

TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th April 2017 at 1.30pm
at The Business School, Wrekin College, Sutherland Road, Wellington, Telford**

Present: Anthony Francis-Jones (Horse Riding / BHS), Fiona Smith (Disability), Bob Coalbran (Wellington Walkers Are Welcome), Jan Mees-Robinson (British Driving Association), Cadi Price (Severn Gorge Countryside Trust), Cllr Liz Clare (Telford and Wrekin Council), Paula Doherty (Rights of Way Projects), Gill Steed (Shropshire Ramblers) and Dave Hopkins (Dawley Hamlets Parish Council)

In Attendance: Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer, TWC) and Stacey Worthington (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer, TWC)

LAF-28 Minutes

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

LAF-29 Apologies for Absence

Bob Alton (Ramblers Association), Ann Sharkey (Legal Assistant, TWC), Peter Holt (CLA/ Landowner), Jane Hayes, Cormac Doyle and Malcolm Morris (STROWP),

LAF-30 Chairman's Matters

The Chair reported on the following issues:

AF-J and JM-R attended a day's training on the implications of 2020 cut-off date

The Chair and Jan Mees-Robinson had attended a day's training which had been run by the BHS and the Ramblers. Both advised this was a fantastic training session and encouraged all members to attend a future session if possible.

Definitive Map – Update – AC

The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that a temporary contract was in place for an officer to complete this work. The officer had nearly completed adding the 1965 definitive map onto a modern GIS base and, once this was finished, he would then complete the modifications. The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that this work was likely to be completed in late 2017 or early 2018.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer stated that the Definitive Map is a snapshot and once altered, is no longer the Definitive Map. The Senior Rights of Way Officer hoped to publish an updated Definitive Map every 12 months, as well as publishing any modification orders, with the caveat that they were not part of the Definitive Map, online.

TWC website update and Hincks signage, HAUC (Lilleshall) – Paula Doherty

Paula Doherty advised that she had been asked by the Ramblers to investigate an obstruction, which had been noticed by out of area visitors. The area in question was a field owned by Harper Adams University, which had a footpath through it. An inner ring of fencing had been erected inside the original hedge which made an impenetrable barrier.

HAUC had erected a ladder stile across the fence, however, it was considered that this was still an obstruction. The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that the ladder stile was an obstruction and that HAUC would be contacted by TWC legal department. A recommendation was made that the Ramblers Head Office contact HAUC regarding the obstruction. The LAF considered that the stile posed a danger to the public.

Path clearance update – Ramblers and Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Bob Coalbran stated that Wellington Walkers Are Welcome (WWW) had attended a meeting with TWC on the 18 February. All in attendance were impressed with what WWW were aiming to do and supported the work. Dave Hanley's team were to investigate the availability of materials and the possible use of the community payback team to support the project.

Other paths had been cleared. The Walkers had been busy at Rushmoor Lane and the Wrekin Link needed to be sprayed. The blockage remained at Bratton, and would only get worse, the Senior Rights of Way Officer agreed to look into the blockage.

The Holland stile had been a long-standing issue, although the way was walkable in winter, it was not in the summer due to nettles. The Rights of Way Officer advised he would ask the contractors to clear the nettles.

Paula Doherty reported on the work of the Ramblers, on behalf of Bob Alton. The Ramblers have completed some work in Apley Woods and some on the Hutchinson Way, approximately 30 man hours. The Chair asked that the LAFs thanks for this work be passed on to the Ramblers.

UK Coal restoration site / Steeraway / RB51 (Huntington Lane, Little Wenlock)

The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that the footpaths around the site were now available. Jan Mees-Robinson queried why a gate had been put on a restricted byway, the Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that he was considering putting a traffic regulation order to stop the restricted byway status.

The Chair noted that a lot of new footpaths and bridleways had been agreed but were not on the ground due to overgrowth. Bob Coalbran offered the services of WWW and Paula Doherty offered support from the Ramblers to help to clear the paths on site. The Chair recommended the groups liaise with the Senior Rights of Way Officer.

