

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th July, 2016 at the Meeting Room 1, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP

Present:-

LAF Members

David Munkley (Chair)
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Andy Packer
Toby Evans
Tony Haines
John Keegan, Ramblers Association

Observers

Councillor Wayne Strutton
Arnold Richardson

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler
Rights of Way Officer

216. Apologies

Stewart Pomeroy – CVP CIC

217. Welcome and Declarations of Interest

None

218. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th April 2016

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.

219. Huddle

JW was unable to access internet and therefore unable to access Huddle at the meeting. JW informed members of the various consultations on Huddle and circulated hard copies of the National LAF newsletter.

JW informed members that they need to email Rob Leek at NE to say they accept the Huddle terms and conditions. JW will re-send the email to all members as a reminder to renew their huddle registration. JW will bring remote access hob to next meeting to enable use of Huddle.

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Huddle is run by DEFRA and administered by Natural England so that LAF members around the country can communicate on nationally important issues.

Resolved – all members to send email to Rob Leek if they wish to renew their Huddle membership.

220. Matters Arising (other than those on agenda)

JW tabled the report of updates concerning matters arising in the papers on pages 13-15.

Walking Buses – Members discussed the merits of the walking bus scheme which schools have as part of their School Travel Plans. DM said it is something the school would have overall responsibility for establishing.

Instead of park and ride it's park and walk and members were very keen on seeing it increased across all schools in the borough.

Resolved - JW agreed to find out how many schools in Slough run a Walking Bus.

SMART Motorway – JW stated that the Inspector's decision is still expected in Sept 2016 and that CH2M who are part of the design team working for Highways England are currently undertaking topographical, environmental and other surveys along the M4. Works on the Slough bridges will be started in about 2019. WS thought that the bridge near the M25 (Old Slade Lane) would need to be done sooner taking into account the urgency for a re-design of junction 4a with the M25. JW stated that there haven't been any detailed designs submitted to the Council yet for any of the Slough bridges.

Members realise the importance of getting requirements for improvements in early on in the planning process particularly in light of the experience of RBWM LAF and RoW team where their request to have bridge parapets of 1.8m at Marsh Lane road bridge (frequently used by horses) was not taken on board before the DCO was put together. The result being that they can only expect a 1.5m maximum parapet as that is what is described in the DCO with the opportunity to make a change to the parapet height at a later date after the event and at the Council's cost.

Joint LAF Chair meetings will be a useful tool in co-operation on any future planning applications of regional importance.

Members agreed the need to continue attendance at the Joint LAF Chair meetings

Pavement Parking Scheme (PPS) – Update

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JW informed the members that the PPS has been placed on hold at the current time. The way that it's being rolled out is to change with a new policy being prepared for sign off. In future pavement parking bans will only be considered if requested by residents with support by ward councillor.

Members were concerned that this would lead to a free for all forcing residents to complain. JW felt that the intention is to make the PPS more needs based. WS felt that the views of those with physical and visual impairment should be directly consulted on these issues and that the PPS was only meant to be used on wide pavements which would allow two up two down parking. In the initial roll out of the scheme mistakes were made, but it is suggested that this new approach will allow problem areas to be dealt with rather than sticking to a planned roll out. Members wanted this item to be added to next agenda for an update on how this issue is being dealt with.

Resolved – Members agreed to recommend that the council should get better involvement and engagement with local disability groups.

Big Pathwatch Update –

There is a "Map of Successes" on the Ramblers website
<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/news/volunteer-success-stories/map-of-successes.aspx>

JK stated that the South East Berkshire Ramblers group have a successful series of walking maps and as a result have funding which they will give out to replace stiles in the Berkshire area. JW queried whether they would fund signage and waymarking as well as stiles. JK agreed to find out. TH mentioned the concern that there are PRow in South Bucks area that are becoming disused and which are not being maintained eg; Westfield Lane to George Green. Members felt that these paths are being neglected by the Buckinghamshire County Council.

221. **SBC Bridleway 93 Modification Order Update**

JW introduced this item and tabled the Order and recent photographs shown in papers pages 13-17. JW explained the reason for the public inquiry on the 15th November 2016. The objections that have been submitted focus on the argument that the way is wider than has been stated in the Order and that there are public vehicular rights that ought to be recorded requiring a higher status of Public Right of Way and therefore higher level of maintenance by the Council. The objections are based on the belief that the width set out under the Inclosure Award 1813, which is approx. 30ft, is the width that has public rights along it, rather than the width that is currently in use.

The Inspector will make a decision on the day based on the evidence put forward. JW confirmed that the Council has to pay for the cost of the Inquiry under the legislation. DM queried if residents would lose their gardens if the inspector decides against the current Order. JW confirmed this could happen but any outcomes will become clear after the matter is settled by the

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Inspector's decision. JW confirmed BRN is not a through route for vehicles but that the objectors are saying there is public vehicular use.

The Inquiry is booked to take place over two days at St Martin's Place, and members agreed to inform JW should they wish to attend.

222. Summer Site Visit Actions

JW tabled the report in the papers on the Summer Site Visits. Members agreed that the recent site visit to Middlegreen paths in South Bucks threw up a number of issues on rights of way in that area.

