

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL – Report

Report for Local Access Forum meetings on 24 and 25 October 2017

1. VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are now down to two members in the Countryside For All sub group, Richard Graham and John Law. Clearly we have a heavy workload but we can only do so much. We need to recruit more LAF members to help us with our task of making the countryside more accessible for the disabled, their carers and the elderly. We have a number of organisations who are asking us to do more but unless we have some help, we will have to start saying no to these requests.

2. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL ROUTES

2.1. Lincolnshire

We are now aiming to have details of the 5 new route leaflet details with the designer/printer by the end of November. This is dependent on the track from the Casthorpe Road to the Grantham Canal being place on the definitive map. Next year, we intend to work with the County Council and the Canal and River Trust, to gain funding for some improvements e.g. signage.

Although the WW2 Museum is now open, we are still waiting for some information from the Museum before we can complete the Freiston Shore RSPB route leaflet.

We are still aiming to carry out the survey for the Woodhall Spa Airfield route later this year.

The 1000 new Lincolnshire folders, funded by the Nineveh Charitable Trust have been printed, produced and delivered. These will be available for general distribution next year and will include the 5 leaflets we are currently working on, plus the Woodhall Spa Airfield.

We have 12 route leaflets which need restocking. Fortunately Richard has applied for £1000 funding from the Police Mutual. If we win this bid, this will enable us to print 1000 leaflets for each of the 12 routes. We are investigating if we can attract a sponsor to fund all future design, artwork and printing of all Lincolnshire and Rutland route leaflets and folders. An annual sum of £2000 is required. If we can get a sponsor to support us in this area, this will help our workload as we will not need to complete as many funding applications. It will also help ensure leaflets never go out of stock. We need to make sponsoring the leaflets an attractive proposition for potential sponsors. If we offer future sponsors the opportunity of having their logo on the front of future leaflets and folders, it could be seen as an excellent way of

promoting businesses. We intend to talk to Irwin Mitchell at the Rutland Choice Unlimited event, to see if they will provide us with this sponsorship.

Lincolnshire County Council is currently investigating applying for funding from the East Coast Community fund, to improve accessibility at the Coastal Country Park. We have identified five routes which require Countryside For All leaflets. It is expected that only four of these routes will be included in the funding application by Lincolnshire County Council. The one that may not be included in this application is Acre Gap. As there are now only two members in the sub group, we will not be able to undertake the audit/survey for the four routes for the funding application. We have asked Andy Johnson, who delivers the Inclusive Countryside Access courses for us to quote for this work.

ACTION: Chris Miller – Is Lincolnshire County Council in agreement that the Lincolnshire County Council logo etc. Is moved to the back of the leaflet and to the back of any new folders when produced and paid for by an external sponsor?

All – If Lincolnshire County Council is in agreement with above, are the members of both LAFs in agreement with the above?

2.2. Rutland

The original Rutland leaflets have now been modified to enable them to be given out as individual leaflets. These leaflets will also be given out in the new folders.

3. MILES WITHOUT STILES ROUTES

We started the miles without stiles routes in East Lindsey. Unfortunately as one of the members of the sub group who was working on this project left, it has meant we have had to abandon this project.

4. INCLUSIVE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS COURSE

We have set a maximum of 17 delegates on this course. Twelve delegates are staff from the Woodland Trust. There are other Woodland Trust staff who wished to attend the course that cannot be accommodated.

5. NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST'S VISIT

The Trust have stated that they wish to see the work we are doing. With there being now only two members of the sub group and the different locations of the project, it is difficult to see how we can do this, especially as the Trust is based in Kent. The only realistic options are to invite them to visit us on two separate days. One invite will be to the Choice Unlimited event in Spalding, so the Trustees can see how we promote access to the countryside. The other invite will be to Oakham. We will then be able to show them the Rutland Water Nature Reserve route. The Trust partly funded this leaflet. This will also enable them to talk to Anglian Water members of staff, who

attended the Inclusive Countryside Access course funded by the Trust. From there we will be able to take them to Cutts Close Park and the Castle grounds, to explain the impending improvements and how we are hoping to introduce dementia friendly walks in Oakham. We will then take the Trustees to the Lodge Trust to talk to them about the dementia friendly walks taking place there. We along with the Lodge Trust wish to see improvements to the path on the site. The Lodge Trust and ourselves intend to discuss the improvements required with the Nineveh Trustees. Hopefully this will pave way to suitable funds being granted for the route improvement and enable us a to create a Countryside For All route leaflet for the site.

6. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WALKS – RUTLAND

The second round of training due to take place this year has now been postponed to 2018. We are hoping that the improvements in Oakham to the accessibility of Cutts Close Park and the Castle Grounds will be completed prior to the summer of 2018. If we get a number of people trained we will then be able to hold dementia friendly walks in Oakham.

7. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENT

7.1. Rutland

The Choice Unlimited event will have taken place 11th October. Unfortunately this report was submitted prior to the event, so an initial verbal update will be given at the October LAF meeting. We are concerned where we will be able to hold next year's event due to Rutland County Council leasing the hall at the Active Rutland Hub to another organisation.

As previously stated we need to be able to secure regular funding to ensure the event can continue into the future. The annual funding for Rutland Choice Unlimited is covered under separate agenda item.

ACTION: John – Provide a verbal update on the Rutland Choice Unlimited event

7.2 Lincolnshire

The Spalding Choice Unlimited Working Group continues to create the foundations of the event. We have identified two suitable dates for the event, these are 15th and 22nd May. The Event Centre and the Mobiloo have been booked provisionally for these two dates. We will confirm which date by the end of November. A further meeting for the working group has been arranged for the 21st November.

To aid the funding for Spalding Choice Unlimited annual sponsorship is required. This is covered under a separate agenda item.

8. FUNDING BIDS

The funding bids are covered in other areas of this report and under a separate agenda item.

9. SENSORY TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Owing to workload this project has not progressed any further.

10. CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

10.1. North Sea Observatory

Unfortunately the North Sea Observatory has not incorporated changing places toilets into the design. We have asked Chapel St Leonards Parish Council if they can investigate the possibility of the building currently housing the cafe, to include a changing places toilet when the cafe ceases to trade. The cafe will cease trading when the new cafe opens in the North Sea Observatory. The Parish Council have stated the changing places toilets will be discussed at the next Environment & Amenities Committee meeting.

10.2. Letter to the CEO of Anglian Water

There is a need for Changing Places Toilets at Rutland Water. Below is a draft letter for the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF to comment on:

Dear Mr Simpson

The South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum is promoting with other organisations increasing the number of changing places toilets that are available. Changing places toilets are for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties as well as people with physical difficulties such as spinal injuries. Further details can be found at:

http://www.changing-places.org/the_campaign/what_are_changing_places_toilets.aspx

The need is well demonstrated by:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=8eLBxoabxiA>

We deliver free inclusive countryside access courses to a range of external organisations including your own. At these courses we are now including mentioning the importance of changing places toilets. Rutland Water is a great visitor attraction and the venue at Whitwell provides many opportunities for the disabled including Sailing, Rock Blok, hire of adapted bikes and the Countryside For All route. Obviously having a changing places toilet at this location will enable more people with disabilities to enjoy the range of activities at Whitwell. Can you let us know how

we can help you provide Changing Places Toilets at Whitwell? Please respond to Cheryl Hall cheryl.hall@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

The final version of the above will be on the LAF headed paper and signed by the chairman.

ACTION: South Lincolnshire & Rutland LAF – Agree on final letter to Anglian Water CEO

11. VISIT ENGLAND - Opportunities in relation to funding for Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to promote accessible businesses etc.

Whilst looking for funding sources for a national web site for countryside for all type routes, the Discover England Fund, forwarded our emails to Ross Calladine, head of business support. Ross Calladine's team is responsible for developing <https://www.accessibilityguides.org/> . The launch of the new Accessibility Guides web site was circulated to both LAFs in September. The Accessibility Guides format should help encourage businesses to become more accessible. This is due to the commercial value and spending power of the disabled being highlighted by Visit England to businesses. The Rutland group, within the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF, are now investigating how this can be promoted to businesses. Both Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, have a lot to gain in the tourism market, if the businesses and other organisations can include this method of promotion. The links below provide further information.

<https://vimeo.com/188300468>

<https://www.accessibilityguides.org/help-guides>

The link below excluding the Question and Answer session may also prove helpful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQWp7A7g9JU>

From the LAFs view, any business creating an Accessibility Guide can provide a link to Countryside For All routes close to them. Clearly promoting the Accessibility Guide to businesses and other organisations is outside the remit of the LAF. However the Accessibility Guide should be seen to be of great importance to businesses, other organisations and the Local Authorities. There needs to be a way of promoting the Accessibility Guide. Opportunities for promoting the Accessibility Guide, maybe available in the next round of funding from the Discover England Fund.

ACTION: LAFs – Recommend organisations to promote the Accessibility Guide for North East Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire

ACTION: LAFs – Contact the above informing them of this opportunity.

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