

## Nottingham City Council

### Nottingham Local Access Forum

#### Draft Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6.30pm Loxley House, Station Street Nottingham

##### ✓ Indicates in attendance

- ✓ Helen Hemstock (Chair)
- ✓ Liz Cordle (Vice Chair)
- ✓ Edmund Hopkins (Vice Chair)
  - Paul Abel
  - Yvonne Dragan
  - Cerys Gibson
- ✓ Nick Hynes
- ✓ Rob Kirkwood
  - Christopher Lydall
  - Dave Mackrory
- ✓ Hugh McClintock
- ✓ Nigel Sarsfield
- ✓ Chris Thompson
- ✓ Joanna Ward
  - Hillary Yates
- ✓ June Perry (observer)
- ✓ Councillor Angela Kandola
- ✓ Dora Kostiuk
- ✓ Olech Kostiuk

##### **66 Apologies received**

Jennie Maybury  
Dave Mackrory  
Christopher Lydall  
Cerys Gibson

##### **67 Minutes of Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

With the amendments made to show those members in attendance and those who sent apologies, the minutes of the above meeting were approved.

**Action:** All, for noting

Helen welcomed and introduced new members Dora and Olech Kostiuk, representing the Disability Involvement Group (DIG). All members then introduced themselves, and Jo Ward informed the meeting of her retirement from the LAF due to her new role and commitments. Everyone thanked Jo for her support and contributions.

##### **68 River Trent Footbridge, Keith Morgan, Transport Strategy**

Keith updated the meeting with the progress made to date, key stages completed, and further work needed.

- Edmund enquired about the strip of woodland on the north bank of the Trent, to the west of the footbridge, this being one of the remaining ecologically important woodlands in this area, and whether the implications had been assessed by an ecologist. Keith confirmed that the woodland has been assessed and it is not affected by the works.
- Keith explained the height of the footbridge and therefore the gradients of the approach ramps being dictated by boat traffic, that the width of the main span will be 4m, the southside ramp 3.5m and the northside ramp 3 metres.
- Dora raised the width of the footbridge and general concerns from visually impaired users of shared use routes that are not segregated by lines / surface demarcations.
- Keith gave the example of the recent Boots footbridge from Harrimans Lane to Fellows Way / University Boulevard, this being an unsegregated footbridge and there being no reported safety issues. Additionally, a wider span and approach ramps would increase the total costs significantly.
- As well as the construction works, other works include the legal processes and an application to the Secretary of State for a “footbridge scheme order”.

**Action:** All, for noting

## 69 Subgroup Updates

### a) Walking Subgroup

Liz provided an update which was forwarded to members ahead of the meeting along with an update from Jennie Maybury on the Active Travel Social Prescribing project (now known as “Travel Well”). Discussion points included

- Should the LAF online self-guided walks be available in an alternative format for visually impaired users. The leaflets are available in PDF which is compatible with most PC readers.
- Helen asked about the new GreenSpaceNG App and how this relates to the Go Jauntly App.
- The Inclosure Walk. Adding this to the LAF / Walks in the Park webpages. June Perry to send John copy of the walk description and walk map.
- All members encouraged to join the Meadows Embankment Walk, organised by Nigel and Chris, with Chris leading this on 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- All members are welcome to join the walking subgroup meeting / social on 13<sup>th</sup> November and to contact Rob if interested.
- Everyone thanked Liz and Jennie for the updates.

**Action:** All, for noting. John to update the LAF walk webpage with information / availability of the walking leaflets in an alternative format. June to provide Inclosure Walk documents.

### b) Planning Subgroup

Edmund summarised the update circulated before the meeting, including

- The subgroup is now focusing on policy and major applications due to few members and resources for this work.
- The Local Plan review is taking place.

- Have reviewed the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and decided not to comment because sites are outside Nottingham City area. Questioned whether Nottinghamshire LAF should comment.
- Edmund, Dave, and Hugh attended the Island Quarter stakeholder meeting, found the consultants supportive of walking / cycling / user interests. Dave took notes.
- Helen thanked Edmund for taking on the lead / coordinating role since Margaret retired.

