



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of the LAF meeting held on Friday 20th October 2023 at the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: J. Harker (Acting Chair), T. Howard, R. Owen, M. FitzGerald, L. Seaman, H. Norman.

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

OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE: R. Entwistle.

AGENDA ITEM 1 (APOLOGIES)

The LAF accepted apologies from the following members... R. Godley, J. Horscroft, M. North, A. Butler, R. Williams (CLLR), M. North, R. Kite, C. Prescott, Peter Price (CLLR)

AGENDA ITEM 2 (CHAIR APPOINTMENT FOR NEXT LAF MEETING)

It was decided that LAF members should take it in turns to act as Chair in the absence of a permanent Chair

AGENDA ITEM 3 (MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – JULY 2023)

The minutes of the last meeting (July 2023) were reviewed by members. It was noted by RO that some details were not included in the minutes from the last meeting, but these were not deemed to be essential to the record. RO asked if more detail could be included in the minutes to serve as a more accurate record. The minutes were then accepted by the LAF.

AGENDA ITEM 4 (LAF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE)

The LAF was informed by ZH that RG had resigned as a member of the LAF. The LAF thanked RG for his efforts over the years and wished him well. RE is observing the meeting today with an interest of off-road recreational vehicle use. He has expressed his interest in becoming a member of the Sheffield LAF and is also a member of the PDNPA LAF. Members of the LAF unanimously agreed that RE is welcome to join.

ZH has contacted several user groups to see if anyone would like to join the LAF but has not had any responses. TH expressed concern that there needs to be a current active member of the Sheffield LAF at Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP) meetings. RO volunteered to represent the LAF's interests at SMP meetings which was welcomed by members.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (OPEN ACCESS UPDATE)

SB gave a short update on the Moscar Cross Road seasonal TRO. Several objections have been made to the Traffic Regulations team regarding the exclusion of motorcycles from the TRO. SB explained to members that motorcycles are not proposed to be included in the TRO as there wasn't enough evidence to show that excessive motorcycle use was contributing to damage on the byway. SB informed members that ZH will be inspecting and monitoring the Byway monthly and reporting back his findings.

As objections had been made it is now very unlikely that the seasonal TRO will be in place before the end of this calendar year. No date has been confirmed in December for the council committee meeting to review the TRO and to hear objections. JH made it clear that as the LAF is a statutory body the LAF need a voice in the meeting. SB responded that he was unsure how many user groups could formally make an objection at the committee meeting, but he will ask the traffic regulations team and report back.

ZH informed members that the Ughill Farm site visit with SRWT is still going ahead and will likely take place towards the end of November. ZH to email the LAF when details have been finalised.

TH wanted to raise and reiterate his frustration that the LAF was not consulted as part of the review of Sheffield's Rural Estate Management Plan (REMP). SB told members that he has tried several times to get a representative to attend the LAF to answer their questions.

AGENDA ITEM 6 (DEFINITIVE MAP WORK UPDATE)

GB gave the following update to the LAF regarding schedule 14 applications...

SHE/SCH14/005 (Mucky Lane) – Determined, Bridleway order to be made and has been sent off to SCC legal services.

Load Brook Road – The PROW team are still awaiting an opinion from legal services as to whether the schedule 14 application includes any new evidence.

Ronksley Lane – This application is still with the planning inspectorate, and we have not had any further updates.

GB informed the LAF that since the last LAF meeting in the summer the PROW department has received four new schedule 14 applications at Totley Brook. The applications were received at the start of September and all paths are currently unobstructed, open, and useable. The application reference numbers for those who are interested are as follows... SHE/SCH14/016, SHE/SCH14/017, SHE/SCH14/018 & SHE/SCH14/019.

There has been no further progress on outstanding applications since the LAF meeting in the summer predominantly down to back logs of work with legal services.

AGENDA ITEM 7 (CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE)

SB started the discussion by showing the LAF a list of the current programme of works that will be undertaken on Public Rights of Way through land managed or owned by Parks and Countryside before the end of 2023-24.

Following the discussion regarding capital works at the LAF meeting in the summer SB reached out to Yorkshire Water and Eastern Moors Partnership and did not get a reply. The LAF was then shown a list of the proposed schedule of works for 2024-25 which is subject to change depending on and if anything major comes to the team's attention over the following months.

SB asked members of the LAF for their thoughts regarding the use of flexi-pave surfacing on bridleways at Coit Lane and Totley Lane. Members did not object to the use of the product but expressed concern of its use near to watercourses due to ecological reasons. RO agreed to look at Totley Lane and report back with her thoughts from a horse riding point of view.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (AOB)

TH opened the agenda item with a discussion around access across Sheffield. TH spoke again at his frustration that the LAF had not been consulted as part of the review into Sheffield's Rural Estate Management Plan.

TH also wanted to raise the issue regarding potential new Public Rights of Way across the city. SB responded that the Public Rights of Way team will not add new rights of way to the network without money to maintain them as budget pressures continue to restrict the team's ability to go above and beyond their statutory duties to maintain current PROWs. SB informed the LAF that whenever a member of the public enquires about a potential new PROW it gets put on a list which will hopefully be added to the definitive map and statement when and if the department gets more funding.

A member of the LAF raised the point that this should be included in Sheffield's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). SB informed the LAF that the current ROWIP is approximately six years out of date and at the moment there is no staff time available to update it.

SB thanked JH for chairing this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 (DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND CHRISTMAS MEAL)

The date of the next meeting is yet to be confirmed but will likely take place towards the end of February.
The LAF Christmas meal is on the 8th December at the Cross Scythes at Totley.