



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 33

5 December 2016, Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon.

Members	
Pauline Hey – Chair (PH)	Tom Chevalier (TC)
Louis Upton (LU)	John Mardle (JM)
Clive Beckett (CB)	Tony Welch (TW)
David Simkins (DS)	
Secretariat	
Gabriella Jeavons-Fellows - Central Bedfordshire Council	
Apologies	
Cllr Paul Castleman	Rosalyn Whisker
Steve Bumstead	Keith Dove
Mario Costa-Sa	
Observers	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council (DL)	Bob Wallace – Bedford JLAF
	James Russell - Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership

		ACTION
1	<u>Apologies, welcomes & introductions</u> Welcome to Bob Wallace and James Russell Apologies received from Rosalyn Whisker, Steve Bumstead, Cllr Castleman, Keith Dove and Mario Costa-Sa	
2	<u>Public Questions</u> None	
3	<u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> a. <u>Approval</u>	

	<p>All agreed and approved the minutes from last meeting</p> <p>b. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>None</p>	
4	<p><u>Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership Presentation</u></p> <p>James Russell introduced himself as the Director of Forest of Marston Vale, Vice chairman of both the Bedford JLAF and LNP</p> <p>It was explained the role of an LNP was to work in partnership with local organisations, businesses and local people with the aim of improving local nature. It is an organisation which was set up by the government, with the aim to improve the way organisations collaborate and improve landscape wide. They look to extract social, economic and environmental benefits. It was confirmed that there are 48 LNPs across England.</p> <p>The purpose of the LNP was explained, to drive positive change in the local environment, deliver government policy, and also influencing decision making with local authorities in a way to improve both social and economic outcomes.</p> <p>The way they deliver their priorities includes a very broad remit which includes a variety of influences and to be sufficiently knowledgeable and influential, with the aim of driving positive change.</p> <p>James explained that in Bedfordshire, there is a long history of partnership working with a collaborative and integrated approach. Also Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium which was formulated in response to the housing growth and developments in the area to provide green infrastructure, was a base on which the Bedfordshire LNP grew.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the group were given LNP status given by the government in 2012, at which time the Chair and board was established along with a working group. The board recently exceeded 12 members with experience in nature conservation, business and economic interests, local government, health and wellbeing, farming a forestry, climate change and sustainability and several other interests are represented. A broad range of sectors and interests are represented which gives the LNP greater strength in driving improvements.</p> <p>Since it is still a relatively new group there are not a huge amount of resources available especially as there is no government funding which means the group is self sustaining. Each of the 3 unitary authorities (Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Borough Council) agreed to contribute, £3,000 in 1st year from each, £2,000 second year and £1,000 on the 3rd year of the group being established. However James confirmed that the base operating of the secretariat role is £3-4,000 a year.</p> <p>James explained that Local Authorities have a duty to cooperate with the LNP, so they need to proactively engage with the LNP on strategic plans. There is a clear philosophy not to duplicate work accomplished by other working groups existing in Bedfordshire. However cross-working with other local groups would be useful.</p> <p>James explained that they have 3 initial work steams; valuing the environment, the natural environment and health, natural environment and development</p>	

James showed all the overview of the review document produced by the LNP, which highlights the purpose of the LNP and the importance of the environment. James agreed to send GF copies of the slides and the review document, which GF would circulate with the minutes. James also confirmed he would circulate paper copies of the review document to those who wanted one. James explained that the business plan has recently been produced, which focusses on driving forward the natural capital assessment and investment plan.

JLAF
Secretary
James
Russell

James confirmed that 30% of properties in Central Bedfordshire are at risk of flooding and of the businesses that flood only a 1/3 re-open as businesses, this shows how the natural environment has an impact on the economy. The more understanding there is on the natural environment impact on economy the more support.

The LNP are actively engaged with SEMLEP, local authorities and health and well being boards.

Paul Leinster is the new chairman for the Bedfordshire LNP and due to previous work experiences and knowledge is a very suitable and helpful chairman.

James invited questions or comments.

PH re-affirmed that Bob Wallace represents this LAF on the Beds LNP as well as sitting on the Bedford Borough LAF.

Bob explained that DEFRA recommended that there is a LAF representation on the LNP. Bob also mentioned that there will be some productive work in the months and years ahead, and they are hopeful to receive funding from local businesses.

PH confirmed that she had attended the Bedfordshire LNP AGM and noted that the LNP had done significant work. James explained that it has taken the group some time to become established.

JM mentioned that there is a flood alleviation scheme, especially in regard to properties along the Icknield Way since flooding occurred several times. However the alleviation schemes didn't work as there was not a joint understanding of the soils etc. However a committee was set up to resolve the issues and it was a great success, JM questioned if some of the LNP functions are being fulfilled elsewhere. James explained that the LNP aims to increase the public's awareness.

