Meeting Title: Northamptonshire Local Access Forum
Meeting Date: Thursday 19th September 2019
Location: The Oak Conference Room, Brixworth

Attendees
Members in attendance:
- John Shenfield (Chair) - JS
- Andrew Knapman - AK
- Bob Entwistle - BE
- Chris Glasspool - CG
- Leon Jolly - LJ
- Chris Shaw

Apologies:
- Cllr Jason Smithers
- Chris Shaw
- Richard Taylor
- Lisa Fell
- Paul Henson
- Joy Tripp
- Steve Rockall

Officers in attendance:
- Allan Rigby - AR
- Steve Fowler - SF
- Jacqui Williams (Minutes) - JW
- Bob Martin

Minutes

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1. Welcome and Apologies – JS:
   JS welcomed all to the group and offered apologies as detailed above.

2. Review of the Minutes of Last Meeting – JS:
   Asset Survey: Following discussion it was confirmed that the condition surveys for assets are held on a different database and combining the two may be challenging although LJ will aim to produce a combined report by the next meeting. It was confirmed that assets are inspected on a rolling programme which is approximately 30% complete at time of writing. BE requests that his edited response is circulated with the NLAF (JW).

   Street Doctor / Fix my Street: AR confirmed that work to add RoW to Street Doctor has been completed – AR to check functionality. LJ confirmed that NCC refused the request to rename online reporting tool ‘Fix My Street’ and therefore it will continue to be known as ‘Street Doctor’.

   Handover Maps: JW has arranged for AK to visit Wellingborough Depot to view vintage / handover maps. AK to liaise with Ben Wright at Wellingborough directly. AR to provide relevant contact details if required.

   Volunteer Works: LJ advised that Northamptonshire Highways is

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reviewing volunteer works in conjunction with a re-boot of the Parish Path Warden (PPW) scheme and a review of the PPW Handbook. It was confirmed that Colin Wickes will be undertaking PPW inductions and training although resources are very limited and therefore it will not be a quick process. LJ to confirm a list of tasks that Wardens / volunteers can complete by Friday 29th November.

**Moulton Bypass:** JS advised that he had written to Graham Carr regarding the proposed cycleway but had received no response. AR to investigate.

**HA9 Stoke Albany:** AR confirmed that the landowner has been approached a number of times previously but has declined to co-operate and due to time elapsed the chances of successful enforcement are very slim. SF advised that the landowner should be consulted on the possibility of a diversion. AR to discuss with David Grindley.

**Upper Lodge Farm, Pipewell:** Ongoing issues with obstruction on the RoW. AR to investigate.

**Parish Council Notice Boards:** LF to design a leaflet for Parish Notice Boards outlining the arrangements for reporting faults on the network and how to use Street Doctor.

**Countryside Code:** LF to provide appropriate information regarding young people and the Countryside Code for circulation to NCC Education Officers.

**Bridleway on Borough Hill:** Work is ongoing to resolve land and ecology issues.

**Annual Report:** JW reminded all that the NLAF has a duty to produce an annual report. Following discussion it was agreed that JW, AR and LJ will meet to discuss content and timescales.

### 3 Presentation / Discussion on Local Issues – All:

**Transition to Unitary Status:** LJ advised that there is no official update although NCC is undertaking preliminary discussions with Borough and District Councils. It was noted that the focus is on Children and Adults Social Services and that Highways is not a priority. All were reminded that the Government has yet to ratify the transition to Unitary.

**Highways Contract:** LJ advised that NCC is reviewing the Highways contract and that he hopes to provide an update at the next meeting.
### Forward Plan – All:

**Dates of future NLAF meetings:** Cllr Smithers to identify his most suitable / convenient dates and future NLAF meetings to be scheduled to coincide.

**NLAF Webpage:** LJ confirmed that he has raised the ongoing issues with updating the NLAF webpage with Nick Henstock but the challenges with lack of suitable resource remain. SF believes that DefMap may have some capacity to post information on the NLAF platform; JW to forward relevant information to George Massingham

### Matters Raised by Members:

**RoWIP (BE stated that RoWIP should be a standing item high on the agenda):** LJ provided an update on the public consultation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan:

- Approximately 70 responses received thus far, although we expect a limited number to be sent in by District Councils before the end of September.
- Responses received have been reviewed and a number of common themes have been recorded:
  - PPW Scheme
  - Mobility and Accessibility
  - Funding and resources
  LJ and JW are working on draft responses.
- Martin Sockett has received the consultation feedback and is currently reviewing the RoWIP. It was noted that RoWIP may be revised in line with consultation suggestions.

Further to this update LJ advised that the RoWIP may have to be re-written once the unitary authorities are established. BE requests that an action plan be drafted to include the process to be followed now that responses have been received and also proposed works to be undertaken on a year-by-year basis.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- Consultation responses to be drafted by Friday 4\(^{th}\) October.
- GDPR-compliant summary of consultation results to be drafted by Friday 4\(^{th}\) October and then circulated to NLAF.
- Action to be taken as a result of the RoWIP consultation – plan to be drafted and circulated to NLAF by Monday 14\(^{th}\) October.
- NLAF responses to action plan to must be received by Northamptonshire Highways by Friday 8\(^{th}\) November.
- Northamptonshire Highways final response / draft of RoWIP to NLAF by Friday 29\(^{th}\) November.

BE requested that a meeting be arranged to discuss RoWIP /
NLAF / funding etc. to include Cllr Smithers and David Grindley.

**Chester Farm Bridge (raised by BE):** Following on from previous discussions regarding the Chester Farm Bridge, BE advised that a letter has been sent to Cllr Jason Smithers by Northamptonshire Ramblers; objecting to the ongoing closure of the bridge. The letter confirms that Northamptonshire Ramblers is considering serving Notice on NCC under Section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 unless NCC fulfils its statutory duty to repair or replace the bridge. BE advised that no response has been received from Cllr Smithers and it was noted that neither LJ, AR nor JW had been made aware or have received a copy of the letter. Following discussion it was noted that no other representations have been received regarding Chester Farm Bridge. BE provided copies of the letter and supporting documentation; JW to scan all and forward to SF/AR/LJ.

**Doddington Byway (raised by JS):** Following on from the discussion in the June meeting, SF confirmed that the consultation was sent out to Wollaston / Doddington and Wellingborough councils and not one objection was raised. SF further advised that a landowner requested the bridleway be diverted and so a draft order is currently being prepared.

**AOB:**
BE requested a copy of the Parish Footpath Wardens information that Leon Jolly had presented at a previous NLAF meeting. AR to locate a copy.

BE advised that the National Ramblers Roadshow is scheduled to be held at Highgate House on 19th October. The event is only open to registered members of Ramblers UK.

BE noted that there are ongoing issues with the Health Walks website for Northampton (https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/northampton-health-walks) and so Northants Ramblers is currently investigating alternative ways of registering interested parties. The Ramblers Central Office intends to provide a new and improved website.

AR advised that a meeting to discuss ‘Lost Ways’ is scheduled to be held on Sunday 27th October. Details of venue available upon request.

NLAF meeting closed at 2052hrs.
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