

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
14 OCTOBER 2009**

PRESENT: MR B MONTGOMERY (CHAIRMAN)

Members

Councillor D Brailsford, Mr B Bowles, Mr W Cross, Mrs R Harris, Mr A Hill, Mr G Law, Mrs J Lucas, Mrs A Morley, Mr C Smith, Mr J Williams and Councillor R Wootten.

Officers

Chris Miller (Principal Rights of Way and Access Office); Stuart Crook (Public Rights of Way Officer, Rutland County Council); Andrew Savage (Senior Countryside Access Officer, Lincolnshire County Council); and Cheryl Stanislawski (Democratic Services Officer).

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Brearley, Mr I Cox, Councillor P Golden, Mr G Keeping, Mr G Norris and Mrs V Woolmer.

An apology for absence was also received from Dean Kirkland, Natural England.

17. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2009

AGREED

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 July 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. APPOINTMENTS/ MEMBERSHIP

Lincolnshire County Council had appointed Councillors D Brailsford and R Wootten to its vacancies on the Local Access Forum.

The Chairman welcomed the new Members onto the Forum.

19. COASTAL ACCESS UPDATE

The Local Access Forum considered a report by the Senior Countryside Access Officer, which provided Members with information in relation to Part Nine of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

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On 8 September 2009, DEFRA published a public consultation on proposals to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, as it would apply to coastal access land. The consultation covered the changes DEFRA proposed to make to existing provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, including the insertion of description of a coastal land; proposed changes to the categories of excepted land in schedule One and proposed changes to the general restrictions in Schedule Two to the Act. Local Access Forums were included in DEFRA's list of organisations who were invited to respond. The closing date for the consultation was Tuesday, 1 December 2009.

This item had been discussed at the meeting of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum which was held on 13 October 2009, where it was suggested that the joint Local Access Forums' Coastal Sub Group, which had previously been established, should form a joint response to this consultation. Possible meeting dates were discussed and it was suggested that a site visit to Wrangle could take place prior to the meeting being held. It was highlighted that the meeting could be held at Wrangle Village Hall.

Concerns were raised by the Forum in relation to the number of incidents where dog owners had walked their dog off its lead in a field where cattle was kept and how this disturbed the cattle and in some circumstances resulted in accidents. It was reiterated that a cow and its calf would be as dangerous as a bull to the public, as it would be protecting its calf. It was highlighted that this was an area of concern across the Country and this would be addressed when DEFRA's consultation process had completed.

AGREED

That the Coastal Sub Group considers the Consultation document and a response be formed on behalf of both Forums.

20. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report, which provided the Forum with information in relation to the Parish Paths Partnership Consultation.

The Parish Paths Partnership Scheme was introduced in Lincolnshire in 1994. The Countryside Agency provided financial support in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to enable local communities to improve and promote their own rights of way network. However, since April 2000, the scheme had been wholly supported and funded by the County Council. The County Council now had local agreements with 88 Parish Councils.

It was a statement of action within the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan to review the scheme and to explore ways to

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increase community involvement. As part of this process all participating Parish Councils were contacted.

Detailed information as part of the report was provided to the Forum, which covered the following areas: -

- A summary of responses;
- Suggestions for improvements, which included, administration; route development and maintenance; network development interpretation and other suggestions.

In answer to a question, the Forum was informed that Rutland County Council did not have a Parish Partnership Scheme.

The possibility of an annual inspection was discussed, where it was suggested that this could retain community involvement.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

21. COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
PROGRESS REPORTS

i) Lincolnshire County Council

A report by the Senior Countryside Access Officer was considered, which updated Members on the progress to date with the implementation of Lincolnshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The County Council had submitted a grant application to the Waste Recycling Environmental Limited during Spring 2009. Unfortunately, the Waste Recycling Environmental Limited had experienced large volumes of applications and was unable to provide funding. However, the County Council had managed to secure sufficient funds to enable improvement works to be undertaken during the Autumn.

The software provider, Exegesis, for the Countryside Access Mapping System, installed the new Countryside Access Mapping System on 5 October 2009. However, there had been some problems during this process which had resulted in the date for the system going live being delayed. The revised mapping system had been designed to be more user friendly, and users would be able to access photographs of the conditions on individual routes.

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It was also highlighted that Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust had provided funding to a sum of £110,000 for improvements to the Health Walks.

ii) Rutland County Council

A report by the Public Rights of Way Officer was considered, which updated Members on the implementation of Rutland's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Web Mapping had gone live at the beginning of October 2009, and further improvements to the system were scheduled to go live at the end of October 2009. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of Rutland County Council moving towards a corporate GIS system during 2010. Once further information was available this would be provided to the Forum, for information.

Work was being undertaken with the Health Walks Group in Ketton to secure the removal of a number of stiles in the village.

It was highlighted that the Sounding Bridge Project at Rutland Water would not be stalled, and this would be completed to the specified budget.

AGREED

That the reports be noted.

22. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS – UPDATES ON PROGRESS

i) Lincolnshire County Council

A report by the Senior Countryside Access Officer was considered, which provided Members with an update in relation to the Definitive Map Modification Orders.

There were 155 outstanding cases, and there had been four new cases since the Forum's last meeting which was held on 15 July 2009.

ii) Rutland County Council

A report by the Public Rights of Way Officer was considered, which provided Members with an update in relation to the Definitive Map Modification Orders.

It was highlighted that the number of cases had remained the same.

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AGREED

That the reports be noted.

23. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS - UPDATE

i) Lincolnshire County Council

A report by the Senior Countryside Access Officer was considered, which provided Members with an update in relation to the Public Path Orders.

The County Council had a workload of 41 outstanding cases and these included applications for diversions, creations and extinguishments. There had been ten cases confirmed since April 2009. It was highlighted that one of the cases listed had objected but this had since been withdrawn.

ii) Rutland County Council

A report by the Public Rights of Way Officer was considered, which provided Members with an update in relation to the Public Path Orders.

It was highlighted that the case in relation to Ketton, file date 12/06/2007, had been withdrawn and the case in relation to Thistleton, file date 22/03/2000, had been referred to the Planning Inspectorate.

AGREED

That the reports be noted.

24. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

AGREED

That future meetings of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum be held as follows: -

- 13 January 2010 (County Offices, Lincoln, commencing at 2 p.m.);
- 14 April 2010 (Council Chamber, Sleaford, commencing at 6.30 p.m.);
- 7 July 2010 (Council Chamber, Rutland, commencing at 6.30 p.m.);
- 13 October 2010 (Assembly Rooms, Boston, commencing at 2 p.m.).

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Meeting closed 15.40 p.m.