



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 25

21 January 2015, Watling House, Dunstable

<u>Members</u>	
Pauline Hey - Chair	Julian Clark-Lowes
Brian Golby	Tony Welch
Andrew Pym	Rosalyn Whisker
Angela Kirby	Andy Knight
<u>Secretariat</u>	
Caroline Romans - Central Bedfordshire Council	
<u>Apologies</u>	
Cllr Mrs Angela Barker	Andy Gerrard
David Simkins	Cllr Dave Taylor
Marion Mustoe	Jane Conway
Tom Chevalier	Steve Bumstead
<u>Observers</u>	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council	Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire Council
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council	Deborah Birch

		ACTION
1	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2	<u>Apologies and Welcomes</u> Apologies - see above. Welcomes – Deborah Birch was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.	
3.	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> a. Approval: The minutes of the October meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting. b. Matters arising: A table showing progress against the actions from the October meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting. No additional discussion took place.	

4.	<p><u>Luton ROWIP and Definitive Map – draft brief for consultants</u></p> <p>Keith talked through the draft brief for the consultants which had been circulated to forum members prior to the meeting. Additional funding has been requested which should be formally approved on 9/2/15. Once this is approved, the work will be put out for tender.</p> <p>The following comments were made by forum members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROW needs to be defined within the document (i.e. inc bridleways and BOAT's) - Concern that there is little mention of the desire for additional ROW when we should be seeking additional ROW from the future developments which will be taking place (Stuart Robinson, CBC Planning will attend the next JLAF meeting to update the group on land North of Houghton Regis and Luton) - The BHS compiled an aspiration map with the Groundwork Trust for land North of Luton – Keith to obtain a copy - Need to ensure that ROW link to those in neighbouring authority areas - Is the format of the ROWIP specified within the brief? Useful to ensure that consultant's quotes are comparable. <p>David Leverington added that CBC is 6-9 months down the road with the “Excluded Area” process for Biggleswade and Dunstable, and he is happy to share ‘lessons learned’ with Keith.</p> <p>Keith requested that forum members email him any comments/suggestions on the brief for the consultants by 6/2/15</p> <p>Ros asked Keith for an update on the situation with the BW at Butterfield Green.</p>	<p>Keith Dove</p> <p>David/Keith</p> <p>JLAF members Keith Dove</p>
5.	<p><u>CBC Rights of Way</u></p> <p>a. Standards – Guidance for development</p> <p>A draft standards document designed to provide a link between CBC Countryside Access, CBC planners and developers was circulated to the forum. The idea is that this will be sent to potential developers at the earliest opportunity providing advice as to what is expected re: affected ROW. Once approved the document will be available on the Countryside Access and Planning webpages. Forum members were keen that ‘should’ and ‘sought’ be replaced with stronger words! JLAF members to feedback any additional comments to David Leverington by 27/2/15.</p> <p>b. ROW Maintenance policy</p> <p>Thanks were given to the forum members who had attended the sub group meeting to help with the preparation of the policy. Following feedback from the group, the document has been split into two; a main section and the appendices. Chris Nicol was thanked for the work that he has put into the preparation of this document which now meshes with the relevant highways policies. David requested that any additional comments from JLAF members are sent to himself by 27/2/15 so that the document can be completed and passed to CBC Executive members for sign off.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF members</p>
6.	<p><u>JLAF priorities for 2015-16 Business Plan</u></p> <p>Jonathan updated the forum on the preparation of the business plan for the third year of the OAIP. Forum members asked that the following be included as priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development – increase the forum's influence over development to increase the ROW network - Connectivity – improve connectivity and upgrade footpaths to bridleways. <p>JLAF members to submit any other suggestions for priorities to Jonathan.woods@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 13/2/15.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p>

