

TELFORD AND WREKIN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th July 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), Peter Holt (CLA/ Landowner) and Cadi Price (Severn Gorge Countryside Trust)

In Attendance: Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer, Telford & Wrekin Council), Ann Sharkey (Legal Assistant, TWC) and Stacey Worthington (Democratic and Scrutiny Officer, TWC)

LAF-1 Election of Chair

RESOLVED – that Anthony Francis-Jones be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum for 2017/18.

LAF-2 Election of Vice-Chair

RESOLVED – that Fiona Smith be elected Vice-Chair of the Local Access Forum for 2017/18.

LAF-3 Minutes

The LAF considered the minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017. The following amendments were suggested:

- **LAF 30** – TWC website update and Hincks Signage – delete reference to "HAUC" and replace with "HAU";
- **LAF 30** – Path Clearance Update – Ramblers and Wellington Walkers are Welcome – replace 'Hutchinson Way' with 'Hutchison Way'.
- **LAF 30** – Shropshire Way (Isombridge Farm Area) and Hutchison Way Update – replace 'Paula Doherty provided an update regarding Isombridge Farm' with the words 'Bob Coalbran provided an update regarding Isombridge Farm'.
- **LAF 37**- Any Other Urgent Business – include 'Wellington Walkers Are Welcome had produced 2 free walking guides as part of their on-going project - Wellington 360. The guides provided illustrated instructions for 12 circular walks which could be combined to create longer routes. Walks covered by the Northern Routes guide all started from Wellington's Market Square, close to the town's Railway and Bus Stations. The 5 walks visited Wrockwardine Village, Admaston, Dothill Local Nature Reserve, Apley Woods & Pool and Hadley Locks. The second guide, entitled Wrockwardine Walks, picked up from the Northern Walks guide and provided 7 further routes ranging from short strolls around the village to longer circular walks via Tiddie Cross, Allscott, Admaston, Bratton as well as an optional loop from Allscott to visit Thomas Telford's famous Aqueduct at Longdon on Tern. For those who liked

longer walks, selecting routes from both guides could provide a self-guided circular walk all the way from Wellington Market Square to the Aqueduct at Longdon. Copies of both guides were available from Wellington Civic Offices, Leisure Centre & Library and from other shops and outlets within the town. They could also be downloaded from the group's website. The aim of the Wellington 360 project was to encourage people to explore the many areas of interest around the town itself safe in the knowledge that they will return to their starting point at the end of the walk.

Resolved – that once the amendments detailed above have been made, the Chair be authorised to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2017.

LAF-4 Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Minor (TWC), Jane Hayes, Cormac Doyle, Jan Mees-Robinson (British Driving Association), Paula Doherty (Rights of Way Projects), Gill Steed (Shropshire Ramblers)

LAF-5 Chairman's Matters

The Chair reported on the following issues:

Definitive Map – Update

The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that work on the definitive map had been progressing and it was thought the 1965 base map would shortly be completed onto a modern base map. Modification Orders since 1965 would then be added in date order to the modern map base. The Senior Rights of Way Officer noted the different scales used on the original definitive map and the complexity involved in creating this legal document.

In response to a question, the Senior Rights of Way Officer stated that the Council would be reviewing the process so that statutory declarations could be completed online. It was hoped this would be in place within 12 months.

Ann Sharkey advised that there were 19 DMMO applications which were awaiting publication. Another Legal Assistant had undertaken much of the work regarding preparing these orders. A discussion was held regarding Public Enquiries.

TWC website update and Hincks signage, HAU (Lilleshall)

Cadi Price advised that the Severn Gorge's website had been updated. A section of Bridleway had been resurfaced in Rough Park and new drainage had been investigated. The Senior Rights of Way Officer agreed to investigate Bridleway signage.

Bob Coalbran advised that Wellington Walkers are Welcome (WWW) had contributed to the TWC website, but this was some time ago. The Shropshire Way Association would be launching their own website, showing repackaged day walks,

with guidance, refreshments and accommodation. The Southern Loop of the Shropshire Way was due to be launched in September 2017, with the Northern Loop launched at a later date.

