



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 20

20th November 2013

Priory House, Chicksands

Members	
Steve Bumstead – Chair	Rosalyn Whisker
David Simkins	Brian Golby
Pauline Hey	Tony Welch
Andy Knight	Andrew Pym
Secretariat	
Caroline Romans - Central Bedfordshire Council	
Apologies	
Jason Jordan	Andy Gerrard
Julian Clark-Lowes	Cllr Dave Taylor
Cllr Mrs Angela Barker	Angela Kirby
Sam Taylor	Tom Chevalier
Keith Dove – Luton Borough Council	Marion Mustoe
Observers	
Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire Council	Cllr Brian Spurr – Central Bedfordshire Councillor
Cllr Ian Dalgarno – Central Bedfordshire Council	Kim Owens – Central Bedfordshire Council

		ACTION
1	<p><u>Public Questions</u></p> <p>There were no public questions.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies, welcomes and introductions</u></p> <p>Apologies: see above.</p> <p>Welcomes and introductions: Cllr Brian Spurr – Executive member for Sustainable Communities – Services and Cllr Ian Dalgarno – Deputy Executive member for Sustainable Communities – Services were welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Ian Dalgarno provided a brief overview of the diverse areas that their portfolio covers which include public transport, routes to school, waste & refuse collections, highways, leisure centres, libraries, theatres, countryside access, zoos,</p>	

	environmental health and licensing & regulation!	
3	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>a. Approval: The minutes of the September meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting subject to the change of wording on Page 2 from 'Analysis of the first year results have shown that more than 10% of people, in the areas targeted, have moved from using a car to walking/cycling/using public transport' to 'Looking at the first year results it is thought that more than 10% of people, in the areas targeted, have moved from using a car to walking/cycling/using public transport'.</p> <p>b. Matters arising: A table showing progress against the actions from the September meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting (copy attached). Additional discussion took place on the following points:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing contact for Central Bedfordshire – JLAF secretary to arrange for Craig Lister to attend the January JLAF meeting.</p> <p>NMU forum for A5-M1 link – Jonathan to arrange a meeting for the end of January which will include Tom, Brian, Roz, Andy K and Pauline.</p> <p>Trial of stiles to gates/gaps in Chalgrave – Cllr Brian Spurr has persuaded a landowner to trial one stile to gate replacement. David to provide an update at a future meeting.</p> <p>Lack of CBC definitive map resource – Cllr Brain Spurr recognises the issue and is currently working on a solution to get public path orders and definitive map modification orders processed more quickly. David Leverington to provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Luton – Dunstable Busway cycle path update – it was requested that Keith also provide an update on the Butterfield Green BW at the March JLAF meeting.</p> <p>Huddle – Rosalyn now has a Huddle login.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
4	<p><u>OAIP Business Plan report</u></p> <p>Jonathan Woods ran through the OAIP Business Plan 6 monthly report which will be produced annually to provide an update for the JLAF on progress to date against the business plan agreed at the start of the year. See http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/OAIP%20Business%20Plan%20Yr1%202013-14%206month_tcm6-49581.pdf#False.</p> <p>Attention was focussed on those items with a Red / Amber / Green RAG rating i.e. those which are slipping or those which there are issues with. The following points arose:</p> <p>13.1.2: ROW user and non user survey. The forum requested that David Leverington provide a report on the results either before or at the January meeting.</p> <p>The forum asked whether any funding/leverage could be obtained from Assets of Community Value – part of the Localism Act. It does not appear that many communities have come forward with nominated assets, but Jonathan will talk to Peter Fraser to obtain an update and report back to the next JLAF meeting.</p>	<p>David Leverington</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p>

