focussing on working with the Nettleham Woodland Trust and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on improvements at Ashling Lane Nature Reserve.

Actions: JL - Check whether Natural England is any closer to deciding on whether to fund the improvements to Chapel Six Marshes.

6. ACCESSIBILITY AMBASSADORS

The request for expressions of interest for the roles Accessibility Ambassadors for Lincolnshire and Rutland have been advertised. For Lincolnshire the role has been advertised in County News. For Rutland at the Choice Unlimited event. The roles will be advertised at a number of events and organisations until April 2017. If we then have sufficient interest we will then apply for funding. One query which needs to be addressed is whether public liability Insurance is required to cover the Accessibility Ambassadors whilst on site visits with organisations. The application packs for Accessibility Ambassadors are with this report.

Actions: JL - Check if the Accessibility Ambassadors should be covered by public liability insurance if they report to the LAF. If so is this the responsibility of the organisations they visit?

Actions: Steve/Cheryl (Democratic Services) – Circulate electronically the application packs to members of both forums, to enable LAF members to circulate to interested parties.