

Public Document Pack

NOTE – At the commencement of the meeting there will be a public forum for up to 15 minutes which will offer members of the public the opportunity to make statements or ask questions.



A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

16 March 2022

Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum Meeting

A meeting of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum will be held on **Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 2.30 pm** in the **Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum

Councillor Ian Carrington, Lincolnshire County Council
Councillor Richard James Cleaver, Lincolnshire County Council
Councillor James Cairns, North East Lincolnshire Council
John Beaven, Users of Local Rights of Way
Peter McKenzie-Brown, Users of Local Rights of Way
Sheila Brookes, Users of Local Rights of Way
Sid Mill, Users of Local Rights of Way
Chris Padley, Users of Local Rights of Way (Chairman)
Sharon Hayes, Users of Local Rights of Way (Vice-Chairman)
Angie Tomlin, Users of Local Rights of Way
Peter Hinton JP MBA, Users of Local Rights of Way
Nick Tomlin, Users of Local Rights of Way
Sandra Harrison, Landowners
Jon Thornes MBE, Landowners
Victor Clark, Other Interests
Richard Graham, Other Interests
John Law, Other Interests
David Salkeld, Other Interests
Erica Spurrier, Other Interests

**LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM AGENDA
THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022**

Item	Title	Report Reference
1	Election of Chairman for 2022/23	
2	Election of Vice-Chairman for 2022/23	
3	Apologies for Absence	
4	Declarations of Interests	
5	Public Questions	
6	Retirement of Forum Clerk - Steve Blagg	
7	Minutes of Previous Meeting of Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum held 17 November 2021	(Pages 5 - 10)
8	England Coast Path Update <i>(To receive a verbal report from Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment, on progress of the England Coast Path)</i>	(Verbal Report)
9	Lincolnshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan <i>(To receive a verbal report from Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment, which invites the Forum to discuss the Lincolnshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan)</i>	(Verbal Report)
10	Permissive Access <i>(To receive a report by John Law, a representative of the Local Access Forum, in relation to permissive access)</i>	(Pages 11 - 12)
11	Countryside For All <i>(To receive a report by John Law, a representative of the Local Access Forum, in connection with the latest situation of Countryside for All)</i>	(Pages 13 - 18)
12	Solar Panels <i>(To receive a verbal report by Sid Mill, a representative of the Local Access Forum, which invites the forum to discuss the impact of solar panels on public rights of way)</i>	(Verbal Report)
13	Forward Agenda Programme <i>(To discuss items for future agendas of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum)</i>	(Pages 19 - 20)
14	Date and time of the next meeting <i>(There is a statutory requirement to have two meetings a year)</i>	

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Please Note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum on Thursday, 24th March, 2022, 2.30 pm \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

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<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>

Agenda Item 7



A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 17 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT: CHRIS PADLEY (CHAIRMAN)

Representing Lincolnshire County Council: Councillors R J Cleaver

Representing Independent Members: John Beaven, Sid Mill, Sharon Hayes, Angie Tomlin, Peter Hinton JP MBA, Sandra Harrison, Jon Thornes MBE, Victor Clark and David Salkeld

Officers: Matthew Chaplin (Public Rights of Way Officer – North East Lincolnshire Council) Robert Close (Democratic Services Officer - Lincolnshire County Council) and Chris Miller (Deputy Head of Environment - Lincolnshire County Council)

Also in attendance:

15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Forum to the meeting and offered the opportunity for new members to introduce themselves.

16 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were raised.

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Cairns, Mr R Graham, Mr J Law, Ms E Spurrier and Mr N Tomlin.

18 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made with respect to any items on the agenda.

19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD 18 JANUARY 2021

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On minute number 12, the Deputy Head of Environment, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), advised that, after investigation, officers hadn't identified any bridges out of use adjacent to busy roads in Lincolnshire. However, if any were subsequently identified these would be brought back to the Forum.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the 18 January 2021 meeting of the Lincolnshire Local Access Forum be approved.

20 ACCESS DELIVERY IN LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

That Forum received a presentation from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) and the Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer, North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), on the access delivery team structures for Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council respectively.