	<p>Cllr Ian Dalgarno and Cllr Brian Spurr reported they had already gone through the report with a fine toothcomb and would do in future; working with officers to ensure that targets did not get slipped; instead changing the methodology/finding new ways to achieve when targets are not being met. They also highlighted their support for Countryside Access which the forum members welcomed.</p> <p>Cllr Ian Dalgarno identified a definitive map anomaly which has recently been fixed after 65 years and 3 public inquiries namely Poppyhill Lakes in Henlow/Langford. A new bridge has recently been installed and new ROW created. David to bring photos to the next JLAF meeting.</p>	David Leverington
5	<p><u>Consultations</u></p> <p>Chilterns AONB management plan</p> <p>The AONB is legally required to refresh its management plan every 5 years. The revised document is currently out for consultation until 13th December 2013. The section with the most cross over with the JLAF is Section 2 'Understanding and Enjoyment'.</p> <p>This was discussed at the meeting and it was felt that it was hard to disagree with the content. It would be good to include the orchards in Eaton Bray and Totternhoe and also to include a delivery plan within the document.</p> <p>On the whole the JLAF are supportive as their policies fit in with what the JLAF are trying to achieve, and with CBC's Outdoor Access Improvement Plan.</p> <p>JLAF members to provide any additional comments to the JLAF secretary by 6/12/13 to enable a response to the consultation to be submitted by 13/12/13.</p> <p>CBC Leisure Strategy</p> <p>The chapter of most relevance to the JLAF is Chapter 2 Recreation and Open Space whose primary purpose is the production of a set of local 'standards' for a range of site typologies to ensure that new or improved open space can be secured in association with new development.</p> <p>Each typology has developed Accessibility, Quantity and Quality standards to determine the location, amount/size and content of each that is required. The final Leisure Strategy will be accompanied by a GIS layer which will illustrate the where and what to be provided / improved for each typology.</p> <p>The Leisure Strategy is primarily an assessment of 'recreation' open space provision, it is not intended to address biodiversity, ecology etc which are part of the GI plan. The Leisure Strategy will sit alongside the GI plan and will identify the relationship between the two.</p> <p>As the Leisure Strategy includes sites which have ecological sensitivity which may impact upon the amount of usage they can accommodate, a sensitivity rating has been developed which considers the respective sensitivity of sites and reduces their catchment by the application of a weighting to the accessibility standard. The effect is to reduce the contribution of the site to the overall provision in that area; thereby increasing the requirement for that type of site in that area.</p>	JLAF members & JLAF secretary

	<p>The 2 typologies of main interest to JLAF are:</p> <p>Country Parks - the definition of Country Parks allows for the inclusion of sites of a certain size, in certain locations, with certain facilities, which serve to deliver the range of facilities / activities people would expect to find at a Country Park. This definition does not comply strictly with the formal definition of a Country Park. It seeks to ensure that all residents have access to a Country Park of the required size & content within 20min drive time.</p> <p>Informal Recreation areas - in the hierarchy of typologies, this is the second highest (below Country Parks) which covers large informal/countryside-type sites which are smaller than Country Parks and do not provide the range of facilities / activities found in country parks. They are informal sites which are predominantly natural, offering access for casual recreation. Ideally they will link to RoW and other green spaces / corridors so they may attract visitors both from local and wider catchments depending on the individual site.</p> <p>The proposed accessibility standard for provision is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Major settlements: 10 min walk - Small villages: 10min drive time <p>At the end of the process, each parish will be provided with an assessment of what they have already and where their areas of deficit are.</p> <p>Assets are also approaching parishes to ask whether they have any requirements of land for allotments or cemeteries.</p> <p>This information was discussed. The JLAF were concerned that the RSPB Lodge at Sandy is classed as a Country Park, but it is not a park and should therefore be re-categorised. There was also a concern about the length of the document (230 pages) making it very un-user friendly. The document would be more accessible if the technical justification and background to the preparation of the document were removed to appendices/technical reports. This would deliver a more concise and focussed document.</p> <p>JLAF secretary to submit a JLAF response to the consultation.</p>	<p>JLAF Secretary</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>Houghton Hall Park</u></p> <p>Kim Owens (Senior Fundraising and Projects Officer in CBC Countryside Access) gave a very informative presentation on the Houghton Hall Park Renaissance and Renewal Project (see http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/HHP%20JLAF%20Presentation%2001113_tcm6-50346.pdf#False)</p> <p>The 17 hectare historic park is in the centre of Houghton Regis surrounded by housing and business parks. It is currently managed for wildlife and biodiversity, but is little used other than by dog walkers. £215,100 of development funding has been obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People scheme to develop a bid for approximately £2m of funding. This funding, if successful will recognise the importance of the park, celebrate the role it has played over generations and improve the park for people's enjoyment. The stage 2 bid will be submitted in August 2014 with a decision expected on 28 November 2014. If successful it is hoped to undertake heritage projects (including restoration of the formal and kitchen gardens), construction of a heritage hub (including a café, toilets and community space) and</p>	

	<p>learning/volunteering opportunities for local colleges.</p> <p>The JLAF expressed their support for this very exciting project. The following points arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garden Organic to be contacted as they have significant experience of using gardens to get people back into the work and to get local communities involved. - Luton BC to be contacted to see if they would like to come on board and support the project. - The main entrance is on a busy road – will a pedestrian crossing be provided to allow safe access on foot? - need to ensure that the project is viable on a long term basis (restoration of the parkland vs. the community building). Look at Gamlingay Eco Hub as a recent example of such a building. - the park is close to the guided Busway route. If the hub was moved to the north of the site, it could become a destination in its own right. <p>Kim to ensure that all of these points are considered.</p>	Kim Owens
7	<p><u>AONB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance review. JLAF secretary to contact those members who have not been able to attend for a while to see whether they would like to continue with their membership. Results to be reviewed at the January meeting. • Cllr Ian Dalgarno stated that he would be happy to attend the meetings when he is available. 	JLAF secretary
8	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 28th January 2014, 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Watling House (CBC Offices), Dunstable.</p>	