Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2013 to March 2014

Name of LAF: Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Chris Padley

Name of LAF Secretary: Steve Blagg

Number of LAF members: 13

Number of LAF vacancies: 5

1 - Involvement and Representation

What interests does your current membership cover?

Land managers, horseriders, walkers, carriage drivers, health walkers, Local Memberss

What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing?

Disabled users and cyclists

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors:

It is proving increasingly challenging to recruit new members to the forum. We have experienced particular difficulties recruiting disabled people and cyclists.

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications, monitoring of Huddle etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective?

Recruitment - Each spring Lincolnshire County Council commences a recruitment drive to attract new LAF members. The County Council uses a variety of methods to contact target groups including the County Council's quaterly newspaper, the County Council website and by contacting target groups directly. All recruitment details including person specification and the LAF application form are displayed on the countryside section of the County Council website. Limited effectiveness.

Huddle - Members show only limited interest in Huddle. Limited Effective

Meeting minutes - Agendas and minutes are distributed through the Secretary. Minutes are also available on the County Council's Democratic Services Committee Records system. Effecitive.

Travel Expenses - Members claim travel expenses using the County Council's members expense system. Effective.

Advertising meetings - Meetings are advertised to members of the public on the countryside section of the County Council website. Ineffective.

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team?

The Chairman guides the forum members through the agenda at each meeting. In addition the forum operates a number of working groups to examine various issues in greater detail.

In what ways do you reach consensus?

The Chairman asks the forum members to vote on particular issues where appropriate.

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? Through the Chairman.

Give up to 3 examples of where you have encountered operational difficulties (e.g. lack of resources); explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate such issues:

1 - Public Engagement – Despite being open to the public, meetings are rarely attended by members of the public. The forum needs to engage with the public more effectively.

2 - Membership – The forum has been unable to engage with certain sections of society in particular the young and ethnic minority groups.

3 - Huddle – Members appear to show only limited interest in Huddle.

3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not?

The forum works well with the South Lincs & Rutland LAF. Members from both forums work together on sub groups.

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not?

The planning authorities in Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire rarely contact the forum.

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? Only partially

Main or notable achievements?

The production of an 'Access for All' pack of lealfets covering 4 routes in Rutland and Lincolnshire.

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year? No

What changes / barriers can you see ahead?

It is likely that the Lincolnshire County Council public rights of way service will experience a reduction in funding during 2015/16.

What are your priorities for the year ahead (list up to 3)?

1 -

2 -

3 -

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities?

5 - Section 94 Bodies

Give up to 3 examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:

1 - Lincolnshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2014-2019.

2 - Lincolnshire County Council TRO regarding the permanent restriction of traffic on the Drift (Sewstern Lane)

3 -

6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 1

How many cases have you responded to? 0

Detail any informal involvement with Open Access Restriction cases: Forestry Commission - Temporary restriction of open access land at Ulceby Plantation

7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year. Please add numbers into the boxes below and only count specific consultations once even if advice has been given on them a number of times. If a consultation covers more than one subject area, please count them separately as appropriate.

Public meetings (e.g. LAF meetings)	3	Working groups	1
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	4
Highway orders	1	Green Infrastructure strategies	1
Gating orders	2	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	1
Cycle projects	0	Disabled access	4
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	0
Planning applications	0	PROW network and projects	4
ROWIP planning and objectives	4	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0
Local Nature Partnerships	0	Recording of paths and promoting use	4
Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access	0	Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	0
Slipways and landing stages - public access to	0	Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	0
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	0	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	0
Shoreline management plans	0	Rail freight interchange strategic development	0

Network rail and rail crossing closures	3	Access and nature conservation	0
Horse routes and equestrian provision	0	Multi user routes	0
National Parks	0	Coastal access	0
Motorised vehicle access	2	Access to MOD land	0
New town & village green registration government consultation	0	Natural England consultations	0
Defra consultations	0	Commons grazing proposals	0
Highways Agency consultations	0	Department for Transport consultations	0
Other (please specify):			

8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority:

From the appointing authorities perspective the Forum is highly valued and is seen as an important asset in the management of countryside access.

Members from both forums established a disabled access sub group in the Spring of 2013. The group has worked outside of meetings to produce an 'Access for All' pack aimed at disabled users and families with pushchairs. It is unlikely that the County Council would have been in a position to produce such leaflets without the assistance of the LAF.

The Mid Lincolnshire LAF covers a wide geographical area. The forum rotates meeting around it's area to reduce the amount of travelling by some members and also to make the meetings more accessible to the public. However, the distances involved in travelling to meetings can be a barrier for members attending meetings, especially in the winter months when the weather conditions can be inclement.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair: -