



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of the LAF meeting held on Friday 24th February 2023 at the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: T. Howard (Chair), H. Norman (Vice Chair), R. Owen, M. FitzGerald, R. Kite, M. North, L. Seaman.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: S. Beaton (Principal PROW Officer), G. Brooksbank (Senior PROW Engineer), Z. Hodgkinson (Senior PROW Technician & LAF secretary).

OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Longhurst, A. Butler.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (APOLOGIES)

The LAF accepted apologies from the following members... R. Williams (Cllr), P. Price (Cllr), J. Horscroft, J. Harker, C. Prescott, R. Godley.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – JUNE 2022)

Minutes from the last meeting held in June 2022 were accepted by the LAF without objection or correction.

AGENDA ITEM 3 (SCC RURAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN)

Members of the LAF were disappointed and concerned that they have potentially been missed out of the consultation process regarding Sheffield City Council's Rural Estate Management Plan. RK and TH reminded members that the LAF is a statutory consultee for all countryside access related issues and that it is possible that the LAF has been overlooked during the consultation process. SB and AB explained that this may not have been the case as the consultation process was not clear. SB will contact the relevant department and ask them to attend the next LAF meeting to explain the situation with regards to the REMP.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (LAF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE)

The LAF is in need of new membership with members asked to help recruit new people with interests in the following: land ownership, motorised vehicle use, fell running and disabled access. TH stated again that he would like to step down as the chair of the forum however at this moment in time there are no volunteers to take up this position. TH agreed to chair the meeting and will continue to chair the forum until a successor can be found. SB asked if members would like to rotate the position as chair but for now TH will continue.

It was mentioned that the LAF lacks diversity and is not necessarily a true reflection of Sheffield as a city.

Members of the LAF also expressed difficulty in recruiting new people due to the time of LAF meetings. It was agreed that ZH will create a poll for the LAF to vote on with a view to confirming a new time of day and day of the week for future LAF meetings. It was agreed for now that the current meeting place of Ecclesall Woods Discovery Centre was suitable for LAF meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (OPEN ACCESS UPDATE)

Sheffield City Council have implemented a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) at Moscar Cross Road (BRA/185) again due to the surface being unsafe for all users. Boulders have been placed in front of the fence alongside the gates at the bottom of the hill because the fence was vandalised soon after the gates were locked. South Yorkshire Police will continue to patrol the area to deter any further vandalism. Surface repairs are likely to follow in May 2023 (weather permitting). Sheffield City Council's Traffic Regulations team are intending to cover the cost of a permanent seasonal TRO for Moscar Cross Road, and will aim make an order this summer, but it is unclear at present if PROW will be able to pay for the necessary infrastructure to implement the order as soon as any TRO is in place. RO informed the LAF that the Hallam Riders Group may be able to fund the required infrastructure at the top of the hill (new bridle gate and fixings) but would double check before committing.

AGENDA ITEM 6 (DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE)

GB gave an update of ongoing schedule 14 applications to the LAF...

- Clough Fields – A decision has been made with an order to be made for a bridleway.
- Penistone Lane – A decision has been made with the applicant to be informed soon.
- Dark Lane – A decision has been made with the applicant to be informed soon.
- Cobden View Road – An objection to the stopping up order has now been withdrawn so the order will be confirmed.
- Ronksley Lane – Still with Planning Inspectorate (referred due to objection).
- Load Brook Road – is still with SCC legal services for advice.
- Whitwell Ridge – Currently under investigation.
- ECC/100 (Level crossing closure) – TTRO in place at the moment. A meeting has been planned with Northern Rail, GB and JH on the 15th March 2023 to discuss the ongoing issues.

AGENDA ITEM 7 (MAJOR SCHEMES UPDATE)

The LAF members were shown a short presentation of improvement schemes completed by PROW during the 2022 – 2023 financial year. SB informed the LAF that no capital programme is currently in place for the 2023 – 2024 financial year due to staffing constraints and the PROW Rangers imminent move to Parks & Countryside. There is a possibility of putting together a small-scale programme later in the year and PROW will update the LAF if and when this goes ahead. A small flexi – pave scheme is currently on going at SHE/288 (Allen Syke Bridleway) which will be completed shortly.

SCHEMES COMPLETED IN 2022- 2023		
PROW Ref	Location	Description
BRA/227	Burnt Hill Lane	Crushed limestone surfacing
BRA/42	Strines reservoir	Installation of new bridge
BRA/54	Loxley fisheries	Installation of new bridge
SHE/127	Rivelin Valley Road	Flexi-pave surfacing
SHE/201a	Long Lane	Crushed gritstone surfacing
SHE/227	Gilleyfield Avenue	Tarmac surfacing
SHE/228	Bushey Wood Road	Tarmac surfacing
SHE/288	Redmires Road	Flexi-pave surfacing
SHE/425	Normanton Spring Road	Tarmac surfacing
SHE/532	Coppice Lane	Flexi-pave surfacing

AGENDA ITEM 8 (REPORT BACK FROM NEIGHBOURING LAF's)

A request was made by SB for members to reach out and attend neighbouring LAF's. ZH will attend the next PDNPA LAF and report back.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (PROW STAFFING UPDATE)

PROW Rangers will be transferred to Parks and Countryside very soon after April 1st. The public and our customers will not notice any change in service, other than a slight reorganisation of our current work programme to make our service delivery more efficient. ZH or SB will share that information with the LAF when it is finalised. PROW rangers will be carrying out more mechanical vegetation clearance this summer rather than herbicide spraying to meet glyphosate reduction targets/policy.

A member of the Highways Regulations team is due to assist the PROW team again in a variety of office and admin tasks. No previously promised Technician posts will now materialise anywhere in the department, but there remains the possibility of an apprentice for PROW.

AGENDA ITEM 10 (LONG TERM ACCESS UPDATE)

Sheffield City Council were informed by a member of the LAF about an obstruction on footpath SHE/101a at Clough Fields. SB to investigate this report further.

It was reported that there is a lack of bridleway signage around Mousehole Forge off the Rivelin Valley Road. ZH to investigate and report back.

AGENDA ITEM 11 (AOB)

The LAF and officers thanked R.L and A.B for observing the meeting and for their contributions.

AGENDA ITEM 11 (DATE OF NEXT MEETING)

No date was set for the next LAF meeting. This will be decided once a new time of meeting and day of the week is confirmed.