



MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 14

28th November 2012

Sandy Town Council Offices

Members	
Steve Bumstead – Chair	Angela Kirby
Andrew Pym	Brian Golby
Tom Chevalier	Tony Welch
Secretariat	
Caroline Romans - Central Bedfordshire Council	
Apologies	
Jason Jordan	Andy Gerrard
Marion Mustoe	Cllr Dave Taylor
Cllr Mrs Angela Barker	Andy Knight
David Simkins	Julian Clark-Lowes
Pauline Hey	Rosalyn Whisker
Keith Dove	
Observers	
Jonathan Woods – Central Bedfordshire Council	Paul Burgess - Central Bedfordshire Council
Delia Shephard – Sandy Town Council	

		ACTION
1.	<u>Public Questions</u> There were no public questions.	
2.	<u>Apologies</u> See above.	
3.	<u>Sandy Walkers are Welcome</u> Delia Shephard, Clerk to Sandy Town Council gave a very informative presentation on Sandy's achievement of Walkers are Welcome status (presentation attached). Walkers are Welcome is an accreditation scheme created by walkers to	

	<p>recognise communities who are welcoming to walkers. It is designed to be community driven with a clear demonstration of local business support. Sandy's bid was initiated by the Tourist Information Officers and the Town Clerk with support from CBC and local businesses. The application was successful on the second submission so Sandy is now officially a 'Walkers are Welcome' town, the second community in the East of England to gain the status. Further details on Walkers are Welcome can be found at http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk/</p> <p>The challenge for Sandy now is to demonstrate sustainability as the status can be removed if it is felt that it is not being maintained. Plans include signage & finger posts, maintenance of paths, extension of the steering group, more volunteers, information on the new Sandy TC website, improved links to the Walking Festival & Greensand Ridge brand and a fundraising sponsored walk.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Consultations:</u> <u>4.1 CBC Countryside Access – Tree and Woodland Policy</u></p> <p>Paul Burgess (CBC Senior Countryside Sites Officer) explained the reason for the production of the document – namely the requirement for CBC Countryside Access Service to have an adopted document which states how it will manage its tree stock on Countryside Access Sites and ROW. A recent court case against CBC highlighted the fact that such a document is required as previously there was no record of how CBC countryside trees are managed.</p> <p>Countryside Access manage over 60 sites which contain between 1-1.5 million trees. CBC staff have been trained to enable species and condition surveys to take place. A programme is being developed to digitally plot trees over 300mm wide at 1.5m Diameter Breast Height (DBH) as these are considered high risk.</p> <p>Points raised by the forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul mentioned that surveyed trees will be plotted on a GIS map. Concern was raised by the JLAF that this will result in tree records on 3 separate electronic systems, but Paul clarified that it will be possible to overlay the layers to show all of the tree information on a single map. - The document should specify the scope and identify what is and isn't included (Countryside Access sites are included, but trees on the highway are not). - Members asked whether use will be made of volunteer Tree Wardens as they have the necessary skills. Should also look to create opportunities for people to report information. - Concern was expressed about the use of CAS then CASt – most readers will not require this level of differentiation – can just CAS be used? - There is duplication of the second paragraph of p1 which is then repeated in bullet points on p3. - CBC should not be afraid to cut down trees if necessary as the visual wounds heal very quickly. When money is tight, it may not be feasible to do expensive surveys drilling into the trees to get a more precise diagnosis of any issues. - The document should be circulated to tree wardens for comments. 	

	<p>Paul asked for forum members to feed back any additional comments by 7th December.</p> <p><u>4.2 Biggleswade Green Wheel</u></p> <p>Caroline Romans (CBC Project Officer) talked through the Biggleswade Green Wheel Greenspace Masterplan which is currently out for public consultation until 28 December 2012.</p> <p>The Green Wheel is a long term vision for the linking of publicly accessible green spaces and routes around Biggleswade to create a ‘rim’ which is supported by ‘spokes’ of linear paths and corridors leading from the settlement out to the ‘rim’ and the wider surrounding countryside. It is considered ‘green’ due to both the natural and historic environment components forming it and the promotion of recreational trips using healthy, non-motorised forms of sustainable transport. The masterplan which has been produced by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) in partnership with CBC and Biggleswade Town Council identifies the issues to be addressed and the actions to be undertaken to implement a Green Wheel for Biggleswade.</p> <p>Full details can be found at http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/current-online-consultations.aspx</p> <p>The results of the consultation will be taken to the Biggleswade Joint Committee meeting on 16th January before final adoption of the revised masterplan in Spring 2013.</p> <p>The forum welcomed the proposals and asked the JLAF secretary to send a consultation response in support of the Green Wheel.</p>	<p>JLAF members</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>CBC OAIP consultation response</u></p> <p>Jonathan Woods (CBC Access Development Team Leader) updated the forum on the discussion at the JLAF OAIP sub group meeting (paper attached).</p> <p>The consultation event at Biggleswade Library was well attended with over 25 people engaging, of which, 15 had come specifically to talk about the plan. Additional consultation events are planned for Flitwick Library and Leighton Buzzard. The forum asked whether an event could be held at Dunstable as well. Jonathan to investigate.</p> <p>The forum approved the draft response to the OAIP consultation and asked the JLAF secretary to submit this on its behalf.</p>	<p>Jonathan Woods</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>6.1. Approval The minutes of the July meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>6.2 Matters arising</p>	

