

Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum – 4 April 2017

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL – Report

1. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL ROUTES

1.1. Lincolnshire

We were hoping to have had the 5 route leaflet details with the designer/printer early February. Unfortunately due to ownership issues in relation to the track joining the Grantham Canal we have still not been able to send the details to the printers. We are still trying to find a solution to this issue. If this is not resolved by the end of March we will look at producing a route leaflet for the Woodhall Spa airfield instead.

Verbal update to be provided at the meetings

We are still investigating the lack of car park signage on the Water Rail Way at Southrey and Stixwold.

The Woodland Trust has borrowed the Lincolnshire County Council inclinometers for a course. We have learnt that the course is to standardise the Woodland Trust access definitions countrywide e.g. easy, moderate. The Woodland Trust has expressed an interest in 10 people attending the Inclusive Countryside Access course which we aim to hold. At the first course we funded back in March 2015 we had 3 of their employees on the course. One of the key issues the course delivers training on, is that route descriptions should provide factual information and not subjective judgements. We have mentioned we are concerned about the definitions they are using to promote countryside routes and have asked for a meeting with their CEO and senior managers to discuss the issue.

1.2. Rutland

The Rutland Countryside For All folder has been funded by Rutland County Council. We are very fortunate to have the photos of the views on the folder from Richard Adams, a local Rutland photographer.

We have requested a meeting with the Woodland Trust to discuss suitable Countryside For All routes on their land.

After discussions with the Yew Tree Avenue Trust, we have decided to wait until the outcome of discussions between the Trust and the Forestry Commission are known, before pursuing the improvements from the car park to the Avenue and the Countryside For All leaflet.

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WALKS

2.1. Lincolnshire

This information is displayed in item 6

2.2. Rutland

The next Dementia Friendly Strolls Walk Leader course is planned for April and will be held at the Lodge Trust. If anyone wants to become a walk leader or assist in these strolls they need to contact Danielle Adams, DAdams@rutland.gov.uk. The trainers travel expense for this course will be funded by Active Rutland.

3. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENT

3.1 Rutland

We are aiming to attract more representatives from different disability groups to join the working group. This will ease the workload on the current work group members. We are still getting good feedback from visitors to the event, even after 5 months! The Rutland County Council has kindly funded our table at the Leicester Choice Unlimited event which will be held at Leicester Tigers 26th April. All are invited, the Local Access Forums will have 3 six foot by two foot tables at this event, so it should be a pretty impressive stand. Hopefully that will aid the visitors to be attracted to our stand.

3.2 Lincolnshire

We have been looking at localities which we think will benefit most from a Choice Unlimited event, which has suitable facilities outside Lincoln. South Holland with its ageing population and its health issues seems a suitable area. Spalding with a population of approximately 29,000 looks a good sized catchment area. A suitable venue for the event, maybe the Springfield Event Centre. We are keen to involve Lincolnshire Sports, as we feel the Choice Unlimited event will prove an ideal showcase for them to promote sports for the disabled. If Lincolnshire Sports chooses not to be involved, we will be using our contacts with other disability sports organisations. We are looking for working partners to join the working group to enable an event to be held in 2018. The reason the LAF Countryside for All sub group need this event to happen is to promote countryside activities for the disabled including walking, wheelchair/mobility scooter routes, cycling, horse riding and carriage driving. The Lincolnshire County Council have a lot to gain from this event. Both Social Services and education for children with disabilities would benefit. Assistance is required in identifying suitable County Council contacts to assist on the working group to make the event happen. We are working with Lincolnshire CVS to identify representatives of disability groups to help on the working group.

Action: All – Identify suitable County Council contacts

4. FUNDING BIDS

4.1. I-Spy In the Countryside

We are looking for £410 to order 300 booklets to give out to children with disabilities at the Choice Unlimited events, to encourage them and their parents to explore the countryside. We are currently waiting for a response from Severn Trent Water. The Leicester City Football Club will be the next organisation we will contact if we do not get the response we require from Severn Trent.

4.2. Nineveh Charitable Trust

A further funding application is going to be submitted to Nineveh. This funding application will be for Lincolnshire Countryside For All folders, one Countryside for All route leaflet and an Inclusive Countryside Access Course.

4.3. Chapel Six Marshes

Although the route surface improvements have been priced, we are also working with LCC to identify how we can improve the interest on the site. As soon as this has been established and priced we will apply to the East Coast Community Fund for finance.

4.4. Ashing Lane Nature Reserve

A key player in the discussions to the car park improvement and extension of the all ability path is currently working abroad. On their return we will be arranging a meeting with the Nettleham Woodland Trust and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

4.5. Chambers Farm Wood

We are working with the Forestry Commission to see how we can extend the all ability trail and improve the current route.

4.6. Lincolnshire Health Related Walks from April 2017".

Progress on that issue is displayed in item 7.

4.7. Further Countryside For All leaflets

With the current workload it has been decided to wait until 2018 to see whether we will produce further leaflets in 2018.

4.8. Coastal Country Park

Over the next few months we will be examining how we can improve access for the disabled in the coastal country park.

5. ACCESSIBILITY AMBASSADORS

The Choice Unlimited events in Leicester April 26th and the Rutland event in the Autumn will be used to gauge the level of interest in this role.

6. LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH RELATED WALKS FROM APRIL 2017

We have not had any success in securing funding. Our aim now is to investigate the opportunities of sourcing funding for a day per week in each of the districts and the City for a coordinator to grow dementia friendly strolls.

7. SENSORY TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Due to workload this project has not progressed any further.

8. DISABILITY SUB GROUP CHANGE OF NAME & LOGO

We are now using “Countryside For All” as our name. We are still trying to find time to create a logo. We are keen to see the new LAF logos, if we get agreement early enough we will be able to get them printed on our five new route leaflets.

Action: Chris – Please circulate when the new logo is available.

9. GRUFFALO SPOTTERS TRAIL

The Gruffalo spotters trail has been introduced by the Forestry Commission into a number of forests/woods countrywide. It is a downloadable app, for downloading at home. This enables clues to be followed along an interactive trail. Unfortunately there are not any trails in Lincolnshire and Rutland. We have asked the Forestry Commission if we can work with them to see how we can get these in place with our Countryside For All routes in Chambers Farm Wood, Willingham Woods and Bourne Woods.