JM also mentioned the Luton Local Plan meeting which he had attended as a LAF representative. However there are many assets that are not listed or included in the Local Plan. JM is now working in a group in Luton to list areas of land which are used and walked. James mentioned that the natural environment is very valuable in an urban environment.

JM also mentioned the health benefits researched from the Cranfield and De Montford University of the natural environment and meadow land.

Bob mentioned that it is a challenge to encourage all the various user groups out into use the countryside.

JM explained that during the flood alleviation scheme in Luton schools were involved and included the subject in the curriculum, organised elderly strolled walk groups, and doctors surgeries promoted walking.

	<p>PH asked if there are any ways the JLAF are able to assist the LNP. James mentioned that there will be areas to assist but initially continual communication should continue. James also asked to attend these meetings in future to give updates on work.</p> <p>The LNP aren't involved in planning applications, but they do become involved in strategic policies and local plans.</p>	<p>JLAF Secretary</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Latest RoW legislation sources and contacts</u></p> <p>JM raised an issue regarding links between stiles in Central Beds. JM had send photos of stiles to the ROW team in Central Bedfordshire Council who were very helpful and processed the annotated map showing the stiles.</p> <p>JM asked for a clarification on the legal status of paths. DL explained that our web pages give an explanation of various paths and responsibilities of landowners.</p> <p>Louis Upton explained about Luton and Central Bedfordshire having excluded areas.</p> <p>Bob explained that all rights of way are recorded on the definitive map and have a written statement along with it. You are able to view the definitive map at Central Bedfordshire Council officesLuton Borough Council is currently in the process of reviewing its definitive map.</p> <p>DL agreed to set up a meeting with himself, Michelle Flynn and Adam Maciejewski to explained rights of way basics to JM.</p> <p>TC suggested also checking the Ramblers website for explanations.</p> <p>LU also offered to give JM any advice from a non local authority view</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Proposed Luton Town Centre PSPO</u></p> <p>LU explained that Luton Borough Council is currently consulting on a Public Space Protecting Order for Luton, to deal with anti-social behaviours. LU mentions the area that the PSPO will cover. Some of the issues considered as anti-social included cycling within the town.</p> <p>LU raised this as a concern that cycling is perceived as negative and that the designated area referred to in the survey is not identified therefore making it difficult to comment.</p> <p>TC mentioned that if this order involves gating orders then the JLAF should be consulted.</p> <p>LU offered to draft a response to Luton Borough Council to ask for clarification of why cycling is listed as an anti-social behaviour on behalf of the LAF.</p>	<p>Louis Upton</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <p><u>Lets Go! Website</u></p> <p>Bob mentioned that the website has 240+ walking and cycling walks, however over the next year the website will be updated. They will be launching a pilot scheme to check all the routes on the website, involving P3 volunteers. Once the website is</p>	

	<p>updated the aim is to promote it.</p> <p>Bob mentioned that funding is no longer being provided from CBC. DL confirmed that he is able to find £1,000 funding support for the Lets Go! website. Bob agreed to put his request in writing.</p> <p>TC also mentioned that Walks4Life has now become a subscription service for £5 a year. LU mentioned that there are thousands of free routes available online. TC explained that he is unable to plot routes on the ordnance survey base map on most other sites. It was also suggested to promote the Lets Go! website at doctors surgeries.</p> <p>TC requested that the Forum encouraging new members, and a review of existing membership on the JLAF are added to the agenda for the next meeting. CB mentioned that if members are no longer attending the meetings regularly then perhaps they should resign as members.</p> <p>It was also suggested to add an item to the agenda to review the terms of reference and to assess aims and objectives of the JLAF going forward. PH also mentioned that her term as Chair ended next summer.</p> <p>James mentioned that Bedford LAF have recently reviewed their aims and established their role to be advising to the authorities, therefore there is a need to receive the documents from the local authorities.</p> <p>CB mentioned that he has recently resigned from the MK LAF since they had not taken a strategic view. CB also mentioned that the LAF serve more as an influencing body rather than just an advisory body. CB requested a presentation on the Forest of Marston Vale work, and to have presentations on what projects are being done on active lifestyles etc within CBC. James agreed to host a joint LAF meeting at Forest Centre with the Bedford LAF in Spring. Subjects to be discussed at the joint LAF meeting are the Express Way and East West Rail, and other joint subjects.</p>	<p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>James Russell</p>
8	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 8th March 2017</p> <p>Joint meeting would need to be June 7th 2017 - Marston Forest Centre – provisional TBC by Bob by 19th Jan 2017</p>	