



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 8

11th July 2011

RUSHMERE PARK, HEATH AND REACH

Members	
Steve Bumstead – Chair	Angela Kirby
Jon Balaam	Andy Knight
Tom Chevalier	Marion Mustoe
Julian Clark-Lowes	Andrew Pym
Pauline Hey	David Simkins
Jason Jordan	Rosalyn Whisker
Secretariat	
Caroline Romans - Central Bedfordshire Council	
Apologies	
Cllr Mrs Angela Barker	Tony Welch
Andy Gerrard	Cllr Dave Taylor
Brian Golby	Keith Dove (LBC)
Gillian Sharp	Jonathan Woods (CBC)
John Tyler	
Observers	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire Council	

		ACTION
1.	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2.	<u>Election of Vice Chair</u> Steve Bumstead nominated Pauline Hey for vice chair of the forum which was seconded by Tom Chevalier (and numerous others!). No other nominations were received so Pauline was duly appointed as vice chair of the forum for an initial term of one year.	
3.	<u>Welcomes, Thanks and Apologies</u>	

	<p>On behalf of the forum, Steve congratulated Jonathan on the new addition to his family; a baby girl Phillippa Jane who was born on 1st July.</p> <p>Steve also thanked Andy for his time as Chair of this forum and of the former Bedfordshire and Luton forum. He was a very good chair, working diligently for the forum and he will be an extremely hard act to follow.</p> <p>For apologies see page 1.</p> <p>John Tyler has been unable to attend recent meetings as it has not been possible for him to get to the venues. To overcome this, a number of JLAF members offered to give him a lift to future meetings. JLAF secretary to contact John.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>4.1. Approval The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>4.2 Matters arising</p> <p><u>Vacancies on Forum for young people and tourism & rural business</u> – <i>Young people:</i> Steve has spoken to the NFU, but no success so far. JLAF Secretary to contact David Stott re: potentially attending a youth parliament session to engage with young people this way rather than getting one of them onto the forum.</p> <p><i>Tourism and rural business:</i> Rosalyn to talk to BHS/Livery contacts. JLAF Secretary has spoken to Caron Kendall (CBC Business Growth Officer – Tourism) and has subsequently contacted a rural B&B owner who may be interested in joining the forum.</p> <p><u>CBC on-line map</u> – David Leverington (CBC ROW Team Leader) updated the forum on progress to date. Map anomalies exist as a GIS (Geographical Information System) layer for CBC officers, but it is not yet available to the public on the web. David is continuing to chase the GIS team to get this resolved. Showing structures such as stiles, kissing gates and bridges on the map is more difficult as this information is currently not available. Significant work would be required to be able to show this on-line – may look to do this initially for promoted routes.</p> <p><u>JLAF promotional leaflet</u> – circulated to over a hundred stakeholders with favourable comments being received.</p> <p><u>Luton Cycle Route map</u> – Keith to bring copies to the September meeting for forum members.</p> <p><u>Rushmere consultation</u> – responses received are being consolidated in a consultation report which will be used to produce the final framework document. Copies of this will be available on line and on site. The formal opening of the park to the public will take place on Saturday 16th July from 10:30 – 11:00am with activities for the family from 11:00 – 3:00pm.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>

	<p>Prior to the meeting starting Jon Balaam took some of the forum members for a walk around the park which they found very informative – thanks Jon.</p> <p><u>Urban paths on the Council's List of Streets</u> – Countryside Access have now received confirmation in writing from Highways that if paths which they currently maintain are added to the definitive map, they will continue to maintain them.</p> <p><u>Digital copy of the list of streets</u> – although legally required, this does not currently exist for Central Bedfordshire's streets. JLAF Secretary to write to CBC Highways and the portfolio holder on behalf of the Forum to establish timescale for getting this done. Tom notified the Forum that Highways are due to go out to consultation on how they can save money on maintenance. Proposals include downgrading some roads to Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) or bridleway (BW) so that they no longer have to maintain them. If no definitive digital list exists it will be difficult to know if roads have been removed from the maintenance list.</p> <p><u>Mapping of excluded areas</u> – Biggleswade and Dunstable: Strategy and associated mapping process has been signed off. The first stage will be research on those paths with conclusive evidence, consultation with town/parish councils and user groups, orders made for confirmation by April 2013. Likely to be mainly footpaths, but may be some bridleways. The second stage will be the more contentious routes where the evidence is less conclusive – to be completed by April 2016. Luton: Keith to provide timescale at September meeting.</p> <p><u>Icknield Way trail</u> – meeting notes still to be issued</p> <p>All other actions were completed.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Keith Dove</p> <p>Tom Chevalier</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><u>Papers</u></p> <p><u>CBC OAIP progress report</u></p> <p>The June progress report was circulated at the meeting (copy attached). In Jonathan's absence, the JLAF secretary gave a summary of progress to date and the timeline for production of the plan. The forum was supportive and wished CBC luck in hitting the tight timescale.</p> <p><u>Ideas for Flagship projects for the CBC OAIP</u></p> <p>Prior to the meeting, Jonathan had circulated a paper with some ideas for flagship projects for the OAIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dogs in the countryside - accessible landscapes - community involvement in the management of access and spaces - health and well being development <p>and had asked for suggestions for additional flagship projects. At the meeting the following additional projects were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Health walks</i> – specifically at Dunstable Downs, but also Luton. Difficult to get doctors surgeries to support them and difficult to get leaders to run them. Also issues with funding and walks for people to move on to once they have out grown the health walks. 	

