

TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 April 2018 at 2.30pm
at The Business School, Wrekin College, Sutherland Road, Wellington, Telford**

Present: Anthony Francis-Jones (Horse Riding / BHS), Fiona Smith (Disability), Chris Hallam (Madeley Town Council), Jane Bonner (Severn Spokes), Bob Coalbran (Wellington Walkers Are Welcome), Paula Doherty (Rights of Way Projects/TES Ramblers), Dave Hopkins (Dawley Hamlets Parish Council) and Cadi Price (Severn Gorge Countryside Trust).

In Attendance: Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer, Telford & Wrekin Council), Nichola Stallard (Legal Assistant, TWC) and Jayne Clarke (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer, TWC).

LAF-25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Arnold England (TWC), Ann Sharkey (Legal Assistant, TWC), Katrina Baker (STROWP), Alec Connah (STROWP), Peter Holt (CLA/ Landowner), Trevor Davies and Gill Steed (Shropshire Ramblers).

LAF-26 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LAF-27 Chairman's Matters

The Chair reported on the following issues:

Definitive Map – Update

The Senior Rights of Way Officer informed the LAF that the map was progressing well and that it was hoped a draft Definitive Map would be ready by the end of 2018. There may need to be a few changes along the way and the Senior Rights of Way Officer may take over some of the technical work. The next work to be undertaken was post 1965 and the results of the extinguishments from TDC and the New Towns Act and putting on the Rights of Way which are currently missing. Due to the location of the Senior Rights of Way Officer within the BiT Team he explained his current role and how the rights of way role fitted into his current role.

TWC Website - Update

P Doherty gave an update on the website. Issues around Hutchison Way had now been dealt with. Telford & Wrekin's list of route online needed changing as the leaflets when printed to pdf were unsatisfactory especially with regard to Reynolds Way and Hutchison Way the Council would not be able to pay for leaflets. Hopefully

this would be resolved within the next 12 months. The minutes and Agendas had been updated but the minutes from October 2017 were missing from the website.

Path improvements

P Doherty gave an update on the T50 mile trail. The route had now been decided and way markers and stickers were being designed but were almost ready to go. The website work was in progress and planning for the leaflet was underway. A launch event was being held on 16 June and was being opened by Kate Ashbrook. An information board had been produced with the help of the Council and the BiT Team. It was considered that things were going smoothly considering the tight time constraint. Finger posts, short posts, styles and way marking would be undertaken from 10 May onwards. The route had partly been funded by grants from Veolia and the Council and some further small pots of money. The route was from Oakengates Train station and linked green spaces in Muxton, Granville Park, Priorslee Village, The Flash, Dawley, Town Park, Ironbridge, Jackfield and Horsehay and used existing routes. It was asked that thanks be passed on to Andrew Careless and Telford & Wrekin Council.

B Coalbran informed the LAF that the T50 route would be followed by the Walking Festival and the whole route would be covered over a week, split into manageable sections.

F Smith asked if the route was wheelchair accessible.

P Doherty confirmed that some of the route was, but not all of it.

J Bonner asked if the route was open to cyclists.

P Doherty confirmed that some of the route was bridleway and that all the information would be in the leaflet

P Doherty updated the LAF on the Hutchison Way. Ramblers had helped to look after the walking route which needed way marking. The Senior Rights of Way Officer had ordered 300 way markers which would be put up and a survey of stiles would be doing at the same time in May/June.

B Coalbran reported that whilst out at Limekiln Woods he had met a family visiting the area and who were exploring the raised plank and stoned area who had expressed that it was a wonderful place to visit. The Senior Rights of Way Officer was pleased with how the board walks had gone and these were being developed for cyclists and horesriders. The boards did not sink and improve the boggy areas but he asked the LAF to continue problem spotting.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer gave the LAF an update on the path improve that had taken place at the back of Moorfield Primary School, Newport. This was an important local route that had gone into disrepair. S106 monies had been used to improve this area. The Next work to be undertaken was the Silkin Way and Tee Lake. The repair works to the tarmac surfaces on the Silkin Way would cost in the region of £8,000. The longstanding drainage work by the horse field in Rough Park

was expected to cost in the region of £54,000 and it was envisaged that S106 money could be put into the pot for this work.

B Coalbran asked which section of Tee Lake was to be looked at as Councillor K Tomlinson had been in touch regarding the western end. The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that it was a project that Councillors B & K Tomlinson had asked for and was being paid for via the Community Pride Fund.

