

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 14th December, 2017 at the Meeting Room 4, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP

Present:-

LAF Members

Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Andy Packer
Tony Haines
John Keegan, Ramblers Association

Observers

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler
Rights of Way Officer

260. Apologies and Welcome

David Munkley
Toby Evans
Trevor Allen
Ken Wright
Arnold Richardson

NB: In the absence of the Chair, Tony Haines stepped in to chair the meeting.

261. Declarations of Interest

None

262. Minutes of Last Meeting on 3rd August 2017

Minutes of the last meeting on 3rd August 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

263. Slough Canal - updates

Slough Canal Action Group are working on an agreement with CRT to lease the triangle of land at Goodman Park which suffers from vandalism, severe littering and fly tipping on a regular basis. The agreement will mean that the council can enter the CRT land and clear it and make small improvements when a budget is available.

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JW stated that legal have been instructed to look at the terms of the agreement with a view to getting it signed in the near future. A break clause is to be included.

TH stated that the land had been fenced cheaply, landscaped and a path put in. Unfortunately over time the fence has become broken and out of repair, the landscaping has become overgrown and anti-social behaviour happens. TH suggested that removing vegetation and fencing entirely would reduce the maintenance costs, however, there is still the ecological loss of natural habitat to be considered.

A water based risk assessment was done in November 2017 with a view to piloting a project to have water based activities such as ; kayaking and paddle boarding on the canal aimed 11 + year olds. The risk assessment outcome was that from Uxbridge Road to Middlegreen Road would be the best section of the canal for activities with paddle boarding rejected due to the higher risk of falling in and the shallowness of the water with unknown hazards. There was a huge amount of plastic bags and cans in the canal which are difficult to see from the towpath.

TH confirmed that the dredging in 2014 was limited with only a central channel being dredged.

The problem of littering underneath the Wexham Road footbridge was discussed with JW proposing that a mesh cage is erected over the footbridge to prevent people throwing rubbish over the side. Rough sleeping at this location and at various points along the canal is also recognised as a major issue and the Action group is seeking to work together with CRT and the Resilience team at the council on this.

JW is looking at getting a specialist cleaning company to quote for clearing the litter at this location. There are health and safety issues in asking volunteers to tackle this section due to needles.

Members felt that the fencing of the Tiling Company should be removed now rather than wait for the regeneration to happen. However, any work to remove the fencing on this narrow section would not affect the difference in levels which would require a lot more investment than simply removing the fence and is not realistic at the moment.

JW agreed to seek an update from the SUR on when the planning permission will be submitted with a new design and when this will be consulted on.

264. Draft LAF Work Programme

Members agreed the proposed draft work programme and that site visits would be agreed for 2018 at the next meeting.

265. Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

More details on this Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan would be brought to future meetings.

266. Possible Closures of FP57 and FP35b

After discussing the results of the door knocking exercise with residents of Glentworth Place, members agreed that the closure of FP57 due to anti-social behaviour problems needed to be taken forward either as a permanent stopping up order or as a Public Spaces Protection Order.

267. Berkyn Manor Farm FP

JW would send details of this new footpath in Colnbrook around to members with a view to taking a position on this and deciding on any action at the next meeting.

268. Matters Arising from last minutes (apart from those on agenda)

SMART M4 – Updates

The public will be consulted by HE in due course and the LAF will be invited to any events..

JW agreed to circulate the managed motorway presentation to LAF members.

The DCO for this scheme means there is actual specific legislation which has been made to deal with all aspects of the scheme including any legal orders required for the temporary closure and also permanent diversion of any affected public rights of way.

Blandford Road North – Final Decision

JW tabled the final decision received from the PINS Inspector.

269. Date of next meeting TBC

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