Local Access Forum







# 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014

# Watling House, Dunstable

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

|   |  | ACTION            |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Public Questions   |                   |
|   | The JLAF secretary had received a question from Vladimir Cejzl regarding walking groups in Luton. It was recommended that he contact the Travel Choices Hub in Dunstable which will be able to help. | JLAF<br>secretary |
| 2 | Apologies, welcomes and resignations   |                   |
|   | Apologies: see above.  |                   |
|   | Welcomes and introductions: Jane Conway was welcomed as a new member to the meeting. She chairs the Friends of Luton Parks and will be representing community groups in Luton.                       |                   |
|   | Unfortunately Jason Jordan's membership term has expired and he has informed the   |                   |

JLAF secretary he does not want to continue with his membership. The forum thanked him for his contribution whilst he was a member and wished him well for the future

Post meeting update: Sam Taylor who had joined the forum representing sport and health has decided that he will not be able to commit to the forum due to work and other commitments. He therefore will not be joining the group.

It was agreed that we should continue to seek new members especially through word of mouth as this has proved successful in the past.

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#### 3 Health and Wellbeing

Nicky Sinden, Public Health Co-ordinator for CBC was welcomed to the meeting. Nicky explained that since April 2013, local authorities have taken on the health and wellbeing responsibility which includes the science & promotion of health and the improvement of health. The budget has been ring fenced until 2015/16 and for Bedfordshire is split approx. 1/3 for Bedford Borough and 2/3 for Central Bedfordshire.

The aim is for people to live longer and to live well. Nicky's particular area of work is anti-obesity and she took us through her work to prevent obesity and to promote healthy eating. These included:

- GP Exercise referral programme 12 week programme with a mix of gym sessions, swimming and walking to encourage regular exercise. This ties in with JLAF members involvement in Health Walks.
- Schools making the most of me programme for Year 4 children (8-9 year olds)
- Change for Life Government marketing campaign includes 'swap it don't stop it'! New RAG labelling on food has now been introduced to make it easier to make healthy choices whilst shopping in supermarkets.
- Travel Choices Hub in 1 Ashton Square, Dunstable has been open for a year and has been very successful; thousands of people have visited and received advice and information on healthier and more sustainable travel choices. Dublin & Bristol are looking at similar schemes.
- Nicky also sits on the Leisure Strategy Board; under the new Leisure Centre contract a minimum of 25% of the snacks/drinks in the vending machines/cafes must be healthy ones!
- School Games event at Inspire in Luton for top athletes
- Planning applications for fast food takeaways within 500m of a school; Nicky seeks to limit the number opening close to schools and if they do get permission seeks to limit their opening hours so that they are not open during the school day.

JLAF members also highlighted the benefit that a walk in the fresh air can have on people's mental wellbeing. Nicky recognised this and said that walking is often the first step and once people start to feel more positive they are able to make the other changes to improve their physical wellbeing.

It was also highlighted that the Marvellous Maps schools programme gave children a valuable introduction to their local area encouraging them to go out and explore. Unfortunately there is no funding available to continue with this at present.

Nicky was thanked for her informative presentation. The JLAF will consider how they can assist with delivering the health agenda in Central Bedfordshire and Luton at a future meeting.

JLAF members

## 4 Luton Local Plan

Keith Dove provided an update on the Luton Local Plan 2015-2031 (see <a href="http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/lmages/JLAF-LutonLocalPlan-280114\_tcm6-51743.pdf#False">http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/lmages/JLAF-LutonLocalPlan-280114\_tcm6-51743.pdf#False</a>). This is currently in preparation with public consultation planned on the draft document during April and May 2014.

The key issues identified from the various 'Evidence Base' studies are:

- Luton is built up to its boundary & surrounded by Chilterns AONB/ Green Belt
- Insufficient land within Luton to meet its own housing needs
- Affordable housing on Brownfield sites is unviable
- Greenspace in the town is under pressure, risking health and wellbeing
- Only three significant employment land allocation sites remaining
- Attractive to business investment because of its location, but difficult to find modern affordable accommodation
- Town Centre performs well with good access/public realm but needs to expand to compete with other nearby sub regional centres
- Lack of east west transport connectivity with limited crossing points of M1 motorway and railway

Using the 'Golden Tread' principle, these issues will be translated into the Local Plan objectives and policies wherever possible. Keith to circulate the draft document once it is ready for consultation and JLAF members to provide a response for the JLAF secretary to submit.

