

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Report for Local Access Forum meetings on 23 & 24 January 2018

1. VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are continuing to struggle with our workload and will now have to decline any new projects.

2. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL ROUTES

2.1. Lincolnshire

We have had further slippage in producing the 5 new route leaflets. This has been due to workload and issues with three of the sites. The issues have now been resolved and the leaflet details will be with the designer/printer by the end of January.

The survey for the Woodhall Spa Airfield route is now planned for February this year.

Unfortunately we did not win our funding application to the Police Mutual. So we still have the issue of raising £1020 to restock 12 route leaflets. The £1020 is required to enable us to have 1000 copies of each of the 12 route leaflets. We are currently applying for the Big Lottery Awards For All grant and the request for funding these route leaflets will be part of that application.

We are still 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. As stated in the last report 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. This could also enable both County Councils to manage the stock levels in their storage space. We need professional help in how we promote this to potential sponsors. We would appreciate it if the County Councils could provide us with guidance from one of their officers in the relevant department.

The quote for undertaking the survey work at the Coastal Country Park for the four Countryside For All route leaflets, has been sent to Lincolnshire County Council. Lincolnshire County Council may include this together with the production of leaflets, in with a funding bid to the East Coast Community Fund. If the funding application

does not go ahead, the sub group will consider how and if to take this forward independently.

ACTION: Chris Miller/Stuart Crook – Please identify a County Council department/officer to provide guidance on attracting sponsorship for Countryside For All surveying, leaflets and folders.

2.2. Rutland

A member of the LAF led a walk for the Rutland Disabled Youth Forum (RDYF) at the Countryside For All route at the Rutland Water Nature Reserve in 2017. The Public Liability Insurance was provided by Rutland CC Aiming High team. There were some issues of concern along the route. We have arranged a site meeting for 10th January with Anglian Water, Rutland Disabled Youth Forum and ourselves to discuss these issues.

ACTION: John Law – Provide a verbal update in relation to the Rutland Water Nature Reserve site meeting.

3. INCLUSIVE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS COURSE

The course was held at Whisby 23rd November. The delegates included 10 officers of the Woodland Trust, 2 from Anglian Water, 1 from the Lodge Trust and a member of the Mid Lincolnshire LAF. A summary of the course feedback survey appears below:

	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Course content	0	0	3	11
Course presentation	0	1	3	10
Course material	0	0	7	7
Venue	0	0	3	11

The detailed feedback comments will be passed round at the LAF meeting.

The above will be part of our feedback to the Nineveh Charitable Trust.

4. NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST'S VISIT

Further thought has been given to the invitation to the Nineveh Charitable Trust's visit. We will be applying to the Trust for funding for the Spalding Choice Unlimited event, this is detailed in item 5, in this report. The Trust having a display at the Spalding event would add value to the event. It would help promote the Trust and it would also give other organisations the opportunity to talk about funding with them. Being part of the event will also give the Trust an insight to the work we are doing and what we are achieving through their funding. So instead of inviting the Trust to

attend as a visitor, we will give them the opportunity to attend as either a visitor of exhibitor.

As stated in the previous report we will also invite the Trust to Oakham. This is to enable them to see how their funding has and is making a difference to people with disabilities. This will be supplemented by a visit to the Lodge Trust to discuss a joint project at the site which we hope the Nineveh Charitable Trust will fund.

5. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WALKS – RUTLAND

A very constructive meeting was held with Robert Clayton (RCC) at the Oakham Castle Grounds in relation to making them more accessible and the sensory planting scheme. We have arranged for Dementia Adventure to provide free advice for the planting design.

6. FUNDING BIDS

We are currently applying to the Big Lottery Fund – Awards For All, for the Spalding and Rutland Choice Unlimited event. We are also applying for funding to the Nineveh Charitable Trust to partially fund either this or next year's Spalding Choice Unlimited event. This is dependent on the outcome of the application to the Big Lottery. The application to the Tesco Bags of Help fund has been put on hold until the other funding applications are completed.

7. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENT

7.1. In term time or outside term time

The Rutland Choice Unlimited event was held during term time in 2017. One of the reasons for this, was to attract special schools to visit the event, to enable children to learn of the opportunities available to them. A member of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum is concerned about the damage to children's education, by taking children out of school on educational organised school trips during term time. Whilst most members felt this was not the case, without evidence it could not be proven whether taking children out of school during term time damaged their education. In order to find evidence, two days research was spent by a member of the Countryside For All sub group. The evidence gathering included talking to individuals who work with children in special needs schools in counties other than Lincolnshire and Rutland, phone conversations with the Department of Education, examining Department of Education reports and examining material on the internet. The outcome was that there was no evidence that taking children out of school on educational school trips during term time damaged their education. There was substantial evidence proving that taking children out of school on educational organised school trips during term time added value to classroom lessons.

As mentioned before, the Choice Unlimited events can substantially help improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities.

Whilst at the South Holland Health and Wellbeing meeting a presentation was delivered by Sally Stanfield, Lincolnshire Young Carers Service (LCC). Following a separate conversation with Sally, it was felt there is a need for young carers to be given the opportunity to attend the Choice unlimited event with their family. These young carers would be attending main stream schools. A number of special educational needs and disabled pupils would also be in main stream schools.

It is important that school trips from special schools visit and take part in the Choice Unlimited event. It is also important that children in main stream education have the opportunity to visit the event. The Spalding Choice Unlimited working group are now considering alternating the event annually between in term time and out of term time. They are also considering if the Rutland Choice Unlimited working group adopt the same approach, to hold the event in term time when the Rutland Choice unlimited is held outside term time. This approach could benefit everyone. The Spalding Choice Unlimited working group meeting will be discussing this issue 23rd January. The Rutland Choice Unlimited working group will decide on the way forward with all the facts available.

7.2. Rutland

Due to Rutland County Council leasing the hall at the Active Rutland Hub to another organisation we are not able to use this venue. We are investigating the suitability of the Oakham Rugby Clubhouse and it is felt that this maybe our only option. Unfortunately this is a smaller venue and we want to grow the event. Ideally we would like to have the option of using the Rugby clubhouse and the marquis at the Rutland Show either before or after the event. We have made some enquiries in relation to this but they have not led to a satisfactory outcome. We would like some help with this line of enquiry.

The letters for sponsorship have been sent out. The level of response will be announced at the LAF meeting.

ACTION: All – Please assist with sourcing a suitable venue for the Rutland 2019 Choice Unlimited event.

Cheryl – Please provide an update on the level of responses in relation to sponsorship.

7.3. Lincolnshire

Now the date of the Royal Wedding has been announced we can confirm the Spalding Choice Unlimited event will be 15th May. Possible sponsors have been identified and letters will be sent out shortly. The next meeting of the working group is 23rd January, so a verbal update on any issues of concern will be given at the LAF meeting.

ACTION: John Law – Provide a verbal update

8. SENSORY TRAILS AND GREEN SPACES

Due to workload this project has not progressed any further.

9. CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

9.1. North Sea Observatory

As reported at the last meeting 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. We requested an update from the Parish Council early January. The Parish Council stated 9th January, that their plans have not moved forward as quickly as they had hoped. Our ideas have been added to their list and they will get back to us as soon as it is practical.

9.2. Letter to the CEO of Anglian Water

The letter to the CEO of Anglian Water has been sent in relation to Changing Places Toilets at Rutland Water. We are currently awaiting a response. An update will be provided by Cheryl at the LAF meeting.

ACTION: Cheryl – Please update the LAF on the response we have had from Anglian Water.

10. VISIT ENGLAND – PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE BUSINESSES, INCREASING TOURISM AND VISITOR SPENDING

10.1. Rutland

An invite has been sent to business groups and the Rutland Access Group to attend a presentation. Discussions will be held following the presentation on how those at the meeting wish to take the topic forward.

10.2. Lincolnshire

A meeting has to be arranged with LCC to see how to take this forward.

10.3. North East Lincolnshire

A meeting has to be arranged with North East Lincolnshire to see how to take this forward.

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