

Herefordshire Local Access Forum Meeting

Date: 9 November 2016

Location: The Kindle Centre

Time: 7pm

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ATTENDANCE	
Name: Jenny Bartlett Myra Chilman Deborah Crowley Mike Darley Phil Edwards Mike Everitt Richard Gething Duncan Green	Name: Lin Hoppe Arthur Lee Peter McKay Peter Newman Jenny Williams Mike Walker (Balfour Beatty) Jill Addis (Balfour Beatty)
APOLOGIES	
Spencer Grogan, Will Steel	
Notes Prepared By: Jill Addis	
AGENDA SUMMARY	
1.0	Apologies for absence
	Apologies for absence noted
2.0	Minutes
	To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2015
3.0	Matters arising/action points
	To discuss any matters arising from previous minutes
4.0	Forum Business
	Update from the Chair
5.0	Disabled Ramblers Presentation by John Cuthebertson & Arthur Lee
6.0	Rights of Way Service Provider's Report
	Update regarding rights of way matters
7.0	Greenway to Holme Lacy
8.0	Work Group Reports
	Stakeholder Working Group/ROW reforms update Local Access Forum Advisory Group Feedback
9.0	Lydbrook Railway Bridge
10.0	Supply of materials for use by volunteers/volunteer training
11.0	Public Participation
12.0	Any other business
	Any business submitted to the Chair prior to/or at the beginning of the meeting. To be discussed time permitting at the discretion of the Chair
13.0	Date of next meeting
	Tbc
DISTRIBUTION	
HLAF Members, Mike Walker, Spencer Grogan, Will Steel, Herefordshire Council website	

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AGENDA AND CHECK LIST	ACTION
<p>487. DISABLED RAMBLERS PRESENTATION BY JOHN CUTHEBERTSON & ARTHUR LEE</p>	
<p>As John had some distance to travel he gave his presentation first, to enable him to leave. A copy will be made available.</p>	
<p>488. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p>	
<p>Apologies were noted as above.</p>	
<p>489. MINUTES</p>	
<p>The minutes were agreed to be accurate and signed as a true record of the meeting of 11 November 2015.</p>	
<p>490. MATTERS ARISING</p>	
<p>463 Update from ME. 'A third letter about the missing JWalk obstruction reports was sent to the Cabinet Member on 20 November 2015. The reply dated 28 January 2016 proposed a pilot project to establish the accuracy of the data. Mike Everitt physically surveyed four parishes as part of the pilot project and reported in May 2016 that 40% of the September 2013 JWalk records for those four parishes remained unresolved. He concluded that as the September 2013 JWalk records for all of Herefordshire totalled approx. 5,500 reports it was likely that some 2,200 problems were currently missing from the BBLP records.'</p> <p>RG asked if the PFOs could regenerate the issues. DG said that when BBLP took over, the advice was to re-report any outstanding issues.</p> <p>PE said that budget issues had been raised with Cllr Rone and Alasdair MacDonald.</p> <p>AL asked how the £8m from the Amey contract would be spent. PE advised that the money was still not certain as there had been a further legal challenge.</p> <p>PM said that more money could be acquired through the planning process.</p> <p>AL asked if there was a timescale on the Amey money. PE replied that there was not. AL added that the Amey contract was for Transport and Rights of Way, so that is where the money should be spent.</p> <p>DG said that the LAF should write to Herefordshire Council suggesting that more innovative ways of obtaining money needed to be found.</p> <p>479 MD asked if there was an update on the Construction Design & Management Regulations. DG said opinion was split – Powys insist the rules do apply, Norfolk says they don't. MW said that they apply to almost all RoW works. AL asked if any broad guideline could be supplied. MW to consider.</p>	<p>MW</p>
<p>491. FORUM BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Update from the Chair</p> <p>AL said that the 2016 Walking Festival had gone very well, and thanked all who had been involved. The dates for the 2017 Festival are 17-25 June. He added that communication between all groups would need improving next year.</p> <p>There is a Rights of Way Review Committee meeting next week which AL will be attending.</p>	

