

**Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd August, 2017 at the Meeting Room 2, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP**

**Present:-**

**LAF Members**

David Munkley (Chair)  
Councillor Satpal S Parmar  
Ken Wright  
John Keegan, Ramblers Association  
Councillor Mohammed Rasib

**Observers**

None.

**Officers, Slough Borough Council**

Jacqui Wheeler  
Rights of Way Officer

**250. Apologies & Welcome**

Andy Packer  
Cllr Mohammed Rasib  
Toby Evans  
Trevor Allen  
Tony Haines

**251. Welcome & Declarations of Interest**

None

**252. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Subject to amendment at 244 – The Local Plan Consultation, the minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved.

**253. CANAL Updates**

The Slough Arm Management meetings have come about through informal meetings involving CRT, SBC officers and a representative of the Friends of Slough Canal. The intention is to drive forward for joint working across stakeholders in the canal for maintenance and improvement purposes, including the following Council departments; Highways, Housing, Resilience & Enforcement, and Parks/Public Realm.

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As a result of the first meeting CRT have agreed to license the triangle of land at the Uxbridge Road bridge and at the rear of Goodman Park to SBC for peppercorn rent so that it can be added to the Public Realm contract for regular cleansing come the new year. This makes sense as the public perception is that this area is already the Council's to maintain. Officers are currently working on getting the finer details sorted out.

JW referred to the rest of the Action List; including;

- discussions concerning how to deal with homelessness issue which have worsened due to those displaced from the Jubilee River recently evicted encampments.
- JSM reinstatement works
- CRT contractors contract issues
- integration of the parks and the towpath

TH informed the group that a copy of the Fountains maintenance contract was given to The Friends Group at the time of becoming a unitary authority. All agreed that it would be useful to know exactly what the scope of work was in the contract to measure Fountains current performance.

The Friends litter pick a stretch of the canal towpath on the first Sunday of every month apparently in conjunction with Fountains.

JW to circulate the action list from the second meeting of the Slough Arm Management meeting. Members discussed the possibilities for improvements to the triangle of land where currently anti-social behaviour and littering is out of control. TH felt there were two options; either remove the low level vegetation leaving mature trees, or plant denser, spiky vegetation preventing access. The former would open the area up to surveillance and encourage use, however some members were concerned about the effect this would have on flora and fauna. TH stated that there were other more rural locations further along the canal corridor where wildlife has free reign.

JW presented photo record of the canal taken on Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Graffiti under the Uxbridge road bridge had been left originally as it was bright and attractive. However, over time it had been tagged and spoiled so now JW is seeking to have the wall white washed to encourage fresh bright graffiti. Members felt the perception of the canal as a dumping ground needed to be challenged.

Waterside Drive Steps to Canal – JW agreed to chase the repair of the steps with the private landowner agent for the business park. DM queried whether the original planning consent included obligations about maintenance of these steps.

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Wexham Road footbridge – this is a hotspot for littering and rough sleeping. Some of the land under the footbridge is owned by the Council and some is unregistered.

DM asked if the status of the Slough Arm Management Group is formal. JW stated that the meetings are being driven by several officers but that there is potential to develop into a formal group but it needs buy in from CRT, Council Officers, Councillors and other stakeholders.

The Canal Basin Regeneration – there are new architects on this project so delay in the programme is inevitable. No planning application has been submitted or pre-application advice requested though some communications have been happening with Planning officers.

The Canal Festival is a key event taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 where local residents could be engaged about the canal and the idea of adopting a section.

**Resolved – Members resolved to support the Slough Arm Management Group initiative.**

## **254. Joint LAF Chairs Meeting**

JW referred to the minutes of the last Joint LAF Chairs meeting in May 2017 in the papers. It was agreed the Joint LAF Chairs meetings were valuable and should be supported. Due to additional work pressures Officers have been unable to organise site visits this year.

Due to changes in rights of way team at RBWM, hosting of future Joint LAF Chair meetings would be shared amongst all the authorities involved. Slough has agreed to host for Bucks as well due to the restrictive distance in getting to Aylesbury.

Due to personal circumstances DM is unable to attend any Joint LAF Chair meetings this year. DM noted that Slough is involved in many of the cross boundary issues. JW will attend when possible and invited any interested members to attend in DM's absence. JW will ensure all are updated on any site visits, venues and actions from ongoing meetings.

Jubilee River Management Meetings – a date has been finalised for the first meeting to be held in Reading at the end of September. Rights of Way Officers from BucksCC, RBWM and Slough along with representative from Eton College will attend to discuss all pertinent issues. JW called for agenda items to be raised;

The River Thames Alliance – EA reluctantly supported this group and TH asked what the current state of play was with them. TH reported that the RTA

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didn't want CRT to have anything to do with management of the River Thames.

### 255. SMART Motorway M4 - community engagement

JW tabled the minutes of the comms meeting held in June with Highways England, their designers and their community liaison team and the presentation circulated to all local authorities involved. JW explained the characteristics of the SMART motorway and that this will require that all the bridges along the route will need to be replaced to allow the motorway to be widened.

A plan of action is being put together by HE and their partners to engage with residents and motorists towards the end of this year. Some engagement has happened with parish council's already though not in Slough. It was suggested that LAF's could be included at the same time as parish councils. Work is planned to start on the ground around the end of 2017 start of 2018.

Online bridge replacements are generally happening for bridges where there isn't any major vehicular use. These are; Oldway Lane (bridleway), Old Slade Lane (Footpath), Recreation bridge,

There is an independent auditor of the bridge designs who is ensuring the designs are robust/safe. Members discussed their concerns about smart motorways. DM felt that their safety is questionable with people being asked to adapt to changing lanes unexpectedly and taking note of red crosses warning that a lane is blocked. However, the government has accepted the safety of the smart motorway model with schemes being rolled out on sections of motorway across the country.

Footpath 9 crosses the Langley Interchange roundabout through the subway and over the footbridges. This subway will be widened with new structures on a like for like basis. JW confirmed that the maintenance of the subway tunnel lies with Highways England who only have an ad hoc maintenance regime through a contractor. TH mentioned graffiti in the subway which is not a removed by HE casting the Council in a bad light.

An alternative route will be provided with details to be provided shortly.

**Resolved – JW would circulate the presentation to members and bring further updates to the next meeting.**

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### **256. Access Fund for Sustainable Travel**

JW introduced the Access Fund report from the papers explaining that £1.5m will be used over three years to increase modal shift and attitudes towards sustainable modes of transport. The behaviour change will be encouraged through events targetting all sections of society, including residents of Slough and visitors to Slough.

### **257. LAF Work Programme 2017**

JK suggested that Restoring the Record training session is arranged for members of Slough and other local LAFs due to the cut off date. JW to investigate.

### **258. Matters Arising (other than those already on agenda)**

### **259. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be at 6.30pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Meeting Room 5 Chalvey Community Centre

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.45 pm and closed at 9.00 pm)