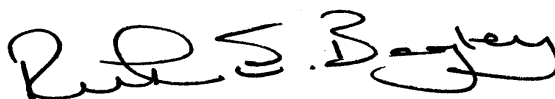


Date of issue: 11th January 2011

MEETING	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2011 AT 5.30 PM
VENUE:	MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	CLAIRE GRAY 01753 875018
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY (for all enquiries)	JACQUI WHEELER, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER 01753 477479

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Apologies	
2.	Declarations of Interest	(5 Mins)

(Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and prejudicial interests in matters coming before this meeting as set out in the local

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	
3.	code of conduct) Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th September 2010	1 - 6	
4.	Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)	7 - 8	(10 Mins)
5.	Membership Update		(10 Mins)
6.	Memoriam for Margery		(5 Mins)
7.	LTP3 - Walking and cycling Strategies public consultation - Presentation		(5 Mins)
8.	Regional and National Update - Survey from NE and EAF – Slough LAF response	9 - 12	(15 Mins)
9.	Cinder Track Action Plan updated following inspection	13 - 16	(10 Mins)
10.	Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey FP 33 and 32 - Action Plan	17 - 18	(5 Mins)
11.	Updates on Planning Applications - SIFE – LAF Response Letter	19 - 20	(5 Mins)
12.	Invitation to appoint an observer to attend the meetings of RBWM Local Access Forum		(10 Mins)
13.	Walk4Life - LAF Invovlement		(5 Mins)
14.	Any Other Business - Items for next meeting (need suggestions) e.g.: signage to Jubilee River across the Borough, cross boundary issues		(5 Mins)
15.	Date of the next Meeting		

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.



Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Monday, 13th September, 2010 at the Mayor's Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

Laurie Tucker (Chair)
Toby Evans
Margery Hitchman,
Ian Houghton,
Councillor David J Munkley
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Ken Wright

Observers

Bea Tucker

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Esther Deacon, Alex Deans, Bruce Hicks, Jacqui Wheeler

1. Election of Chair

Resolved – That Laurie Tucker be appointed Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Parmar advised in respect of agenda item 6 – Gating Order Proposals, Mildenhall to Lerwick Drive, that he was a local resident but he would approach the matter with an open mind.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May 2010

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)

Stoke Poges Lane – Elliman Avenue Junction – JW advised that a response had been received from the Traffic Department which advised that they had expected the works to be completed by the end of the summer holidays. A further response had been received which stated that cabling had been completed but there were some financial issues with the sub-contractor. Members raised concerns that this had still not been completed and requested further clarity from Traffic and an estimated completion date.

Local Access Forum - 13.09.10

Cinder Track – A letter had been drafted and was due to be sent out to the head of highways, however it has come to light that it would be more appropriate to address the letter to the head of transport. Members agreed for this to be changed and the letter sent.

Ditton Park – According to the agreement with Computer Associates any closure of the route needed to be reported to the Council and publicly displayed 21 days beforehand. AD advised that if this was not carried out Computer Associates could be notified that their obligations were not being met and enforcement action could follow if required. The planning contract was with Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council and JW agreed to contact them on behalf of the LAF. Furthermore it was suggested that Enterprise wardens would check the status of the gate when they were in the park and then report back to BH.

5. Membership Update

The Forum was advised that there was currently only seven LAF members and new members were needed. Members whose term of office had recently expired had been reappointed or would be shortly. JW advised that she hoped to place an article in the Citizen magazine in October. A member advised that Time FM had a community slot which would be ideal for promotion of the LAF. A further suggestion was made to place an article in the local newspapers. This had been attempted previously but had not attracted any new members. A member further recommended placing an advertisement on the screens in the customer service centre.

Resolved – That the suggestions as detailed above to attract further members be implemented where possible.

6. Gating Order Proposals Updates

Mildenhall Road – Lerwick Drive – As there had not been any recent reports of anti-social behaviour in connection with the path JW advised that the Council did not intend to make a gating order at present.

Resolved - That the situation should continue to be monitored.

Shaggy Calf Lane to Borderside – ED advised that there had been a number of issues reported by residents; However following the erection of a CCTV to monitor the path it was noted that approximately 600 people use the path daily. The current proposal was to erect high fences on housing land and not to gate the footpath. There were further proposals to erect 'k barriers' or staggered railings to prevent motorbikes use of the path.

