

Agenda Item 6

Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum – 4 April 2017

Permissive Access

Email to Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chief Secretary of the Treasury

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Whilst realising you have many pressing issues to attend to in the run up to the new situation after we leave the EU the Leicestershire Local Access Forum would like to put some suggestions on the table.

After Brexit the considerable funds provided by the Common Agricultural Policy to the UK to support farming, will be coming out of the monies to be retained by the National Exchequer. These funds should we feel be targeted at desirable outcomes, often environmental, rather than a subsidy for production

We have made the case to DeFRA for post-Brexit payments to include payment for providing public access to the countryside. There is a desperate need to separate the non-motorised from vehicles when using rural roads – the most dangerous category of roads. This either by providing new multi-user routes (walkers, cyclists, equestrians, disabled) on parallel alignments or funding diversions and creations so that it is less necessary to use a road to travel between off-road tracks to continue the journey.

Healthy exercise and non motorised travel are good for the nation's general health and wellbeing and reduce the burden on the NHS but people must be able to do this without the risk of death or injury. We do not imagine that public funds are ever likely to be available to create a fully-connected second highway network for the non-motorised but we feel progress could be made by subsidies to farmers being targeted to encourage provision of tracks where there is an obvious need. Whether any proposed new routes would be useful could be assessed by the local Access Forum.

We urge the Government to ensure that there are additional and specific funds to support improvements to public access to land across England in the post-Brexit settlement and hope it will have your support. Farmers can be supported; people offered a safer environment and the NHS a reduced demand. A win-win situation.

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