Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2013 to March 2014

Name of LAF: Nottingham Local Access Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Hugh McClintock (since January 2014)

Name of LAF Secretary: -

Number of LAF members: 15

Number of LAF vacancies: -0

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:
We still lack representation from black or ethnic minority backgrounds, equestrians or"non-city council" landowners.

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications, monitoring of Huddle etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective? use of Huddle has been encouraged but we have not monitored its effectiveness

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team?
Much detailed work is done in small teams by our various subgroups and there is a report back from each subgroup at the next quarterly meeting to help inculcate a wider sense of team working among all Forum members.

In what ways do you reach consensus? discussion followed by simple show of hands if necessary

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? all members are encouraged by the Chair and Vice-Chair to respect each others' views.

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 - efforts to raise the profile of the work of the Forum continue e.g. by publicising the publication of new self-guided walk leaflets and through publicising the latest public consultation on the ROWIMP

2 - further public consultation on the ROWIMP (2) is at last now going ahead and it is hoped that it will be finalised this autumn.

3 - there is much concern that increasingly tight financial resources will make it harder to follow-up proposals, including the further suggested improvements arising from the ROWIMP consultation.

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? ongoing

Main or notable achievements?

Launching the first of a proposed series of self-guided walk leaflets (for Wollaton) with the launch of a second, for Sneinton, now being arranged soon)

responding to the City Council 'Help Shape Your City Local Plan consultation

Training sessions at the Nottingham Archieves aranged by the Definitive Map subgroup

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year?

Hugh McClintock took over from Diane Moore at the January Forum meeting, and we have now at last filled the longstanding Vice-Chair vacancy, with Ruth Thurgood taking this post.

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? It may continue to get more and more difficult for the appointing authority to provide the same level of support, because of financial and staffing cutbacks.

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

1 - continue to keep members involved via subgroups, presentations and training events, and try to ensure that they enjoy meetings, feel motivated and able to contribute to the work of the Forum as a whole.

2 - ensure that all Forum members are regularly updated on the work of each subgroup and other issues of interest to the Forum as a whole, e.g. the outcome of the current ROWIMP2 consultation and its follow-up.

3 - arrange more special topic presentations, both by Forum members and outside contributors.

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities? ongoing training on use of the County Archives for definitive map orders work and using speakers to update us on wider issues including new developments of potential interest to the Forum as a whole including ones of particular relevance to major urban areas.

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 path order consultations

6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 0

How many cases have you responded to? 0

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 and only count specific consultations once even if advice has been given on them a number of times. If a consultation covers more than one subject area, please count them separately as appropriate.

Public meetings (e.g. LAF meetings)	4	Working groups	3
Training days	3	Definitive map modification orders	1
Highway orders	2	Green Infrastructure strategies	
Gating orders	1	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	-0
Cycle projects		Disabled access	
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders		Housing development schemes	2
Planning applications	2	PROW network and projects	4
ROWIP planning and objectives	1	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	1
Local Nature Partnerships	1	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		Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	
Slipways and landing stages - public access to		Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council		Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	
Shoreline management plans		Rail freight interchange strategic development	
Network rail and rail crossing closures	2	Access and nature conservation	

Horse routes and equestrian provision		Multi user routes	1
National Parks		Coastal access	
Motorised vehicle access		Access to MOD land	
New town & village green registration government consultation		Natural England consultations	
Defra consultations		Commons grazing proposals	
Highways Agency consultations		Department for Transport consultations	
Other (please specify):			

8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority:
"With the successful recruitment drive in 2012 and the appointment of the new Chair and Vice Chair in January 2014, after 10 years the Nottingham LAF continues to go from strength to strength. All members are clearly passionate about encouraging healthy active lifestyles, promoting walking and riding and helping prepare Nottingham's 2nd ROWIP due to be published later in the year.

This is further demonstrated by the individual subgroups commitment to meet outside of formal meetings, contribute to development proposals and planning applications, develop "self-guided walking leaflets" across the City and the ongoing research at the Archives as part of the "Lost Ways" project. This is an exciting time for the Forum with lots of fresh and new ideas for the future and I very much look forward to working with them to help promote and protect public rights of way both locally and nationally.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair:

In taking over this role from Diane Moore for the next 3 years I have been very keen to continue her good work and the good work of all subgroups and Forum members, as well as to maintain the very supportive relationship with the Council.

At my first meeting after taking over, in January, I asked everyone to give their own aspiraitons for the future work of The Forum. I intend to make sure that we start to follow these up in the year ahead. These include more working with young people and schools and the promotion of rights of way for keeping fit and healthy.