



## MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 26

29 April 2015, Priory House, Chicksands

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

		ACTION
1	<p><b><u>Public Questions</u></b></p> <p>Steve Bumstead raised his concerns about the transfer of the management of Etonbury Wood to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) which took place on 30/9/2013. After some discussion, the forum felt unable to support Steve's position without additional information. The forum suggested that Steve contact his local ward Councillor and Jonathan Woods agreed to ask CBC for a progress report.</p>	
2	<p><b><u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Steve Bumstead nominated Pauline Hey to continue her appointment as Chair of the forum. This was seconded by Brain Golby. Pauline was duly appointed as Chair of the forum for a second year.</p> <p><b>Vice Chair:</b> Tom Chevalier nominated Andy Knight to be appointed as Vice Chair</p>	

	<p>of the forum. This was seconded by Pauline Hey. Andy Knight was duly appointed as Vice Chair of the forum.</p> <p>The forum thanked Pauline and Andy for volunteering for these appointments and thanked Tony Welch for his time as Vice Chair in the previous year.</p>	
3	<p><u>Apologies and Reappointments</u></p> <p>Apologies - see above.</p> <p>Reappointments – The forum are grateful to the following for their reappointment as members:          Brian Golby and Julian Clark-Lowes to 31/3/2018          Tony Welch and David Simkins to 31/3/2016          Rosalyn Whisker to 31/8/2015</p>	
4	<p><u>Urban extensions update – Houghton Regis North and North Luton</u></p> <p>Stuart Robinson from the Major Applications Team and Sian Farrier, Acting Principal Planning Officer (both from CBC), presented an update on the Houghton Regis North and Land North of Luton urban extensions (see attached presentation).</p> <p><b>Houghton Regis North</b>          Identified in the emerging Development Strategy as locations for significant growth          Two sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site 1 – 5,500 homes and 32 ha of employment land</li> <li>• Site 2 – 1,850 homes and 8 ha of employment land</li> </ul> <p><b>Site 1</b>          The outline planning application was received in December 2012 and was approved in June 2014. In December 2014 Luton BC launched a Judicial Review challenging a number of procedural elements. The judge determined that 4 cases were rejected as wholly unarguable. The remaining 6 were considered to have “crossed the threshold of arguability” but were rejected. Luton BC has appealed the judge’s decision. The appeal will be heard between 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May with a decision expected by the end of May 2015. The next steps will be dependent upon this decision.</p> <p><b>Site 2</b>          An outline (hybrid) application was received in January 2015. The initial consultation prompted a vast number of responses which are currently being considered. The aim is to get it to Committee by the end of 2015. A Design Code will be produced as part of this application which will identify the broad design for future applications. This is currently being revised and can be accessed via <a href="#">Design code</a> (due to the file size limit on the public portal, it is split into five parts. The documents are listed as “Design Code Part X of 5). Comments from JLAF members are welcomed.</p> <p>A movement/access plan also forms part of the planning application. The forum asked Stuart to set up a meeting in June to talk about Green Infrastructure and ROW through the sites with CBC Officers (including Michelle Flynn) and the agent.</p> <p><b>Land North of Luton and Sundon Rail Freight Interchange (RFI)</b>          These two areas have been Identified in the emerging Development Strategy as locations for significant growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land north of Luton – up to 4,000 homes, up to 20ha of employment land, M1-A6 Link Road, open space and community facilities</li> <li>• Sundon RFI – 5ha RFI, 40ha associated employment</li> </ul>	<p>JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF secretary / Stuart Robinson</p>