Path Clearance Update – Ramblers and Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Bob Coalbran advised that a meeting had been held with TWC regarding Limekiln Woods. A task list had been established and the Senior Rights of Way Officer had agreed to complete certain tasks. A discussion was held regarding the Northern Section by the golf course, the Senior Rights of Way Officer had looked into options for this, including creating a boardwalk.

A discussion took place regarding available funding for projects, and that additional money had been made available for Rights of Way Projects from the Council's Pride budget.

In regard to the UK Coal restoration site, a team of volunteers had completed the path clearance and way marking on the site, and two new footpaths and a bridleway were in place. A few minor issues remained but the route was walkable. The routes had been getting a lot of use and a request had been made for litter and dog bins to be put on site. The Chair asked for thanks to be passed along to the volunteer team for their hard work on the site on behalf of the LAF.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer advised that Limekiln Lane was poor state for walkers and cyclists. There was significant damage to the surface of the lane, but it was difficult to get anyone to admit responsibility for the condition of the surface.

Maxell Coatings site, issues

Bob Coalbran advised that contractors had erected barbed wire fencing on the parameter of the site, which had blocked the right of way. The contractors had also felled large trees on site, despite the 30m buffer zone in place. The contractors had been spoken to and the fencing had been removed.

UK Coal restoration Site (Huntington Lane, Little Wenlock)

This item had already been discussed.

LAF National Conference

The Vice-Chair advised that she had attended the Conference with Jan Mees-Robinson. The Conference had been difficult to book and the venue was hard to find. The running of the event was not well managed, all the workshops were held in one room as the upstairs of the venue was not wheelchair accessible, the speakers were difficult to hear due to this.

The Vice-Chair had spoken to members of the Shropshire LAF, who had re-branded and were accessing grants through healthy lifestyles and fitness.

TBUG

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Malcolm Morris had retired so the improvement plan would be looked at at a later stage. The Chair noted that the improvement plan had been used as supporting evidence for fund raising.

LAF-6 Membership Matters

The Chair advised that Bob Alton had resigned as a member of the LAF. As previously mentioned, Malcolm Morris had retired, he had been an experienced and vocal member. Alec Connor would be attending meetings on behalf of STROWP and Katrina Baker would also be attending. Katrina was an experienced Parish Clerk.

Cllr John Minor was the new TWC Councillor for the LAF. It was suggested that if Cllr Minor was unable to attend any meetings, a deputy should be asked to attend in his place.

Peter Holt suggested that a representative from Harper Adams University be invited to join the LAF. HAU were a large and influential landowner in the Borough. The Chair agreed to write a letter to HAU.

LAF- 7 Review of the Terms of Reference of the LAF

A discussion took place regarding the Terms of Reference and the membership requirements. It was noted that the LAF was a public meeting and anyone could observe if they wished.

A suggestion was put forward that the Constitution could be amended so that non-voting lay members could be co-opted onto the LAF for a period of time. This would allow representatives with specific knowledge or skills to contribute to specific issues or projects without having to be a full member.

The Chair suggested inviting TWC's Contractor to a meeting, to discuss solutions to various projects. This would enable the contractor to better understand the issues.

A recommendation was made that the Constitution be amended to include reference to conduct of members, for example social media posting.

LAF-8 Future Meeting Dates

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

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

Wednesday 18th October 2017

Wednesday 31st January 2018.

LAF-9 Any other urgent business

Cadi Price advised that the Trust were pulling together the next development strategy for the next 10 years. The Trust were looking for funding to re-establish the top end of the Sabbath Walk.

Bob Coalbran advised that WWW had launched their Walking Festival Programme for September 2017 and had produced a leaflet. Various events were arranged, including a talk by the Shropshire Way Association. WWW were promoting Wellington as a place for Rail Ramblers.

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm.

Chairman: *Mr Jones*
Date: *31 Jan '18*

