

Local Access Forum

Central Bedfordshire and Luton

MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 12

21st March 2012

Dunstable Community Fire Station

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

		ACTION
1.	Public Questions	
	There were no public questions.	
2.	Apologies and Resignations	
	For apologies see above.	
	Cllr Dave Taylor has not attended a single meeting since his appointment to the forum. Keith to once again raise the issue with committee services at Luton Borough Council.	Keith Dove
	Unfortunately a letter of resignation has been received from Gillian Sharp who due to increased work commitments is unable to continue to be a member of the Forum. John Tyler has also sent a letter to the secretary	

	indicating that he wishes to retire as his term of office ends on 31 st March 2012. The secretary has thanked them both for their contributions to the Forum and wished them well for the future.	
	JLAF secretary to update the web pages with details of the vacancies that we now have.	JLAF secretary
	On a more positive note, Brian Golby, Julian Clark-Lowes and Rosalyn Whisker have all confirmed that they are happy to be re-appointed for a three year term of office when their current term of office expires on 31 st March 2012. This was welcomed by the other forum members.	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	
	3.1. Approval The minutes of the January meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.	
	3.2 Matters arising A number of actions were carried forward as they have not yet been completed:	
	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
	<u>Digital copy of the list of streets</u> – JLAF secretary to respond to the letter received from highways stating that Manton Lane (Bedford) is a long way for the majority of Central Bedfordshire residents to travel to view the digital record of the list of streets, but welcoming their proposal to make it available on the website when the budget allows.	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 had sent a letter requesting greater transparency of s106 contributions and an increased profile for monies for ROW and greenspace to the planning manager at CBC, but had not received a response. A similar letter will be sent to John Maple at Luton BC.	JLAF secretary
	<u>CBC Definitive map issues</u> - JLAF to send a letter to Paul Cook (Head of Transport Strategy and Countryside Services) at CBC expressing their appreciation that CBC is under budget constraints, but emphasising that the authority has a legal duty to determine applications in a timely manner which is unlikely to happen with only a single definitive map officer post.	JLAF secretary
	Progress has been made on the following actions:	
	Pegasus crossing, Hitchin Road - Rosalyn had a positive meeting with Luton BC Officers regarding a proposed crossing near Hitchin	

	Road/Cannon Lane; the proposed location would not have been appropriate for horse riders to cross so a new location was suggested by Luton BC combined with a bridleway creation on authority land. Keith to talk to Malcolm Hawkins to find out progress on this.	Keith Dove
	with some members from the Borough of Bedford LAF. Tom also has a log in, but did not attend the training as he already knows how to use it! Those who received the training felt that it could have easily been delivered on- line rather than in a formal training session, that the functionality of Huddle is limited and that it will only be of use if all members of the forum have access to it and (more importantly) use it!!	
	<u>BVPI</u> – David Leverington (CBC Rights Of Way Team Leader) will attend the July JLAF meeting. He will present the May BVPI results, an update on the stile to gap/gate work and the latest position on the DMMO/PPO back logs.	David Leverington
	<u>Totternhoe Vision Plan consultation</u> – over 200 people attended the consultation events with approx. 40 completed questionnaires being received by CBC. These will be analysed, the document amended as appropriate before formal adoption of the plan.	
	<u>LAF National Conference</u> – no one from the forum was able to attend either conference.	
	All remaining actions were completed.	
	 The following points were also raised: There will soon be a new website for Rushmere Country Park. In addition a family trail is being created near the visitor centre and a horse route should be created soon. The new bridleway around Reach quarry opened on the 1st February and is being well used. The official opening is on Saturday 25th March. 	
	 Totternhoe Hills and Area Master Plan – consultation is complete we are awaiting report before finalising plan, but we are already aware that we will need to widen text relating to Maidenbower: how we can better protect this important ancient site, potentially being more explicit on the requirement to protect it and maybe look to manage it as public open space in the future. 	
4.	Proposed Gating Order – Leyhill Drive, Luton	
	The forum considered the proposed Gating Order from Leyhill Drive to Homestead Way Park, Luton.	
	Concern was expressed that no provision had been made for residents in the new development to be able to access Leyhill Drive resulting in a longer walk for them to reach key facilities. This should have been addressed at the planning stage of the development so 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

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	In terms of the proposed Gating Order, the forum's view was that there should be a presumption in favour of keeping the path open unless there was very strong evidence that it should be gated which the forum did not believe that there was. The footpath is a key through route and would become even more so if a route from the new estate and any future development was opened up. Increased use would make it self policing and would help to integrate the new communities with existing facilities in Farley Hill.	
	JLAF secretary to send a response to the consultation from the forum stating these points.	JLAF secretary
	Luton BC has stated that any Gating Orders that are made will be reviewed every 12 months. JLAF secretary to request copies of these review reports when they are produced.	JLAF secretary
5.	OAIP Action Planning Workshop	
	Jonathan Woods (CBC Access Development Team Leader) facilitated a workshop to seek the forum's input on the actions that would achieve the aims within the draft Outdoor Access Improvement Plan for Central Bedfordshire Council.	
	The suggestions will be combined with those received from similar workshops undertaken with other groups and incorporated into the CBC OAIP.	
	JLAF secretary to arrange an OAIP sub group meeting w/c 16 th April to update the group and seek further inputs.	JLAF secretary
6.	 <u>Any other notified business</u> Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for April 2012 - March 2013; please submit these to the JLAF secretary by Friday 13th April. Expenses claims for 2011-12 to be submitted to JLAF secretary by Wed 27th March 2012. Sandy Town Council has applied for Walkers are Welcome status for Sandy. If successful, they will be the first town in East Anglia to achieve it. 500 signatures were gained from locals in support of the 	JLAF members JLAF members
	 application. JLAF secretary to send link to website to forum members. Greensand Ridge Walk 25th Anniversary Walking event. This will take place on Sunday 22nd April from Sandy Town Centre car park. There will be a 6 mile circular walk via the RSPB and Everton with various stalls and refreshments in Sandy town centre. It is hoped to be able to launch the new GSRW leaflet, six jubilee walks and walkers are welcome at this event. If anyone would like to attend, 	JLAF secretary
	 please email tourism@sandytowncouncil.gov.uk. Bedfordshire and Luton Green Infrastructure consortium are conducting an on-line survey re: Local Nature Partnerships. JLAF Secretary to send link to members so that they can complete it if they wish. 	JLAF members JLAF secretary
7.	Dates of future meetings	
	OAIP sub group meeting: Wednesday 18 th April, 6.30pm at Priory House,	

Chicksands (Room 3). Sandwiches will be provided from 6.15pm.	
JLAF meeting: Tuesday 8 th May from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Lower Stondon Golf Club. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm with a short walk around the course prior to this for those that are interested.	
JLAF meeting: Wednesday 11 th July from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Rushmere Country Park, Heath and Reach. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm with a short walk around the site prior to this for those that are interested.	