

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
14 APRIL 2010**

PRESENT: MR B MONTGOMERY (CHAIRMAN)

Members

Councillor D Brailsford, Mr B Bowles, Mr I Cox, Mr W Cross, Mrs R Harris
Mr A Hill, Mrs A Morley, Mr C Smith and Mr J Williams.

Officers

Stuart Crook (Public Rights of Way Officer, Rutland County Council); Andrew
Savage (Senior Countryside Access Officer, Lincolnshire County Council);
Matthew Herkes (Democratic Services Officer) and Nigel Tomlinson (Regional
Strategy Unit, Environment Agency).

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Wootten, Mr M Brearley,
Mrs J Lucas and Mr G Norris.

39. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2010

Regarding the last paragraph on page 4, under item 31 of the minutes of the
previous meeting, a Member queried whether there was an update in relation to
the footpath located at the top of South Common.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer advised that a quote for the completion
of the work had been requested and it was now a question of ensuring that the
worst areas on the footpath were identified for widening and overall repair. A
further update would be provided at the next meeting.

In relation to item 32, on page 5 of the minutes of the previous meeting, a
Member queried whether there was a further update regarding the signing of
unclassified roads in the county.

In response, it was reported that work in the North Division of the county was
progressing well, work on the signing of other unclassified roads was ongoing
and a further update would be provided at the meeting of the South Lincolnshire
Local Access Forum in July 2010.

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AGREED

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

40. ACCESS ON ENVIRONMENT AGENCY LAND

The Committee received a presentation from the Principal Officer, Regional Strategy Unit, Environment Agency, which informed Members of the access to Environment Agency land and water ways in the county and their ongoing projects in the county.

Following the presentation, a Member queried whether the Environment Agency had contacted Anglian Water to discuss how they could help promote the use of the county's waterways to residents.

It was advised that Anglian Water were keen to engage with the Environment Agency in the various projects, and had recently been involved in a consultation exercise relating to the Strategic Waterways Recreation.

A Member queried what the Environment Agency were doing to help prevent any future flooding issues that could arise from the county's coastal region being below sea level.

The Principal Officer, Recreation Regional Strategy Unit advised that despite not being directly involved with this area of the Environment Agency a representative from the Flood Defence team could attend a future meeting to discuss coastal defence issues and the possible affect on countryside access.

The Chairman requested that the Flood Defence representative at the Environment Agency be invited to attend the meeting of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum in October 2010.

A Member queried whether the Committee would be requested to comment on the recent consultation exercise for Enjoying Water, Strategic Priorities for water related recreation in the East Midlands.

The Principal Officer, Recreation Regional Strategy Unit informed members that the consultation exercise had begun and was being co-ordinated by an East Midlands representative called Claire Quigley. A number of workshops and events had been organised and Members were requested to contact the Senior Countryside Access Officer for information on how to comment on the document.

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AGREED

That the report be noted.

41. DEFRA CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS SETTING OUT PROCEDURES FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT AND OBJECTIONS TO NATURAL ENGLAND'S COASTAL ACCESS REPORTS.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer advised members the consultation document in relation to the proposed regulations that set out the procedures for making representations about and objections to Natural England's Coastal Access reports would be emailed to Members after the meeting.

It was reported that the document included a new schedule 1A, which incorporated the proposals for coastal access, which now required resident and land owners views. The closing date for comments was 14 June 2010.

The Chairman proposed that Members of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum consider the consultation document at a sub group meeting convened before the closing date for comments, so that a formal response could be received on behalf of the group.

Members agreed to meet as a sub group of the Committee to discuss the document in more detail and compile a response on behalf of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer agreed to set a meeting for the end of May 2010 to ensure that comments could be compiled and forwarded before the closing date.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

That the Senior Countryside Access Officer sets a sub group meeting for the end of May 2010, to give Members the opportunity to comment on the DEFRA consultation document before the closing date of 14 June 2010.

42. EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LAF CHAIRS MEETING

The Chairman reported that on 25 February 2010 he attended the East Midlands Regional LAF Chairs meeting in Derby on behalf of the South Lincolnshire Local

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Access Forum. At the meeting, which met on a quarterly basis, the Chairs discussed the access concerns that affected the wider region and in addition, it was an opportunity to share best practice across all regions and raise the profile of the South Lincolnshire LAF. The meetings were organised and administered by Natural England.