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<p>492. RIGHTS OF WAY SERVICE PROVIDER'S REPORT</p>	
<p>MW presented the report. Copies were available at the meeting, but it will also be sent out with the minutes.</p> <p>ME asked if there were problems in Herefordshire with developers obstructing rights of way, without applying for diversions. MW said that it wasn't a big problem, although there had been some issues.</p> <p>RG asked if Neighbourhood Plans could include rights of way issues. PE said that they could. RG added that this would help to create continuity.</p> <p>MW said that developers can apply for a diversion and planning permission at the same time. Also, from July this year, the search questions include RoW.</p> <p>AL agreed to write a letter to Defra regarding the issue. This will be circulated before being sent.</p> <p>MD said that P3 parishes paying for materials from their grant was farcical. Volunteers and PFOs produce reports which are submitted to parishes, and nothing seemed to be done with it.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the use of volunteer rambles, and problems regarding insurance. JB suggested AL approach HALC via Linda Wilcox for advice on how to work direct with parishes.</p> <p>DG and JW suggested going direct to PFOs, rather than going through BBLP.</p> <p>ME said that the system worked well in Worcestershire, and suggested AL speak to Kevin Oliver.</p>	<p>AL</p>
<p>493. GREENWAY TO HOLME LACY</p>	
<p>DG said that the Greenway seemed to have died a death, but it needed to be protected. It needed to go into the Local Transport Plan but had not – it was not defined as an objective for the long term future. DG to write to HC to ask them to include the Greenway in as an aim within the plan.</p> <p>PE suggested writing to Cllr Philip Price to ask that it be added to the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>DG added that he was trying to get his local bit (Dinedor) into the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>DG</p>
<p>494. WORK GROUP REPORTS</p>	
<p>DG talked about the DfT project that had given £3m to OS for a highways map for the country. It will be launched on 16 November. The base map is free and will include other data such as low bridges. The ambition is to gradually add RoW.</p> <p>A training session was held in April at the Hereford Records Centre to encourage volunteers to research routes to be added to the Definitive Map. 55 people attended which was very positive, however, there have been no results from this as yet.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council are ahead of many others in that their RoW are available to view online along with List of Streets, Street Gazetteer and Streetworks Register data. They can be viewed here: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/beta/highways-maps</p>	

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<p>DG said that ideas were needed to motivate others to put in applications for DMMOs. JB suggested that a training session on the whole process would be beneficial.</p> <p>DG said that the LAF Advisory Group was meeting again on 12 January and asked that LAF members send ideas through.</p> <p>DG asked if Parish Submissions were available online. MW replied that it is intended that the maps could be accessed on a terminal at the Records Office.</p> <p>DG added that the group needed a landowner representative, and invited MC to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>MW reported that RoW reforms under the Deregulation Act are still delayed due to the need for parliamentary time to consider the 'Recovery of Costs' regulations. It is anticipated that they should be introduced early in 2017.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>496. LYDBROOK RAILWAY BRIDGE</p>	
<p>MW said that the bridge is currently closed, and is likely to be for some time. Estimates of repairs vary from £300k to £1m. Gloucestershire are responsible for the repair, but there doesn't seem to be a simple solution.</p> <p>DG suggested crowd funding.</p>	
<p>497. SUPPLY OF MATERIALS FOR USE BY VOLUNTEERS/VOLUNTEER TRAINING</p>	
<p>MW said that BBLP were trying to do both. AL asked about strimmer training. MW agreed to discuss it outside the meeting.</p> <p>DG added that if volunteers worked directly for the parishes, the training requirements would be lower.</p>	
<p>498. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p>	
<p>No members of the public were present.</p>	
<p>499. AOB</p>	
<p>Chris Marsden sent the following by email:</p> <p>'There is an issue with a road that is on the current List of Streets that has been substantially blocked preventing access from The Bage and Dorstone to Little Mountain Common.</p> <p>It is close to the private entrance and electric gate to The Nest.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate the LAF does not currently generally deal with UCRs, or specific issues, however this prevents access to the common and Access Land from a general purpose road. Therefore, for this reason I believe the LAF should be aware of the problem of minor highways, not depicted on the Definitive Map being obstructed. The OS depict it as a white road (despite being on the current LoS, for at least four decades, and was on previous OS map versions shown as yellow), and the last part as ORPA.</p> <p>I attach photos of the fence topped with barbed wire where there was until fairly recently a gate. Also a copy of the Notice affixed to the nearby private gate.</p>	

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<p>The BHS have a paper on this subject, which I feel the LAF should consider reference LAF and UCRs and obstructions.'</p> <p>DG asked if something on the List of Streets was a publicly maintained highway.</p> <p>MW said that it was.</p> <p>PM said that guidance was needed on how to deal with this kind of issue.</p>	
<p>500. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p>	
<p>Tbc</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.30pm.</p>	

Chairman: _____

Date: _____