**Action:** All, for noting. John to distribute Dave’s Island Quarter notes.

c) Definitive Map Subgroup Update

Nick and John updated the meeting with the following

- The 2026 “cut off” date for making DMMO applications has been extended to 2031.
- Currently, 15 DMMO applications on the Councils statutory list (link here [Nottingham City Council Definitive Map and Statement](#)). Some application have been determined and these Orders are ready for making / publishing, but resource / training issues affecting this
- Any DMMO applications received / validated and added to the statutory list before 2031 means these “claimed” routes are afforded some protection from permanent closure from the 2031 cut-off.
- Adrian Kasas has recently been appointed as John’s technical support officer, currently processing legal event modification orders before moving onto evidential modification orders, ongoing rights of way training required.

d) E-scooter Subgroup Update

Chris provided an update, including

- Contacted the Nottinghamshire Crime and Police Commissioner regarding enforcement and whether regulations are likely before next general election. No reply to date.
- The ongoing concerns regarding how e-scooters and e-bikes are being parked on the pavement or other public spaces, and the safety issues for blind and partially sighted citizens
- Councillor Kandola confirmed that the Council supports the need for clear regulations, and are currently looking at parking across Nottingham, safety issues and identifying suitable parking spaces, including dedicated corrals
- Overall, it was noted that while there are still concerns over the safety of e-scooters for other rights of way users, including pavement parking, the LAF supports the long-term vision of these machines for delivering a sustainable transport network, but clear regulations and guidance is essential
- The general connectivity of cycling schemes was also raised, and that some schemes appear to stop at certain points, thereby creating a fragmented network in some areas. Councillor Kandola explained that although the long-term vision is to improve the full length of a cycle route, this depends on funding and the conditions placed on it, for example when the funding needs to be spent by. So, this means that for each successful grant fund it may not be enough to complete the whole scheme vision and other grant funding may be required to complete it in the future, but we have to use what funding is made available and do as much as possible.

**Action:** All, for noting.

## **70 Clutter Busting and Accessible Streets**

John asked about setting up a “clutter buster” subgroup to identify unnecessary / redundant street clutter, report and request removal, or whether individual members could do this while travelling around Nottingham, the City centre for example? Discussion included

- The LAF do not have the capacity to monitor / report clutter.
- Correctly identifying the unnecessary street clutter, for example some bollards may seem unnecessary but have been approved as part of a planning application / development, whereas other items may have no permission, so identifying each is not straight forward, and who do we report it to?
- The recognition that reporting the clutter is unlikely to lead to removal because the Council does not have the resources but identifying the specific cluttered areas may raise the profile overall.
- Edmund recalls the Councils Urban Design team have previously been involved in this work.
- John to investigate whether the Council could add a Report Clutter to the existing online report-a-problem, bearing in mind that currently the Councils system does not include the option to report vegetation blocking pavements or rights of way so adding clutter is likely to be a long-term aspiration.

**Action:** All, for noting.

## **71 Targeted Recruitment**

- Unfortunately, John has not made any further progress on this since the last meeting.
- Agreed that the LAF promotional document “who we are / what we do” needs updating before adding to the University websites, taking account of formats used by other LAF’s. Helen to update and send to John.

**Action:** All, for noting. Helen and John.

## **72 Items for future agendas**

- Combined Authority update
- Street design / Lambeth Council Kerbside Strategy

List carried over from previous meetings

- Broadmarsh
- Walking Strategy City and County
- North - South cycleway
- Active Travel / Social Prescribing Fund / Public Health
- Transforming Cities schemes
- Active Travel England (representative)
- Meeting with Notts County LAF (previous attempts to engage the County LAF had failed)

- Highway Code (John previously advised that the Councils Road Safety team are severely understaffed so it's unlikely that anyone from this team would be available to attend a LAF meeting).

**Action:** For noting, and where relevant, individual members to contact / arrange guest speakers

### **73 Any Other Business**

- Goose Fair and public access to Forest Recreation Ground. June raised the issues with the duration of this year's fair being 10 days which means that the open space is not accessible to the general public during this period, and combined with set up and down times, this affects access for a number of weeks in total. John advised that these concerns should be raised with Councillor Kotsonis, portfolio holder covering parks and leisure.
- Design Quality Framework (Nottingham's street design guide). John to arrange update over MS Teams with LAF planning subgroup, Lisa Guest and Laura.

**Action:** Goose Fair issues to be raised with Councillor Kotsonis. John to arrange DQF meeting.

### **74 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 10 January 2024, 6.30pm at Loxley House, Ground Floor Committee room.

### **75 Future meeting dates 2024 (all at Loxley House)**

Wednesday 10 April, 6.30pm

Wednesday 10 July, 6.30pm

Wednesday 9 October, 6.30pm