It was requested that Members forward any concerns they had with access or rights of way on a regional or national level to the Chairman so that they could be disseminated to the next East Midlands Regional LAF Chairs meeting.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

43. EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL WORKSHOP

It was reported that the Chairman, Mr C Smith and Mr J Williams attended the East Midlands Regional Workshop in Grantham on behalf of the Committee. It was noted that the event was well attended and there were some well coordinated discussions in relation to the actions that could be taken forward by the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum, so that members were more engaged.

A Member commented that one area of discussion was the Committee's involvement in meetings, and in particular what items were included on the agenda and whether there was a clear objective for the group in terms of priorities for the ensuing year.

It was suggested that the draft agenda for future meetings be emailed round members in advance of the meeting for comments and additional items.

It was commented that Parish Council involvement with the Committee was queried at the East Midlands Regional workshop.

As a result, it was suggested that Parish Councils be notified of the work going on within the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum to encourage their participation.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted.

44. SEWSTERN LANE

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Following a query made from a member of the public at the meeting of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum in January 2010 in relation to Sewstern Lane, the Senior Countryside Access Officer advised the committee on the developments made, which included:

- The Highways Manager at Lincolnshire County Council had produced and was taking forward a Management Plan to restore the grass land to the Lane.
- A seasonal traffic regulation had been placed on the Lane in the winter months.
- A Traffic Road Order was now in place.
- The 4x4 enthusiasts were now trying to find alternative routes to access Sewstern, which included trespassing across land owner's fields. It was reported that Grantham Police had been notified.

A Member voiced concern about Lincolnshire County Council's report requesting volunteers from the Wildlife Trust when green lane users had volunteered to maintain the Lane prior to the development of the Management Plan.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer advised that he would take the comment back to the Highways Manager for consideration.

The Chairman requested that a further update on the developments in relation to Sewstern Lane be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an update on the developments to Sewstern Lane be provided at the meeting of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum scheduled for 7 July 2010

45. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATES

i) Lincolnshire County Council

A report by the Senior Countryside and Access Officer was considered by the Committee, which outlined the progress made during year 3 of the implementation of the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

It was reported that the whole network condition survey was now nearing completion and was programmed to be completed during the coming summer. The Walking for Health initiative had been a significant achievement in

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Lincolnshire with 495 miles of Walking for Health routes being mapped out and a programme of improvement works were currently being implemented.

In addition, it was noted that adverts and editorial articles had been featured in 4 editions of the 'Lincolnshire New GP Community Health Care Magazine'. Walking and cycling leaflets had also been distributed to 18 health centres in areas of high health deprivation.

In relation to the Spa Trail it was advised that the contract to improve the section of the trail extending from Woodhall Spa to Thornton Lodge Lane was nearing completion. It was now proposed to extend to Horncastle. It was noted that the Countryside Access mapping system had been redeveloped to provide users with increased functionality.

In relation to SOA12 on page 11 of the Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan Year 3-4 Action Plan, it was queried whether a range of key routes in conjunction with disability groups had been developed.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer advised that Disabled Access Packs had been developed and would be tabled at the next meeting of the forum.

ii) Rutland County Council

The Public Rights of Way Officer, Rutland County Council informed the committee that a significant advancement had been made in relation to the bridleway at Sanding Bridge. It was noted that cyclists and walkers were able to utilise the routes, however horse riders would only be able to utilise the route in the winter months.

In addition, it was reported that the proposed footpath between Thorpe by Water and Gratton was still being negotiated. Solicitors and land owners were presently trying to come to an agreement over compensation for the inclusion of a footpath.

Rutland Walking Week was scheduled to commence on 1 May 2010 to 9 May 2010, with two to three planned walks expected every day.

It was noted that discussions were ongoing to provide an additional access point to Rutland Water. Anglian Water had been approached but no alternative access point could be identified. A footpath upgrade at Elgerton and Manton had been suggested.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

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46. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS – UPDATES ON PROGRESS

The Senior Countryside Access Officer and Public Rights of Way Officer guided members of the committee through the progress made against targets for the resolution of Definitive Map Modification Orders in Lincolnshire and Rutland.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

47. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS – UPDATE

The Senior Countryside Access Officer and Public Rights of Way Officer guided members through a report, which noted the progress made on resolving Public Path Orders.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

48. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Prior to the next meeting of the South Lincolnshire Local Access Forum scheduled for 7 July 2010, the Chairman requested that Members met at Sanding Bridge at 5.30pm for a tour of the bridleway planned for the area.

AGREED

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

- 7 July 2010 (Council Chamber, Rutland, commencing at 6.30 p.m.);
- 13 October 2010 (Assembly Rooms, Boston, commencing at 2 p.m.)

Meeting closed 8.20 p.m.