



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 10

14th November 2011

Priory House, Chicksands

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

	ACTION
1. <u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2. <u>Welcomes, Apologies and Congratulations</u> Anna Mangini (LAF Local Co-ordinator for the East of England) was welcomed to the meeting. For apologies see above. The forum passed on their congratulations to Jon Balaam on the birth of his son and wished the family well.	

<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Huddle demonstration</u></p> <p>Anna explained that Huddle will replace the LAF Local Coordinator roles and the England Access Forum which will cease to exist from April 2012. It will be the place where members can gain information and can communicate with Defra, Natural England and other LAFs in England. It will also be used by Richard Benyon MP to host question and answer sessions for the LAFs.</p> <p>The attached word document provides an overview of the basic functionality of the package. It includes a two week view calendar which can be sync'd with your own calendar, a discussions area to share thoughts with other LAFs on topics of interest and a file area where information which could be of use to others can be stored e.g. Annual Reports. Natural England will 'police' Huddle and will know who has posted what! Comments on consultations can also be made through Huddle.</p> <p>Anna recommended that as many members of each LAF are trained as possible to share the workload and to give them access to this useful resource. In addition a LAF member or the secretariat needs to be the 'Huddle Champion' to regularly check for new content and to train new members to the group.</p> <p>The following members wished to be trained in Huddle: Brian, Tony, Julian, Pauline, Ros, Steve, Angela K and Andy. JLAF secretary to pass their email addresses to Anna so that she can email out the 'Terms and Conditions'. These must be signed by the members and returned to Anna before Natural England will set up the necessary logins.</p> <p>In addition the JLAF secretary will be trained and Tom will receive a login but does not require training as he is already using Huddle. JLAF secretary to contact members who were not able to make the meeting to see if anyone else would like to be trained. The training will take place on Tuesday 7th February 2012 from 5pm to 8pm in the ICT training room at Watling House, Dunstable (CBC offices). There will be a short break for food. If more than 8 people are able to attend, JLAF secretary to request that laptops are brought to enable all to receive hands on training.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary and JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>4.1. Approval The minutes of the September meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>4.2 Matters arising</p> <p><u>Issue of 'bogus wardens' at Aspley Woods</u> – the Greensand Trust have been made aware of the issue. They will publicise the fact that any official wardens will be wearing GST uniform and will be carrying identification. Cllr Angela Barker suggested that the police should be informed so that they can put it on Ringmaster and also the ward councillor for the area to be made aware of the issue.</p> <p><u>Vacancies on Forum for young people and tourism & rural business</u> – <i>Young people:</i> Steve attended a training session for the youth parliament to</p>	<p>Jonathan Woods and Jon Balaam</p>

