

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL – Report

Report for Local Access Forum Meetings 3 & 11/07/18

1. COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL ROUTES

1.1. Lincolnshire

The drafts for the 5 new route leaflets are still with the printer's for designing and printing. There has been an issue with the pricing but that has been resolved for four of the leaflets. We have been chasing the quote for the fifth leaflet. .

The survey for the Woodhall Spa Airfield route has now been undertaken. There are a couple of issues we still have to resolve on this prior to sending to the printer.

We still have the issue of raising £1020 to restock 12 route leaflets. We also have an issue with storage of the leaflets. The printer we use has agreed to storage for an extra £100. The £1120 is required to enable us to have 1000 copies of each of the 12 route leaflets. We are in the process of checking the 12 routes to take account of any changes for the new print run. The application for the Big Lottery Awards For All grant for Rutland's Choice Unlimited event includes the bid for £1120 to fund the printing and storage of these leaflets.

Irwin Mitchell approached us at the Spalding Choice Unlimited event and offered to do the printing for free. Unfortunately they cannot fold the leaflet as they do not have the appropriate equipment. The sub group feels it must decline this offer and continue to investigate finding a sponsor who will fund design, artwork and printing, including folding the leaflet.

The Ashing Lane Nature Reserve route still has not been checked for the new print run. This is due to the workload of the subgroup and only two members of the LAF in the sub group. We really need to do this before the weather changes. This is due to trying to navigate between the deep pot holes when they are under water, making it difficult to drive down the road without causing damage to the car. This route leaflet was printed in 2016 and we will not have enough stock to support this year's orders. This shows the high demand of the leaflets in 2016 and 2017.

The routes we have checked so far include Frampton Marsh, Mareham Pastures, Whisby, Hartsholme Country Park and Westgate Woods.

We still have the unresolved issue with the route at Mareham Pastures deteriorating in places due to weed encroachment on paths reducing the width in places to less than 1 metre. There is also an issue with puddles on paths due to lack of a camber and drainage.

Whilst we may have found businesses that are interested in sponsoring the route leaflets, we still have some work to do in making this an attractive proposition and would be pleased with any guidance both County Councils have to offer.

We have received the following update from Kate Percival, Lincolnshire County Council in relation to the potential Countryside For All routes at the Coastal Country Park:

Countryside For All Audit on all coastal access sites - Completed

Huttoft Marsh Countryside For All footpath surfacing – Completed

Chapel St Leonards to the North Sea Observatory walkway - Planning permission has been agreed. Funding has been secured for detailed design and construction. Construction is planned for late summer/early autumn this year.

Welcome signs - Have been erected on the highways entering the LCCP

Sand clearance – Completed but is an ongoing issue

England Coast Path – Route between Skegness and Mablethorpe signed. No official launch date yet.

North Sea Observatory – Preview held 18th June. Due to open to the public August 2018

We have also received a copy of the Lincolnshire Coast Accessibility Site report. The report is an access survey on Acre Gap, Sutton Branchline, Huttoft Nature Reserve, Wolla Bank, Chapel Six Marshes, Chapel Point Nature Area and Chapel Point Promenade. We have asked if there are plans and funds available to undertake the required route improvements together with the production of Countryside For All leaflets. If Lincolnshire County Council cannot fund this, we will work with them to obtain funding to achieve this very important goal for the area.

ACTION: Chris Miller – Please investigate whether improvements to the path at Mareham Pastures can take place to increase the path width back to a minimum of 1 metre and reduce puddling.

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.

1.2. Rutland

Whilst we may have identified another funding source for The Lodge Trust's potential Countryside For All route, it is likely to be August before we get round to discussing this with The Lodge Trust.

2. NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST'S VISIT

We still aim to invite the Trust to attend the Spalding Choice Unlimited event in 2019 if we decide to have another event in Spalding. We will invite the Trust to Oakham once we have the completed Woodhall Spa Airfield leaflet and a resolution on the Dementia Friendly Walk Leader training.

3. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WALKS – RUTLAND

If we don't have enough volunteers by the end of October 2018 to deliver the walks, the funds will be returned to the Nineveh Charitable Trust.

4. FUNDING BIDS

We have submitted an application to the Big Lottery Fund – Awards For All, for the 2018 Rutland Choice Unlimited and should get a response from them, in terms of whether we are successful or not on the 27th August.

We are also pursuing £1000 of funding from the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation for the Rutland Choice Unlimited event. This is to ensure if we are not successful with the Big Lottery Awards For All fund, we have an opportunity of some other funding towards the event.

5. OTHER SPONSORSHIP DEALS

Irwin Mitchell agreed at the Spalding Choice Unlimited event to print leaflets for free for the Mount Group RDA (RDA = Riding For the Disabled Association) and the Bradgate Park Trust. We previously were looking to obtain funding for the Mount Group through the Tesco Bags of Help Fund but now do not need to take this action. Irwin Mitchell also wish to have the opportunity to print free leaflets of all RDA groups in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. Having leaflets available at the Choice Unlimited events help us provide more opportunities for the disabled. It is recommended that with the LAFs approval, Chairmen of the Mid Lincolnshire and South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF send a letter to each of the Lincolnshire RDA groups offering this opportunity. A template of this letter should be provided to the Leicestershire LAF. The Leicestershire LAF then have the opportunity to take the same action, should they wish to do so.

ACTION: LAFs – Vote on whether letters should be sent to the RDAs informing them of free printing of leaflets for their organisations.

ACTION: John Law – If above is agreed, draft letter for chairmen to sign

ACTION: Chairmen - If above is agreed, sign the letter to RDAs

ACTION: Secretaries - If above is agreed, send the letter to RDAs

6. CHOICE UNLIMITED EVENTS

6.1. Rutland

We are still in the process of planning for the 2018 Rutland event. Due to the increased workload of LCIL, the organisation that have jointly delivered the event with us, the Rutland Choice Unlimited Working Group have taken on extra duties.

William Cross kindly invited John Law to visit the Rutland Agricultural Showground the day before the event. We were keen to do this as we thought having the members marquee either the day before or after the Agricultural Show would provide us with a suitable venue together with the Pavilion and Rugby Club hall in the same complex for 2019. Whilst the marquee would be ideal, there were a number of concerns in relation to safety from one member of the Showground team. So we are still looking for a suitable venue for 2019.

As we asked businesses to sponsor the Rutland event and had a zero response, we will be in the next few weeks asking those businesses for a response.

6.2. Lincolnshire

We felt the exhibitor numbers and visitor numbers at the Spalding Choice Unlimited event was disappointing. However, we had 350 visitors which compared to Lincolnshire Sports (now Active Lincolnshire) event in Lincoln attracting 40 visitors, we did well. We had a wide variety of displays from 30 exhibitors which included 3 of Lincolnshire County Council departments. All the exhibitors I spoke to appeared to wish for another event next year. It was disappointing that neither South Holland District Council nor the CCG did not feel it appropriate to exhibit at the event. Whilst on the whole visitors were pleased with the event, there was disappointment that some organisations did not attend. There was a fair bit of interest in the LAF's display. If the Spalding Working Group wish to wish to have another Choice Unlimited event at Spalding it is recommended that we work with LCIL to deliver this if funding can be obtained. The feedback meeting to the Spalding Choice Unlimited Working Group is due to take place 17th July.

ACTION: LAFs – Vote to decide whether we should work with LCIL to deliver a Choice Unlimited event in Spalding if funding can be obtained for 2019

7.CHANGING PLACES TOILETS

7.1. North Sea Observatory

As yet no further information has been received from Chapel St Leonards Parish Council, to see 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 have not chased this up due to workload.

7.2. Response from Anglian Water

We have not gone back to Anglian Water due to workload.

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

8.1. Lincolnshire

A meeting has to be arranged with LCC to see how to take this forward. We have not followed this up due to workload.

8.2. North East Lincolnshire

A meeting has to be arranged with North East Lincolnshire to see how to take this forward. We have not followed this up due to workload.

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