The Committee considered the report, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- The Forum asked for details Lincolnshire County Council's access delivery team's primary working premises. Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) advised that, as LCC was still acting cautiously in relation to office use, officers were predominantly working from home. This situation was likely to continue in the immediate future given the significant IT infrastructure supporting it. The Definitive Map Modification Team were expected to move within LCC's archives. Furthermore, it was clarified that within NELC, the Rights of Way Officer, and his two inspectors, continued to work from home.
- Observing the separation between the Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) and Highways Maintenance Officers (NELC), the Forum asked what process was undertaken when maintenance was required. The Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) clarified that the practical maintenance tasks were completed through an electronic work order. From there, officers checked for necessary stock, before completing the maintenance subject to capacity. It was clarified that the Public Rights of Way Officer was responsible for maintaining stock.
- Appreciating the access team structure charts, the Forum requested that, upon amendment, a revised copy be emailed to Forum members.

RESOLVED

1. That the overview of access delivery in Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council be noted.
2. That a structure chart for Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council be circulated, and any future changes be relayed to the Forum through an updated chart.

21 ROUND UP OF ISSUES ENCOUNTERED BY AUTHORITIES IN DELIVERING ACCESS WORK DURING PANDEMIC PROTOCOLS

That Forum received a verbal update from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC), detailing the issues encountered throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. It was advised that a noticeable increase in public footpath usage was observed at the start of the pandemic. This created problems for the landowners who also noticed an increased presence of access users. Concerns from landowners of virus transmission were subsequently relayed to officers, particular concerns were raised of surface contamination. Occurrences

of illegal obstructions to public rights of way were recorded, which were mitigated through promotion of alternative routes. Other issues included fires, barbeques, litter, car parking and wild camping which all contributed to increased service pressures. It was however stressed, that the increased use of public rights of way benefitted to health and wellbeing, sustainable transport, and the tourism economy. This may have contributed to the substantial allocation for cycling infrastructure funding within the Chancellor of the Exchequers' budget.

The Forum considered the update, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- Forum members raised the issue of sheep worrying, asking if any deterrent signage was available. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) explained that while bespoke signage wasn't available, officers would always endeavour to support livestock owners. The increase in rights of way users may have included people who aren't familiar with the responsibilities and etiquette of access. Issues of loose dogs and trespassing were harder for officers to support with as they were civil issues. In addition, it was advised that there was precedent for alternative routes to be offered.
- A suggestion was made by the Forum of a standard uniform sign mandating that dogs were kept under control. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) noted that it could only indicate a request as there wasn't currently a law mandating it. LCC did have some signage; however, they weren't considered by landowner to be large or robust enough.
- Referencing the withdrawal of the path maintenance precept, some Forum members noted that parish councils were unable to maintain paths. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) explained that a financial decision was made after 2011 to withdraw the public paths funding precept as a cost saving method. Officers were hoping to eventually recommence it, however currently, finances were too limited to facilitate this.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

22 LEGISLATIVE CHANGE PROGRAMME (DEREGULATION ACT)

That Forum received a verbal update from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC), explaining that the Deregulation Act. 2016 was awaiting secondary legislation to become operational. A number of changes were expected, particularly effecting the process for definitive map modifications. The first major change would come in the form of a cut-off date of 1 January 2026 for applications to amend the definitive map based on evidence of a routes existence before 1949. However, it was noted that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs may offer an extension due to the impacts of Brexit and the Covid-19 Pandemic. A high number of cases had been submitted and work was being done with user groups to mitigate duplication. User groups from Nottingham had contacted Council officers to identify cross boundary paths. The building of evidence would ultimately lead to the Council taking a view as to whether to make an order and process it accordingly.

Officers explained that the second major element of the Deregulation Act. 2016 was the right to apply for diversions and extinguishments. The right to apply would change the process so that applications had to be assessed within a six-month period before creating a report of the intended objective of the application.

Other changes resulting from legislative changes included the removal of the need to advertise in the press and the order making authority being enabled to determine irrelevant objections to orders. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) advised that he intended to produce a report for the next meeting of

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LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 17 NOVEMBER 2021

the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum detailing legislative changes and how they would be implemented by the Council.

