

**SHEFFIELD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**Meeting held – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015**  
**at the Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods**

Members T. Howard; (Chair) M. North; H. Norman; L. Seaman; R. Owen;  
R. Hancock; F. Beresford; C. Prescott; H. Norman; M. North

Officers: T. Andrews; (Senior PROW Officer) S. Beaton; (PROW Access Officer);  
K.Chandler; (Secretary)

Other :

1. Apologies R. Kite; J. Harker; L. Twigg; R. Godley; P. Price; M. Hanson

2. Minutes of the LAF meeting 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

24<sup>th</sup> October minutes - Item 5. Blackamoor Management Plan, the LAF Chair has sent his comments to SWT but requested that the LAF members respond personally.

He suggested that areas of Blackamoor should be dedicated as Access Land and that SWT should give greater protection as managers of the land.

He also said there were issues as to how we respond to consultations i.e. Woodside/Pye Bank/Parkwood Springs and Greno Woods, and that the LAF should be able to make a full response.

TH and KC then agreed when any consultations are sent to the LAF that KC will send them out and TH will respond on behalf of the LAF. MN asked what if the members didn't agree, TH said so be it and the LAF okayed this.

TH had seen an ad in the local press which stated that SCC are planning to dispose of various public open space areas including Burbage, Houndkirk and Hathersage Moor. The LAF have not been informed re these proposals and KC has sent an email to the Legal Dept. re their lack of consultation with ourselves.

Also it's the CROW Act 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and TH asked how the LAF should celebrate this and what do we plan to do on a promotional basis.

4. Report back from Neighbouring LAFs

TH said the Peak District LAF have started an 'Access Fund' to attract donations and are producing an Access newsletter. MN says he presumes this includes the Bradfield area.

There are problems with the fencing of Access Land at Kinder Scout and also in Lady Canning's Plantation.

RO said they were going to plant lots of trees there and that she was concerned re the Jumble Road track as it has not allowed sufficient headspace for horse riders. SB replied that this area was going to be opened up as part of the land management plan.

TH raised concerns re Ox Stone as 2 gates have been erected with no signage to prohibit cyclists, so obviously cyclists are getting in.

He continued that Fitzwilliam Estates have created a new road from cartledge stones and it is a real eyesore.

5. Sheffield ROWIP - Review

TH informed the LAF that it was a good time to start preparation for proposals, comments etc. to be included in the next ROWIP 2017 – 2027.

SB agreed that there was no need to re-write the 26 (approx.) policies as these could still be considered as an aspiration. The members were asked to email their comments to KC. It was suggested a few guidelines could be put together to help submit their comments and HN suggested at every other LAF that the members should discuss the timescales involved.

6. Dedication of Sheffield Woodlands & Open Spaces

TH has contacted SCC Legal Dept. to request them to dedicate all their woodlands and open spaces, however they are not legally obliged to do this. Whilst it seems that various public Authorities are being asked to dispose of land, some are not willing to dedicate as the land is seen as a financial asset.

Peak District have already dedicated theirs at no cost to themselves and informed Ordnance Survey.

The LAF are concerned that possibly some areas could be potentially sold off and used for housing e.g. Wickfield Plantation, Birley and Den Bank.

MN commented that there are so many different departments involved e.g. Parks & Countryside, Planning, Woodlands, etc. and Land Managers, so who is going to be responsible for identifying the areas. SB has already discussed this with Dave Aspinall (P & C) and David Howarth (Kier).

By dedicating woodland , we could keep the benefits and protect them to ensure access in perpetuity. Therefore it was decided that the LAF send a letter to John Mothersole and Julie Dore to bring to their attention the need for SCC to dedicate their woodland and open spaces and offered an opportunity for a meeting to discuss this with the LAF.

MN said to be careful that we're not asking for too much. HN asked if the upcoming elections could possibly have any effect on their decision as promoting Sheffield as the 'Green City'.