	<p>The Framework Plan was adopted on 31 March 2015 and is a high level masterplan that sets out how the developments could come forward (see <a href="#">Framework plan</a>).</p> <p>Sian talked through the plans showing constraints, green links, movement plan and how this has all combined to produce the overall framework plan. The aim is to create sustainable and well connected developments with attractive and cycling routes along GI links.</p> <p>The Development strategy examination is currently on hold as the Inspector felt that there had been insufficient engagement with neighbouring authorities. The Framework Plan is the first stage in the masterplanning process. Detailed masterplanning and planning applications will follow.</p> <p>Concerns were raised by the forum about the M1-A6 Link Road passing through the Chilterns AONB and the volume of traffic which will be using the A6 to access Luton. Luton BC is keen to discuss transport modelling as it is not clear how public transport will serve the new development.</p> <p>The forum asked Sian to set up a meeting with JLAF members in September to talk about access and ROW at Land North of Luton.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary / Sian Farrier</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Network Rail: East – West Rail and East Coast Mainline (ECML)</u></p> <p>Stuart Harrison from the CBC Transport Strategy Team presented an update on East West Rail and the East Coast Mainline proposed level crossing closures (See <a href="#">Rail presentation</a>)</p> <p>GI and</p> <p><b>East –West Rail</b></p> <p>Will improve east west public transport connectivity and journey times, stimulate economic growth and increase capacity for inter-regional journeys. The ‘Western Section’ is now a committed, funded scheme to re-introduce services between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury. The Oxford to Bicester section is currently being constructed and the Bicester to Bedford section will follow in 2019. The ‘Central sections’ are at the feasibility/planning stage and could be 10-15 years behind the ‘Western Sections’. There are 22 level crossings in this section which need to be addressed; CBC is continually challenging to ensure that the best solutions for ROW and road users are found.</p> <p>Charles Hurst from Network Rail to be invited to a JLAF meeting when the public consultation process for the ‘Western Section’ is taking place (likely to be September 2015 onwards).</p> <p><b>East Coast Mainline – proposed Level Crossing closures</b></p> <p>The project in this region is a year ahead of E-W Rail; the public consultation has just finished and work is progressing to get the Transport and Works Act Order submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport by October 2015. It should be announced shortly, which level crossings will be bridged and which will be closed. Concern was expressed by the JLAF that Network Rail bridge designs are not sympathetic to the landscape and they take up a lot of space. Also in some areas e.g. Everton, a bridge rather than a level crossing is likely to increase through traffic so off route works are required to address the traffic issues.</p> <p>No date has yet been fixed for construction as it will depend on other Network Rail projects; the current project is only to get the TWAO approved.</p>	<p>David Leverington</p>

6	<p><u>Luton ROWIP Review update</u></p> <p>Keith Dove talked through a progress report on the Review of the Luton ROWIP which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting (see attached). The forum members welcomed the update and raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the changes from Land north of Luton and Houghton Regis North be taken into account in the ROWIP?</li> <li>• With a new administration following the election would it be possible to get a Councillor from Sundon Park/Bramingham ward appointed to the forum?</li> <li>• How can forum members be involved? It was suggested that forum members attend the consultation events and report back to the forum on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	<p>Keith Dove</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
7	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>a. Approval: The minutes of the January meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>b. Matters arising: A table showing progress against the actions from the January meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting. Additional discussion took place on Item 7 – Health and Physical Activity in the Natural Environment. Good links have been formed with the Health and Physical Activity team with two pilots to be funded by Natural England. There has also been positive engagement with the Bedford LNP and following the success of our project Cambridgeshire are bringing in the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare to undertake a similar project.</p> <p>It was suggested that the September JLAF meeting be a joint meeting with the Borough of Bedford LAF with Health as an agenda item.</p>	<p>JLAF Secretary</p>
8	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2014-15 OAIP Highlight review was circulated (See <a href="#">2014-15 OAIP Highlight Report</a>)</li> <li>• The LAF Annual Review Form 2014-15 was approved for submission to Natural England.</li> <li>• The ROW Spring 2015 newsletter was circulated. This has been sent out to all arable farmers with the standard spring letter reminding them about their obligation to reinstate paths. It was suggested that it would be good to send it to livestock farmers too, as the front page has an article on livestock and ROW.</li> <li>• Luton BC is currently consulting on a Luton Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. JLAF secretary to circulate the letter and the link; JLAF members to respond as necessary.</li> <li>• Tom asked David to provide an updated sheet on the number of stiles per parish to see what the latest situation is.</li> </ul>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF secretary &amp; JLAF members David Leverington</p>
9	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 24 June, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, The Swiss Garden, Old Warden.</p> <p>Wednesday 23 September or Wednesday 30 September, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, venue tbc (South Beds/Luton)</p>	

