

SHEFFIELD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
Meeting held – Friday 8th July 2016
at the Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods

Members T. Howard; (Chair); J. Harker; R. Kite; M. North; P. Price;
R. Owen; R. Hancock

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

Guests : Paul Fell (TT & PS Business Manager)
Dave Aspinall (P & C Woodlands Manager)
Suzanne Bedford ; Andy Cunningham; Ross Kerr – Network Rail

Action

1. Apologies
Les Seaman, Chris Prescott and Henry Norman.
2. Minutes of the LAF meeting 4th March 2016
Item.9 should read the Peak District LAF has approached Local Authorities.
3. Matters arising
Nothing to discuss.
4. Rail crossing closures – Network Rail
There was an open discussion with Suzanne Bedford – Liabilities Negotiations Manager from Network Rail along with two colleagues, Ross Kerr and Andy Cunningham.

The location of the railway crossing which has been closed by Network Rail is at More Hall via Holmes Farm off the A6102 leading to Wharnccliffe Wood and Craggs, north of Sheffield (GR 30059562).

The LAF are requesting that this railway crossing is opened up again (after Network Rail closed this in June 2015), on the basis that the route has always been considered by the public to be a Public Right of Way and has been used for at least 80 years without problem and now it is not even the main line but rather just one train a day to the steelworks
Various LAF members stated their views in support of this being re-opened but unfortunately no decision was reached as NR insists it should remain closed because of Health and Safety issues.

The LAF decided to take this further by sending a letter to Mr. Robert McIntosh the Route Managing Director of Network Rail, with a request for there to be a formal review of the decision taken to close the crossing and for it to be reinstated.

KC

5. SCC Land Disposals /SCC owned Woodlands on O.S. - Update

Dave Aspinall explained that since the last LAF that very little work has been done to show the SCC owned woodlands on O.S. maps. Apparently Ordnance Survey requires that shape files are sent to them for inclusion on the actual maps.

KC asked DA to keep the LAF in the loop and if he would send a list of the woodlands that need to be included.

LAF suggested that the SCC woodlands available to the public should be displayed on an Open Access website (?). DA said its on his' to do list'.

DA mentioned that David Howarth who worked in Kier Property Services, and was a great supporter of access, and liaised regarding Land Disposals has now retired from SCC, so he's not sure who's going to negotiate future land disposals. DA said the budget situation is such that there is a need to maximise Council Land to help balance the books

PP said there are small plots of land designated for housing which could stimulate private sector investment. The Council have already had to deal with farm disposals which are just then classed as Capital Receipt.

Also the Facilities and Property Management Team already look after many parcels of land of maybe just an acre in size.

JH asked if the LAF will be consulted re these tiny plots of land as they might have potential for linkages , DA said yes, as they are still classed as Access Land but he doesn't really know.

DA mentioned that Lady Cannings Plantation and Wragg House Plantation will soon have a temporary Closure on them due to thinning works.

MH asked if the lease had been signed for Houndkirk yet with DA replying No because of it being held up by bureaucracy. MH then mentioned the problem with motor cycles riding off Houndkirk Road and Jumble Road and TH said he was going to liaise with Ted Talbot re this issue.

TH thanked DA for his attendance.

6. N.W. Sheffield Moorland Fringe Landscape Partnership

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust have put in a bid to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund provided for this Project and to work in conjunction with the Landscape Partnership.

The Partnership have suggested various proposals which include habitat and landscape improvements in the Countryside, developing nature conservation and providing preservation for future generations.

TH and RO attended the meeting on behalf of the LAF to ensure that public access to moorland fringe and lost ways were included in the bid.

The LAF have sent a letter of support to SRWT and the outcome should be known by the end of October.

RO asked who's taking the lead on 'Sheffield - the Outdoor City' as BHS has not been included. DA told her to contact Diana Buckley and he said P& C are also promoting Cycling routes.

7. Regional and National LAF Attendance

TH and JH have both attended the regional LAF. JH thinks a regional LAF would raise the profile of LAFs and influence officers at Natural England and Government Ministers.

TH said that we need to support Jerry Pearlman who is a proactive member of the Regional LAF. MN suggested that we should try and contact Local Enterprise projects for support. PP said we should encourage the Sheffield City Region re promoting the Transport Network.

The next Regional LAF is to be held in Barnsley on the 28th September with volunteers required from the Sheffield LAF members to attend.

8. Restoring the Record

There are two courses in York and Bradford to allow LAFs to share information and discuss cross border routes, LAF members encouraged to attend, also Ramblers and BHS members welcome. TH said Ramblers and BHS should work together, RO mentioned that she attended a meeting where NFU members were also present.

JH said BHS ought to be liaising with Steve Tivey (ROW Review Officer) re new routes. TH mentioned that some new routes had already been added to the Definitive Map by use of Enclosure Awards, Tithe Awards, Finance Acts etc. However JH expressed his concerns re the lack of manpower required in PROW to carry out these extra functions.

MH advised that SCC had now carried out most of the current work regarding investigations into the old lanes around the City and had made Legal Event Orders to reflect their legal status

9. Next Phase of Stocksbridge Cycletrack/Bridleway

MH said that SCC Transport group was now considering Phase 2 – Little Don Walk to create a new route and PROW have liaised with the Transport Planners re this Scheme. This would provide a multi-use track for pedestrians and cyclists and to include a verge for horses where possible

It is proposed that SCC will make a Bridleway Creation Order, which is just like a CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) to secure this route.

PP asked for timespan to create this walk and MH said next financial year.

10. Pedal Peak - Update

Part of the Pedal Peak areas include Langsett and Stocksbridge

MH said that he sought legal advice re Loadbrook, but unfortunately there was not enough evidence on historical documents to upgrade this to any higher status than a public footpath, as this had never been laid out as a public road previously.

11. Definitive Map Work - Update

MH informed the LAF that, Cowell Flat, Pudding Poke, Bud Lane, Ringwood Lane and Onksley Lane North have now all been officially added to the Definitive Map.

Modification orders are in the process of being prepared for the Beighton scapyard path and several paths through Great Hollins Wood

12. Report back from Neighbouring LAFs

TH attended the PDNP LAF where Moors for the Future gave an impressive presentation of recent works they have carried out and also the new path on Derwent Edge has been much improved to prevent erosion problems

Although he had also noticed a number of mountain bikes racing along the hillside causing further erosion.

The LAF have been made aware that there is a series of illegal cycle tracks being accessed which are causing major damage to surfaces and various Cycling Groups are now involved to discuss this. TH said he would like to see this on the next LAF Agenda as he's really concerned.

RO mentioned that the mountain bikes are now much faster than years ago.

MN said he was concerned by the environmental impact caused by mountain bikes and the adverse effect on farmland. RK suggested the cycling fraternity should contribute to the upkeep of the tracks.

DA commented that part of the Outdoor City strategy reflects the increase in Cyclists, although in Sheffield they are generating their own money and even putting in specific routes. Parkwood Springs, Lady Cannings Plantation and Redmires reflect the need for this.

Sheffield ROWIP – Review

MH said that Steve Tivey had not enough time to deal with this yet but it was hoped to have something to present to the next LAF.

Open Access – Update and Issues

TH said that Moscar Estates has been sold to Haddon Estates who intend to use this as a grouse moor and that the LAF need to show an interest in this.

A.O.B.

DA had brought along to the LAF a draft copy of the Rivelin Valley Nature Trail Information Board for our perusal and comments.

Date of next meeting

Friday 14th October – Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods – 2.00 p.m.