

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 10th November, 2016 at the Meeting Room 1, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP

Present:-

LAF Members

Arnold Richardson (Observer)
David Munkley (Chair)
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Andy Packer
John Keegan, Ramblers Association

Observers

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler
Rights of Way Officer

227. Apologies

Apologies received for Cllr M Rasib and all hope he's well again soon.
Toby Evans, Trevor Allen, Tony Haines and Ken Wright were also absent.

228. Welcome & Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

229. Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th July 2016

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2016 were approved as a true record.

230. Matters Arising (other than those on agenda)

AP reported that he couldn't access the LAF agenda and papers from the email link or from the actual website. JW thought this could be a continuation of software problems she experienced when publishing and would investigate.

JW directed all to the Matters Arising report in the papers which gives progress on items not on the agenda.

Walking Bus and Travel Plans

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See report on page 11. JW expanded that Lynch Hill Primary School has the only officially recorded Walking Bus which is a success because it is run by paid staff from the school. There may be informal ones being run or ones being run on specific dates, but no definitive list exists. DM thought all schools had to have travel plans under government legislation in which Walking Buses ought to be cited. However, this is not the case they've only happened in schools where a planning obligation exists for a travel plan or where LSTF funding has generated one.

DM felt that a draft Travel Plan ought to be a pre-requisite of gaining planning permission rather than being a condition afterwards. JW stated that implementation of Travel Plans is a key element and that this would be focussed on with the new funding.

Flexi-pave surfacing

Members asked JW to pursue further detail on the cost of this type of surfacing.

Pavement Parking scheme

JW forwarded the last minutes to the Parking Team Leader asking when the new policy would be signed off. The new needs based PPS policy is nearly ready to be signed off as of the 1st November 2016.

Canal Updates

Feedback was received from the Canal and River Trust after LAF concerns were sent to them over the danger of the narrow section of path adjacent to the old Tiling Co compound. CRT says they cannot justify any expenditure on this issue as works on the large scheme are due to start soon. The Slough Urban Renewal has confirmed the Regeneration scheme is on schedule. JW arranged vegetation to be cut back on the narrow section.

231. Huddle

JW confirmed nothing of interest to Slough LAF has been coming through from Huddle recently. The remote access fob did not work to enable the meeting to access Huddle.

Rob Leek who ran Huddle has left Natural England and so members need to send their emails asking to re-register on Huddle to new contacts. JW has circulated the new email address contacts for NE to all members with details.

DM agreed to forward any comments from the chair to JW for the LAF annual report. NE has taken on more staff to deal with LAF work but envisage some delays while new staff bed in. Another LAF conference is due to be held before the end of Mar 2017; details to follow.

232. Local Plan Consultations

JW referred to the papers to show areas in South Bucks which the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan proposes to remove from the green belt.

However, WS informed the LAF about land which Slough have been negotiating with South Bucks to get for housing purposes. It was understood SBC would buy areas of land in order to fulfil its housing obligation of 3000 new homes. The significant areas are north of the M4 around Langley and the South Bucks boundary in the west of the borough along the A4 corridor and where the Taplow car boot is held. There are 3 or 4 sites being looked at by SBC over the next 10 years but which require South Bucks agreement. This would be green belt release to meet Slough's housing needs. WS clarified that certain areas of land which Slough had been expecting to be part of the South Bucks Local Plan have not been included and therefore Slough is in a difficult position.

JW agreed to ask for more information on the Slough Local Plan for the next meeting. This item will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

WS announced he will no longer be able to attend the LAF as an observer due to work commitments.

JW stated that she would forward a list of rights of way improvements for potential developer contributions to members for comment and for any other ideas for improvements. This should include all walking and cycling pathways and routes even those which are not recorded public rights of way, like the canal towpath.

233. BHS Consultation Paper

British Horse Society Consultation –

The BHS are asking LAF's to look at the possible role they could have in protecting routes from being lost after the 2026 cut-off date is brought in. Each Highway Authority keeps a List of Streets under Section 36 of the Highways Act 1980 which shows publicly maintainable highways. There are some routes on this list which should be shown on the Definitive Map but which aren't and if they're not recorded on the DMS by the cut-off date then they could be lost as public rights of way. However it is intended under the Deregulation Act and associated guidance that inclusion on the List of Streets would exempt a route from being lost.

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The BHS are asking LAF's to address questions to their HA about the robustness of the procedures they have for managing the List of Streets to ensure that routes not recorded on the DMS but which could be, but which are on the List of Streets are safe from being removed from it without proper process.

JW described how Slough's List of Streets is kept as a mixture of old maps, a GIS and a spreadsheet which also shows routes which are private and therefore not publicly maintained.

DM would look at the consultation and make an initial response as the consultation seems to be more relevant to rural areas where there are likely to be lots of unsealed routes and unclassified roads. It is unclear whether or not this is especially relevant to Slough where these kinds of routes are rare.

234. South Bucks Lost Ways Project

South Bucks Lost Way Project –

JW has suggested that Slough LAF members could look at the two parishes in South Bucks, Dorney and Wexham, to identify paths which could be public rights of way. JW tabled hard copies of the Definitive Map extracts provided by the Bucks LAF and suggested that she email the maps to members.

JW had expressed an interest in Slough LAF looking at these two parishes because of the potential to find cross boundary routes and links to them to acquire a more joined up network. DM asked what the Slough LAF were being committed to. JW requested members read the paperwork provided "Restoring the Rights" and decide whether or not they can individually spend any time on this.

JW referred to "Build a List of Routes" on page 5 of the papers which helped explain the process of identifying potential public rights of way which would otherwise be lost. Everyone agreed to look at the paperwork and add this item to a future agenda.

235. Iver Gravel Extraction Planning Application

Iver Gravel Extraction Planning application –

Members noted that Slough Council has objected to this development on various grounds not least that it compromises the Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH) development at Mansion Lane. JW explained that Bucks Rights of Way response to this planning application though asks for a new path which would link across to Market Lane, improving current provision and beneficial to Slough residents. JW had confirmed in the Slough response that Slough LAF supported the requests made by the Bucks row officer.

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236. Summer Site Visits Updates - Actions

Summer Site Visits Updates –

JW referred to the paperwork. All agreed that the site visits had again been a success giving members an enhanced perspective.

The Dis-used Railway land Colnbrook – The landowner has changed and now owns this and the adjacent site. The new landowner wants to move the unofficial trodden footpath to the western side of the site to improve scope for development of these two parcels of land. JW pointed out that the Poyle New Cottages have a private right of access along the existing footpath running between the dis-used railway land and the adjacent land.

237. Training Day Notes

These are to be circulated to members via email.

238. Date and time of next meeting

TBC

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)