The next site visit on 15th August would be the Britwell Loop and The Millie Nature Reserve route. The aim is to find out if the route is still accessible. Evergreen 2000 have been invited to join the visit as they manage the Lynch Hill Valley including Cocksherd Wood for the Council.

Members agreed that the visit to the Jubilee River circular route would be re-arranged for some time in October dependent on it becoming too dark.

JW asked for volunteers among members to take on some of the actions on the Summer Site Visit action plan. WS suggested forwarding a note to the Neighbourhood Action Groups who are active in certain areas. However, NAG's are disintegrating in other areas due to the Police no longer attending and lack of local support.

223. Canal

Canal Basin Regeneration Scheme - JW gave a verbal update based on information received from the SUR that construction is estimated to commence in quarter 4 of 2017 dependent on third party agreements.

No planning application or pre-app advice has been submitted yet. Members perused the latest design plan for the Basin. TH advising that there are plans to restrict public car park spaces at the basin but that there is a major increase in public space. The parking both north and south of the canal will be private attached to the new dwellings but still minimal. All noted that a third of the park is being given up for the development with the remaining open space to be landscaped and overlooked by the dwellings. JW would continue to chase Morgan Sindell for news on when more detail is available for comment.

JW tabled photos of the completed clearance of the Northern bank of the canal at Kendal Close made possible through the Bags For Help funding. It was noted that JW has asked for a quote for continued maintenance of this

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area. TH noted that a HV cable runs under the concrete conduit exposed as part of these works, through Slough and is also visible on public footpath 46 at Rochford Gardens. A water outlet has been installed at the Basin to facilitate moorings which are now possible due to the dredging and marketed by CRT. TH noted that the number of boats along the Arm has increased to several a day over the summer.

Morgan Sindell have said yes to any continued interim improvements if further funding could be sourced eg; widening the narrow path adjacent to the vacant Tiling Co. site. However it is questionable if it's worth trying to get further complex works done now when the developers will do it in a year's time. Members agreed cutting the vegetation back tight to the fence line would be beneficial though, if nothing else.

TH felt that it would be in the developers own interest to move the fence back now so it is more attractive to prospective clients looking at the site.

Resolved- to contact the SUR (Morgan Sindell) to advise it would be in their interests to move the fence back and widen the narrow section of path and remove the barbed wire for safety reasons.. Members advised that vegetation is cut back as detailed above. JW would continue to bring updates to the LAF.

Bloom Park S106 Improvements – JW tabled the plans for the corridor of land between Bloom Park and the Uxbridge Road behind Goodman Park. This area is prone to fly tipping. No. 4 and 3 would be formalised entrances to the towpath. TH stated that the triangular section where there is a path through the trees is a heavily used drinking area. The fence has deteriorated and the vegetation has gotten out of hand.

Members noted that a large area of Bloom Park adjacent to the railway line is in the Local Plan as a potential housing site.

224. Transport Schemes

A4 Cycle Route – WS stated that there is a major safety issue with increased amounts of people crossing the Huntercombe Spur on the south side of the A4. The Cycle route itself uses the north side of the A4. Members agreed to look at the drawings and forward any comments to JW.

Members were concerned over possible plans to remove grass verge on both sides of the Bath Road on the eastern approach to the roundabout to create a wider dual carriageway with the intention of alleviating congestion. Members feared this would reduce safety for pedestrians and cyclists on the footways.

Burnham Station Public Realm - JW directed members to the designs for this scheme and asked for comments to be sent back. TH commented that the cycle route along the A4 should make maximum use of the service road even

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where it is private. JW would ask why the design has taken the cycle route onto the service road and then off it again at the point near Kelpatrick Road.

Access for people with mobility problems is a major problem. WS said that residents felt that safety of the planned raised crossing of Station Road from the new car parking area to the Station forecourt is questionable since it relies on visibility of vehicles coming northbound from under the bridge with no signalised crossing. Members agreed that disabled car parking spaces and drop off zone should be inside the station forecourt.

JW realised the plan is out of date. The car park should have an exit and separate entrance rather than in and out at the same access point. Members thought this would create congestion in Burnham Lane.

225. Local Plan Consultations Slough and South Bucks

SIFE Decision – The government has decided against this planning consent, though the landowner can appeal this decision.

The Slough LAF has been added as a consultee to the South Bucks and Chiltern Local Plan. There will be public consultation events taking place in November relating to the south Bucks area which is cross boundary to Slough. JW and TH expressed interest in attending these. This consultation will be the preferred options sites. TH referenced the small piece of land that Slough Borough Council own in South Bucks known as Lavendar Farm. It seems that protecting the green belt is no longer the position of South Bucks as they can no longer afford to do this with current pressures. JW tabled the draft LAF letter in response to the Slough Local Plan consultation for members' approval.

Resolved – Members agreed the draft response to the Slough Local Plan consultation and JW would submit it.

226. Next Meeting

6.30pm, 10th November 2016 at Chalvey Community Centre, Room 1

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.45 pm)