Resolved - The forum recommended that no further action be taken on any gating options for the alleyway.

Salt Hill Park Tunnel – The Forum were informed that since the erection of a CCTV camera on the entrance of the tunnel there had been no recorded

Local Access Forum - 13.09.10

incidents. There was an action plan in place to look at how to improve the tunnel. The Council was working in partnership with Network Rail and the police to address several issues including lighting. There was no proposal at present for a gating order.

Footpath 35a – Members were advised of a proposal, that was in the early stages to gate this footpath due to the significant volume of antisocial behaviour. There was also an option to block the footpath under section 118 of the Highways Act (1980). The footpath was unregistered but was currently utilised by Shopmobility customers as the alternative footpath was too narrow. Officers advised that this was due to be widened as part of a nearby development.

Resolved - That the situation be monitored pending the outcome of the proposed development.

7. Regional & National Update

JW advised the forum of a review of the effectiveness of the English Access Forum which sought the views of local access forums. MH reported that the EAF provided a good opportunity to meet with members from other LAFs. However MH advised that further interaction between Berkshire LAFs would be beneficial. JW advised of some of the other responses that had already been received, some of which supported Natural England contributing funding for the EAF. The deadline for the consultation was 30th September.

Resolved - That JW draft a response to the consultation to be circulated to LAF members for comments and approval.

8. Cinder Track Action Plan

The LAF considered the latest Cinder Tack action Plan. Regarding the sweeping of the path members were informed that community payback had completed some work cutting back the vegetation along the path but had not done the sweeping and were unable to do the weeding as the spraying had not yet been completed. It had been requested that they return to complete these tasks, a date for which was yet to be agreed. With regards to 'Slough sheds' housing had visited the area and several occupied outbuildings have been identified. Letters had been sent out to request the removal of bathrooms and kitchens. It was thought that the issues concerning gating could be removed from the action plan as this was on a spur section and not part of the public highway.

Resolved: - That the action plan be noted and that a date for a future visit to the Cinder Track be circulated by JW.

9. Updates on planning applications

The Forum was informed that on the outline planning application from SEGRO the S106 agreement was still to be signed. The plans for Kennedy

Local Access Forum - 13.09.10

Park were not progressing at present due to the Council's financial situation. AD advised that the level of detail on the SEGRO plan could not be agreed at this stage as the developments would be taking place across the next 20 years. SEGRO had been asked to achieve a modal shift in terms of transport use or they would incur penalties. TE commented that he felt an overlying vision was required in order to ensure that measures for transport were not disjointed.

JW provided the draft plans for three highways developments taking place. The Heart of Slough development plans included removal of the Brunel Roundabout and subway and the addition of pedestrian crossing points on the A4. The traffic signals would be linked to improve traffic flow. AD agreed to provide a cross section of the area. Members were asked to email any comments on the plan to JW as soon as possible. Plans were also provided for the Copthorne Roundabout which was in the initial stages and the Co-op/Sainsbury's roundabout which was shortly due to come to completion. Members were advised that they could retain copies of the plans if they so wished.

Resolved -

- (a) That the continue to be updated on the ongoing process for the SEGRO planning application.
- (b) That any comments on the plans be emailed to JW as soon as possible.

10. Britwell Loop / Evergreen Trust - Update

JW advised that a number of Members had been unable to access the report due to the large file size of some of the attachments. Therefore it was proposed and agreed that any comments on the report should be sent to JW and an update would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Resolved – That comments on the report be sent to JW and a further update be brought to the next meeting.

11. LTP 3 - ROWIP Integration and Walking and Cycling Strategies update

The Forum was advised that, at present the draft walking strategy supplementary document and draft cycling strategy were not ready to be consulted on but Members would be kept update on progress.

A demonstration of an interactive map of Slough was made to the Forum and comments were sought from members. TE asked what the arrangements were for updates with the private company hosting the website. JW advised that with an upgrade the Council would be able to make any required updates. At present a search could be conducted for facilities within a 1k distance from any address in Slough. A Member suggested that it would be useful for Members of the public to be able to report problems, e.g. potholes as this would help the Council identify locations more easily. Members commented

Local Access Forum - 13.09.10

that the watermark on the map made it very difficult to view the details on the map. It was thought that this was a requirement for every map hosted but changes to improve visibility would be looked into. AD suggested that it would be useful to have road works added to the map.

