

Central Bedfordshire and Luton Local Access Forum

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 13

11th July 2012

Rushmere Country Park

Members	
Steve Bumstead – Chair	David Simkins
Andrew Pym	Marion Mustoe
Tom Chevalier	Julian Clark-Lowes
Tony Welch	Pauline Hey
Brian Golby	Rosalyn Whisker
Andy Knight	
<u>Secretariat</u>	
Caroline Romans - Central Bedfordshire	
Council	
Apologies	
Jason Jordan	Andy Gerrard
Angela Kirby	Cllr Dave Taylor
Cllr Angela Barker	
Observers	
Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire	Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council
Council	
David Leverington – Central Bedfordshire	
Council	

		ACTION
1.	Public Questions	
	There were no public questions.	
2.	Apologies	
	See above.	
3.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	
	Steve Bumstead was nominated as Chair by Andrew Pym. This was seconded by David Simkins. Steve was duly elected as Chair for another year until June 2013.	

		1
	Pauline Hey was nominated as Vice Chair by Marion Mustoe. This was seconded by Andrew Pym. Pauline was duly elected as Vice Chair for another year until June 2013.	
4.	Minutes of previous meeting	
	4.1. Approval The minutes of the March meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.	
	4.2 Matters arising A number of actions were carried forward as they have not yet been completed:	
	Cllr Dave Taylor has been re-appointed to the forum for another year, but has not attended a single meeting since his original appointment. Keith has spoken to Luton Committee Services. Brian Golby to talk to Cllr Dave Taylor to encourage him to attend the JLAF meetings.	Brian Golby
	Vacancies on Forum for young people and tourism & rural business – Young people: JLAF secretary is awaiting dates from Alli Guiton for future youth parliament meetings.	JLAF secretary
	<i>Tourism and rural business</i> : JLAF secretary to contact James Parrish, Moggerhanger House and the Jordan Trust to try to get a member for the JLAF who can represent this interest area.	JLAF secretary
	Mapping of Luton excluded area – Keith to check whether Luton's gazetteer includes ROW and alleyways that would be on a definitive map.	Keith Dove
	<u>S106 contributions</u> – JLAF secretary has sent a letter to John Maple at Luton BC requesting greater transparency of s106 contributions and an increased profile for monies for ROW and greenspace, but has not received a response. JLAF secretary to ask for a response.	JLAF secretary
	<u>CBC Definitive map issues</u> - JLAF secretary to request a response from Paul Cook (Head of Transport Strategy and Countryside Services) at CBC to the letter sent in April.	JLAF secretary
	Pegasus crossing, Hitchin Road - Keith to talk to Malcolm Hawkins to find out progress on this.	Keith Dove
	<u>Huddle</u> – Tony Welch offered to take on one of the additional Huddle licences and Andy Gerrard was suggested as the second person. JLAF secretary to sort out.	JLAF secretary
	<u>Proposed Gating Order – Leyhill Drive, Luton</u> - the forum is keen to understand what guidance is given by Luton Borough Council to developers regarding promotion of pedestrian and cycle access within and between developments/communities.	Keith Dove
	All remaining actions were completed.	
	The following points were also raised:	

	Recruitment of forum members from Luton - JLAF secretary and Jonathan Woods to meet with Keith Dove to see how we can promote the JLAF to Luton residents.	JLAF secretary/ Jonathan Woods/ Keith Dove
	Sandy Town Council – Walkers are Welcome – Unfortunately the original bid was unsuccessful for two main reasons. They required more demonstration of local business support and wider governance than just Sandy Town Council. The bid will be re-submitted.	
	<u>Green Infrastructure Consortium (GIC) Local nature Partnership</u> <u>Development Grant</u> – a series of events have taken place over the last 3 months including a Public Health and the Natural Environment Seminar. The GIC have submitted a full application for LNP status. JLAF secretary to inform the forum of the result.	JLAF secretary
5.	CBC Rights of Way update	
0.	David Leverington (CBC ROW team leader) submitted a paper and attended the meeting to provide an update on CBC ROW (copy attached).	
	A key priority has been to improve the accessibility of the network by the replacement of stiles with gates/gaps. 80 stiles have been replaced in the last 18 months bringing the total number of stiles remaining in the network to 427. 17 parishes now have no stiles, but 10 parishes still have over 10 stiles (Chalgrave being the worst with 84!). In these areas there is a lot of sheep farming and farmers are reluctant to have the stiles removed as they are concerned that if stock returns to the fields, they will not be able to have their stiles back. It was suggested that David produce a letter to say that if stiles are replaced with kissing gates and it is found that these do not work, that farmers could have their stiles back.	David Leverington
	It was also suggested that including the area of a parish (hectares) could help to identify where there are a high no. of ROW and structures for the size of the parish. David to see if this analysis would help.	David Leverington
	Definitive map – a number of orders have been done by area ROW officers, often in conjunction with planning applications. Permissive paths will be shown on Ordnance Survey maps if there are still more than 5 years remaining on the agreement.	
	The link to the CBC ROW page is <u>http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/public-rights-of-way/default.aspx</u> which includes and on-line reporting tool with 3-4 issues being reported per week.	
	Lets Go is continuing to receive funding from CBC. To ensure that information remains up to date it will include links to the key local authority web pages.	
6.	Consultations:	
	<u>Defra ROW legislation</u> - this relates to the implementation of the recommendations from the Stakeholder Working Group. Andy G and Andrew have spent considerable time going through this on the forum's	

	behalf and the forum wished to pass on its thanks to them. JLAF secretary to collate the responses and respond to the consultation by 6/8/12.	JLAF secretary
	<u>CBC Draft development strategy</u> – this is currently out for public consultation and covers CBC planning policies and where the authority is planning housing growth. This is the first time that a planning policy for ROW has been included in such a document.	
	The JLAF asked the secretary to respond on their behalf stating that it firmly supports the inclusion of this policy within the document.	JLAF secretary
	Other development activity: the North of Houghton Regis framework plan is also out for consultation which is based around the A5-M1 link and a number of masterplans are currently in development for the same area.	
	JLAF secretary to obtain an update on the A5-M1 link which went to public inquiry in early 2012.	JLAF secretary
	The forum should consider how it will deal with the impacts of large scale growth in Central Bedfordshire and Luton on greenspace and ROW; potentially create a list of the most critical issues and try to ensure that these are covered by these development/masterplan documents.	JLAF members
	A greenspace masterplan is also currently being produced for the north of Luton which will be circulated to the forum once it is out for public consultation at the end of September.	
7.	Paths for Communities	
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	 JLAF Annual report proforma has to be completed and returned to Natural England by 31st October. JLAF secretary to prepare report and complete proforma. 	JLAF Secretary
7.	Dates of future meetings	
	Tuesday 18 th September 2012 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Luton Town Hall (TBC). Sandwiches to be provided from 6.30pm.	
	Tuesday 4 th December 2012 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Sandy Town Council Office. Sandwiches will be provided from 6.30pm.	