

# **TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 6 November 2019 at 2.30pm  
at The Business School, Wrekin College, Sutherland Road, Wellington, Telford**

**Present:** Anthony Francis-Jones (Horse Riding / BHS), Chris Hallam (Madeley Town Council), Paula Doherty (Rights of Way Projects/TES Ramblers), Dave Hopkins (Dawley Hamlets Parish Council), Cadi Price (Severn Gorge Countryside Trust), Naomi Wrighton (Wellington Walkers are Welcome, Jan Mees-Robinson (British Driving Society), Peter Holt (CLA/ Landowner) and Gabriella Parkes (Harper Adams University).

**In Attendance:** Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer, Telford & Wrekin Council), Nichola Stallard (Legal Assistant, TWC), Ann Sharkey (Legal Assistant, TWC) Sean Poole (Highway Technician) and Jayne Clarke (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer, TWC),

## **LAF-8      Apologies for Absence**

Katrina Baker (Parish Councils), Sally-Anne Robinson (Telford Bridleways Association), Fiona Stevenson (Disability), Trevor Davies (Shropshire Ramblers), Alex Ford (Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust). Councillors Hilda Rhodes and Carolyn Healy.

## **LAF-9      Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

## **LAF- 10      Membership Matters**

The Senior Rights of Way Officer informed the LAF that he was still attempting to contact potential Landowner Members including Homes England. He also introduced Sean Poole, a Highways Technician, who was working alongside him on the Definitive Map.

The Chair reminded members that they needed to complete their Code of Conduct forms if they had not already done so and the Clerk would circulate a form to those LAF Members whose forms had not been received. The Code of Conduct form would be resigned at each Annual General Meeting of the LAF, which was held in July.

Action – JC to circulate Code of Conduct Form  
AC to continue to look into Landowner Membership

## **LAF- 11      Current Projects Update**

C Hallam reported that a joint project had taken place between Madeley Town Council and the Borough Council on the rights of way:

- Rough Park Way – this would take place in two phases
  - LNR status shortly to the rear of the Abraham Darby School
  - Glendenning Way to Hermitage Way
  
- Mill Lane – alongside the Orchard to link Sutton Hill to Madeley

N Wrighton reported that Get Telford Walking would be launched on 24 May 2020. A guide book was now available to purchase for £5 on the T50 route and Wellington Walkers are Welcome had produced a new version of the LA21 leaflet in conjunction with the Town Council.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that works had been undertaken at three areas which included White Water Pools, Redlake and some reinstatement works at Telford Town Park.

C Price reported that the Bridge/Board Walk at Loamhole Dingle had been repaired.

P Doherty reported on a project that had been taken place within the Parishes of Waters Upton, Edgmond and Tibberton. Work was pending with regards to finger posts. Orders had been drafted on Caynton/Calvington and this would make a huge difference and would be good to have in place.

G Parkes informed the LAF that an annual survey had taken place on the rights of way around the University Campus, some of which were difficult to locate. Local landowners were on board and this would improve the network. Kynnersley and the Canal route were good. The project would ongoing and would work with Town and Parish Councils to protect the routes going forward.

The Chair asked for an update regarding Cheswell Grange, Lilleshall. The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that he had received the application to divert and upgrade this route. A preliminary consultation and investigations were taking place. This was shown on the definitive map. Concerns were raised regarding connectivity and some further research was required for historical use and public access and would need to be of benefit to the public or benefit of the landowner and whether a new route could be provided to the north. It was hoped that meetings would take place with the Parish Council, but it was not going to be an easy application.

## **LAF-12      Definitive Map Modification Orders**

N Stallard gave an update on the current position with regard to Definitive Map Modification Orders.

Victoria Hotel, Newport – The order had been made and confirmed. No Public Inquiry was needed.

Travellers Joy – a Public Inquiry would be needed and this would be for a restricted byway.