Path Clearance Update

B Coalbran reported that the volunteers had been busy clearing Christine Avenue over the planked path. A tree had fallen across the path and was caught on the holly bushes but this may give way at any time. He was unsure that the walkers could remedy this with bow saws

P Doherty informed the LAF that the path clearance group had a new leader. She confirmed that the path clearance insurance was covered by the Council and not the Ramblers. P Doherty and B Coalbran had been working together and contact details supplied to the "Friends of" groups in order they could use the volunteer services.

C Price confirmed that Alec Connah had details of the current litter picking routes.

B Coalbran reported on the recent litter pick which had taken place at the Forest Glen. A skip had been delivered and sever large fly tips had been removed along the road to Little Wenlock, together with remnants of a cannabis factory. Litter and fly tipping had also been removed from the path to the rifle range. Unfortunately due to health and safety the asbestos roofing could not be removed and was left in situ. The next litter pick was to take place on 1st September 2018.

Horsehay – Station Road DMMOA

The Order had been published and had received 20 objections. This was now going to public inquiry

D Hopkins asked how long typically it would take to arrange Public Inquiry.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer explained that the application would need to go off to the Secretary of State, this involved preparing the statement and case paperwork including all of the objections. Once this was sent it depended on the capacity of the Inspectors.

N Stallard confirmed that the Public Inquiry on Festival Gardens and Sylvan Close took around 2-3 months once the paperwork had been sent where others had taken 6-8 months.

DMMO Update

N Stallard gave an update on current work. An investigation was being undertaken on Sylvan Close and Festival Gardens. Boundary evidence was being sought on the Victoria Hotel. Objections had been received regarding the Travellers Joy. The

Public Path Order for Newport had been confirmed and the Station Road diversion was underway.

A discussion took place regarding the process of making orders, vexatious complainers, the length of time they took, investigating and the collation of evidence.

B Coalbran updated the LAF on the Working Group that had been set up by the Clerk of Little Wenlock Parish Council. The Clerk had been looking at reducing the speed of the traffic alongside the Wrekin. They were looking at the wider issues of parking of vehicles and access and various sites had been considered including the rifle range, which was deemed unsuitable due to ditches and holes. It was proposed that the yellow lines be extended, but that this was not enforced.

The Chair confirmed that there had previously been a planning application on the donkey field and that it just lacked funding, but that this application had now lapsed.

D Hopkins informed the LAF that bike use on the Wrekin was on the increase and was becoming an issues with cyclists not sticking to paths. B Coalbran confirmed that technically cyclists should on be allowed as far as the half-way house.

LAF-28 Meeting Dates 2018/2019

The date of the meeting for April 2019 would be discussed with the Chair as this would be within the pre-election period for local elections.

LAF-29 Any other urgent business

J Bonner informed that LAF that national bike week took place during the week of 9-17 June 2018. It was hoped that local clubs could get together to promote this.

C Price reported that the Ironbridge Walking Festival was fully booked.

P Doherty reported that a discussion took place regarding the Caynton/Culmington Project to look at inward tourism.

B Coalbran informed the LAF that route maps and guides to the local network were being produced.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that Bridleways had been created at New Works and would become legal agreements 40 weeks after commencement.

Some Members of the LAF raised some recent items of correspondence and an exchange in the Shropshire Star which had raised concerns. It was suggested that the LAF Terms of Reference and Constitution be reviewed to include a reference to maintaining levels of behaviour and respect in order that the behaviour of the LAF Members did not bring the LAF into disrepute.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer informed the LAF that all LAF Members were appointed for a term of 2 years, but that this period could be extended, and that this had been the case in the past. It was suggested that at the next meeting of the LAF

that the Terms of Reference/Constitution be looked at and a code of conduct added. It was further agreed that all Members of the LAF to re-apply for Membership as statutorily required and that the new LAF be set up for the AGM. It was agreed that the AGM be delayed until the membership process had been completed and that the 18 July Meeting be an informal meeting to look at the Constitution, code of conduct and application forms for membership. Following the meeting in July all Members of the LAF to re-apply for a place and Members allocated in time for the 17 October Meeting which would be the AGM. The AGM would then appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2018/2019 municipal year.

The meeting ended at 4.26 pm.

Chairman:

Date: