



## MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 7

16<sup>th</sup> May 2011

### GATEWAY CENTRE, DUNSTABLE DOWNS

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

		ACTION
1.	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2.	<u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u> Chair – Steve Bumstead was the only member nominated for the position of Chair of the Forum. He was duly elected as Chair of the Forum for an initial one year term.  Vice - Chair – no nominations for Vice Chair were received prior to the	

	meeting or during the meeting. It was therefore agreed to carry this appointment forward to the July meeting. Nominations to be submitted to the secretary by 30 <sup>th</sup> June.	JLAF members
3.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>See page 1.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Totternhoe Vision Plan</u></p> <p>Steve Halton (Senior Project Officer – Central Bedfordshire Council) talked through the draft Totternhoe Vision Plan (map, draft vision plan and consultation summary attached). The Totternhoe area is a special area providing a valuable resource for a variety of users but it has a number of issues, both positive and negative. The project was commissioned by Central Bedfordshire Council to the Groundwork Trust and is being developed as a partnership which brings together a number of organisations with interests in the area including the Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, the British Horse Society and Bedfordshire Police. The draft map that was presented to the meeting was produced following the public consultation which received over 300 responses and a number of meetings with the interested bodies. Key points mentioned during the meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a key area for biodiversity</li> <li>- The Wildlife Trust want to create a network of green sites across the area, reinstating grass chalk land areas</li> <li>- Locals use the area heavily and do not want to see too much change. They would like more interpretation. Steve is looking to set up a community/P3 group in the area</li> <li>- A key access issue is the lack of a safe crossing on the A5</li> <li>- Various routes have been proposed to improve the links between the existing routes</li> <li>- The aim is to produce a plan which can be referenced by the planners when any future development is considered to maximise the opportunities for planning gain and minimise the adverse effect of development in the area</li> <li>- A steering group has now been established with key players to drive delivery of the plan</li> </ul> <p>The Forum welcomed the plan and raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the colour of the cycleway on the plan needs to be changed as currently difficult to see</li> <li>- Chiltern Way is Icknield Way as well</li> <li>- Orange dotted lines on map link up areas of key archaeological importance, but this is not referenced in the key</li> <li>- Could the Chilterns Conservation area be expanded to cover this? Jonathan stated that this has been discussed on a number of occasions and that in the short term that this was unlikely as they are reluctant to change their boundaries</li> </ul> <p>Steve and Michelle Flynn (Rights of Way Officer for this area) highlighted that the priorities for access in the draft vision plan are incorrect. The action plan will be populated by the steering group. It is planned that the following quick wins will be delivered first: interpretation/better signage, upgrade the footpath at the end of the cycleway to cycleway, approach landowners about addition of extra links, surfacing of some routes. The more challenging A5 crossing is currently not feasible. It is expected that</p>	

	<p>once the new A5&gt;M1 link road has been built, resulting in this part of the A5 being de-trunked (which would bring it under CBC control), the making of any traffic calming measures may be easier to deliver. This crossing is seen as critical in preventing severance through providing a link between the green spaces at Totternhoe hills and the new populations and employees that will be located in this proposed development area.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <p><u>Vice Chair appointment</u> – carried forward to July meeting</p> <p><u>Vacancies on Forum for young people, mobility access and tourism &amp; rural business</u> – to fill the tourism/rural business vacancy, Steve to talk to the NFU, Rosalyn to talk to BHS/Livery contacts, Secretary to talk to Caron Kendall (CBC Business Growth Officer – Tourism). For the young people vacancy, secretary to talk to David Stott at CBC re: the Forum being a possible progression from the youth parliament.</p> <p><u>CBC on-line map</u> – David Leverington (CBC ROW Team Leader) to provide an update on progress re: showing anomalies on the on-line map, updating web pages to show details of anomalies and showing structures on the on-line map.</p> <p><u>JLAF promotional leaflet</u> – now ready to circulate. This will be sent electronically to key stakeholders including parish councils, P3 groups, ramblers, British Horse Society, National Farmers Union, Highways Agency, and Forestry Commission etc. Leaflets to be taken to Young Farmers Rally on 21<sup>st</sup> May to try to encourage membership from a young farmer!</p> <p><u>Luton Cycle Route map</u> – Keith to check whether this has been printed yet and circulate copies to Forum members once it is available.</p> <p><u>Rushmere consultation</u> – JLAF comments to the Rushmere framework document were submitted. Jon fed back that there had been a low response rate to the stakeholder questionnaire. He asked that if any members of the Forum wished to respond on behalf of the interest group that they represent or any user groups that they belong to, any additional comments would be welcomed.</p> <p><u>Urban paths on the Council's List of Streets</u> – These are maintained by the Council's chosen contractor, but when these paths are added to the Definitive Map, they are no longer maintaining them stating that budgetary responsibility has passed to the Countryside Access Team although no budget is given to the team. JLAF members felt that this was nonsense and should be challenged. David to provide update for July meeting.</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</p>	<p>Steve, Rosalyn, JLAF secretary</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>Keith Dove</p> <p>JLAF members</p> <p>David Leverington</p>

