

## Northamptonshire Local Access Forum

### Meeting Minutes Information

- Meeting Date: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- Location: Via Microsoft Teams

#### Members in attendance:

- Bob Entwistle – (Chair) BE
- Robin Jones- RJ
- John Shenfield – (Vice Chair) JS
- Chris Shaw - CS
- Fiona Rawlings – FR
- Leon Jolly - LJ
- Bob Martin - BM

#### Officers in attendance:

- Steve Fowler – SF
- Jacqui Williams – (Minutes) JW
- James Docherty -JD

#### Apologies:

- Cllr Jason Smithers
- Katherine Barker
- Linny Beaumont
- Tony Skirrow

#### Guests:

- Stephanie Brackpool-SB
- Geoffrey Brackpool- GB

### Minutes

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies - BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
BE welcomed all to the meeting and offered apologies on behalf of Cllr Jason Smithers, Katherine Barker, Tony Skirrow and Linny Beaumont.	Note	

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
BE thanked all attendees for their continued support of the Local Access Forum and expressed his hope that good progress can be made working with the new authorities of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire.	Note	
BE stated the order of business and requested that each delegate provide a few words of introduction including their interests in relation to the purpose of the Forum.	Note	

## 2. Election / Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair – BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
BE nominated JS to act as Vice Chairman for the next 12 months.	Note	
CS seconded this nomination.	Note	
It was agreed that JS be appointed as Vice Chairman for the next 12 months.	Note	
BE expressed his, and the Forum's gratitude for JS' dedication and assistance over the years and welcomed the new working relationship for 2021/22.	Note	
JS thanked everyone for the support and commitment to the Forum and for their appointment of him to Vice Chair.	Note	

## 3. Review of Minutes from the last meeting-BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
All agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were an accurate and true record.	Note	
<b>Slow Ways:</b> All were reminded that Slow Ways is a national initiative to produce maps of walking routes between major towns. This initiative is currently on hold due to the pandemic.	Note	
<b>RoW Diversions:</b> SF confirmed that all diversions are on currently on hold due to the pandemic.	Note	
<b>Active Travel:</b> To be discussed further on in meeting.	Note	
<b>Lost Ways:</b> It was noted that a petition had been submitted to extend the current deadline and the government had responded that there is power delegated to the Secretary of State to extend for up to 5 years.	Note	
<b>Walk &amp; Review of RoW / A43:</b> LJ to ascertain contact details of the appropriate contact within Highways England.	LJ	Next Meeting

Reference No: MW-OP-29-01/04a

Rev Date: Mar 13

Rev No: 01

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## 4. Presentation on Local Issues-LJ:

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
<p>LJ provided the following overview and update:  <b>Contract Update:</b> It was confirmed that the KierWSP contract has been extended until the end of March 2022. No changes are anticipated to current service levels until after March 2022 although some background processes will be split following the transition to unitary authorities in April 2021. It was confirmed that Graeme Kane has been appointed the Director of Place for North Northamptonshire. The Director of Place for West Northamptonshire has yet to be announced. It was confirmed that West Northamptonshire has delegated authority to provide Highway services for North Northamptonshire.</p>	Note	
<p>BE stated that he would like senior officers and elected members from both authorities to be invited to attend meetings over the next 13 months.</p>	JW/LJ/JD	30/04/2021
<p>JD confirmed that colleagues who are currently running services will continue to do so in the new authorities.</p>	Note	
<p><b>Business Plan:</b> LJ confirmed that the Business Plan has been submitted and would be presented to Cabinet in June or July. Highways had been advised that funding will remain the same as the previous years, however an appendix has been added to list potential uses for extra funding, should it become available. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving access for the mobility impaired.</li> <li>• Gate and bridge repairs.</li> <li>• Increased promotion of RoW (Communications).</li> </ul>	Note	
<p>JD confirmed that the assessment of funding for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire has been very thorough.</p>	Note	
<p>JS queried if the ability of Parish Councils to fund works upon the Highway Network will be affected by the transition – JD stated that this is not known at this time but information will be circulated once it becomes available.</p>	Note	
<p>It was confirmed that the working relationship with other local authorities within Northamptonshire is unclear at this time.</p>	Note	
<p><b>Active Travel Update:</b> Update from the Active Travel team to be circulated alongside the minutes.</p>	Note	12/03

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
<b>Isham Bypass:</b> LJ to ascertain if cycle facilities are to be part of the Isham Bypass scheme.	LJ	Next Meeting
<b>RoW Inspector:</b> Highways is seeking someone who is able to walk at least 20% of the network annually. LJ advised that Highways has just recruited a Highways Inspector who has the perfect experience. Further details to follow.	Note	
<b>Parish Path Wardens:</b> LJ confirmed that the PPW scheme is unable to continue in its current form as Northamptonshire County Council are unwilling to provide insurance cover for volunteers operating on the network. However, a revised scheme is being developed that will focus on the use of StreetDoctor to report issues. There will be separate email inbox available for correspondence that will be managed by JW. In time, regular updates will be issued to all Parish Path Wardens. It was suggested that arrangements be made for PPWs and members of The Ramblers footpath committee to liaise with each other regarding issues of common interest.	Note	
<b>StreetDoctor:</b> CS raised an issue where a StreetDoctor report had been closed without being resolved. CS to forward relevant details to JW for further investigation.	CS/JW	Next Meeting
<b>Liaison Meetings with The Ramblers:</b> It was agreed that in accordance with the RoWIP these should be reinstated.	LJ/JW	Next Meeting
<b>Parish Asset Data:</b> LJ to circulate reconfigured data to Forum Members.	LJ/JW	12/03
<b>Chester Farm:</b> LJ advised that Highways is still waiting for approval as the ground survey has been delayed.	Note	

## 5. Matters Arising- BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
<b>Cycle Path:</b> BM queried if the cycle path between Rothwell and Kettering is up to European standards as it appears to be very narrow. JD to investigate and report back	JD	Next Meeting
<b>Great Doddington:</b> JS raised concerns regarding the Byway at Great Doddington. Following discussion, it was confirmed by CS that it has already been raised with SF. The Forum would like it noted that it wishes this to be attended to as a matter of urgency.	SF	Next Meeting

## 6. Standing Order of business - BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
<b>RoW Issues:</b> JD advised that the Def Map team has received over 80 Def Map Modification Orders and although they are being progressed, resources are limited and the process is time consuming.	Note	
<b>Membership:</b> JW confirmed that a number of new members had joined the Forum and that the ToR and Governance Review has been circulated to all. It was further confirmed that further recruitment efforts will be ongoing.	Note	

## 7. Area Reports - LJ

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
LJ provided an overview of the Area and Structures reports. To be circulated with the minutes.	Note	

## 8. Forward Plan- BE

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
NLAF Webpage: JW has compiled updated information for the NLAF webpage but some of it has yet to be assessed against the newly-required accessibility criteria.	Note	
JW assured Forum members that every effort will be made to ensure that the website is updated as soon as possible.	JW /JD	
<b>Dates of Future Meetings:</b> It was agreed that meetings will be scheduled for late May, mid-September and mid-December. JD to ascertain dates of Cabinet Meetings.	JD	

## 9. Any other business- All

Discussion	Actions	Action Deadline
BE expressed his gratitude to all for attending the meeting and also to the Officers for facilitating the meeting.	Note	

Next meeting: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (TBC)