

Agenda Item 16

Mid Lincs Local Access Forum (MLAF) – 17 September 2013

Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park (LCCP) – Progress Report

Both Colin Smith and I attended the last meeting of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park (LCCP) Task Team on 13 May 2013. Chris Miller and Elizabeth Barnicott, amongst others, were also in attendance representing their own area of interest. Bearing in mind that this was the first occasion that the MLAF were represented at the LCCP we gained the impression of a well established working party with lots of stakeholders representing areas such as environment, wildlife, coastal grazing, to name but a few.

The lead authority was Lincolnshire County Council who hold the chair. It was noted that the Task Team was well established with literature available on the LCCP to include a newsletter, events programme and walk leaflet. That said, as would be expected, there was evidence of current issues for the Task Team as highlighted by the landowner in that he spoke of dog owners walking 'willy-nilly' within the LCCP area. From that we saw the need for the LCCP infrastructure to be further developed to include public rights of way where the MLAF, through Colin and I, could become more involved.

The Steering committee has still got a lot of work to do to get the Park well established. In particular there is a concentration on getting the Business Plan together to cover the period ahead. It's a big project needing good publicity and co-ordination of all parties involved.

Regrettably, although everybody agrees that a good network of paths is needed this side of the planning appears to have taken second place.

The reasons for this are various but include general lack of funding to help create new rights of way, less time available by Rights of Way Officers, unwillingness to cooperate by some farmers and landowners.

There was some suggestion at the meeting that a sub group needs to be set up to deal with footpath matters between meetings. I agree with this idea since there is insufficient time at the six monthly Steering Group meetings to do justice to footpath matters. I would be very happy to join such a sub group.

It would be useful if Richard and I could go along to the next Steering Group meeting on 1st October with a proposal to form a sub group and with some suggestions for its objectives. We would be looking for others who would be willing to serve on the proposed sub group.

What does the LAF think of this idea?

Further information on the LCCP is available at
www.lincolnshirecoastalcountrypark.com or obtainable via email at
lccp@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Colin Smith and Richard Graham

Members of Mid Lincs Local Access Forum