The Forum considered the update, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- The Forum noted that members of the British Horse Society experienced green lanes that hadn't been adopted into the definitive map yet had been used extensively by riders for a significant period of time. Access users feared land owners of these sites may reconsider the access' openness as their land expanded.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

23 ENGLAND COAST PATH

That Forum received a report from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) updating the Committee on the progress of the establishment, and future management, of the England Coast Path (ECP) in Lincolnshire. The ECP would be an extension of the original open access land. A trail would be established within the coastal margin to establish a national trail known as the ECP. An overview was given of the difficulties faced in relation to the Sutton Bridge to Skegness section of the ECP due to a European Court Judgement as a result of habitat relocation inspections. An overview of the four stretches of path within Lincolnshire, Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge, Sutton Bridge to Skegness, Skegness to Mablethorpe and Mablethorpe to the Humber Bridge, was offered. Officers were due to meet with Natural England in November 2021 to explore the next steps of the ECP.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

24 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 5

That Forum received a verbal update from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) advising that the Local Transport Plan Five was now open for consultation and was accessible to Forum members for comment. It was noted that the walking and cycling agenda had benefitted from increased engagement when compiling the strategy and greater consideration was given to recreational access use.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

25 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2

That Forum received a verbal update from the Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) which explained that the scheduled Rights of Way Improvement Plan Two remained outstanding due to resource limitations however, Right of Way Improvement Plan One was still considered to be sufficient in the meantime. It was advised that the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum would be used to support compilation through consultation.

The Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) advised the Forum that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for NELC was approved in 2021, following consultation with the Local Access Forum.

The Forum considered the update, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- Forum members noted that the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum as a collective was intended to have a large input into the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, however, some forum members felt that the one forum member representative appointed as a consultant limited their influence in the process.
- Further feedback was offered by forum members stressing that they felt the ambition of the plan to increase resource grants limited it's focus.
- Appreciating the significant consideration given to walking and cycling routes in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, forum members asked if comparable consideration would be given to horse riding and carriage routes. They went on to add that very limited off-road access was available in Lincolnshire, particularly on multi user trails. Moreover, it was added that carriage driver suffered further restrictions on accessible pathways. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) explained that the Council's capacity to facilitate additional public bridleway access was limited given the historic nature of public bridleways. Where possible, officers endeavor to promote the highest level of access feasible. Forum members were encouraged to consider these issues when setting their agendas.
- Some forum members took exception with the linked-up traffic network, feeling that access users suffered a great deal as a result of HGV movements through inappropriate roads putting riders and cyclists at risk.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

26 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) RECENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

The Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) delivered a presentation detailing the recent and future projects for North East Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan, specifically Public Bridleway 80 and Public Footpath 79 which benefitted from a wear system and resurfacing, and Public Footpath 10.

The Forum considered the update, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- Forum members asked if the resurfacing material used in on Public Bridleway 80 was acceptable for use by horses. Furthermore, forum members advised that the British Horse Society had an available fund that could be applied for to enable bridleway resurfacing, in addition to offering advice on surface materials. The Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) explained that the decision for the material used came as a result of research and confirmed that it was appropriate for use by horses.
- Observing the surface of Public Footpath 10, forum members raised fears that the tarmac used to resurface would result in ice during winter, making it particularly unusable for horses. The Public Rights of Way Officer (NELC) appreciated forum members' concerns, commenting that the suitability for horses was always a consideration when choosing surface material. The Deputy Head of Environment (LCC) added that, a piece of work undertaken by Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DeFRA) sought to explore suitability of public bridleways for their originally intended equestrian users.

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RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

27 FORWARD AGENDA PROGRAMME

The Forum was offered the opportunity to discuss items for future meetings of the Lincolnshire Local Access Forum.

The Forum raised the following comments:-

- Some forum members expressed the intention of emphasising the recreational nature of access transportation within Lincolnshire in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- While appreciating the legislative framework that governed the membership of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum, forum members felt that it would be beneficial if members' organisations and community groups could be identified, if necessary, through an informal engagement.
- The Chairman encouraged forum members to communicate any suggestions to the clerk who would share them with officers, before compiling future agendas.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

28 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Forum members hoped to meet more frequently in the through the next municipal year and agreed to arrange the next meeting of the Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum in spring 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm

PERMISSIVE ACCESS

INTRODUCTION

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and Countryside Stewardship Agreements have in the past made payments to farmers and landowners for providing permissive access. In England there were approximately 1800 walks and rides included in the HLS and Countryside Stewardship Schemes in 2010, prior to the closing of the scheme. The subsidy was granted for a 10 year period with the opportunity of renewal at the end of the 10 years. Hence some of the permissive routes were available until 2020. Both Natural England and the NFU provided advice to farmers and land owners who kindly opted to continue with permissive access agreements without receiving payment.

Whilst many of these permissive routes were useful and enjoyable, there was a large proportion that did not provide suitable access due to being: unsigned, incorrectly described, not maintained to a reasonable standard, no connections to PRoW and duplicate routes within very close proximity.

