

SHEFFIELD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
Meeting held – Friday 12TH October 2018
at the Woodland Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods

Members T. Howard; (Chair); J. Harker; D. Aspinall; R. Kite; H. Norman;
M. North; P. Price; C. Prescott; R. Owen; M. Fitzgerald

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

Action

1. Apologies John Horscroft , Richard Godley, Ros Hancock
2. Minutes of the LAF Meeting June 29th 2018

Item. 7- it should read awaiting written representation.
SB said Item. 9 - should read PROW have not amended the Definitive Map but amended the Working Map on the Website.
3. Matters arising

JH said he'd still not approached Whirlow Hall Farm Trust re the Countryside Stewardship Scheme . DA said they don't own the land but lease it.
JH and TH to investigate further.
TH is still liaising with Phil Sykes of Network Rail with a view to encourage Barnsley MDC to pursue the adoption of the bridge in Wharnccliffe Woods. He also suggested that the LAF could approach the TPT.
MF said that the bridge is really useful for horse riders.TH commented that under Bradfield Enclosure awards that it's designated as a Public Bridleway and a carriageway which leads to the bridge.
However there is still no link between Wharnccliffe Side and Wharnccliffe Woods.
MN said works to the TPT from Plankgate further on towards the station were carried out by SVP. HN said he would discuss this with his SUSTRANS colleagues to enable this to move forward, SB to send him further details.
4. Parkwood Springs

It was decided that the area had not been landscaped enough to make a site visit and that it would be better to have a site visit early next year and to invite Jon Dallow along as well.
MH said Parkwood Springs have submitted their final restoration proposals but there appears to be parts of the area missing. This should hopefully be rectified in a couple of months.

There are also plans to redevelop the Ski Village with a potential investor already showing interest. This should be a good project and open for 2020. However DA said as a cautionary note re the access, to be aware that there is gas leaking onto this site. TH said Site Managers are all aware of this. Therefore a site visit for the LAF was suggested late morning, but a date has yet to be decided.

5. Rivelin Valley Nature Trail

DA said he aspired to make the RVNT accessible for as many visitors as possible including wheelchair users. He felt that we have to make reasonable adjustments re limited mobility requests. It was suggested that an assessment of the Trail is carried out to find a cost to allow wheelchair access.

However though, he does not want to encourage illegal use by Cyclists, he appreciates that the stepping stones and bridges also need protecting.

He's going to discuss the proposals with Roger Kite, the chair of RVCG and PROW and to look at the whole Trail in sections and to re-assess the area.

HN said this site is very badly signed as the status of paths unclear.

JH said can we ensure that the FORV are consulted with a caveat that the result does not necessarily lead to tarmac surfaces everywhere, as it's about access to multi-users, not urbanisation

DA to liaise with the Rivelin Valley Friends of Group although says it's still in its preliminary stages and maybe discussed at the next LAF.

JH suggests for it to be put on the next LAF Agenda as Rivelin Valley Access Improvements, but to pass it by RK first and the Chair of RVCG.

TH said the LAF have got to have a general approach.

6. Sheffield Moors Partnership

MN hasn't met up with Ted Talbot as of yet, but if this is going to be a regular item on the Agenda, he'll send bullet points.

TH mentioned that there was a SMP meeting in June, however the September meeting didn't take place. He also attended various SMP workshops and was given a document – 'Making Connections at a landscape scale'.

This had information that £400K has been invested by the Government over two years to help achieve SMP's long term future plans.

DA said that P & W had been asked to produce a revised management plan which is a requirement for SCC as part of their lease.

MN raised his concerns about issues with deer management, fires and raves taking place on the Moors and also that the NT are proposing radical Landscape Projects.

Cutgate Bridleway was mentioned as part of the Mend our Mountains Crowdfunding Campaign to restore the Moorland and paths.

HN said Cutgate was part of a Project for a European Funding Grant of £35K.

MF asked if fire warnings could be incorporated or does the track itself act as a natural firebreak. MN replied that they were waiting for info from NE, also that a Steering Group is being formed.

