

# Agenda Item 4

1



## SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 5 APRIL 2017

### PRESENT: COUNCILLOR R WOOTTEN (CHAIRMAN)

Representing Lincolnshire County Council: Councillor D Brailsford

Representing Independent Members: John Law, Rosemary Harris, Audrey Morley, Alec Hill, Peter Hinton JP MBA, Sam Tate, John Williams, Ian Cox and Roger Linford

Officers: Stuart Crook (Public Rights of Way Officer), Chris Miller (Environmental Services Team Leader (Countryside Services)) and Rachel Wilson (Democratic Services Officer)

#### 42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor William Cross, Mr Andrew Childs and Mrs Barbara Smitheringale.

#### 43 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2017

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 44 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2017

The Chairman reported that there were no actions arising from the meeting held on 25 January 2017. However, it was highlighted that an additional note had been added in relation to minute number 39 due to the receipt of further information following the meeting.

#### 45 COUNTRYSIDE FOR ALL

Consideration was given to a report from the Vice Chairman of the Local Access Forum which provided an update on the work of the Countryside for All Sub-Group.

The report provided Members of the Forum which an update on the following areas:

- Countryside for All Routes
- Dementia Friendly Walks
- Choice Unlimited Event

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
5 APRIL 2017**

- Funding Bids
- Accessibility Ambassadors
- Lincolnshire Health Related Walks from April 2017
- Sensory Trails and Green Spaces
- Disability Sub Group Change of Name & Logo
- Gruffalo Spotters Trail

It was reported that in relation to the issues regarding the track joining the Grantham Canal, the Team Leader for Countryside Services advised that work had been undertaken to find out who owned this land, and it had been confirmed that this was owned by Lincolnshire County Council's Highways department. An e-mail would be sent to follow up and to discuss what improvements needed to take place.

It was reported that the Woodland Trust were willing to attend a meeting of the Forum in order to give an update on access definitions. The Vice-Chairman also advised that he would be meeting with one of the managers on 19 April 2017, and would report back to the Forum on the outcome of that meeting.

In relation to I-Spy in the Countryside, it was reported that since the last meeting various organisations had been approached regarding funding, and notification had been received that Leicester City Football Club were not able to assist with funding this year, and so funding was still being sought. It was commented that there were still some booklets left over from the Rutland event, and if the Forum was in agreement, the Countryside for All Sub Group would like to use these at the event in Leicester. Ideally, the Sub-Group was looking for a long term partner. It was queried whether Lincolnshire County Council would be willing to fund the cost of the folders which it was believed would be around £900.

It was reported that there had not been sufficient interest in the Accessibility Ambassadors at this time, and so it had been agreed to put this on hold in Lincolnshire and just focus on Rutland and Leicestershire.

There was disappointment that there were no Gruffalo trails in Lincolnshire at this time, and it was clarified that this was an augmented reality app for mobile phones which was aimed at children.

In relation to the Lincolnshire Health Related Walks from April 2017 it was queried whether any progress had been made with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's), and the Forum was advised that contact needed to be made with the district councils again, as they had not contacted the Forum's Secretary as requested with a list of volunteers. The Chairman advised that South Kesteven District Council had a volunteer co-ordinator and he would pass on the contact details to the Vice-Chairman. It was also reported that the Lincolnshire Co-op had funded what was believed to be a permanent post to co-ordinate Walking for Health across the County.

A discussion took place regarding Yew Tree Avenue and the progress in relation to securing funding for the path between the car park and the Avenue. It was noted that there was a need to resolve the permissive access issues, as there were a number of

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
5 APRIL 2017**

issues in relation to it being leasehold. Once there was clarity in relation to access issues, funding for improvements would be sourced. It was reported that a report had been submitted to the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board regarding approval for a bid by Sport England for promotion of walking through a website which would allow people to track their walks. However, it was noted that this was only at the expression of interest stage, but the report did include reference to improvements to infrastructure. The Public Rights of Way Officer offered to send the link to the Vice-Chairman for information.

AGREED

1. The Chairman to pass the details of SKDC's Volunteer Co-ordinator to the Vice-Chairman.
2. The Public Rights of Way Officer to send the link regarding the report on the Sport England bid for promotion of walking to the Vice-Chairman.

**46      GENERIC ADVICE TO PLANNERS**

Consideration was given to a report by the Vice-Chairman which provided the Forum with the opportunity to consider some generic advice/response agreed by Leicestershire Local Access Forum to be given to planning authorities and/or developers.

The Team Leader for Countryside Services highlighted that this was an issue which needed to be picked up as there were long standing members of staff leaving authorities, and staff replacing them would not necessarily have the same level of knowledge or awareness around public rights of way issues. It was hoped that meetings with planning officers at district level could be arranged to discuss how public rights of way should be treated in large scale developments. It was suggested that time was right for the two forums to come up with a joint response. However, it was noted that early engagement between the planning officer and the developer was essential. It was suggested that this was something to consider for the next meeting. The Team Leader for Countryside Services offered to draft a brief version of what Leicester had produced for Lincolnshire and suggested that the Mid Lincs Access Forum should also add their signature to it so there was a co-ordinated response for the whole county.

