



## MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 32

### 7 September 2016, The Incuba, Dunstable

<b>Members</b>	
Pauline Hey – Chair (PH)	Rosalyn Whisker (RW)
Louis Upton (LU)	Tom Chevalier (TC)
Clive Beckett (CB)	Mario Costa-Sa (MC)
Cllr Tony Brown (Cllr TB)	John Mardle (JM)
Andy Knight (AK)	Tony Welch (TW)
David Simkins (DS)	
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Sarah Smalley - Central Bedfordshire Council	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Brian Golby	
Cllr Paul Castleman	
<b>Observers</b>	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council (DL)	
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council (KD)	

		ACTION
1	<u>Apologies, welcomes &amp; introductions</u> Apologies received from Brian Golby and Cllr Castleman	
2	<u>Public Questions</u> None	
3	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> a. <u>Approval</u>  All agreed and approved previous minutes with minor amendment to attendees as Tony Welch had sent his apologies and was not present as noted and under section one 'Train' amended to 'Trail'  b. <u>Matters Arising</u>	JLAF secretary

	No matters arising.	
4	<p><u>Ramblers Walking Festival</u></p> <p>DL presented this years Bedfordshire Walking Festival booklet to the group. Central Bedfordshire's Rights of Way team are leading 6 of the walks with DL kicking off in Sandy on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>JM mentioned that the John Bunyan Trail looked a bit 'random' and wiggly. DL explained that the route was designed to follow routes that John Bunyan had travelled and places he had visited.</p> <p>JM also noted that the Theed Way was not on the map. It was explained that the map only shows walks relevant to the festival. However it was suggested that if any of the group would like to lead walks in next years festival on other long distance walks then they could be added to the central map.</p> <p>The route of the Theed Way was discussed at length. JM said he though the route extended to the east side of Luton, LU advised that his research revealed it went from the south side of Leighton Buzzard to the Ickniel Way north of Luton. JM would like to see more of the route waymarked and made official so that it isn't lost during future development. LU advised his research revealed there is actually very little evidence of its existence.</p>	
5	<p><u>Update on Luton Local Plan</u></p> <p>KD advised that the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the public examination took place mid July which covered the extent to which LBC has worked with neighbouring authorities with regard to the planning.</p> <p>Stage 2 will comprise a number of hearings during the last 2 weeks of September mainly relating to housing and employment numbers but also covering transport.</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> stage will run from Dec to Jan and will cover specific site allocation.</p> <p>There is more information available on <a href="#">LBC website</a>.</p> <p>LU &amp; PH had looked at the Transport documents and had queries relating to 2 of the paragraphs.</p> <p>Firstly regarding the Weybourne Link road where the council are safeguarding the route for a link road. KD advised the Weybourne link only runs from Barton Road, where it connects with the East Circular Road (north). Only a small section of the East Circular Road is covered within Luton and much is in surrounding authorities land.</p> <p>The second related to the Green Belt which LU &amp; PH thought wasn't correctly recorded. KD advised that a Green Belt review is being undertaken and hopes that this issue was resolved by the review. LU stated that Luton has very little green belt land.</p> <p>PH concluded that although there were queries regarding these two paragraphs, there isn't anything that needs to be done on this at the present time.</p>	