She reported that the Team had visited Shropshire Archives to look at the tythe maps in relation to the DMMOs and that they were currently having fortnightly meetings to discuss the applications and would be re-visiting 6-8 more times to acquire maps, photos and records. They were currently still looking at the Wrekin and the Ercall.

The Chair inform the LAF that the British Horse Society have finance maps online.

J Mees-Robinson mentioned that there were 110 DMMOs currently waiting attention.

The Chair asked if there was anything to report with regard to Festival Gardens. The Legal Officer confirmed that this would go to the Inspector once the bundle was complete.

#### **LAF-13      Ironbridge Power Station**

The Chair attended a meeting which put forward the proposals for the former Power Station and he focused on the Rights of Way through the sights and the links. Ann Suffolk, Ramblers Association, put the case forward for ramblers. There were complications around the railway track and the route would not run along the railway line. The cooling towers would be demolished prior to Christmas with 1 days' notice. There was no solid planning application at present.

#### **LAF-14      Access to Silkin Way**

C Hallam reported that route along Silkin Way at Tweedale South was currently blocked at the postal sorting office. The Senior Rights of Way Officer explained that the evidence was in but it needed to be investigated further and evidence collected.

#### **LAF-15      Rough Park Bridle Path**

The Chair informed the LAF that there was no access to the Rough Park Bridle Path at the Madeley Court end as a metal barrier had been put up. It was hoped that this footpath would be upgraded to bridleway. The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that this was on the list to be actioned.

#### **LAF-16      Any other urgent business**

C Price informed the LAF that the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust had applied to Veolia for a grant for stone to upgrade pathways as some of the steps were crumbling away. They would replace areas such as Lloyd Coppice. They had got through the first round and were now waiting for the second round.

S Poole, Highways Officer, gave an update on his work on the definitive map which was nearing the end of the first stage to update the 1950s map but it had not been a quick process. It would be in paper format but eventually it was the intention to have a digital copy but this would not be the definite map. The Senior Rights of Way Officer was hopeful this would be completed next year. There were some 300 footpath orders to be updated. Once it had been completed it was hoped to republish once every two years with any new orders that have come in. The Chair felt that this project would be a big success

P Doherty asked for an update on Severn Way. The Senior Rights of Way Officer confirmed that Dale End Park to Buildwas Road out to the Power Station Bridge was under a temporary close order. This was a seasonal path due to the river being high. It was felt that people may try to use this path to get a final look at the towers prior to their demolition. Once the towers had been demolished it may be difficult to keep this route open, although volunteer groups would attempt to clear the route and keep it open.

J Mees-Robinson enquired about the work Alex Ford was doing around the Princess Royal Hospital. The Chair confirmed that he was looking at sustainable transport for the hospital and in particular walking and cycling routes. Some LAF Members offered their help and support with his project.

The Chair asked for a progress report on the Silkin Way status. The Senior Rights of Way Officer had not looked at this site recently.

D Hopkins reported that the bridge at Madeley had been blocked approximately 1 year ago and wondered if there were any plans to make the repairs. C Hallam confirmed that there was a structural problem with the bridge. A Sharkey commented that there was work to do and this was currently with the engineers. The Chair asked if this could be chased up.

C Price asked for an update on The Wrekin and the car park at the donkey field. P Holt confirmed that discussions had taken place with planners a couple of months previously and there were things that needed to be sorted at the Telford and Wrekin Council end but that he would chase it up but that this venture would need to run itself with regard to the upkeep and maintenance of the site.

N Wrighton asked about the Perry Way and if an alternative route could be provided and if it had any status. It was believed that this should have gone to a Public Inquiry. It was also hoped that these routes would be open to cyclists. The Senior Rights of Way Officer said he would chase this up. The Chair felt this would be a big win if it could be achieved, but was worried it would be lost if it didn't achieve status.

#### **LAF-17      Dates of Future Meetings**

Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Wednesday, 22 April 2020

The meeting ended at 3.59pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....