A discussion also took place regarding recent changes to access to the walking routes around the Eyebrook Reservoir which seemed to have taken place. It was requested that Mr John Williams look into this further and update the forum at the next meeting.

AGREED

1. That the Team Leader for Countryside Services draft a brief document similar to the one produced by Leicestershire Local Access Forum.
2. That Mr John Williams update the Forum at its next meeting regarding access for walkers to the Eyebrook Reservoir.

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
5 APRIL 2017****47      EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LOCAL ACCESS FORUM CHAIRS  
MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for his attendance at these meetings.

The Vice-Chairman provided an update on the meeting and advised that the minutes from the recent East Midlands Regional Local Access Forum Chairs Meeting would be circulated in the next few weeks. Members were advised that there were no other issues to report on other than what was already on the agenda for this meeting.

AGREED

That the Forum's Secretary be requested to e-mail the minutes from the recent East Midlands Local Access Forum Chairs Meeting, once they were available.

**48      BENNERLEY VIADUCT**

The Vice-Chairman provided an update in relation to the Bennerley Viaduct project. The Forum was advised that this was a project being taken forward by Sustrans involving Nottinghamshire County Council and were looking for support from Local Access Forums.

It was reported that the aim was to restore the Viaduct and bring it back into use as a walking and cycling trail. It was queried whether it would also be for use by horses, it was clarified that it had been deemed unsuitable for horses due to safety reasons as it was considered dangerous if the horse was able to see over the parapets. This reasoning was accepted as horses could be scared of heights, and the modification required to make the trail safe for horses would require a parapet of at least 1.8m which would obstruct the views and affect the purpose of restoring the viaduct for a trail.

It was commented that it was hoped that if the Local Access Forum gave support to this project, then the support would be reciprocated by Nottinghamshire when necessary. In closing, it was commented that this was a good project and would benefit a lot of people as well as providing accessible tourism.

It was also noted that the Mid-Lincs Local Access Forum were also willing to offer their support to this project.

AGREED

That the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum support the Bennerley Viaduct project.

**49      PERMISSIVE ACCESS**

The Vice-Chairman provided an update in relation to a suggested letter for MP's to send to Lord Gardiner relating to permissive access. It was commented that it was felt that this was something which needed to be done. However, the Vice-Chairman

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
5 APRIL 2017**

did not currently have the capacity to undertake this task. It was noted that there had been two previous reports to the Forum regarding Permissive Access and it was queried whether it would be helpful if they were re-circulated.

The Team Leader for Countryside Services advised that nationally this was an issue and was being raised within the profession. It was thought that pressure for change could come from elsewhere, and it was not something that Local Access Forums would have to take on. It was expected that it was an issue which would be on the national agenda in the next couple of years.

The Vice-Chairman advised that he would revisit this issue if some capacity became available.

AGREED

That the update be noted.

50      DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDERS

50a     Lincolnshire County Council

Consideration was given to a report from Lincolnshire County Council.

The Team Leader for Countryside Services clarified the reasons for the order relating to Castle Bytham being reclassified.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

50b     Rutland County Council

Consideration was given to a report from Rutland County Council.

Clarification regarding the route of the bridleway in relation to the order in Wardley was provided.

A discussion was held regarding the issue of some landowners fencing in paths at the edge of fields and possible legal and maintenance issues for local authorities. The Public Rights of Way Officer agreed to circulate a report which had been previously written regarding these issues.

AGREED

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Public Rights of Way Officer arrange for a previous report on the fencing in of paths to be circulated to the Forum.

**SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
5 APRIL 2017**

**51      PUBLIC PATH ORDERS AND PROGRESS REPORT**

**51a    Lincolnshire County Council**

Consideration was given to a report from Lincolnshire County Council.

A concern was highlighted by the Chairman regarding a path at Great Gonerby which was not recognised by the County Council. The Chairman was advised that if the path was recorded on the definitive map, then it would be the responsibility of the Council. However, if it was not recognised that would suggest that the Council was not responsible for the path. The Team Leader for Countryside Services requested that the details of the path be forwarded on to him and he would look into it further.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

**51b    Rutland County Council**

Consideration was given to a report from Rutland County Council.

It was highlighted that the Order in relation to Hambleton was expected to be published on 6 April 2017.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

**52      DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

AGREED

That future meetings of the Forum be held on the following dates, times and locations: -

- 12 July 2017 at 6.00pm – Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve (AGM)
- 25 October 2017 at 6.00pm – Rutland County Council

A discussion took place regarding an issue which had been raised regarding cyclists racing on bridleways. However, it was understood that this issue also related to an ongoing case, and so it was suggested whether this should be referred to the next meeting of the Forum to be looked at in more detail. The Chairman advised that he would make some enquiries at the next Police and Crime Panel regarding a Police view on this offence.

The meeting closed at 7.54 pm