Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2012 to March 2013

Name of LAF: Nottingham Local Access Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Diane Moore

Name of LAF Secretary: John Lee

Number of LAF members: 15

1 - Involvement and Representation

What interests does your current membership cover? cycling, walking, planning, landscaping, the environment and community engagement

What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing? horse-riding

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors: Following the recent recruitment drive, there is no representation from black or minority ethnic backgrounds, equestrians or “non city council” landowners

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective?

Expense claims are available and essential part of enabling members to attend regional events when necessary

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team? sub groups facilltate working as a team

In what ways do you reach consensus? simple show of hands following discussion of the topic

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? this is an essential role of the chair and/or vice chair and for each member to respect the views of others

Give up to 3 examples of where you have encountered operational difficulties (e.g. lack of resources); explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate such issues:

1 - More members = more management/resources

2 - Raising the profile/work of the forum: members are keen to keep raising the profile, its roles and attributes, to strengthen integration within the Council’s decision making processes.

3 - Resources: Due to resource issues the ROWIP2 (consultation draft) has not been finalised for publication which continues to be a particular frustration for members.

3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? yes

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not? yes

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? not as clear as we would like, so this is ongoing

Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your work programme (please provide supporting information)?

1) to get more involved in pre-planning application discussions, looking at the design and layout of public paths so they complement the development.

2) give all members a shared responsibility and involvement. The following provides details:-

Planning sub group provided comments on:

- Numerous City wide planning applications (ongoing)
- Midland Railway Station development including footpath diversion order (ongoing)
- "Help Shape Your City" (ongoing - part of the new Nottingham Local Plan due to be published 2015)

Walking sub group:

The forum is keen to develop a series of self-guided walks across Nottingham which involves an on-line leaflet. One walk has been finalised during 2012 / 13, covering Wollaton. This project has enabled new members to get to know each other and share skills and ideas.

Definitive map:

A number of in house training days have been held which gave members an insight into the definitive map and statement. This provides members with an understanding of the type of historical evidence required to investigate public rights of way.

A number of in-house presentations have been given to the LAF. These included a presentation on the councils Constitution which provided members with an insight into how local government decisions are made.

Have you achieved something else?

Main or notable achievements?

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year?

Yes, we now have a full membership

What changes / barriers can you see ahead?

For the appointing authority to continue to provide the same level of support as previous years

What are your priorities for the year ahead (list up to 3)?

1 - keep members involved via sub groups, presentations and training events

2 - ensure projects/schemes have a time line, are completed and members are regularly updated

3 - to ensure members are motivated, enjoy meetings and feel they have contributed

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities?

As above, ongoing training into planning, development, land use and public rights of way / access, rights of way legislation, how to influence local government etc etc

5 - Section 94 Bodies

Give up to 3 examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:

1 - Planning application consultations

2 - Gating Order consultations

3 - Public paths order consultations

6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 0

How many cases have you responded to? N/A

Detail any informal involvement with Open Access Restriction cases: N/A

7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year (please add numbers into the boxes below)?

Public meetings	4	Working groups	3
Training days	3	Definitive map modification orders	2
Highway orders	5	Green Infrastructure strategies	2
Gating orders	2	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	4
Cycle projects	4	Disabled access	2
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	2
Planning applications	5	PROW network and projects	0
ROWIP planning and objectives	2	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	2
Local Nature Partnerships	0	Recording of paths and promoting use	2

Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access	0	Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	0
Slipways and landing stages - public access to	0	Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	0
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	2	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	0
Shoreline management plans	0	Rail freight interchange strategic development	0
Network rail and rail crossing closures	2	Access and nature conservation	0
Horse routes and equestrian provision	0	Multi user routes	2
National Parks	0	Coastal access	0
Motorised vehicle access	0	Access to MOD land	0
New town & village green registration government consultation	0	Natural England consultations	0
Defra consultations	2	Commons grazing proposals	0
Highways Agency consultations	0	Department for Transport consultations	5
Other (please specify):			

8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority:

The forthcoming year will be an exciting time for the forum, with new members and interests providing positive momentum.

However, with new members, effective management and training of the forum will be a challenging time for the appointing authority.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair:

Three years in the role as Chair I feel it is very important to continue to develop strong relationships with the Council and to support and encourage members in their interests. I therefore, will stand down as Chair 2014 to make way for a member who is keen to take up

the challenges of the role. I will continue to be a member of the forum. Also, the position of Vice Chair is vacant.

Next year will be challenging in many ways for the new chair and vice chair.