JW requested that any further comments on the map be emailed to her. The Council were still looking into securing the upgrade for the system but it was noted that this would address some of the suggestions made by the Forum.

Resolved – That any suggestions regarding the map be submitted to JW.

12. Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey FP33 and 32 - Action Plan

Details of the action plan for Jubilee River had been circulated to the Forum. It was noted that the footpath in Chalvey along the edge of the tip required improvements. A member advised that there did not appear to be cycle access along a section of the route in Whitehart Road. Regarding a section of wall by the tip local schools had been approached and were keen on developing a mural for the area. However Chalvey partnership Board had requested that it be painted a plain white. The Board was of the opinion that a mural makes an area appear to need regenerating.

Resolved – That the Local Access Forum supports the current action plan including the mural proposal.

13. Any Other Business

Members were provided with a copy of the LAF annual report.

It was reported that the Biffa Landfill site in Colnbrook had a two year extension in order to bring the land up to a certain level to finish off. Permission was being sought to divert a footpath that runs through the site for a further two years. A new consultation letter and plan would be circulated.

14. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was provisionally agreed as 10th January, 2011.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.52 pm)

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PURPOSE OF REPORT: Update on the cycle path through Ditton Park Estate (part of Slough Linear Park)

Recorded condition of permissive cycle path through Ditton Park Estate, taken 17th November 2010.



Computer Associates were emailed on 3rd Dec 2010 to ask for repairs to the surface of the path running through Ditton Park Estate as per obligations under the Section 106 planning agreement. A further email was sent to Rights of Way officers at Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead mentioning the LAF's concern over this path, its condition and what seems like indiscriminate closures. The Rights of Way Officer at RBWM was unaware of this permissive path and is currently looking into the issue and will be writing to Computer Associates.

Action: That members resolve to keep on the agenda and seek an update from RBWM in one month.

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SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 19th January 2011

REPORT ON: ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM (EAF) AND NATURAL ENGLAND

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide updates on the situation with the England Access Forum and the South East Region for members' discussion/information.

2. UPDATES

2.1 The Slough Local Access Forum responded on 28th Sept 2010 (see Appx 1) to the EAF/Natural England survey. The survey of all LAF's nationally sought views on:

- The links between EAF and the LAFs through the regional coordinators.
- The effectiveness of the links between LAFs and Natural England at a national level through EAF.
- The added value that a national body representing LAFs can bring.
- The options for EAF's development.

2.2 News received via email on 19th November 2010 from the regional co-ordinator confirmed that: Andy Mackintosh (Natural England Secretary to the England Access Forum) made the following statement regarding the current position of the England Access Forum...

"The review findings have been collated and we are hoping to agree a way forward with the England Access Forum as to their analysis and distribution. Meanwhile Natural England is considering its response to Duncan Grahams' requests for Natural England commitment of financial support for 2011/12 and a meeting with the Chief Executive."

2.3 A further email received on 17th December 2010 stated that the South East LAF Conference that had been planned for 15th Feb 2011 in London is now CANCELLED due to no more funds available from Natural England.

2.4 The following note from EAF Chairman, Duncan Graham was also received on 17th December 2010.

Dear Colleagues,

Future of the England Access Forum

You will recall that I sent an email on 5th November to the Chair and Chief Executive of Natural England asking for a meeting within two weeks to resolve questions about the future which have dragged on interminably. There is proof that the email has been received and read.

Sadly, I have received neither a response nor the courtesy of an acknowledgment. We must draw our own conclusions.

There has been no progress on the joint analysis of the submissions made by LAFs, beyond the conclusion that the vast majority of those LAFs which responded would like to see EAF as a Forum to represent their views at national level and to champion access. There has been no assurance of adequate support or continuity.

That LAFs do not seem to figure in the thinking of NE can be deduced from a letter sent out on the 16th November by Helen Phillips arrestingly entitled “transferring delivery of our access and engagement related work to civil society”. We were not amongst the consultees. A brave new world is postulated but apparently with no place for Local Access Forums.

What is frustrating is that there has never been a better or more appropriate time for the voice of LAFs to be heard and their advice heeded. LAFs have so much practical advice to offer on how best to mitigate the effects of major reductions in expenditure and views which deserve to be heard regarding the potentially most damaging of the outcomes.