7. Overview of South Yorkshire LAFs

TH had met with the LAF Chairs of Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster. Together they agreed to share good practice, cross boundary issues especially the proposed motorway services station at Smithy Wood, which involves both Sheffield and Rotherham Council.

The Sheffield and Rotherham LAF Chairs discussed the need for a bridle bridge to be installed on a footpath from Sheffield Parkway which finishes in Rotherham. Rotherham MBC has sent a letter to state they are going to approach Harworth Estates to see if they can provide funding for this. This was endorsed by the LAF.

8. Motorcycle issues in the North of Sheffield

MN expressed his concern re the increasing issues of motorcycles and quad bikes being used in Wharncliffe Woods. There have been various incidents with walkers and also damage to the fencing at the Nature Reserve. He has contacted the Police who are monitoring the activity, but this involves Penistone, Deepcar and Chapeltown constabularies and he is also liaising with the Forestry Commission.

CP said Stocksbridge Community Forum have contacted Alan Billings (police and crime Commissioner) to ask for his support and the Walkers are Welcome Group have already raised concerns.

SB showed photos of some 'warning' signs that the Forestry Commission have erected to deter these illegal users, which culminates in the vehicle being crushed. It was discussed that there needs to be a deterrent to prevent them gaining access but it was all due to funding (or lack of).

HN said situation was getting worse, TH mentioned that the LAF has tried to enlist a motorcycle/vehicle user to join the LAF so we could liaise with them. RO said there was a possible contact from the Trailriders Association and TH said Barnsley LAF had a Trailrider representative whom he will contact.

9. Peak District MTB

HN gave a brief overview of the Peak District MTB who are a similar Group to Ride Sheffield. They have formed this Cycling Group with a core body of residents who live and work in the Peak Park, which obviously overlaps with Sheffield. HN continued that there are currently plans on a national level to form a governing body to represent cyclists and to make a way forward.

10. PROWIP Update

SB said quiet time a year for Major Schemes but the Schemes which have now been completed are She FP/183 – (Hillfoot Rd to The Grove Totley) and She FP/498 (Conduit FP between Lodge Moor Rd and Soughley Lane). SB to meet with the Dore Village Society regarding the new Bridleway from Whitelow Lane to Blackamoor.

11. Open Access Update and Issues

SB gave an overview of the Burbage Valley deforestation progress :- all the timber has now been extracted. The slopes towards Higger Tor and Carl Wark have now been seeded with heather and will not be fenced in. The main area to east of the stream is being fenced in with a mixture of gates and stiles at major and minor desire lines/access points. The side path by the main stream is not being fenced or affected.

The track across the moor between Green Drive and the plantation is not being taken out, but being seeded at the edges then landscaped to make it appear 2m wide. Also the Helipad is being taken out.

Green Drive itself will be the last to be landscaped and reinstated, then it will be returned to its original condition. The work is still on course for the finish date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and the proposal for a permissive use of this route for horses and cyclists is scheduled to be carried out by the end of summer. The LAF supported these proposals in principle.

RO mentioned the proposals from the BHS to implement a 'Paths for Communities' Scheme and that £25K has been designated to implement this in 2015.

The aim is to provide funding for Bridleways and Restricted Byways in England and Wales and multi-user routes in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Scheme will be launched in time for Open Access Week 2015 – October 19<sup>th</sup> until October 25<sup>th</sup>.

TH said the LAF must consider this new opportunity but be aware that the deadline for submitting comments is 26<sup>th</sup> April.

12. Major Schemes for the next 12 months (inc. ROWIP Update)

SB has circulated a timetable to the LAF of the PROW maintenance schedule for the next six months and invited comments and ideas.

13. A.O.B.

CP asked if anyone else had heard that Yorkshire Water have created five new posts for Reservoir staff and that Stanage Pole is falling down.

TH said Burbage bridge (Packhorse bridge) is still vulnerable. He also mentioned that in the Amey Contract that he requested a Rowan tree to be replaced to commemorate what has been achieved in the Valley.

TH suggested that this could possibly be implemented as part of the LAF 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Date of next Meeting

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods 2.00 p.m.

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