6	<p><u>CBC Business Plan</u></p> <p>DL advised that the 2015/16 <a href="#">end of year report</a> had been circulated to members. The <a href="#">highlight report</a> is available on the website with the full report circulated just to interested parties.</p> <p>Some members could not recall receiving it and TC requested that all papers to be discussed in the meeting be attached with the minutes and agenda, where possible this should be a web link.</p> <p>DL advised that the 2016/17 business plan has been delayed due to the sites team having a service review but the Rights of Way section at least should be available for the next JLAF meeting.</p> <p>TC commented that the Biggleswade Excluded area had a completion date of June in the report but had not yet been done, DL confirmed that there had been a delay but the orders should be made in the next month or so. It is hoped that due to the wide pre-consultations there will be no objections to the orders.</p> <p>AK noted the Definitive Map (DM) work that had been carried out for other authorities and while this is a good thing, he was concerned that it would effect the DM work carried out within CBC. DL confirmed that there were several team members involved in short term projects and it wasn't just Adam Maciejewski (Senior Definitive Map Officer) that had been doing the work. Therefore this hadn't caused a significant reduction in Adam's CBC work.</p> <p>CB stated that it consolidates CBC as a leader in DM work in the area and should be viewed as a positive step as it could lead to further work and income which in turn could help to fund additional posts within CBC.</p> <p>JM questioned whether CBC had considered the use of drones for surveying work to free up officer time for other tasks. He had experience of them working in the New Forrest area and felt they are a good tool with the ability to see through vegetation. DL confirmed that it isn't something that is currently being considered by CBC.</p> <p>TC commented on the section of the report quoting the number of legal orders made in the year and asked if we could also quote in future the number of outstanding applications. Cllr TB felt we should be wary of this as the numbers are changing all the time so could instantly be out of date information. DL confirmed that there was a line on the backlog within the main report.</p>	JLAF Secretary
7	<p><u>National Street Gazetteer &amp; List of Streets</u></p> <p>DL explained to the group some of the new responsibilities that have been taken on by Chris Wilson (Senior GIS and Commons Officer) since our move to Highways. There are 2 local gazetteers (Local Street Gazetteer and Local Land Property Gazetteer) which are updated and submitted on a monthly basis to feed into Geoplace which is the National Gazetteer.</p> <p>Chris Wilson has been involved in this role to make submissions to Geoplace on a monthly basis to cover for a post that is on long term sick. The data supplied is checked by Geoplace and the authority is given a rating depending on the accuracy of the data.</p>	

	<p>When the work was taken on CBC were in 'special measures' however Chris has managed to bring the rating up to silver and we hope that the next submission will achieve gold.</p> <p>The benefit to the ROW team is that the work tidies up the GIS layers used so we are working with accurate GIS data. Chris had been spending up to 3 days per week on this, however this has now settled down and it is hoped that 1 day per week will be sufficient</p> <p>Chris is also assisting Ann Rowlands team with her target to get the List of Streets onto the website. The intention is for the List to state where each public road starts and finishes.</p> <p>The availability of the List of Streets information in map form was discussed and TC stated that there was a layer on Roadworks.org that showed publically maintained and private highway. He also mentioned that the CBC maps are not accurate as he had tried to report a pot hole on our portal but it wouldn't allow him to as the road wasn't marked as public highway.</p> <p>KD thought that LBC's List of Streets had OS GR's on them which is updated monthly. He will let LU know how to obtain a copy.</p>	KD
8	<p><u>Updated stile by parish spreadsheet</u></p> <p>DL presented the report that has been produced for the past 3-4 years. It shows a breakdown of structures on the CBC network. The ROW team are committed to reducing the number of stiles on the network to improve accessibility for all.</p> <p>Highlights from this years report are the removal of 20+ stiles from the network, and 2 parishes (Stotfold and Sundon) being made stile free bringing the total to 21 stile free parishes.</p> <p>JM queried the number of stiles reported for Streatley parish at 2 as he has walked most of the paths and has counted around 7 stiles. DL will provide JM with a plan showing the location of the 2 we have recorded and requested that JM return with the locations of others that he has found.</p> <p>JM also raised concern that the reduction in stiles could increase use of off road vehicles on FP's and BW's. DL reassured JM that there are other mechanisms to deal with any illegal use.</p> <p>PH noted that there are 82 stiles in Chalgrave which is a large number. DL agreed and advised that this is due in part to the large number of sheep farmers in the area and that many stiles are duplicated with one either side of a field boundary.</p> <p>DL also confirmed that where the number of stiles in a parish had increased, this was a correction of the database rather than new stiles being installed.</p>	DL/JM
9	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <p>MCS confirmed members of the TRF had met with police last month and that a formal agreement for working together regarding anti social and illegal use of motorised vehicles is progressing.</p>	

10	<u>Dates of future meetings</u> 5 December 2016. Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon	JLAF Secretary
----	---	-------------------