A report was submitted to Natural England in 2013 by the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF pointing out the problems with the original funded permissive access agreements. The report also encouraged DEFRA to continue with funded permissive access agreements following the process outlined in the report, to ensure the funded permissive access was fit for purpose and value for money.

CURRENT SITUATION

Lord Benyon, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for DEFRA stated on the 27th May 2021 *“Support for public access, including paying to create new permissive access or rights of way, could potentially be funded under new schemes that reward environmental benefits. The agricultural transition plan sets out examples of the types of land management actions that we envisage paying for under these schemes. We are working with stakeholders and users to determine the specific actions that will be funded, and further details of these will be set out later this year.”*

However, in the Rural Payments Agency booklet, Countryside Stewardship: Higher Tier manual for agreements starting on 1 January 2023 (published February 2022), only states payment is available for access to woodland. This is under WS4 Access for People and reads:

“Where to use this supplement

It’s available for Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier on whole or part parcels where currently there is a lack of access to a woodland, but people would benefit if they could access the woodland.

How this supplement will benefit the environment

Effective use of the supplement will:

- *create more opportunities for the public to have access to woods*
- *contribute to the public’s health and mental well-being*
- *create alternative outdoor activities*
- *create educational opportunities so people can understand woodlands better*
- *encourage and foster engagement with nature*

Aims

Enable permissive access (by foot) across the whole woodland to increase the wellbeing of the public, where access to the woodland is currently limited.

Where this supplement cannot be used

- *Outside the spatial eligibility, unless agreed with your Woodland Officer. Read the [Countryside Stewardship: Higher Tier manual](#) for more information*
- *Where woodland owner/manager already has a legal obligation to provide access by foot due to their existing commitments or where legal rights already exist, for example, open access land. Agree compatibility with other woodland supplements with your Woodland Officer or Deer Officer.*

Requirements

- *Enable permissive access to the woodland through identifiable paths and routes. Carry out management and maintenance of the path network, to allow public access throughout the year on foot, and where reasonable for mobility aids, pushchairs and buggies.*
- *Erect appropriate signs to show the public they are welcome to visit the woods*
- *Each year, carry out the necessary number of site inspections to make sure the woodland complies with Health and Safety standards”*

Andrew Mackintosh of Natural England has been asked if other paid permissive access will be available in the near future. He has stated in an email 22nd February 2022 that Natural England “knew it ([WS4](#) option) was a possibility when new woodland options were being considered by Forestry England a few months ago but we were not involved with the decision to include it or option design and guidance.”

Due to Natural England and the LAFs not being consulted, I believe the LAF should write to DEFRA, Lincolnshire MPs and Natural England, advising of the LAF’s concern about how permissive access is being implemented, to ensure mistakes made in the past are not repeated. The letter should also provide relevant information from the 2013 SL&R report displaying the issues found and a more robust process. This is needed as payment for permissive access is currently being investigated for National Parks and AONBs. What we do not want is DEFRA introducing payment for permissive access in Lincolnshire, with a scheme which is not fit for purpose.

If the LAF agrees, John Law will draft letters, circulate for comments and ask the Chair to sign for the secretary to mail.

COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Report for LAF meeting 24/03/22

1. Countryside For All Route leaflet stock status

The orders for Countryside For All leaflets placed by libraries, tourist information centres and other bodies amounted to 13,802 in 2020. This year, the orders for the 20 leaflets, has dropped significantly to 4094. This is due to:

- a. Folders of leaflets not being available to order, as we are stripping the folders to have leaflets available to send out. This equated to 3762 leaflets in 2020.
- b. The three East Lindsey TICs at Louth, Skegness and Mablethorpe closing down. This equated to 1850 leaflets in 2020.
- c. Changing from the Central Library ordering for all the GLL Lincolnshire libraries, to asking individual libraries to place orders. This should ensure the right number of leaflets go to the right libraries.
- d. Some TICs still having stock available from 2020 and not being open during the lockdown.

With our current stock, LCC and Boston Woods Trust funding their leaflets, the RSPB returning their supply of leaflets which the LAF funded through grants and removing leaflets from folders, we should be able to satisfy this year's orders. The exceptions being Gibraltar Point (7 leaflets short of the 315 ordered). The process of collating these orders is being undertaken by the subgroup.

