



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 34

7 March 2017, Priory House, Chicksands.

Members	
Pauline Hey – Chair (PH)	Tom Chevalier (TC)
Louis Upton (LU)	Tony Welch (TW)
Clive Beckett (CB)	Mario Costa-Sa (MC)
Andy Knight (AK)	
Secretariat	
Sarah Smalley - Central Bedfordshire Council	
Apologies	
Cllr Budge Wells	Rosalyn Whisker
David Simkins	
Observers	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council (DL)	Claire Poulton
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council (KD)	

		ACTION
1	<p><u>Minute silence in remembrance of Cllr Brian Golby</u></p> <p>A minutes silence was held in remembrance of Brian Golby who was a valued member of the forum.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies, welcomes & introductions</u></p> <p>Welcome to Claire Poulton of the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership.</p> <p>Apologies received from Rosalyn Whisker, Cllr Budge Wells and David Simkins</p>	
3	<p><u>Greensand Country Landscape Partnership programme</u></p> <p>Claire Poulton returned to give the forum an update on the programme. The programme covers an area of 220km² from Gamlingay down to Leighton Buzzard</p>	

	<p>and is co-hosted by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and the Greensand Trust (GST) with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>The main aims of the programme are to restore and strengthen the landscape. Claire gave a presentation on the different branches of work being undertaken.</p> <p>Claire advised that the project is looking for a Rights of Way representative to join the board and hoped that someone from the forum would be happy to volunteer for this position.</p> <p>Andy Knight agreed to consider this position and will contact Claire to discuss further.</p>	AK
4	<p><u>Public Questions</u> None</p>	
5	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u> a. <u>Approval</u></p> <p>All agreed and approved the minutes from last meeting</p> <p>b. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>None</p>	
6	<p><u>Election of new Chair and Vice Chair</u></p> <p>Clive Beckett agreed to take on the role of Chair for 12 months with Louis Upton standing as Vice Chair. This was unanimously agreed by the members present.</p> <p>The Forum thanked Pauline Hey for her contribution to the group as Chair over the past three years.</p>	
7	<p><u>Review of Forum's membership and encouraging new members</u></p> <p>Many idea's were discussed as to how to encourage new members, particularly younger members.</p> <p>Suggestions included contacting various organisations for a representative including the Chiltern Society, National Farmers Union, Young Farmers and Sustrans.</p> <p>MC also suggested encouraging Phil Wadey to hold a 'Restoring the Record' workshop in our area and having a presence there to meet people with interest in Rights of Way. MC to contact Phil/Sarah to ask. PH suggested that holding events is something we should think about in the future.</p> <p>MC also agreed to contact Lionel Shaw a landowner he thinks may have an interest and Gary Speirs, Beds NFU County Chairman.</p> <p>KD has agreed to approach Jane Conway for suggestions from groups she works with.</p> <p>AK suggested contacting Peter Bate from Sustrans, he will supply contact details</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>MC</p> <p>KD</p> <p>JLAF</p>

	<p>for SS to do.</p> <p>It was also suggested that we could try to engage with Shuttleworth students if it was felt that joining the forum could enhance their studies. DL to look into.</p> <p>Finally SS agreed to use Facebook and Twitter to reach out to potential members..</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>DL</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p>
8	<p><u>Review of Forum's Terms of Reference and aims and objectives</u></p> <p>The group had a brief look at the terms but it was agreed that there was too much detail to look at the full document this meeting. It was noted that many of the Terms of Reference were a requirement of the CRoW Act Regulations.</p> <p>It was agreed that all members would look through the full document for the Autumn meeting and CB to think about whether a sub-group to look at the Terms of Reference in detail should be set up.</p> <p>It was noted that Point 11 suggested the Forum have a forward work programme that can be used for direction. CB agreed that this should be done and again will consider a sub group to do this.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CB</p>
9	<p><u>Luton Local Plan and ROWIP update</u></p> <p>Keith advised that the Local Plan inquiry finished in the second week of January. Modifications have been drafted and sent to the Inspector and he has responded with some further queries.</p> <p>LBC intend to publish the modifications by the end of March which will then be followed by a 6 week consultation period. After this, any objections will be considered before sending back to the Inspector to finalise the plan.</p> <p><u>KD Post meeting update – Local Plan modifications will be issued mid April</u></p> <p>It is expected that the plan will be ready for adoption around September.</p> <p>The main change relates to the Football Club which is no longer to be located at land south of Stockwood Park. The provision of park and ride at that site and Butterfield was also considered and the decision as to whether they remain will be left with the Inspector.</p> <p>There will be public exhibitions at the end of March re the Airport and Century Park site. Dates to be circulated.</p> <p><u>ROWIP</u></p> <p>Keith advised that LBC intend to set up a working group to develop the Definitive Map which will include Rights of Way in the excluded area. The group will be made up of Council Officers and other interested Parties. LU confirmed he is one of the interested parties. KD said the other two are David Oakley Hill from Luton's Friends of Parks and Green Spaces and a local representative from the Open Spaces Society. The first meeting is planned for April.</p> <p>LU asked if the plan had been published yet. KD to check and confirm.</p>	<p>KD</p> <p>KD</p>

10	<p><u>CBC Highways/ROW restructure</u></p> <p>DL circulated the new structure to the Forum. He advised that the restructure consultation started before Christmas and was in response to the service expanding considerably. This was an opportunity to build resilience in the service, improve support for key areas and improve customer service and responsiveness. DL advised that the Assistant Director has been keen to share the good practice demonstrated by the Rights of Way team across the wider service.</p> <p>The Rights of Way team has been split across the service and DL will be Team Leader of Assets covering the whole Highways service. He retains control of the Definitive Map. A second Definitive Map Officer has been appointed and part of this role will be to look at Definitive Map anomalies.</p> <p>DL confirmed that although the Rights of Way Officers (ROWO) are now within larger area teams, their roles still contain the main ROW tasks. An improvement is that Highways Inspectors are to re-establish 'parish walkarounds' which would also include Rights of Way.</p> <p>CB asked who would be responsible for new routes, e.g. promoted routes, GSRW, Green Wheels etc. DL advised that although this work had been scaled back that he would retain responsibility. He also advised that Karen Brannen within the Libraries and Leisure Service is working on Etonbury, Flitwick and Sandy Green Wheels. It was suggested that Karen could be invited to a future JLAF meeting to discuss these.</p> <p>It was confirmed that SS will continue providing secretariat services and DL would continue his role on the JLAF in the short term but would be encouraging wider attendance from the Highways and Sites teams.</p>	
11	<p><u>Update on proposed Cycle Hub in Aspley Wood and Aspley Heath bikers site</u></p> <p>Cllr Budge Wells offered his apologies for the meeting so this item will be carried forward.</p>	JLAF Secretary
12	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <p>TC asked for an agenda item in the Autumn meeting on Restoring the Definitive Map.</p> <p>It was noted that the JLAF should make comment on the Countryside Recreation Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations document. CB to seek further clarification of the issues and the JLAF's involvement and look at arranging a meeting to look at further.</p>	JLAF Secretary CB
13	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 7th June 2017 Joint meeting - Marston Forest Centre 7pm-9pm</p> <p>Wednesday 20 September 2017 – location TBC (Houghton Hall Park if it is ready)</p>	