LAFs and regions have been asking for EAF to lead a national response on topics including:

- Working with government and the Forestry Commission to find the best ways to bring about change while minimising the impact on recreation and the environment
- The major impact on access of the withdrawal of funds from the HLS schemes
- The next generation of Rights of Way Improvement Plans in the current financial climate
- The impact of budget reductions on the work of Highway Authorities and the backlogs of DMMOs, prospect of forced mergers and staff losses etc.

In a letter following our September meeting with the Minister (contrast the Chair of NE), Richard Benyon MP, he recognises the significant contribution that LAFs and EAF have to make to improving access.

There is nothing more I can do!

Best wishes

Duncan Graham

3. Appendix 1 – Slough LAF Response to EAF/Natural England Survey

28th September 2010

Slough Local Access Forum

Andrew Mackintosh
Natural England Secretary to the England
Access Forum

By email.

Replies to: Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
P.O Box 580
Slough, SL1 3UQ

Tel: 01753 477 479
Fax: 01753 875 660
Email: Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk
Ref: EAF/NE Survey Response

Dear Andrew,

On behalf of the Slough Local Access Forum, please see the following response to the consultation “Review of the England Access Forum”, contents agreed by members at the Forum meeting held on 13th September 2010.

Overall the forum felt that the value of the EAF can only be positive as it allows LAF's an opening where generic issues of local concern can be taken forward to the national level. (eg; Gating Orders)

The EAF can bring local issues to the fore on a national level with dialogue developing from individuals with the same agenda as the local members. That agenda is the improvement of access for all, real involvement with local communities and partnership working across the health, business and user groups agendas.

Communication links are vital if the hierarchical structure of the LAF's and role of the EAF is to be successful. This calls for close working practices between LAF co-ordinators and LAF officers in individual authorities and the regional and national Natural England offices. Members felt that the regional structure needed to be maintained, with the existence of the England Access Forum helping provide the rationale allowing regional gatherings to have an impact at a higher level, rather than ending with shared practice alone. It was thought that EAF would have difficulty functioning without regional communication.

To best represent all Local Access Forums the EAF ought to operate autonomously as all LAF's do, or try to do. The EAF cannot be placed within or be financially dependent on another organisation if the influence it could achieve is to be truly representative of the local opinion it springs from.

Funding of the EAF ought to be via Defra, as the individual appointing authorities are already asked to fund individual LAF's and the EAF will provide a valuable consultation asset during the drafting stage of new policy. In the long term there is the potential for the EAF along with Natural England to help make the process of drafting new policy more effective and efficient in terms of being in closer contact with local opinion.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqui Wheeler
Slough LAF Support Officer

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Site Visit	Attendees	Apologies
19/05/09	Jacqui Wheeler; Vinay Vyas; David Kilby; Ken Wright(LAF + North Slough Residents Forum); PCSO Soden; Residents; Jean Sellars and ?	Savio Decruz
04.05.10	Jacqui Wheeler; Vinay Vyas; David Kilby; Ken Wright(LAF + North Slough Residents Forum); Becca Aitken(Probation Service); Jean Sellars (Resident), Malcolm Hellings and Les James (LAF Members)	Margery Hitchman, Ian Houghton (LAF Members)
15.12.10	Jacqui Wheeler, David Kilby, Jean Sellars	Ken Wright, Ian Houghton
Item	Detail	Owner
Lighting		
	Maintenance schedule for fences that are vandalised?	SD
	Is the chain link fencing temporary?	SD
	Fibre Gravel loose and always broken glass.	SD/JW
Surface of Path	Leaves along edges of path	JW
Planning issues	Hampshire Ave – Canterbury Ave section. Fake blue garage shutter door hiding UPVC doors and windows section leading to possible accommodation.	Planning enforcement informed

No they are permanent.
On 04.05.10 – the inspection group questioned the above statement. The fence is a maintenance liability both in terms of damage to the actual fence and also in difficulty retrieving litter from behind it.

Co-ordinate Community Payback and Enterprise to sweep and edge up the path. Ongoing problem.
Comm. Payback has put Cinder Trk on their regular monthly schedule of work. Hand sweeping, edging, painting out graffiti and weeding.