Shropshire Way (Isombridge Farm area) and Hutchinson Way update

Bob Coalbran reported that the south loop of the Shropshire Way was the first priority and it was hoped this would be finished by September 2017. Background changes in relation to signage were to take place so when the grand opening took place, the new discs would be installed.

Paula Doherty provided an update regarding Isombridge Farm. A lot more work would need to be done later in the summer, however, there was a need for more way markers. The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised he was looking to upgrade the route to a bridleway with the agreement of the landowner.

Granville site – Issues with flooding and misuse

The Chair noted that he had reported several incidents on the site to the police, however, had not received any information regarding outcomes.

Paula Doherty advised that the site often flooded, particularly after heavy rain and there had been issues with fly tipping. A meeting had been held with the Friends of Granville Park and the concerns were discussed. It was noted that Granville was an important area for a large number of people. The Shropshire Wildlife Trust managed the site.

Transport Focus document – non-motorised use of the main roads

The Chair advised that the Board had originally been set up to hold rail companies to account, although they now cover all non-motorised users. The document noted what users wanted and concluded that segregated routes were preferable.

LAF National Conference – who would like to attend?

The Chair noted that he was unable to attend the Conference. The Vice Chair offered to attend on behalf of the LAF, as did Jan Mees-Robinson.

Horton Lane – possible closure to vehicles at the eastern end

The Chair noted that there was significant new development around Horton Lane and there had been suggestions of blocking the road at one end.

Street Champions

Bob Coalbran advised that he had met with the new co-ordinator, who would be putting together groups of street champions.

TBUG – represented on the LAF

The Chair noted that Jane Hayes had provided her apologies, so this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Traveller's Joy through Bridge Road Route

The Chair provided background regarding this route, a planning application had been submitted regarding access to a new development on this site. The application was retrospective in respect of gates into the new development.

Dave Hopkins advised that the route was historic and evidence of its usage since the 1840's had been provided. The route had been well-used however, it had been shut off by the developer. A DMMO had been applied for, however, the gates remained in place. The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that the planning department must take account of the DMMO application, however, it cannot be a condition of planning permission, only advisory. This application was due to be published shortly, and if objections were received, the application would have to go to a public enquiry.

Severn Gorge – Update

Cadi Price advised that the picnic site had been established, funded by Veolia and Tesco, one bench was wheelchair accessible and another had back rest. A discussion was held regarding the new route from the tile museum not being wheelchair accessible and the plans regarding the route towards Buildwas Power Station.

LAF-31 Membership Matters

The Chair advised that he had invited Dave Hopkins to observe the LAF meeting and promote links with parish councils.

LAF- 32 Current Projects - Review

The Chair noted this had already been discussed.

LAF- 33 Review of Definitive Map Modification Order Applications

The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that this had been discussed.

LAF-34 Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Chair stated this item would be deferred to a future meeting in order for Malcolm Morris to present the item.

LAF-35 List of Streets

The Senior Rights of Way Officer presented an extract from the list of streets to the forum. The lists showed which routes were maintainable at the public expense. The maps showed highways, footpaths and rights of way. The List of Streets differs from the Definitive Map and did not require an order to alter it. The Senior Rights of Way Officer noted that urban and rural area maps were different scales.

The List of Streets does not provide a classification of the road. White Roads were roads which had no highways status; they could have been minor roads, no through routes or private roads and drives for example. White Roads were unadopted roads.

A discussion was held regarding the impact of unadopted roads on residents in various locations in the Borough.

LAF-36 Future Meeting Dates

A discussion took place regarding the future meeting dates of the LAF. It was

RESOLVED: that the following dates be schedule for the LAF for the 2017/18 municipal year:

Wednesday 12th July 2017 AGM

Wednesday 18th October 2017

Wednesday 31st January 2018.

LAF-37 Any other urgent business

Bob Coalbran advised that the WWW had sourced a noticeboard for outside Wellington Train Station, which would be regularly updated to display local information.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that the next meeting of the LAF would be held on the 12th July 2017 at The New Business School, Wrekin College at 1.00pm for 1.30pm start.

The meeting ended at 4.33 pm.

Chairman: *Mr Tom*

Date: *12 July 2017*