- Requires proper resourcing for it to be successful.
- *Path maintenance on the urban fringe* – Houghton Regis/Dunstable/Luton – alleyways that form a key link to the countryside are not used when they are overgrown and vandalised. Concerted effort to tidy them up and keep them tidy required.
- *More routes for horse riders*
- *Teach people to use maps* – through guided walks or workshops
- *Encourage people to take a bag and pick up litter* - whilst out in the countryside
- *Improve lengths of road used by horses* – 2 or 3 per year, 6 in total over plan period (in current plan)
- *Apps for GPS enabled phones* – e.g. for promoted routes/guided walks
- *Accessible landscapes* – how does this tie in with landscape characterisation works – not supportive of just repackaging landscape
- *Promotion of ideas to the public* – how will they know that these facilities are available to them?
- *Completing the definitive map* – excluded areas, structures and lost ways - fundamental in a rights of way improvement plan (ROWIP) – don't want these to be lost in the OAIP (these will be included elsewhere in the plan)
- *ROW system fit for modern times* – rationalisation of paths to provide a useful network. Case study to show one and why it was a win-win?
- *Promoted routes* e.g. Icknield Way and trail – get more complete and increase awareness
- *Cycleways* – get overlay on definitive map
- *Rural tourism* – encourage visitors into the area
- *Education of both landowners and people using the land* – public on why land is being managed in certain ways and landowners on why people need access to the land. Boards to provide information on crops, animals – where they are and why they are there – this encourages people to come which can encourage landowners to make improvements to paths e.g. Heathcote farms, Toddington. Single payment scheme (SPS) to be capped – more of a green element. Protection of ROW may be a part of it. Explore project with selected landowners?
- *Welly walks* – work with schools to encourage children into the outdoors e.g. Luton Hoo example. Marvellous maps.
- *Dogs in countryside* – education of dog owners
- *Young Inspectors* – visited Dunstable Downs and Stockgrove and provided ideas for improvements. Expand into project for access to the adjacent wider countryside using the ROW network.

5.3 Community payback

David Leverington (CBC Rights of Way Team Leader) had circulated a paper on the community payback scheme which CBC are using for surface and side vegetation clearance on 50 internal village paths (approx. 16km). The paths were selected by the respective area officers and are deliberately intended to be visible to village residents. Some of the paths are on the existing svc contract but others require more major clearance.

	<p>The team [of seven plus supervisor] are managed by the Probation Trust based in Luton and will do the work between late June and early August. They will also collect litter, remove graffiti and clean signposts as required. Plaques will be erected on some routes indicating CPS carried out the work.</p> <p>The intention is that if this pilot project is successful the work will continue and possibly expand next year.</p> <p>David has visited some whilst they were working and was impressed with the way that they work. He may look at the possibility of some bigger clearance jobs and winter work for the winter months if the summer work is successful.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Update on CBC Rights of Way policies</u></p> <p>The enforcement, applications and ploughing and cropping policies have been amended by Adam and re-circulated, incorporating the comments and suggestions made at the subgroup meeting. Sub group members have not had time to look through the revised versions, but agreed to feedback any further comments to Adam by Monday 25th July.</p> <p>In addition it was agreed by the forum that the serving of s130 notices on local authorities by members of the public should also be included in the enforcement policy.</p> <p>The next step will be for the policies to be circulated to user groups before adoption by CBC.</p>	<p>ROW policy sub group members</p> <p>Adam Maciejewski</p>
7.	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <p>The JLAF secretary circulated a draft of the Annual Report for 2010-11 and asked members to provide feedback by Thursday 21st July if they wished any changes to be made. The JLAF Secretary will circulate the final document on Friday 22nd July.</p> <p>Keith Dove had asked that the Forum be informed that Luton has recently been awarded almost £5m from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to be spent on various travel planning initiatives and improving walking and cycling infrastructure over the next three and a half years. They are meeting with the Luton & Southern Beds Cycle Forum to get feedback from them on what schemes/initiatives to spend the money on. Cycling initiatives include continuation of the Bike It initiative in schools, continuation of Bikeability cycle training, and working with the CTC on their Community Change programme.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
8.	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Tuesday 13th September 2011 at Luton Hoo Estate, Luton. A location map will be circulated with the agenda. There will be a walk around the estate from 5.30pm – 6.30pm for those members who are able to get there at that time. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm. The JLAF meeting will commence at 7.00pm.</p>	

	<p>The following meeting will take place on Monday 14th November from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Priory House, Chicksands. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm.</p>	
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