

NOTTINGHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES

of meeting held on **9th April 2008** at the

Tea Room - Council House from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm

✓	Di Banks	✓	Tom Huggon
✓	Malcolm Bescoby	✓	Nick Hynes
✓	John Boland (Chair)		Wendy Judge
✓	Don Cameron	✓	Diane Moore
✓	Bill Clarke	✓	Trevor Muxlow
✓	Roger Codling		Mary Myles
✓	Mary Collison		Councillor Parbutt
✓	Angela Cooke	✓	Bill Wright
	Councillor Grocock		

✓ - indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

Chris Thompson (Member of the Ramblers Association), John Lee (Advisor), Jenny Kukan (Secretary)

Action

1 INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

1.1 No new members were present at the meeting so it was not necessary to carry out the introduction to the forum again.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Mary Myles, Di Banks, Wendy Judge

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 (Item 1.2) Councillor Parbutt is no longer the Portfolio Holder for Transport. Councillor Urquhart now has this position. It is not yet clear whether Councillor Parbutt will continue to attend meetings or whether Councillor Urquhart will attend instead.

John Lee

3.2 (Item 4.1) There was a general positive response from members who attended the training course run by Natural England at Derby Conference centre. However, it was noted that previous training courses which have been more hands on were more beneficial.

- 3.3 (Item 5.2) In response to the gap in the network across Broxtowe Country Park identified by Trevor Muxlow, Chris Thompson mentioned that there are problems with antisocial behaviour in the area. However, the general consensus of the meeting was that the best way to address this is to go ahead and make improvements. This in turn should lead to more legitimate users.

Roger Codling suggested that the small section of unmade path which connects Harrison's Plantation to Woodyard Lane in Wollaton would benefit from improvement and adding to the definitive map and statements.

Bill Wright suggested that the path in Colwick Park near to the sluice gates and to the south of Muster Court which currently has stepping stones over the water would benefit from the introduction of a footbridge which would then link Nottingham to Gedling Borough.

John Boland suggested that the three members who have identified gaps in the cycling/walking network do a submission outlining the location, improvements needed and potential benefit to the network.

Trevor
Muxlow,
Roger
Codling,
Bill Wright

- 3.4 (Item 7.3) Tom Huggon emphasised the importance of the role of the LAF in helping to implement the Rights Of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and suggested that a separate agenda item be kept to monitor the progress made.

All

4 LAF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 On behalf of Nottinghamshire Local Access Forum Neil Lewis is inviting all NLAF members to their meeting on 29th April 2008 to discuss the implications of the Lost Ways project both nationally and locally. The meeting will be held at County Hall, West Bridgford with a 7.00pm start. Refreshments will be served at 6.45pm. Members are requested to inform Neil Lewis if they wish to attend by emailing nottslaf@nottscc.gov.uk. Alternatively call Jenny Kukan who will then inform Neil.

- 4.2 The members who attended the training session on applications for modification orders found it to be extremely informative and recommended others to attend a future session. The first hour was spent going through the application form to clarify what information should be included in each section. The second hour was spent at the Nottinghamshire Archives Office where an employee explained the importance and background of different historical documents such as enclosure and tithe awards and maps. Members were able to look at examples of these. John Boland, Roger Codling, Malcolm Bescoby, Mary Collison, Bill Clarke and Chris Thompson expressed an interest in attending a future session of this training.

John Lee encouraged members to submit applications for modification orders. Chris Thompson is experienced in this field and is able to provide

further guidance if required. Chris pointed out that many of the paths in Nottingham are owned by the council and therefore should not come up against objections. Consequently, a significant number of paths could be added to the definitive map and statements relatively easily and quickly.

John Lee suggested forming a sub group of members who could discuss and submit applications for modification orders which are likely to be straightforward cases. These would include existing ways which the public use and those where objections are unlikely. John Boland, Nick Hynes, Roger Codling, Trevor Muxlow, Diane Moore, Angela Cooke, Don Cameron and Bill Wright are members who expressed an interest in sitting on a sub group.

5 UPDATE ON PUBLIC ACCESS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WITHIN NOTTINGHAM

5.1 John Lee reported that there is a budget of £60,000 plus for local area improvements which are small scale improvements to the cycling network (which often also benefits pedestrians). Examples of small scale improvements would be installing a dropped kerb, surfacing a short section of path or replacing signs. LAF members are encouraged to inform John Lee or Jenny Kukan of any such potential improvements they have identified.