	<p>A table showing progress against the actions from the July meeting was circulated to the forum prior to the meeting (copy attached). This was well received with a request that this be produced and circulated a couple of weeks before each meeting.</p> <p>Concern was raised by the forum about the lack of attendance from Cllr Dave Taylor (Luton BC representative). It was proposed that the next meeting be held in Luton and focus on Luton issues. Cllr Dave Taylor to be asked to attend the next meeting to provide an update on Sustainable Travel in Luton – to include the Guided Busway with increased access to Blows Downs and Luton’s plans for ‘Security by Design’ and provision of greenspace and ROW in new developments in Luton.</p> <p>As the CBC Councillor, Mrs Angela Barker is currently Chairman of the Council her time available to attend forum meetings is very limited. The JLAF secretary to contact Angela to see whether a colleague can be nominated to attend forum meetings while she is Chairman.</p> <p>Luton ROWIP & LSTF progress – the forum requested that Keith Dove provide an annual update on progress against the Luton ROWIP and the LSTF programme at the next meeting.</p>	<p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Cllr Dave Taylor</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p> <p>Keith Dove</p>
7.	<p><u>Any other notified business</u></p> <p><i>7.1 A5 - M1 Link – Proposed NMU (non-motorised user) Forum:</i> Tom Chevalier has proposed the creation of a NMU forum for the A5-M1 link which has recently received the go-ahead from the government. Over the coming years the new road will be built and 7,000 houses are planned to be built which will impact on non-motorised users. The NMU forum will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a focal point for consideration/debate of NMU issues/consequential changes in the area of the A5-M1 link road 2. Provide a point of contact/debate for the HA (and CBC) in developing the detailed NMU changes to the existing PRoW, temporary changes during works and consequential changes 3. Provide a point of contact/consultation for developers seeking to develop in the area north of Houghton Regis <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an informed group of users that can interact with the HA over the detailed design and operational phase – my experience of the M1 J12 has been that helping with the detailed design (e.g. badger fencing) ensures that several years later the construction phase works easily (or not). Similarly consideration of temporary closures can ensure they are kept to a minimum, or phased so that alternative routes are provided. Further issues/considerations will emerge during detailed design in the next year. • Create a small defined group of informed NMU representatives who are familiar with all the proposals in this area so can readily see the interaction between all aspects of the various proposals so they can provide comment and advice to their own user groups and to HA, CBC, developers, etc. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a forum who would seek to shape the various proposals to help ensure a coherent development for NMUs in the years to come. <p>The forum agreed that this was a good idea which should be established as a JLAF sub group. Angela Kirby and Brian Golby offered to sit on the sub group. Keith Dove (Luton BC Officer) also expressed an interest in being involved.</p> <p>CBC offered to facilitate the first meeting. Jonathan to organise (venue – Chalton Village Hall?)</p> <p><i>7.2 Joint meeting with Bedford LAF</i></p> <p>Following the successful joint meeting with the Borough of Bedford LAF in June this year, it was suggested that the Central Beds and Luton JLAF offer to host a joint meeting in the spring of 2013. Possible speakers could be Kate Ashbrook from the Open Spaces Society or Barbara Young, former CEO of the Environment Agency and the RSPB, chair of English Nature who lives in Willington. JLAF secretary to talk to the Borough of Bedford LAF to organise.</p>	<p>Jonathan Woods</p> <p>JLAF secretary</p>
8.	<p><u>Dates of future meetings</u></p> <p>Wednesday 6th February 2012 from 7.00pm - 9.00pm at the John Dony Field Centre, Luton. Sandwiches to be provided from 6.30pm.</p>	