7.	<p><u>Health and Physical Activity in the Natural Environment</u></p> <p>Jonathan updated the forum on the successful bid for funding from the Natural England Innovation Fund. £5,000 has been awarded which has to be spent by the end March 2015! As the timescale is very tight and there is not a lot of funding this initial project is within CBC only; however Phase 1 works could be done in Bedford and Luton Borough Council areas as well.</p> <p>Jonathan asked for volunteers from the forum to support the project in the next couple of months – 2/3 meetings and some email discussions/web chats. Julian and Pauline kindly offered to help. Andy Knight mentioned that Peter Bate (Sustrans) would also probably be interested in being involved as Sustrans undertook a project in Luton a few years ago which developed measurement techniques which were acceptable to both the participants and public health professionals.</p> <p>Brian referred to an advert about health research in the 'Luton and Dunstable at Large' magazine which sounded of interest to this work.</p> <p><i>(Post meeting update: Jonathan and Keith contacted them and they said “The research you are inquiring about is looking at the impact of the intervention delivered by JMP consultants on behalf of Luton Borough Council and Central Beds Council through travel advisers. Unfortunately we were unable to secure funding for the project from Public Health at LBC and CBC, however the project did go ahead with scaling back on the resources. The project in particular is researching whether 'Providing Basic Motivational Interviewing to residents of Luton increases the intention of walking and cycling'. The project is also measuring current levels of Physical Activity. We have 3 groups which are a pre intervention group, post intervention and a control group. All groups will be followed up in 6 and 12 months. This will give us further insight in to how effective this intervention is. Currently we are analysing the baseline data, later this year we will be collecting 6 months data and 12 months respectively. We are also holding focus group interviews with stakeholders & providers to provide more depth about the project”)</i></p>	Jonathan. Pauline & Julian
8.	<p><u>Updates</u></p> <p>a. Westminster Briefing 20th January: Proposed Deregulation Bill and other items:</p> <p>David Leverington summarised the key points from the briefing on 20/1/15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to make it law before the end of this parliament! • If it does become law, guidance will not be issued for a further 12 months • 2026 cut off date is still in there • Local authorities will have the ability to disregard irrelevant objections • If one section of an Order is objected to, this can be separated out and the other parts confirmed • It will be easier for landowners and householders to apply to get ROW diverted • The bill could be slimmed down following order to make progress • Encourages greater working between Local Authorities and landowners; if there is evidence of a route which is not on the DM, discussions about diverting it can be started at the same time to get the best solution for all parties • Not much of a decrease in rules and regulations; there are some, but you have to look hard for them! 	

	<p>b. Network Rail East – West Rail link:</p> <p>Charles Hurst was unable to attend the meeting as he was at a consultation event so David provided a brief update. David has attended meetings with the East west Rail design team to talk about the 12-13 crossings from Aspley Guise to Marston Moretaine. The next stage is a census at each crossing by cameras being placed on site for 9 days [two weekends and the working days in-between] to see the levels and types of current usage. This will take place in Feb/Mar and then again later in the year. Discussions have already started with affected landowners and households; public consultation events should follow in March/April.</p> <p>Oxford to Bicester work has already started. Still looking at route options for the Midland Main Line (MML) – Cambridge section. This will be narrowed down to 3 options in April. A study has identified the key points for future growth on the MML to Cambridge section (which is likely to get the greatest number of people shifting to rail) – see East West Rail - Central section - Conditional outputs statement.</p> <p>Works on the agreed route will be included in Network Rail’s next control period (2019-2024) which will be in the public domain in Autumn 2016.</p>	
9.	<p><u>LAF Engagement plan</u></p> <p>Pauline talked through the slides that she had prepared on the LAF engagement plan produced by Natural England (see attached). It provided a good summary of the roles of the LAF, Natural England and Defra.</p>	
10	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Golby attended the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust 5th Annual Partnership Conference on 25/11/14. See 2014 Project Delivery plan which was circulated at the meeting. Need to ensure that ROW are given due recognition; seek a linear corridor along the reserved alignment before construction commences? • There is a planning application pending for the Sundon road rail freight interchange which will have implications for ROW. Need to ensure that JLAF comments on this when it is circulated. • CBC were successful with their bid to Parks for People for £2.2m of funding towards a £3m project for Houghton Hall Park renaissance and renewal. Works will start shortly. • Two volunteers from Bedfordshire including John Buxton, a long serving P3 volunteer, have been shortlisted for the Green Flag Volunteer of the Year award. The award ceremony takes place on 12/2/15 in Liverpool. • It was agreed that the JLAF would subscribe to Waymark, the journal of IPROW (The Institute of Public ROW and Access Management) from April 2015 at a cost of £78 per annum. Waymark will be emailed quarterly to all members as a PDF. • The forum is keen to continue with the sub-committee for the Land North of Luton and Houghton Regis in order to be able to influence the masterplan process. Jonathan has invited Stuart Robinson to attend the next forum meeting and will seek to get an interim meeting to discuss land North of Luton. 	<p>JLAF Secretary & members</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p>
11	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 29 April, 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Priory House, Chicksands.</p>	