

Central Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Local Access Forum  
Meeting No: 8  
Paper for agenda item: 6.2

## **OAIP 2012-2017 – Ideas for Flagship Projects**

### **Purpose of Flagship Projects**

The purpose of creating a small number of flagship projects is predominantly to make the 'plan real', providing some detail in a small number of specified and measurable work areas in order to galvanise support for these projects and the work involved in the delivery of the rest of plan.

From experience, highlighting these selected projects and creating this slightly higher profile, we should be able to increase funding opportunities for not just these projects but the plan as a whole.

### **Seeking Ideas**

We are looking to develop projects that provide an extension of a cross action plan theme, anticipating the areas that we feel will be drawn out of our public user / needs analysis and network infrastructure assessment.

We are seeking ideas on schemes from both staff and the local access forum, to facilitate thoughts on which schemes will be the most achievable and will offer the highest benefits.

It should be noted that it is very likely that many of the ideas suggested may be, in some form, included in the action plan even if they are not drawn forward as a flagship scheme.

### **Initial project Ideas (to date)**

#### *Dogs in the Countryside*

Looking at a range of aspects of site management, people / dog management and proactively promoting the quality of the sites and access to better meet the needs of dog owners whilst educating them on the issues related to inappropriate dog management (i.e. dog waste, animal and stock attacks, nitrification and grazing difficulties of rare grassland, awareness and fears of non dog owners and families). There are links to health and fitness and wellbeing by walking regularly within the natural environment.

#### *Accessible Landscapes*

To identify a number of defined priority landscapes to improve the quality of access, interpretation and information of these landscapes and to promote them as places to visit as a destination in their own right. This would have links to engaging people with the landscape on their door step, improving accessibility of structures, destination signage, possibly increasing maintenance quality through the active direction of volunteers and community payback, running events and guided walks.

*Community Involvement in the management of access and spaces*

In line with the localism agenda seek to engage communities and local councils more actively in the management of the spaces close to them, ensuring that these spaces both meet the needs of their local residents and those visiting from further afield. This has links to increasing local governance, volunteer involvement and community participation.

*Heath and wellbeing development*

Seek to develop a walking and physical activity programme, promoting the benefits of the natural environment on stress, blood pressure reduction and the benefits of cheap and accessible exercise. This would support the existing Health Walks partnership and should seek to develop linkages with practical volunteering such as Green Gyms.

Any other ideas?

Jonathan Woods

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