



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 27

24 June 2015, The Swiss Garden, Old Warden

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

		ACTION
	Corinne was thanked for a very interesting and informative tour of the Swiss Garden.	
1	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2	<u>Apologies</u> See above.	
3	<u>Luton ROWIP review update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft issues and options paper for the 2008-2015 Luton ROWIP Review was presented to the meeting (see attached document). Key points were as follows: - The original 2008 plan is well structured, concise and accessible. It is 	

	<p>recommended to build on this format and its structure into the second generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main themes of the original plan will be kept, but the actions will be updated to reflect changes that have happened during the time of the plan e.g. personal safety will be included - As the original user and non-user data was robustly investigated to develop the original plan, it is proposed not to refresh, but to review this alongside wider national trend data. - As public health is now based within the Authority it is recommended that this is given more focus with the refresh. - The plan delivery will be monitored, recorded and reported regularly back to the JLAF - A strategy for how to update the Definitive Map (DM) will be produced. There is a Luton DM in the Archives from the 1996 Luton and South Bedfordshire consolidation. CBC ROW has been subcontracted to prepare the Strategy. They anticipate recommending a two stage process; easy non-controversial ones first, more complex ones to follow. <p>JLAF members were asked to review the draft document, especially any measures which have not been recorded and to feedback to Keith.</p> <p>JLAF members will also be asked to volunteer to be part of a stakeholder sub group which will have its first meeting in September.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF members</p>
4	<p><u>Greensand Ridge Landscape Partnership Project ‘Secrets of the Sands’</u></p> <p>Claire Poulton, Programme Manager for the ‘Secrets of the Sands’ project gave a very interesting presentation on the project which has recently been awarded £133,400 from HLF to work up a £1.6m Stage 2 project bid – see attached presentation.</p> <p>The mission is to reverse the gradual decline in the area’s landscape character, and create a strong, community led partnership and strategic framework to promote the area’s interests and secure the necessary long-term financial and community investment to sustain the area’s distinctive natural and built heritage.</p> <p>There are 7 threads: Living Heaths, Working Woodlands, Historic Parks, Community Heritage, Revealing the Ridge, Celebrating the Ridge and Heritage Skills which will each have a Project Sponsor. CBC’s Steve Halton will be the Project Sponsor for ‘Revealing the Ridge’.</p> <p>JLAF members were asked to support the project by attending a stakeholder workshop, suggesting projects and providing access to networks as well as introductions to key stakeholders.</p> <p>It was suggested that local archaeology societies could be contacted as they will have information and willing volunteers. In addition Bedford Estates (Woburn), Center Parcs and Millbrook Testing Ground could be approached for free use of their conferencing facilities as match funding towards the project.</p> <p>Claire was thanked for her presentation and wished every success with the project which the JLAF were happy to support.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p>
5	<p><u>Ramblers ‘Big Pathwatch’</u></p>	

	<p>David shared the information that he had received on the Ramblers Big Pathwatch with the JLAF. This is a national exercise organised by the Ramblers in which they are seeking approx. 100k volunteers to survey the ROW network in 1km grid squares. The survey will start on 13 July (http://www.ramblers.org.uk/bigpathwatch). ROW Officers will be encouraged to survey some of their areas to test the methodology. It was noted that it is unfortunate that they are not using the same methodology as for BVPI which a lot of local authorities undertake as the data collected will not be comparable with any previously collected data. The JLAF were interested to hear that the Ramblers are hoping to fix some of the issues identified using their members.</p> <p>David was asked to write to the Ramblers to ask them to send a copy of their findings to CBC.</p>	David Leverington
6	<p><u>CBC Livestock Policy</u></p> <p>David circulated a copy of the draft CBC 'Livestock and Public Access – The Good Working Practice Guide' which is being produced following recent issues with cattle and dogs/walkers (see attached document). CBC is working with the NFU to create this guidance for landowners and members of the public to provide them with all of the information that they need in order to reduce any potential conflict between users accessing the countryside and livestock.</p> <p>David was asked to send a copy of the draft to Trevor Tween (LBC) as a number of our access sites abut Trevor's Luton sites.</p> <p>JLAF members were asked to provide any feedback to David by 24/7/15.</p>	<p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF members</p>
7	<p><u>Bidwell West (Houghton Regis North 2) consultation</u></p> <p>This is currently out for re-consultation until 2/7/15 – planning application number CB/15/00297/OUT.</p> <p>Key concerns of the forum included the NMU connections off site and ROW/path connectivity within the developments.</p> <p>Jonathan was pleased to be able to inform the JLAF that a Non-Motorised User map which has been requested for a long time does exist within CBC as a multi-layered pdf map. Jonathan will check with the planners that this can be shared with the JLAF and the JLAF Secretary will add this as an agenda item for the September JLAF meeting.</p> <p>Julian agreed to draft a response to the consultation as he has the greatest knowledge of the area which will be circulated amongst the JLAF members for approval prior to submission by the JLAF secretary on 1/7/15.</p>	<p>Jonathan Woods & JLAF secretary</p> <p>Julian Clark-Lowes & JLAF Secretary</p>
8	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>a. Approval: The minutes of the April meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting subject to the following amendments under the East-West Rail section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentences to read: • 'The 'Western Section' is now a committed, funded scheme to re-introduce services between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury'. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Charles Hurst from Network Rail to be invited to a JLAF meeting when the public consultation process for the Western Section is taking place’ <p>b. Matters arising: A table showing progress against the actions from the April meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Additional discussion took place on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2 – JLAF secretary to talk to Sian Farrier to arrange a meeting to talk about Land North of Luton in September • Item 4 – Cllr Mahmood Hussein has been appointed by LBC as their Executive Member (representing Farley Ward on the SW side of Luton) for the forum. It was suggested that Cllr David Franks who represents the Bushmead Ward could also be a good candidate. Keith will brief Cllr Hussain about attending the forum meetings before following this up with Cllr Franks. • Item 5 – September JLAF meeting will not be a joint meeting with the Borough of Bedford LAF as it will be held in the south of the area with items that are not relevant for the Borough. A future meeting could be a joint one. • Item 9 – David provided an updated sheet on the number of stiles per parish. 	<p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
9	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan informed the forum that the Houghton Hall Park Renaissance and Renewal Project had received Permission to Start from HLF. Works to deliver the project can now commence. • Jonathan also informed the forum that Countryside Access is subject to a restructure from 1/7/15 with ROW moving to Highways; Sites and Access Development moving to Leisure, Libraries and Countryside. Caroline will remain as JLAF secretariat for now. The JLAF will monitor the effectiveness of countryside and ROW over the next 12 months. JLAF Chair to write to Paul Cook (AD Highways and Transport) and Jill Dickinson (Head of Leisure Libraries and Countryside) to ask for the opportunity to feedback on the changes at the 12 month review point. • Concern was raised about the issues of urban access with cars and display boards obstructing pavements. David mentioned that Highways are working to discourage verge and footway parking – report to be circulated. • Heath and Reach Quarry – consultation on the variation to planning conditions 1 and 3. Pauline had prepared and circulated a draft response. This will be submitted by the JLAF secretary prior to the consultation closing date of 10/7/15. 	<p>JLAF Chair</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p>
10	<p><u>Dates of next meeting</u></p> <p>Wednesday 30 September, 5.45pm Houghton Hall Park guided tour then JLAF meeting from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Houghton Regis Town Council offices.</p>	