Awaiting quote for Enterprise to use sweeper on FP24a and b which have already been hand swept by Community Payback. Community Payback visited path again on 6th Jan 2011 concentrating on section between Granville Ave and Sheffield Rd.

	84 Gloucester Avenue – large brick built extension + glass on top of brick wall	VV	<p>Planning enforcement informed Concern about Slough Sheds reiterated. Follow up to see what action is being taken. Email sent to Planning Enforcement. Planning is due to refuse an application to make this property 2 separate dwellings. Planning Enforcement will then request property is returned to a single dwelling and may serve an enforcement notice to ensure compliance. (Usually given a month).</p> <p>Inform Planning Enforcement New fence has been erected preventing this access through from Cinder Track to the shop – no longer an issue</p>
	Sign to Grove Superstore	JW	<p>3 bins installed as. 4 general waste bins to be installed Weekly by Enterprise PCSOs, Wardens and Police aware</p>
Litter	Dog bin installation	SD	
Dog Fouling	Regular litter pick Increase patrolling in hotspot locations.	VV	
Art work (ASB prevention)	Request for artwork along the Track	JW/VV	<p>Contact Church re; “graffiti wall” Letter sent from LAF to Head of Highways Contact Schools to see if they would like to be part of project to create wall of art work.</p> <p>Outstanding. To be actioned. Chase Adam Shaffi on this issue and suggest letter from LAF to put pressure on to get all unused boxes removed, but to whom? Emailed Adam Shaffi 16.12.10 Adam will provide contact details for relevant cable companies. 04.01.11</p>
Graffiti on cable boxes	Gloucester Ave – Hampshire Ave section – Cable boxes heavily graffitied. Investigate if cable boxes are being used.	JW/VV	<p>Send Highways Enforcement letter to property owner. Letter sent, further enforcement due. Vine cut back by Community Payback.</p> <p>Take advice from drainage engineers.</p>
Overhanging Veg	Vine overhanging path from 2a/b Canterbury Ave	JW	
Drainage	Linear puddling evident along Track between Hampshire and Sheffield Rd. Particularly severe at end of Warrington Ave	JW	

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING – 19TH JAN 2011 -
Community Payback dates for the New Year are:

ITEM 9 - Cinder Track Action Plan Updated 05 January 2011

Thursday 3rd February 2011 and Thursday 3rd March 2011

Photo record of the Track just after the visit on 6th Jan 2011:



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Action Plan – Chalvey Access to Jubilee River (Footpaths 32 & 33)

Attendees				
17.06.10	Jacqui Wheeler, David Kilby, Joe Byrne			
23.06.10	JW, Kam Bhatti			
19.07.10	JW, JB, Head of Montem(Charlie), Kevin Hendry (Montem School artist)			
01.09.10	JW, JB, Karen Porter (Eco Champion at Slough & Eton School)			
No.	Item	Detail	Owner	Progress/Action
1.	Paint Mural on the Concrete Wall of the Waste Transfer Site	Discuss with Head of Montem Primary School and Slough & Eton School. Discuss and show photos. Gain interest and agreement for this to be school art project Dep. Head Slough & Eton is Peter Collins 01753 520824.	Joe Byrne/ Jacqui Wheeler	Joe has contacted Head of Montem School who is keen on the project. Site visit with Montem Primary School on 19.07.10. JW to arrange a site visit with Slough & Eton during holidays. Site Visit with Slough & Eton was very positive. This would be a good project for their GCSE Art students to undertake and would incorporate the recycling /protection of the environment part of their curriculum too.
		Contact suitable artist to brief on requirements	JB/JW/KB	Artist briefed on site. A level students to do design and artwork with input from Montem Primary School
		Design preparation	Artist and schools	Spencer Lowe has had several sessions with A level students and has made contact with Montem Primary school. The students have come up with ideas based on the themes of recycling/cycling/biodiversity etc. Some visuals have been produced.
		Email Richard West, Head of Enterprise, Nigel Dicker, and Head of Environmental Svcs to get their initial approval. Copy to DK, JB, JW, KB and Denise Alder	JW	Approval received via email from both RW and ND
		Wall would need to be jet washed and brushed	DK to price	Approx price £47 x 4hrs. Wall has been cleaned.
		Paint Steel Girders holding the wire mesh fencing in place	DK	

