



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 16

24th April 2013

Priory House, Chicksands

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

		ACTION
1.	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2.	<u>Election of Chair and Vice Chair</u> Andy Knight nominated Steve Bumstead to serve a third term as Chair of the forum. This was seconded by Brian Golby. No other members of the forum wished to stand as Chair. Steve was therefore duly elected as Chair of the forum from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Marion Mustoe nominated Pauline Hey to serve a third term as Vice Chair of the forum. This was seconded by Steve Bumstead. No other members of the forum wished to stand as Vice Chair. Pauline was therefore duly elected as Vice Chair of the forum from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.	

6.	<p><u>CBC Outdoor Access Improvement Plan</u></p> <p>Paper copies of the plan were issued to the forum members present. Copies will be posted to those not present.</p> <p>The plan has been approved by CBC's Overview & Scrutiny and Executive Committees. Senior Management and Councillors were very supportive.</p> <p>A public summary document is currently in preparation which will be circulated on completion.</p> <p>At a Sandy 'Walkers are Welcome' meeting it was suggested that a simple leaflet be produced from the content of the OAIP covering the health benefits of volunteering, rights of way and greenspace.</p> <p>The forum asked whether there would be opportunities to work more closely with the health professionals now that Public Health is part of the Local Authority. Jonathan confirmed that he hoped that this would be the case. A member of the Public Health team will be invited to a forum meeting to enable the forum to highlight the health benefits of walking, cycling etc.</p> <p>A business plan is currently in preparation for Countryside Access based on the Action Plan in the OAIP. Jonathan will circulate the completed document to the forum as a PDF and will ensure that progress is reported back to the forum on a six monthly basis.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>David Leverington</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p> <p>Jonathan Woods</p>
7.	<p><u>Luton ROWIP update</u></p> <p>Keith had prepared a presentation (copy attached) for the forum which unfortunately didn't work. He therefore talked through the update table that had previously been circulated to the forum (copy attached).</p> <p>As LBC is a small authority no single area has total responsibility for the ROWIP. Keith's team are responsible for the development of the ROWIP and the definitive map. The latter has recently been taken over from highway maintenance, who remain responsible for surveying the condition of Rights of Way once a year and carrying out any maintenance. The Parks team and the Natural Environment team also have roles to play in delivering the ROWIP and seeking funds to help with its delivery.</p> <p>Keith cited the following examples, showing how they met RoWIP actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The creation of 5 routes from residential areas in the NE of the town into the surrounding countryside, with interpretation boards and waymarking. - Community volunteers clearing paths in the Dallow Downs area and schools involved in planting trees. - Waymarking of the whole Upper Lea Valley route and publication of a new leaflet. Over the last year the route through Limbury & Leagrave (part of NCN6) had been resurfaced/widened and seats/art/play areas built. - Paths and cycle routes/crossings improved to provide better connectivity to community facilities using Integrated Transport & LSTF Grants. -Some actions no longer progressed due to resource difficulties (e.g. walking bus), withdrawal of funds (e.g. Street Seen), or changes in National (e.g LAA's abandoned) or local (e.g Joint Core Strategy) policy. <p>The following points were raised by the forum:</p>	

	<p>- Concern that there may still be some old signage for the Icknield Way in Luton. Keith to arrange to have them removed.</p> <p>- Concern about the lack of progress on the mapping of the excluded area of Luton. There is a risk that paths could be lost if they are not recorded. Keith to find out who is responsible for the mapping of the excluded area.</p> <p>The forum thanked Keith for the useful update which shows that good progress has been made over the last 2 years.</p>	<p>Keith Dove</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
8.	<p><u>Bridleways Open Evening</u></p> <p>On 10th April, Central Bedfordshire Council and the British Horse Society hosted a bridleways open evening at Marston Forest Centre which was also attended by Bedford Borough Council ROW Officers. Over 120 people attended the meeting which was designed as a session for the Officers to introduce themselves, to talk about the connectivity issues and to understand what the riders would like to see delivered. Over 70 questionnaires were completed and riders marked issues on laminated maps of the whole of the Central Bedfordshire area. A huge amount of data was collected which is currently being correlated before the key issues are extracted.</p> <p>Key talking points were the lack of connectivity in Houghton Conquest and adjacent parishes, as well as issues with the permissive rides in Maulden Woods. A follow up meeting has been arranged with the BHS reps at the end of May to talk about how to take this forward as CBC is keen to maintain the enthusiasm and deliver some of the actions identified. It is likely that future meetings with horseriders will be on a more local basis. David to provide regular updates to the forum</p> <p>Suzanne Martin from Milton Keynes LAF attended the meeting. She is keen to work with Central Beds and Luton JLAF and the Borough of Bedford LAF to create a route along the alignment of the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway. Milton Keynes are already building sections, Bedford Borough are moving quite quickly, but Central Beds progress is slow as there is little development along the route. An access path along the canal route would be a welcome addition to the network. Suzanne Martin and Graham Mabbutt (Chair of the Bedford & MK Waterway) to be invited to the joint LAF meeting later in the year.</p>	<p>David Leverington</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p>
9.	<p><u>10th Anniversary meeting</u></p> <p>As 2013 is the 10th Anniversary of the creation of the original Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Local Access Forum, it was agreed that it would be a nice idea to have a joint celebratory meeting. Possible location – Marston Forest Centre, date w/c 16th September. (Post mtg update: 1st October proposed date). Potential agenda items – Bedford & MK Waterway, Local Nature Partnerships and recognition of those who have served 10 years on the forum. JLAF Secretary to liaise with Borough of Bedford LAF and to get it booked.</p>	<p>JLAF Secretary</p>
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Wallace (Chair of the Borough of Bedford LAF) would like to be the 	

	<p>LAF representative on the Local Nature Partnership (LNP) board. Tom Chevalier proposed his nomination which was seconded by Brian Golby. JLAF secretary to inform Bob that the forum is happy for his to represent them and to ask him to feedback to us after the meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC Countryside Access use of social media to increase its profile and attendance at events such as the BW Open Evening will be presented at the June JLAF meeting. For further information, please visit http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/default.aspx which contains links to subscribe to the Countryside Access updates and a link to the facebook page. • Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity will be submitting a grant application for funds to help with the setting up of a Friends of Biggleswade Green Wheel. The forum welcomed the creation of such a group. JLAF secretary to send a letter of support. • Steve attended the LAF conference in Sheffield to represent the forum. It was very useful especially the opportunity to network over dinner the night before. The workshops were very good and relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paths for Communities - Fiona Taylor - Walking for health – highlighting the fact that we should be contacting the Public Health Directors to tell them of the benefits that walking can offer. - Urban Access – using Birmingham as the example. Issues of Gating Orders and difficulties in getting members to turn up. • Tom fed back on the recent Icknield Way Association (IWA) meeting. Natural England have published their response to the National Trails Consultation which includes that they may use their powers to propose new trails or to mend existing ones and also contains their formula for funding. The IWA will seek to get the Icknield Way designated as a National Trail. • A very productive meeting had been held earlier in the day between the NFU and CBC Officers. Alistair Pattinson (Chair of the Maulden branch of the NFU) may be interested in joining the forum. JLAF secretary to contact Diane Armitage who coordinates these appointments on a regional basis. 	<p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p> <p>JLAF Secretary</p>
9.	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Tuesday 18th June 2013 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Lower Stondon. JLAF members will have the opportunity for a walk around the course from 6.00pm, followed by sandwiches at 6.45pm.</p> <p>10th Anniversary meeting – originally proposed for w/c 16th Sept. Post mtg update - now proposed for 1st October at the Marston Forest Centre.</p>	