Sheffield CC via its PROW small improvement schemes is also looking at contributing to the overall project

7. Definitive Map Work -Update

Beighton Scrapyard Footpath is confirmed as a Public Footpath and is now signed on site. JH said that a confirmed Order was now required to which MH replied it was a matter for the SCC Legal Dept if it had not been done. Also there is no confirmed Order for the Hutcliffe Wood Cycle Track yet. JH to address this with Richard Cannon (SCC Legal Officer). SB is preparing the next Legal Event Order for the Ecclesfield area. There is now a footpath sign erected at Woodthorpe Ravine which is classed as Public Open Space grassland. PROW have cleared a new footpath leading to the open space and it's on a wish list for resurfacing next year. Also he gave an update re the Parson House Farm access track, that Property Services have agreed to dedicate it as a Restricted Byway.

8. LTP Schemes - update

Of the 8 Schemes proposed, 6 have already been completed and the other 2 are expected to be finished by the end of this year. Ringinglow Road Layby to Brown edge Quarry (SHE/44) has had a short section of stone flagstone laid over a wet area and is now completed TH asked re the diversion part of Sheffield Country Walk (Northern Section) and had anyone been notified re this. RO asked re Ronksley Lane as Richard Cannon has said there is enough evidence for Restricted Bridleway status. This may involve contacting adjacent Land Owners though. SB mentioned that the new Claim Forms now asked which forms of transport were used and how frequently they've used the route. He asked the LAF for suggestions for proposed Schemes and what they class as priorities. MN asked SB if he had any favourites RO mentioned the Allen Syke path and suggested if the Rangers cut back to the wall that the strip of grass would be perfectly usable, so that horse riders would not be forced on to the tarmac.

DA said there was a new procurement Team for forest tracks which had proved to be a tortuous exercise. The majority of local Contractors can't comply with accreditation/criteria which is what they are now requiring. SB backed DA re this issue. PP asked if there were other monies to be accessed for the funding of these Schemes. SBt asked if there were time limitations on the spend. DA said they were receiving £100K from Public Health for improvements to Shirebrook Valley. MH asked the LAF if they were happy for PROW to draw up a shortlist. TH concerned that too many paths are being urbanised, especially in the Gilleyfield Wood area.

9. Open Access – Update and Issues

Nothing to report.

10. LAF Aspirational Routes

TH highlighted potential routes via the Countryside Stewardship Schemes and Lost Ways. DA wants us to look at the Valleys. MH said this applies to new routes and not designated areas. HN suggested a link from Dukes Road and Derwent Edge then link onto Bradfield, finishing at the Wigtwizzle Bridleway.

MH said NT are open to suggestions and TH said we need to revisit this.

11. Report back from Neighbouring LAFs

JH attended the Barnsley LAF as the Rotherham LAF Representative and found out that the PROW Section in Barnsley has been moved into the Neighbourhood Services Department. This is obviously a downgrade for the status of the PROW Group. However the Definitive Map Officer has still been retained, but everyone is concerned re the situation and the effect on PROW maintenance plus the deterioration of the Section.

JH also attended a TPT Steering Group Meeting with other Authorities at which he raised the issue of the Bridleway Creation Order – Loicher Lane to Butterthwaite Lane. This was instigated approximately 6 years ago and he has asked Mandy Loach (TPT Officer) to send in her letter of support.

TH mentioned that he has asked the Peak Park LAF about the possibility of liaising with them over shared matters of interest.

12. Future of the Regional LAF

TH stated Sheffield LAF haven't been supportive of the Regional LAF.

Although MH had offered to supply a room for the September Meeting, but they re-arranged this elsewhere. Future meetings are to be held in Leeds which is offering free accommodation and refreshments.

TH still thinks the Regional LAF will continue as it is and he asked JH if he would be interested in chairing the next Regional Meeting

13. LAF Members Rights of Way matters

TH said he was pleased to see that the path in Springwood is going ahead.

JH had attended a meeting in Doncaster with HS2 staff, which will result in a Public Consultation taking place over 3 months. He is to send the HS2 link to Katrina.

14. A.O.B

The Rambler's are promoting a scheme to improve stiles between Low Bradfield/ High Bradfield/ Worrall. This is part of the Bradfield Ancient Ways Project.

They are asking the Lakeland Partnership Project for funds to support this.

15. Date of next Meeting

Friday 22nd February 2019 at Ecclesall Woods Discovery Centre at 2.00 pm