	Paint base coat on the concrete wall	DK/KB	Painting of base coat completed.
	Involve Local Access Forum and Chalvey Partnership Board (Community Group) in design consultation	JW/KB	Chalvey Partnership Board does not want a mural to be painted. They would rather it be a plain wall. JW and JB attended meeting on 21 st Sept.
	Spoke to Howard Murray of Slough & Eton on 08.09.10 – he supports the project and will attend Chalvey P’Ship Board on 21 st Sept		It was minuted that the LAF supports the mural project.
2.	Paint and paint mural (decided not possible to do mural on this fence) on Corrugated Metal Fence	JB/JW	Email confirmation received on 29.06.10 that R & C Motor Co. give approval for their fence to be painted. Need to get their approval of the paint being used prior to work commencing. Metal fence has been painted.
	Ask R & C Motor Co. to repair section of barbed wire overhanging the path	JW	R & C Motor Co have confirmed they will repair
	Assess legality of the barbed wire overhanging the public highway	JW	
3.	Mural and paint under the railway bridge	JW	Network Rail approve basic painting in principle, but there is a need to apply for Network Rail asset protection and use approved paint. 09.09.10
4.	Footpaths 32 and 33 from railway bridge to south side of M4 bridge	JB/KB	
	Litter picking required behind guardrails on both sides of railway line on HA land. Could be done by local volunteers.	JW	
	Request Network Rail clear areas behind green palisade fencing of broken glass/litter		
	Ask Enterprise to fix their palisade fencing and clear rubbish from behind it.	DK/IC	Emailed contact at Enterprise. Need to follow up
	Dog fouling to be monitored and if necessary an appropriate bin installed and added to the emptying schedule.	DK/JW	

SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 19th January 2011

REPORT ON: SLOUGH LAF RESPONSE TO SIFE PLANNING APPLICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to gain members' approval of the draft response to the SIFE planning application consultation.

2. DRAFT RESPONSE

22 December 2010

**Slough Local Access
Forum**

Paul Stimpson
Planning Section
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place
51 Bath Road
Slough
Berks

Replies to: Jacqui Wheeler,
Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road
Slough, SL1 3UF

Tel: 01753 477 479
Fax: 01753 875 660
Email: Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk
Ref: SIFE Planning/LAF response

Dear Mr Stimpson,

I am writing to let you know that on balance the Slough Local Access Forum opposes the proposed development known as the Slough Intermodal Freight Exchange. The overall environmental impact of the development has to be taken into account by members as it would affect the public's enjoyment of the public rights of way.

Detrimental impact on the environment is in direct conflict with the remit of the Local Access Forum; which is to:

Advise relevant organisations, especially the Borough Council, on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment. In particular, to ensure that such advice:

- sets public rights of way and access to open countryside in a broad context, integrating provision for all forms of open-air recreation, transport, tourism, health and public information;
- considers provision for all users, and reflects the needs of local people;
- addresses the co-ordinated use of resources to deliver integrated recreational and access provision and management
- has regard to the needs of land management, the conservation of flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features, and government advice.

It is considered that although there will be enhancements made to the surfaces of the paths and planting/fences erected to lessen the visual impact of the buildings, nothing could be done to mitigate against the noise or reduced air quality and the overall effect will be to remove the “open countryside” nature of the surroundings.

Specifically the LAF would encourage improvements to the public rights of way network in conjunction with the aims and objectives of the Slough Borough Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017. The most relevant being Objective 4b (ROWIP Statement of Action pg 38-40) “Identify and improve routes that provide access to areas of countryside”

One of the recommended activities under this Objective is to “Develop a promoted circular horse trail and/or easy access route and/or cycle route of the bridleways lying north of the Colnbrook Bypass, at the Slough/Colne Valley Park crossover.”

Though, LAF members recognise the potential for improvements to these paths arising out of these proposals, they question the extent to which the changes would meet the present and likely future needs of the public. The LAF would recommend that further investigation is done into the current usage of the routes in question.

Finally, the connection of public rights of way across this site as part of the Colne Valley Park is judged as being vital to the integrity of the Park and Slough itself; the loss of such an open area of countryside would be severe for local residents. The importance of the proposed development site is stressed in Slough Borough Council’s Core Strategy where it is designated as Strategic Gap.

If you have any queries concerning the above please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Tucker
Chair 2010, Slough Local Access Forum