2. Countryside For All leaflets required for 2023

We are waiting to hear the outcome of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's decision on whether they will fund the seven leaflets relating to their sites. Further discussions will take place with Forestry England in relation to the leaflets to three of their sites.

We are also looking to apply to the Lottery for funding with a different proposal. One thought is to include a leaflet of the Coastal Path. If anyone has any other ideas to enable us to fund the Countryside For All route leaflets please contact John Law john.law_32@yahoo.co.uk.

This year we have taken orders from one of the Social Prescribing Teams. We will be asking for feedback later in the year from the team, to see the interest and assess future orders. If it is a positive response and the Social Prescribing Team want further orders, we will promote the leaflets to other Social Prescribing Teams provided we have enough leaflets available.

3. Lincolnshire County Council Walk Leaflets

At the events we have attended for the disabled and elderly there has been a great interest shown the LCC walk leaflets. So this year we have also requested orders from the TIC's, libraries and other organisations for LCC walk leaflets. From the 40 different leaflets there was a request for 5627 leaflets. These orders are being collated with the Countryside For All leaflet orders by the sub group and being delivered by the LCC processes.

It is apparent that the LCC walk leaflets help people enjoy the countryside and are an asset to people's health and wellbeing. It is clear that we need to provide these leaflets in future years. To enable the LAF to do this, it is necessary to replenish the stock of the Lincolnshire County Council Walk Leaflets.

Recommendation: The sub group recommends that the LCC spend if possible approximately £2000 annually on replenishment of the LCC walk leaflets.

Recommendation: The LAF sub group process the LCC walk leaflet orders at the same time they process the Countryside For All leaflets.

4. Sandilands

Last year John Law attended a virtual meeting called the Listening Group with the National Trust, along with a few others who had an interest in the Sandilands project. Clearly the purpose of attending was to ensure the National Trust would adopt the C4A approach in the development of Sandilands for its visitors. At that meeting it was clear that the National Trust embraced the C4A approach.

The update from the Rachel Marriott of the National Trust in relation to Sandilands as at 3rd March 2022 is displayed below:

"We have developed a ten year masterplan for Sandilands, and are now looking at which sections of that plan will be included in phase one. We were lucky enough to secure £2million worth of funding from the Townsfund, and this will really help us to kickstart the project. The first phase will include the improvement of the existing car park – we will be taking over the existing ELDC car park and creating one car park with designated spaces. It will also include the refurbishment of the former club house, which will hopefully look completely different when we've finished! This space will include a food and beverage offer, a flexible space, offices and toilets. It will also, perhaps more importantly, allow us to create the new habitats for wildlife – increasing plant biodiversity and providing the ideal stop over point for migrating birds. The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust have already seen some fantastic

successes, including bittern staying over at Huttoft Pit, and together as part of the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park partnership we will extend the corridor for wildlife along the Lincolnshire Coast.

The aims of our project remain the same – to create a nature reserve where everyone can enjoy being outdoors and reconnecting with nature. We will make the site as accessible as possible, including changing places toilets and a network of accessible paths, which we will gradually add to as the site evolves. We're also looking to make this project as environmentally friendly as possible and are looking at options for renewable energy sources, such as air source heat pumps and solar panels, and will be installing electric car charging points in the car park. We will have a number of trampers available to hire too and all of our buildings will have level access.

In the short term, we're ready to have a presence on site. Throughout last summer and autumn, myself and my colleagues were out on site carrying out visitor engagement surveys to learn what it is that both locals and holiday makers would like to see on the site and what would make them use the site. The feedback was really positive, and everyone has enjoyed having open access to the former golf course and having somewhere safe and off the road to walk, and more often than not, walk their dogs too! We're in the process of working out how we can have an office base on site, so we're more available for people to come and chat to about the project, and a kiosk providing hot drinks and ice creams. Almost everyone we spoke to on site said somewhere to get out the wind and have a hot drink was essential!

We're carrying on our community engagement work while our designers and project team are working hard behind the scenes. We have a new team of volunteer photographers who are already providing us with some great shots of the wildlife that is making Sandilands its home already.

I had hoped for us to have come back to the listening group to talk about creating great access to the site sooner, but our design team aren't quite ready yet. We'd still love to be in touch, either with the group or on an individual basis, which ever works best for people, so we can learn more about how we can adapt our plans to be inclusive of those with different needs. The feedback we had from the first session was invaluable and certainly opened my eyes to some of the changes we can make, which are often quite simple, particularly if we can include them right from the beginning!"

