

NLAF Meeting 15th January 2016

Minutes

19:00 – 20:45hrs

Attending:

John Shenfield (JS)	Katie Angel – Northants Highways (KA)
Lisa Fell (LF)	Leon Jolly – Northants Highways (LJ)
Chris Glasspool (CG)	Steve Fowler – Northants Highways (SF)
	Karen MacLeavy – Northants Highways (KM)

Apologies

Sandra James	Robert Martin
Cllr Michael Clarke	

- Welcome - JS
- Minutes from last meeting – all agreed

- LF – Enforcement of rules on landowners/Spray update. How to make it mandatory?
LJ – It is possibly a carcinogenic, Friends of the earth have now written letters about this. Council will need to come up with an alternative.
KA – Suggest contacting local MP to take up the issue, likely to be out of councils remit, would require a change in legislation. Suggest writing another letter to MP focussing on that one issue.

- LF – Ashby St Ledgers
KA – Ground too wet
Long time for it to go through to last stages for sale. Once it's sold we can do something about it.

- LF - Street Dr update. Good initial response but then haven't heard from them.
KA – Advice from legal services as it was changed a long time ago, possibly 10 years. Cannot force a landowner to have a gate where there is a stile, can only ask them.

- JS – Contacted KBC to establish date for inspection relating to Burton Latimer, but had missed the date. Where is the inspectors date recorded? Could district councils notify LA when they are visiting
- JS – Sulgrave bridge
SF – No change from last meeting. LA has no powers to enforce at the moment
KA – Received letter from Parish Clerk requesting we attend a meeting, LA happy to attend but are waiting for confirmation of date. Legal services also investigating Statutory Nuisance act
- JS – Parish still hasn't received letter re speeding, has John Spencer sent it out?
KM – I believe the letter is being sent by the PCC office. However if the query relates to S106 funding for this issue then John Spencer could advise.
ACTION – JS to speak to Parish and write letter to John Spencer
- LJ – Draft budget. Highways budget is required to make 8% year on year savings. Highways are required to review each post when it becomes vacant, many departments having to take restrictions on recruitment, recruiting less staff. No planned cuts to actual delivery so the work on the ground will stay the same. Efficiencies being looked at to make savings, but priority is to save money with no impact to work on the ground. Will be looking to work together more, utilising the roles of others such as CLO's. The 5th RoW officer role will not be replaced. Katie will be supported to enable same level of service to continue, but some management and admin roles will be looked at.
- JS – Statutory duty to carry out maintenance plan. How are LA fulfilling their duty? What is the position to move capital from maintenance budget?
LJ – Revenue budget is most hit, looking to use capital in area of maintenance, making improvements to allow us to use money in a different way.
JS – In the next year, how many RoW officers will you have
LJ – 4
JS – Used to have 15 officers – how can 4 people do the same level of work with all of the expansion?
SF – Larger numbers of officers was when RoW team included Def Map officers too. Many other Authorities in similar position as Northamptonshire with regards to Definitive Map staffing levels.
LJ – Need to be smart about the work that is done to ensure we are compliant and meet our statutory responsibilities.
CG – Could use volunteer labour? Ramblers possibly?
LJ – H&S to consider, but happy to meet with anyone that wants to help. Will look into using community payback scheme.

KA – Has been used before but there were some issues due to rules in place (ie, welfare – toilets) so restricted to where they can be working

- CG – Great Doddington byway. On old OS maps the track is from Great Doddington direct to the lock. The footpath route from Doddington to the lock appears to follow the old track, whereas the byway route around the fields seems to have just appeared.
SF – Member of team looking into the history of this route.
- JS – NCC give KIERWSP contract to run Highways. If you are unable to carry on in the way people have become accustomed to who would a complaint be made out to?
SF – Northamptonshire County Council.
JS – Who would attend court?
SF – Assume a member of legal services.
JS – What happens if you don't have funds to meet statutory responsibilities?
SF – If we don't complete statutory responsibilities because there is no money then I would raise that as an issue.
- JS – What stage is it deemed that a bridge stops being a RoW responsibility and becomes Highways?
KA – Fotheringhay, Islip, recommendation to us (sometimes to close on safety grounds)
LJ – Can take time because Environment Agency might stipulate when work can happen, might need specialists to approve work on it.
JS – Can we have a written report for each of the issues on the agenda
LJ – Happy to do that
KA – We were served with a S56 for Eydon Bridge. Only weather delaying the work commencing. Should be resolved soon.
- SF – Good news. New highly experienced Definitive Map officer has joined the team this week. He will be picking up on outstanding casework such as the Lilford DMMO claim.

JS – Thank you.

Meeting End