

SHEFFIELD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
Meeting held – Friday 9th October 2015
at the Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods

Members T. Howard; (Chair); J. Harker; R. Kite; L. Seaman; P. Price; C. Prescott;
M. North; H. Norman; R. Owen; R. Hancock

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

Guest : Jon Dallow – Woodlands Project Officer P & W

Action

1. Apologies

Frank Beresford has offered his resignation which the LAF accept.
TH welcomed Matt North back to the Sheffield LAF, but as a representative of the National Trust.

2. Minutes of the LAF meeting 5th June 2015

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

Item 7 – TH mentioned the LAF letter to John Mothersole re the concern of staffing levels in the PROW Group.

Item 11 – SCC agree that the management of Green Drive should be the shared responsibility with the Nat.Trust and that the works re the plantation removal is now taking shape.

3. Matters arising

SB/TH are to send to DA a list of woods/areas of land which the LAF consider should be classed as dedicated and Jervis Lumb at Norfolk Park should be included.

TH has contacted Ted Talbot for suggestions of how to celebrate the tenth Anniversary of the LAF.

MH said there is a small scheme proposed for Packhorse Bridge to implement stabilisation works i.e. secure loose stones etc. as NE have approved this as a listed structure.

SB/TH

4. Lady Cannings Plantation

Jon Dallow is the Project Officer promoting the leisure side of Lady Cannings and has been involved in the implementation of the Mountain Bike Trail in this area.

He apologised for not liaising with the LAF but said he had consulted with the Hallam Riders Group and a local Disabled Riding group. He invited the LAF to a site visit so they could give their views on the actual Trail. He mentioned there had been signage/waymarking problems. He stated that there was a need for interpretation of this site because it was the 'Gateway to the Moors' and perhaps extend down to Longshaw

Jon has been involved with cycle and footpath infrastructure and consulted with the Eastern Moors Partnership. Lady Canning's Plantation is classed as a coniferous woodland surrounded by SSSI's.

He's currently investigating recreational zoning of the site but is aware there could be a conflict of users and asked for any other interested parties to get involved as the Planning Application will be dealt with by Peak Park.

MH expressed his concerns that only Phase 1 has been constructed, when the original concept was for a segregated circular route and if Phase 2 doesn't follow on soon the bridleway will be inundated with cyclists.

JD said the last thing he wanted was to encourage to attract more traffic, so he was promoting the use of Houndkirk and Jumble Road as return routes. It was mentioned that the official Bridleway Scheme was funded by a Central Government scheme to encourage safe horse riding and there is a legal obligation for cyclists to give way to horseriders and pedestrians.

RO also voiced her concerns re Phase 2 re when crossing the Byway as to who is going to take precedence and the importance of correct signage. He replied that they had been receiving good feedback from all users and is now investigating where to locate the best entrance to the site.

MH enquired if chicanes were going to be in situ to slow the cyclists down, Jon said they are taking physical measures and following good practice guidelines. Also they are trying to provide more car parking which will be required to accommodate the extra interest in the site.

TH invited Jon to the next LAF meeting to give an update and allow the LAF to make suggestions, MN said maybe useful to nominate a member of a Walking/Cycling Forum to liaise on behalf of the LAF.

TH thanked Jon for his attendance.

5. Report back from Neighbouring LAFs

TH told the LAF that NE are no longer supporting the Regional LAFs at all, withdrawing finance and asking various Councils to support funding. He proposed an amalgamation of Sheffield/Rotherham/Barnsley/Doncaster to form a Regional LAF Forum which could also include North and West Yorks. He asked the LAF to consider his proposal.

6. PROW Matters

MH was asked to comment on a letter which had been sent by the LAF to SCC Chief Executive (John Mothersole) raising concerns re the lack of staff in the PROW Group and not dealing with the backlog of historical claims.

MH said that Sam Beaton has been seconded to Parks & Countryside on a 12 month contract which in turn has released monies to provide a Review Officer for a year. Steve Tivey is now employed on a part time basis to deal with urgent claims where a path is obstructed and some of the outstanding old lane claims/issues.

TH requested an update of the Review Paths next year, MH said that some priority routes may have been changed. MH also mentioned that another Officer in Highway Records is now preparing schedules of adopted paths in urban area and draughting Legal Event Orders with statements so they can be added to the Definitive Map before the cut off date of 2026. It is estimated that there are 3000 paths to deal with.

MH

7. SHEFFIELD ROWIP 2007-2017 – Review and PROWIP 2

MH reminded the LAF that the current PROWIP only covered the period up to 2017 and legislation required that the current document is reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose to progress into the next 10 years. He emphasised that this is only a Review not a complete rewrite and any suggestions for amendments that LAF members would like to suggest re the current document, should be sent to the LAF Secretary by the end of the year. To assist in this matter MH circulated various notes on some of the works that had been carried on over the period of the current PROWIP as previously suggested by LAF members

All

MN asked if it was worth mentioning which organisations had assisted in the funding of the PROWIP. TH stated that what the PROW Group have achieved is commendable.

JH raised his concerns re the missing section of the Trans Pennine Trail between Loicher Lane and Butterthwaite Road which was sold with a caveat that a new public Bridleway would be created. He stated that an Order to create this path was made 3 years ago and still hasn't been resolved, he stressed that this could be a very important link to the TPT. He suggests that the LAF contact an Appointing Officer and raise concerns that this needs to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate with the support of the LAF. All agreed that the LAF should write to the head of TT&PS to request an update to see if the Creation Order has been referred to the Secretary of State.

KC

8. NETWORK RAIL ISSUE – Poynton Wood

JH mentioned the HS2 proposals via Network Rail which will affect SHE/318 in Poynton Wood which leads to Dore and Topley Station and the impact on commuters.

He said that the LAF need to register an objection and send this to DfT and whilst there is a standing objection the Order cannot be confirmed. MH said NR can't include a temporary Order as they've not yet got the go ahead re the proposed works. LAF were all in agreement to send a letter of objection.

KC

9. PROWIP Update

SB circulated a list of recently completed PROWIP Schemes to the LAF members.

10. Major Schemes for the next 12 months

SB advised the LAF that this is the time of year to submit ideas for priority Schemes to be considered for the Summer 2016 Work Schedule.

11. Open Access – Update and Issues

Green Drive has now been upgraded to a permissive Bridleway and will be officially open by October 2015.

TH asked MN re the implementation of a Sheffield Moors Partnership Forum and was he aware if Sheffield and PDNP will be part of this.
He said he would discuss this with Ted Talbot.

12. A.O.B.

13. Date of next meeting

Friday 11th December – LAF update meeting to commence at 12.00