5. Miles Without Barriers

One of the major issues people with limited mobility have in terms of using PROW, is not knowing how accessible a route is for them. Lincolnshire County Council previously used ExeGesIS Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). However, the LCC does not have a countryside access management system anymore.

There is now a version of CAMS which provides an asset management tool linked to public facing mapping and enquiry/reporting modules. This system would deliver the following opportunities:

- a. Provide a database listing all PROWs, permissive routes, structures, details of structures, restrictions due to any barriers/structures, temporary closures, diversions and displaying all on an Electronic Working Copy Definitive Map (EWCDM). The proposed new database and EWCDM should deliver a fully interactive map displaying access width restrictions due to barriers etc. This should enable PROW and potential PROW users with limited mobility to find a route suitable for them.
- b. The database would become the asset register for PROWs
- c. The details of barriers/structures should include:
 - I. The dimensions of the minimum access width of the barriers.
 - II. The coral access widths, depths and other access measurements due to the swing of the gate.
 - III. Steps including dimensions, number of steps, whether there is a handrail on one or both sides.
 - IV. The opportunity of identifying route surfaces
 - V. Date of latest PROW survey
 - VI. Date all barriers on a specific PROW identified and fully entered onto database.
- d. The facility to provide information through queries on all aspects of the information held.
- f. The facility for the public to report problems on a specific location on the map
- g. The opportunity to identify places on the PROW which are in need of repair and grade them in terms of urgency together with approximate cost.
- h. Whilst LCC would be able to run a variety of queries on the EWCDM the public would also be able to access and interrogate the EWCDM through a set of enquiry options. These enquiries would provide information on PROW and PROW Routes. The definition of a PROW Route being: a PROW Route is accessed from a LCC road; or pavement off a LCC surfaced road. The PROW Route may consist of just one or many PROWs and used to provide and display route information in accordance with the following set of questions for the public to enquire about:
 - I. Stile free routes

- II. Kissing gate free route
- III. Stile and kissing gate free route
- IV. Minimum width of route. This is where the person who submits the query is given preset options to enter.
- V. Minimum size of kissing gate access. This is where the person who submits the query is given preset options to enter in relation to the length and width of the coral, the minimum width to access through the gate and the amount of room inside the coral due to the gate swing.

Other information required for the public is to display : PROW reference, type of PROW, length of PROW

Clearly obtaining the information above will take a number of years and there will need to be an indication from the map of routes awaiting surveying.

The PROW countryside officers may have knowledge of many of the assets on the PROWs in their patch. With training, Countryside Access Volunteers could survey the PROWs identified by the officers, to obtain the relevant information to be entered into the database. Updating of the database could initially be carried out by work experience personnel or a temporary member of staff.

Recommendation: The LAF advise the Chief Executive and relevant Director/s to fund the relevant version of ExeGesIS Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). This will improve information for the public to enable them to find suitable routes to use, improve fault reporting, improve the knowledge of what structures are located and where on the PROW, improve the knowledge of where to fund improvements to maximise value for money and reduce physical barriers for members of the public with limited mobility.

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Agenda Item 13



A statutory advisory body to Lincolnshire County Council, North East Lincolnshire Council and other providers of outdoor recreational access

Report to:	Lincolnshire Local Access Forum
Date:	24 March 2022
Subject:	Forward Agenda Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Forum to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Recommendation(s):

Members of the Forum are invited to highlight any additional items which could be included for consideration at future meetings of the Forum.

Background

All members of Local Access Forum are encouraged to bring forward important items of interest to the Forum.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Forward Agenda Programme

This report was written by Robert Close, Democratic Services Officers, who can be contacted on 07387 133753 or Robert.Close@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Appendix A - Lincolnshire Local Access Forum Forward Agenda Programme 2021/22

24 March 2022 – 2.30 pm		
Item		Contributors
1.	England Coast Path Update (Verbal update)	Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment – Lincolnshire County Council
2.	Lincolnshire Rights of Way improvement plan	Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment – Lincolnshire County Council
3.	Permissive Access	John Law, Other Interests
4.	Countryside For All	John Law, Other Interests
5.	Solar Panels	Sid Mill, User of Local Rights of Way
TBC		
Item		Contributors

Items to be programmed:

Policy Alterations – Chris Miller, Deputy Head of Environment – Lincolnshire County Council