All

5.2 Chris Thompson asked whether there is a move to provide designated separate space for cyclists and pedestrians. John Lee reported that there is a general policy to introduce on road cyclist facilities wherever possible thereby leaving the pavement for pedestrians only.

5.3 Trevor Muxlow asked how often cycle routes are maintained to clear obstructions such as broken glass and overhanging vegetation. John Lee is to obtain a formal response from the Highways Maintenance department.

John Lee

Cycle facilities which members highlighted as particularly poorly maintained were the Ring Road cycle path and the Radford Bridge Road cycle path which is part of the National Cycle Network route 6.

Members are encouraged to contact either John Lee (915 6078), Jenny Kukan (915 6454) or Steve Brewer (915 6596) to report facilities in need of maintenance to ensure a speedier response.

5.4 Diane Moore suggested that members study a particular path to gain a more holistic view from design of the path to its implementation and maintenance and continued sustainability. Diane is to come up with a suitable site to take as a case study.

Diane Moore

6 UPDATE ON RELEVANT LEGISLATION

6.1 John Lee reported that the 2026 cut off date when all existing rights of

way must be recorded under section 53 and 56 of the Countryside and Rights of Way act is being reviewed, primarily due to the lack of progress made on the Lost Ways project.

- 6.2 John Lee reported that there is new legislation which removes the necessity for authorities to make two separate orders by enabling the initial order to also effect modification of the definitive map. The new legislation is available on www.defra.gov.uk and hard copies will be sent out to members who have requested one.
- 6.3 John Lee reported that changes to planning application validations have been made by central government. Public consultation is underway and comments are required. There may be significant implications for public rights of way. John has written a draft response with colleagues from traffic management highlighting the importance of a question about rights of way and a detailed explanation in the guidance notes about this question. John would suggest a statement such as “planning permission will not be granted for a development that affects a cycle/pedestrian route unless a satisfactory alternative is provided which reflects the Local Plan and ROWIP”.

The meeting agreed that a separate submission should be made from the LAF to emphasise the importance of protecting rights of way. Tom Huggon is to meet John Lee to produce a response.

7 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- 7.1 John Lee referred to chapter 9 “Statement of Actions” of the ROWIP which has a number of policies and reminded the meeting that the ROWIP is a plan which the council is bound to. John Lee expressed the importance of the Local Access Forum’s help with implementing the plan. All
- 7.2 Tom Huggon highlighted the importance of helping John Lee to implement policies 2, 3 and 4 of the ROWIP. These policies require input from other departments which results in a more difficult and lengthy process. Tom suggested that the LAF construct a matrix to keep track of what needs to be done to achieve the policies. All

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Tom Huggon thanked John Lee for the work which has started on the Daleside Road crossing as this has vastly improved the safety for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to cross this busy road. John Lee reported that £12,000 has been allocated from last year’s local area improvement budget for the improvements in this area.
- 8.2 John Lee has received information about the proposed English Access Forum. Originally and as reported at the meeting a database was going to be set up with the contact details of LAF members from all forums. However, this is no longer the case.

8.3 On the 15th May 2008 there will be an English Access Forum meeting in Cheltenham which Chairs and Vice Chairs are invited to. John Boland has declined the invitation.

8.4 Angela Cooke asked whether the 'Big Spring Clean' was something that NLAF could get involved in next year by doing some litter picking. John Lee said that there is no need to wait until next year and reported on the progress of the Hucknall Road disused railway corridor. A few officers from Traffic Management have used their lunch break to participate in litter picking in the area. This has been a tremendous success and combined with the new surface being laid has resulted in a general face lift of the area.

Ton Huggon suggested asking the Sheriff of Nottingham to put the first piece of litter in the bag for publicity and to help raise the profile of the LAF. John Lee is to suggest 2 or 3 possible dates and Tom Huggon is to contact the Sheriff to request their presence.

John Lee
Tom Huggon

8.5 Malcolm Bescoby asked about whether there were any organised urban walks as the more people that use and know footpaths, the better to encourage legitimate users. John Lee is to look into this.

John Lee

10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10.1 **Wednesday 9th July 2008**