



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.	

	<p>Steve indicated that the forum would need to elect a new Chair next year as he will have completed three terms by then and would like to hand over to a new Chair.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Apologies and reappointments</u></p> <p>Apologies: see above.</p> <p>Reappointments: Pauline Hey, Marion Mustoe and Andrew Pym have been reappointed to the forum for a further three years (until 31 March 2016). Tony Welch has been reappointed to the forum for a further two years (his request - until 31 March 2015). The forum thanked them for their continued commitment to the group.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Angela Barker has completed her term as Chair of Central Bedfordshire Council so should now be able to attend more of the forum meetings.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>4.1. Approval The minutes of the February meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>4.2 Matters arising</p> <p>A table showing progress against the actions from the February meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting (copy attached). The majority of actions have been completed; those carried forward are:</p> <p>NMU forum – A5-M1 link – Jonathan has emailed the Highways Agency re: the proposed forum to obtain their support and possible member names. He is still awaiting a response.</p> <p>Joint meeting with Borough of Bedford LAF – It has now been suggested that this could be a 10th Anniversary meeting. See item 9 for further information and actions.</p>	Jonathan Woods
5.	<p><u>Chilterns AONB Management Plan review</u></p> <p>The management plan for the Chilterns AONB steers the work of the Chilterns Conservation Board. There is a requirement for this to be reviewed every 10 years. Scoping work is currently taking place with a stakeholder meeting due to take place shortly. Jonathan will circulate the date of the meeting and any drafts of the management plan that are sent to CBC to the forum.</p> <p>As part of this review process, consideration is being given to the alignment of the AONB boundary in Bedfordshire, in particular around the Totternhoe Hills area. This was welcomed by the forum.</p> <p>Tom mentioned that a Toddington Councillor was keen to expand the AONB to include Toddington as well.</p> <p>Jonathan to investigate what information is available and send on to Tom Chevalier (for Toddington) and Brian Golby (for Harlington/Sundon).</p>	Jonathan Woods Jonathan Woods

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 	