Keith Dove & JLAF members & secretary

## 5 Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Approval: The minutes of the November meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting subject to the change of wording on Page 2 from 'Cllr Brian Spurr has persuaded' to 'Cllr Brian Spurr has unfortunately not been able to persuade' a landowner to trial one stile to gate replacement. Also 'public path orders and definitive map modification orders' to 'anomalies'.
- b. Matters arising: A table showing progress against the actions from the November meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting. Additional discussion took place on the following points:

NMU forum for A5-M1 link – Jonathan will send a date out for the meeting w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb.

Jonathan Woods

Trial of stiles to gates/gaps in Chalgrave – David is looking to trial a stile to a gate in one location for each of 4 landowners in Chalgrave. This has met with resistance, but David is persevering. Steve offered to help provide support if necessary and the JLAF is supportive of his endeavours. David to provide an update at the April meeting.

David Leverington

Lack of CBC definitive map resource – David has identified 80 anomalies where income could be generated to finance a new post. David is currently exploring the viability i.e. would people actually pay to get them resolved and will report back at the April meeting.

David Leverington

Luton – Dunstable Busway cycle path update – The areas behind the bus stops will be treated during February. Also some of the A frame gates will be replaced with other gates. To resurface the whole path will cost approx. £0.5m! Keith to bring usage figures for the Busway to a JLAF meeting once they are available from the operators.

Keith Dove

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|   | ROW user and non user survey – this was undertaken in 2013 as a direct comparison to the survey undertaken in 2010. It reached the same conclusions, identified the same issues and confirmed the high level of satisfaction. David asked for members to send any questions to him once they had had a chance to read the document.  David also highlighted the recent BVPI survey results (where a random sample of 10% of CBC's ROW are surveyed by CBC officers for ease of use). In 2013, 89% of the paths surveyed passed which is the best result to date and a 17% increase on 2012. It was identified that the Amey Seasonal Vegetation Clearance (SVC) contract has helped to secure this improvement. | JLAF<br>members                        |
|   | Poppyhill Lakes in Henlow/Langford – David reported that the new bridleway and bridge are being well used.  |  |
|   | Chilterns AONB management plan – Marion reported that the Chilterns Conservation Board will be meeting in a few weeks time to finalise the plan.  |  |
|   | Attendance review – the JLAF secretary sent emails to those members who have been unable to attend recently. Only one response was received from Sam Taylor who has subsequently decided that he cannot commit to the forum. It was agreed that the JLAF secretary and JLAF members should continue to seek new members.  | JLAF<br>secretary &<br>JLAF<br>members |
| 6 | CBC ROW/Definitive map officer update   |  |
|   | This was covered under matters arising above.   |  |
| 7 | <u>AONB</u>   |  |
|   | <ul> <li>LAF handbooks were circulated to those members who had not yet received one. Additional copies are available. Please contact the JLAF secretary if you would like one.</li> <li>Huddle Whiteboard topics; a print out of recent topics was circulated to the group.</li> </ul>   | JLAF members                           |
|   | <ul> <li>If you do not currently have a Huddle login and would like one, please contact the JLAF secretary as spare logins are currently available.</li> <li>Bob Wallace (Borough of Bedford LAF) has offered to represent the JLAF at the</li> </ul>   | members                                |
|   | <ul> <li>LAF conference in Durham as none our members are able to attend. This was welcomed and Bob will be invited to the April meeting to give an update on the conference and the LNP (local nature partnership).</li> <li>Michelle Gardiner the East of England Regional LAF coordinator is looking to arrange an East of England regional LAF meeting at one of the successful paths</li> </ul>  | JLAF<br>secretary                      |
|   | for communities projects at the end of March (see separate email which has been circulated). Pauline and Andy K have expressed an interest in attending. If anyone else would like to attend, please let the JLAF Secretary know asap.  | JLAF<br>members                        |
| 8 | Date of next meeting  |  |
|   | <b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b> , 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Priory House, Chicksands, Dunstable.   |  |
|   | (Please note that this differs from the date proposed in the meeting as no rooms were available on that date).  |  |