	<p>establish timescale for getting this done.</p> <p><u>Mapping of excluded areas</u> – David and Keith to provide timescale for when this will be done for Biggleswade &amp; Dunstable and Luton. Luton officers are planning to talk to CBC officers about the approach that CBC has taken.</p> <p><u>Wind turbines information from BHS</u> – Rosalyn was unable to provide any further information to Adam as his research had been very thorough!</p> <p><u>Langford wind farm decision update</u> – the cooperative group are appealing the decision</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>David Leverington/Keith Dove</p> <p>Tom Chevalier</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Papers</u></p> <p><u>CBC OAIP update</u></p> <p>Jonathan provided an update on the current situation regarding the CBC Outdoor Access Improvement Plan. A report has been prepared for the Executive committee on 31 May which will be emailed to JLAF members once it has been released to the public on Thu 19<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>The report seeks approval to update and replace the existing OAIP for 2006 to 2011 with a new Central Bedfordshire OAIP for 2012-2017. This will be tailored more specifically to Central Bedfordshire's priorities, values and geographical area and will integrate with other plans and strategies.</p> <p>As with the current OAIP it is proposed that the new plan will look holistically at countryside access. It will contain a number of 'hooks' to be used to draw in external resources to help to deliver the plan. Flagship projects will be identified e.g. dealing with fragmentation of the network.</p> <p>It is proposed that the action plan will be divided into 3 themes based on the functional management of Countryside Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rights of Way and landscape access</li> <li>- Countryside sites</li> <li>- Community engagement and empowerment</li> </ul> <p>The new plan will be more spatial/map based and will hopefully include some of the fragmentation maps.</p> <p>The proposed timeline is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completion of draft plan and preparation of consultation process (mid August 2011)</li> <li>- Consultation period (September – November 2011)</li> <li>- Plan adoption (January 2012)</li> </ul> <p>Jonathan will update the JLAF on the outcome of the Executive meeting in early June.</p> <p>A CBC OAIP sub group meeting has been booked for Thu 9<sup>th</sup> June at</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p>

6.2	<p>6.30pm in Priory House, Chicksands (Room PH3). A more detailed timeline will be brought to this meeting.</p> <p><b><u>CBC Applications Policy, Enforcement Policy and Ploughing and Cropping Policy</u></b></p> <p>The above policies were circulated to the JLAF prior to the meeting for the members to consider and feedback comments. Once all stakeholder comments are received, the policies will be amended as necessary and submitted to the portfolio holder for approval.</p> <p>Tom had worked through the papers and had a number of comments and questions. As Adam Maciejewski the policy's author was unable to attend the meeting these will be passed to Adam for his consideration.</p> <p>As the policies are lengthy and cover matters which are important to JLAF members it was proposed to arrange a sub group meeting to meet with Adam and go through each in turn. Tom, Steve and Pauline volunteered to sit on the group. Andrew's name was proposed in his absence! If any other members, who were unable to make the meeting wish to sit on the group, please let the JLAF secretary know. Also, if anyone has any comments on the policies that are not on the sub group, can they please send them through to Adam.</p>	Jonathan Woods
7.	<p><b><u>Any other notified business</u></b></p> <p>There was no other notified business.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Dates of future meetings</u></b></p> <p>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at Rushmere Park, Heath and Reach. A location map will be circulated with the agenda. There will be a walk around Rushmere Park from 5.30pm – 6.30pm for those members who are able to get there at that time and wish to see this lovely park. Sandwiches will be available in the visitor centre at the site from 6.30pm. The JLAF meeting will commence at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The following meeting will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Priory House, Chicksands. Sandwiches will be available from 6.30pm.</p>	David Leverington, Adam Maciejewski, JLAF members