<p>try to engage with the young people and to see what would encourage them to make more use of the countryside. The key things that they would like to see are organised events, fishing access, bush tucker, camping facilities and raves. They cited lack of transport as an issue with getting into the countryside as they need mum/dad to drive them there. Although the youth parliament members were invited to this JLAF meeting, none of them attended. The forum felt that it would be better for us to take specific issues to them rather than trying to get them to join the forum.</p> <p>BMX/Skate parks, geocaching and orienteering were mentioned as topics young people are interested in. JLAF secretary to send details of geocaching to members</p> <p>Experience of the members and research shows that specific topics, light refreshments and contact with animals helps encourage young people into the countryside e.g. Harlington Methodist Church Dads and Kids country club (8-13 year olds), Dormouse counting, bat surveys, sheep on heathlands etc. Look to go back to youth parliament once their elections have taken place and the new representatives are in place.</p> <p><i>Tourism and rural business:</i> JLAF secretary contacted Rachel Smith of the Old Piggery B&B in Haynes but she is currently too busy to commit to the forum. Cllr Angela Barker suggested contacting James Parrish as he would be a good addition to the forum. If this is unsuccessful, JLAF secretary to contact Alexandra Day of BRCC who is working on the Greensand RDPE project.</p> <p><u>Luton Cycle Route map</u> – Copies were circulated at the meeting.</p> <p><u>Rushmere consultation</u> – Finalised version of the framework document to be circulated to JLAF members once it is approved.</p> <p><u>Digital copy of the list of streets</u> – Tom confirmed in the meeting that he is happy with the drafted letter to the portfolio holder and CBC Highways re: the lack of a list of streets which the council is legally required to have. JLAF secretary to submit this.</p> <p><u>Mapping of excluded areas</u> – Keith to provide timescale for the mapping of the Luton excluded area.</p> <p><u>Icknield Way trail</u> – Tom is now the Chair of the Icknield Way Association which looks after the Icknield Way path. It is looking for some new members and for the support of the JLAF to increase the profile of the route.</p> <p><u>CBC Rights of Way policies</u> – Adam has incorporated Andrew’s comments into the enforcement, applications and ploughing and cropping policies and re-drafted the policies in the new corporate template. They will now be sent out for consultation to user groups and other local authorities.</p> <p><u>Richard Benyon MP letter and National Planning Policy Framework</u> – JLAF Secretary submitted responses from the forum.</p> <p><u>LBC policy on access barriers and bollards on cycle tracks, footpaths and footways</u> – Andy and Tom were happy that the standards were in line with</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
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	the Sustrans ones and other similar documents.	
5.	<p><u>Annual report proforma</u></p> <p>The forum approved the content of the proforma so far. Future priorities for the forum were discussed from the initial priority list produced when the forum was created. The following priorities were agreed for inclusion on the form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge/awareness promotion of the JLAF including linkages with other LAFs - Network fragmentation – seeking to improve network connectivity - ROW policy – ensuring ROW policies are fit for purpose and applied <p>Members were asked to provide answers by email to the JLAF secretary for the remaining questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities? - Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities? - Any other comments <p>by 23 November to allow the proforma to be collated and returned to Natural England by 30 November 2011.</p> <p>In addition the issue of s106 agreements was raised. It was felt that bids for s106 money for footpaths and bridleways are low down on the list of requests to developers. Central Bedfordshire Councillors are taking a far greater interest in s106 contributions with the expectation that they will get involved with the s106 discussions once planning permission has been granted. The forum were also concerned about the lack of transparency about what has been awarded money and what the public can expect to see delivered as a result. JLAF secretary to write to the s106 manager to request greater transparency to the public about what has been awarded especially in the areas of access (footpaths, bridleways and cycleways) and green space.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
6.	<p><u>Consultations</u></p> <p>Draft CBC Local Area Transport Plans (LATPs) – the Draft Local Area Transport Plans for Ampthill / Flitwick, Heath and Reach / Toddington / Barton-le-Clay, Marston Vale, and Shefford / Silsoe are now being consulted on. They can be viewed and downloaded at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/myjourney. The plans identify the priorities for LTP funding over the next 3 years. Closing date for responses to the consultation is Friday 3rd February 2012.</p> <p>As part of the LATP process a work placement was appointed to undertake a pilot project to identify and incorporate selected functional rights of way projects which add value to the connectivity of the sustainable transport network within communities e.g. a path that links to a shopping area, church or school. The pilot area was Heath & Reach / Toddington / Barton. This approach will be extended to the other areas. Tom to identify any Toddington ones which may have been missed.</p> <p>Forum members to comment on the consultation as individuals and/or to send comments on behalf of the forum to the JLAF secretary by 31st December for collation into a forum response that can be approved at the</p>	<p>Tom Chevalier</p> <p>JLAF members & JLAF secretary</p>

	January JLAF meeting.	
7.	<p><u>CBC OAIP Update</u></p> <p>Unfortunately not much progress has been made since the last meeting. The main text of the plan should be completed by Christmas followed by the action plan in January. Pre-consultation sign off should occur in late February to enable the plan to go out for consultation in March. The main text will be circulated to the forum before Christmas.</p>	Jonathan Woods
8.	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Totternhoe Vision Plan will be going out for consultation on 12th December 2011. JLAF secretary to send the link to forum members. - Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and Linslade Wood masterplans will also shortly be out for consultation. <p>CBC is developing a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) projects submitted (such as the above) will be seeking to draw on funding from developers to deliver improvements on these sites and in the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New ROW standards are also being produced by CBC to help ensure Developers and Planners are aware of agreed quality levels. This will ensure that rights of way created are of an appropriate standard for the setting. - Masterplans will also be prepared for <i>'land north of Luton'</i> (M1 – A6) to identify what resources would be required if 5,000 houses are built and <i>Biggleswade Green Wheel</i> – green links in to, out of and around Biggleswade and links into businesses etc. 	JLAF secretary
9.	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 18th January from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Priory House, Chicksands. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm.</p> <p>Wednesday 21st March from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Dunstable Fire Station. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm.</p>	