

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
13 OCTOBER 2010**

PRESENT: MR B MONTGOMERY (CHAIRMAN)

Representing Lincolnshire County Council:- Councillor R Wootten

Representing Rutland County Council:- District Councillor Peter Golden

Representing Independent Members:- Mr Bryan Bowles, Mr Ian Cox, Mr William Cross, Rosemary Harris, Mr Alec Hill, Mr Graham Law, Mr George Keeping, Mr Colin Smith, Mr John Williams

Officers:- Mr Stuart Crook (Public Rights of Way Officer, Rutland County Council), Mr Chris Miller (Principal Rights of Way & Access Officer), Mr Andrew Savage (Senior Countryside Access Officer), and Catherine Wilman (Democratic Services Officer).

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Audrey Morley and Mr Gordon Norris

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2010

AGREED

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the addition of 'Vice' to form Vice-Chair in the resolution of item 2.

19. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked a question regarding permissive footpaths. The Ramblers Association were not in favour of the use of permissive footpaths if a public footpath was available for use. Farmers were creating permissive footpaths but not applying for a diversion.

The County Council's Principal Rights of Way & Access Officer explained that the Council was only concerned about definitive rights of way, however it was

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confirmed that cross-field routes should be maintained by the land owner. Some were maintained by DEFRA.

20. COASTAL ACCESS

The group considered a report outlining the progress made by Natural England in the implementation of the Coastal Access Programme.

The Senior Countryside Access Officer explained that the first stretch of the All England Coast Path would be opened at Weymouth Bay in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events taking place there in 2012. Roll out in five further areas on England's coast would begin in 2011.

The group requested that the details on the five areas be sought for the next meeting.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted;
2. That details on the five roll-out areas of the Coastal Access Programme be provided at the next meeting.

21. THE FUTURE ROLE OF THIS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

A report was considered which aimed to generate discussion among the members of the Forum regarding the future of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum.

With the onset of anticipated financial cuts to local authorities, there was a danger that the role of Local Access Forums (LAF) may be diminished. With this in mind, it was an appropriate time to review the achievements so far of this LAF.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- It was felt the Forum had lost its way a little due to Lincolnshire and Rutland having different priorities;
- It was suggested that Natural England be consulted regarding the future role of the LAF;
- Members were unsure what sub-committees of the Forum were currently running and it was agreed that an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting identifying the sub-committees and inviting a discussion on

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- whether they were needed and if so, should they be combined with those running from the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum;
- The Forum discussed over-growing vegetation on paths which was a problem frequently complained about by path users. It was suggested that the relevant footpath officers be invited to the next meeting to discuss the issue.
 - The County Council's Principal Rights of Way and Access Officer explained that the problems this year had stemmed from a move to a new contractor who had no knowledge of agreements made with land owners, by the previous contractor, which had provided access to certain paths. The Forum were assured that this issue would be sorted out by the next year;
 - A parish assistance scheme existed where people could volunteer to help clear footpaths of vegetation and rubbish. Also, an adopt-a-path scheme had been considered whereby users of paths could be responsible for clearing a certain area;

AGREED

1. That the report be noted;
2. That an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum regarding the existing sub-committees of the LAF;
3. That an item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum regarding vegetation on paths and that the relevant footpath officers be invited to attend.

22. WHITE ROADS WITH EVIDENCE FOR PUBLIC MAINTENANCE

The County Council's Principal Rights of Way and Access Officer gave a verbal report on the number of white roads around the county. Not all the white roads were present on the Definitive Rights of Way Map, it was difficult, therefore, to assess whether they were rights of way or not.

Those white roads listed were maintained at public expense; however most of them were green lanes. In order to update the Definitive Map, each route would need to be individually tested.

AGREED

- That the verbal report be noted.

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23. COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2007-2012 UPDATE

The Forum considered a report outlining the progress made in the implementation of the Lincolnshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Officers took the Forum through the update document.

The Forum discussed fly-tipping and it was confirmed that according to district councils there were no particular hot spot areas. It was noted that the Drainage Board was responsible for clearing rubbish from drains after fly-tipping had occurred.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

24. DISCOVERING LOST WAYS – FORWARD PLANNING AND
VOLUNTEER WORK

Consideration was given to a report detailing the work of the Stakeholder Working Group and the potential use of volunteers in map research on the original Discovering Lost Ways project.

It was reported that this project had been running for some time and the cut off date for recording lost ways was 1 January 2026. As many lost ways as possible needed to be recorded in that time.

At their meeting on 12 October 2010, the Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum had decided to focus on a particular area (Spilsby Rural) where the Definitive Map had been broken up into sections. An area for a similar task needed to be identified in the South Lincolnshire and Rutland region. Anyone interested in getting involved was required to contact Alison Healey; however it was recommended that this Forum delay the work for the moment due to officer capacity.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

25. PROGRESS OF ORDER WORK FROM OCTOBER 2006-OCTOBER
2010 AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL MINOR AMENDMENTS
TO POLICY

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The Forum considered a report on the progress of Definitive Map Modification Order Work since the inception of the current prioritisation policy which included a review of the policy and consideration of potential minor amendments to policy wording. The report had been requested by the Definitive Map Sub Committee.

Officers took the Forum through the report and its appendices which included the proposed altered policy Prioritisation of Definitive Map Modification Orders (HAT 33/03/10) and the update of Definitive Map Modification Orders for Rutland County Council.

AGREED

1. That the progress of the orders from October 2006 – October 2010 be noted.
2. That the proposed amendments to the Prioritisation of Definitive Map Modification Orders (HAT 33/03/10) be approved.

26. PUBLIC PATH ORDER PROGRESS REPORT

The Forum considered a report providing information on the progress made in resolving Public Path Orders in Lincolnshire and Rutland.

Issues were raised regarding the Extinguishment of PF1 at Ruskington. The Principal Rights of Way & Access Officer explained that due to the building of a new academy on the site of the footpath, it would be extinguished; however the path had not been in use since 1957 and alternative paths were accessible around the school.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

27. REGIONAL CHAIRS MEETING

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the Regional Chairs Meeting which had been a planning seminar. The meeting had been well attended and it was intended that another would be held in the south of the region in early February 2011 in either Leicestershire or Lincolnshire.

At the meeting, the Natural Environment White Paper 'An Invitation to Shape the Nature of England' had been discussed. The consultation had a deadline for responses of 30 October 2010 and it was suggested that the Principal Rights of

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Way & Access Officer respond on behalf of the Forum. The response would need to highlight that there was no mention of countryside access or reference to the Local Access Forum in the White Paper.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

28. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following meeting dates were agreed:

- 19 January 2011 to be held in Sleaford at 1.30pm;
- 13 April 2011 to be held in Stamford at 6.00pm.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.