

**SHEFFIELD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**Meeting held – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015**  
**at the Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods**

Members T. Howard; (Chair) R. Kite; L. Seaman; H. Norman; R. Owen;  
R. Hancock; L. Twigg

Officers: M. Hanson; (Principal PROW Officer) S. Beaton; (Senior PROW Officer);  
K.Chandler ; (Secretary)

Guests : Dave Aspinall ( Woodland Manager – PLACE)  
Matt Gregg (Planning Officer – PLACE)

1. Apologies J. Harker; P. Price; M. North; F. Beresford; C. Prescott

2. Minutes of the LAF meeting 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

Para.4 last line after “agree” it should have read “TH said where there may be no agreement the differing views would be given”.

4. Report back from Neighbouring LAFs

The PDNP have used their Access Fund monies to install stiles and gates on Access Land. Thornbridge Brewery provided sponsorship which enabled the work to be implemented and TH said that Duke’s Road is the best moorland footpath in the area.

MH told the LAF that Barnsley’s PROW Officer Mike Gibson is retiring.

5. Parkwood Springs Update

Matt Gregg gave a presentation re the plans for the future of Parkwood Springs and he suggested that it could now be referred to as a ‘Country Park within the City’.

He discussed the proposals of the Regeneration Masterplan and how SCC hope to achieve their aims. It appears a fundamental requirement for the site is to generate some sort of income i.e. ‘pay to play’ activities, but not motorsports. Also the open space in there must be retained, as must the public access. There was an open discussion for the LAF to give their views.

TH thanked Matt for his attendance.

MG

6. Dedication of Sheffield’s Woodland’s and Open Spaces

Dave Aspinall told the LAF that he’d come along to listen to the issues and concerns and he would like a list of land that was being referred to. As he expressed his intention to move this forward, TH gave him an overview of the situation which would culminate (hopefully) in SCC dedicating woodlands and open spaces in perpetuity, along with wildlife protection etc.

DA

TH continued to say that PDNP have already set a precedence as they have already dedicated their land under section 16 of CROW

DA said he was sympathetic towards the LAF's objectives but appreciates that David Howarth (Kier) is also under instructions to maximise funding from SCC land sales. He continued that re any land sale that there would be a public consultation and a management plan produced for major sites. Also that P & W as part of their funding from the Forestry Commission is to safeguard public access. They also haven't got the resources to allocate a dedicated person to gather this information.

RK said that there should be presumed dedication on Council Land, DA agreeing that there should be some evidence to support this. TH said that he has a copy (from years ago) published by the 'Sheffield Countryside Working Party' which states presumed dedication. SB suggested the best way forward is to identify these woodlands on OS maps (as Sect.16 of the CROW Act doesn't give protection as it can be amended) also OS omit very small areas of Access Land which could prove to be valuable assets.

It was suggested that SB/TH could send DA a list of woods/areas of land to be considered. TH emphasised that the right message which should be conveyed is that Sheffield is an Accessible City.

It was agreed that P & W include the LAF in any ongoing consultations.

The LAF is to send a letter to the appropriate Officers/Departments to request dedication and to also keep Cllr. Isobel Bowler informed of any changes.

TH thanked Dave for his attendance.

SB

ALL

7. PROW matters – various issues

The Rambler's expressed concern re lack of staffing levels in PROW which means that the review work and claims are not being dealt with. TH also mentioned that there may be claims resulting from Lost Ways investigations. RK commented that he would appreciate a planned timetable of review work as it is a statutory function to pursue these, this was agreed by the LAF.

The LAF agreed to send a letter expressing their concerns to the appropriate Council Officer and Councillors.

ALL

8. SHEFFIELD ROWIP 2017-2027 –Review

MH told the LAF that PROW are making plans of how to approach the preparation of the new PROWIP. He advised the LAF members that the new information that PROW have provided regarding what has been achieved so far, that the budget element was supplied confidentially and should not to be reproduced or shared with others outside the LAF.

They were encouraged to look at the present PROWIP and let PROW have any comments/suggestions which they think should be included in the next document (this can include new policies or the dropping of existing ones). MH said that it would be good to have the results by the next meeting. It is hope that the consultation on the new document would be web based.

ALL

9. PROWIP UPDATE

SB said Sandy Lane Byway and Coppice Lane Schemes are now complete. There has been progress re the Definitive map with LEMMO's for paths in Ecclesfield now being completed. RK asked if they would be shown on the Definitive Map and will the paths include the schedule. He continued that there is also a new footpath link from Green Drive to the newly felled area in Burbage Valley, however this is only on a permissive basis. TH said that a lot of remedial work was taking place there but many people are wanting minimal intervention whilst the work is ongoing. SB replied that this approach is already being used. Regarding the proposed Green Drive Bridleway Sam is working in conjunction with NT and RSPB as to when bracken spraying can be done along the verges. RO asked if gates wider than 5 foot had been considered on here to allow horse pulled disabled buggies, which TH told RO that this request should be dealt with by the SMP. MH said that advice should be taken from the HA re the legal status of this.

DA mentioned that he was at a meeting with Ted Talbot and Danny Udall from NT who told him that they would like to liaise with Sheffield PROW to discuss proposals and access issues and ask for their opinion as representatives of the HA.

RK said whilst SCC is planning to dispose of assets that they are not allowed to do this with the public highway. He wants to see an agreement that the Green Drive proposals are subject to an annual review

10. Major Schemes for the next 12 months

SB has already supplied the LAF with the timetable for various schemes.

11. Open Access – Update and Issues

Work will begin on Green Drive to upgrade this to a permissive bridleway.

12. Sheffield Parkway/ Waverley/former Airport site

MH said the site of the old Sheffield Airport is now being developed near to Europa Link and impacts slightly onto the existing PROW. The Waverley site is being developed which the LAF are hopeful that a bridle bridge is to be installed which will link over Sheffield Parkway to Rotherham.

13. A.O.B.

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CROW Act, TH suggested planting a rowan tree at Packhorse Bridge in Burbage Valley, but was open to any other ideas from the LAF on what to do on a promotional basis.

ALL

14. Date of next meeting

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods 2.00 pm.

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