NOTTINGHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

M I N U T E S

of meeting held on **12th January 2011** at the Dining Room - Council House from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

✓ - indicates present at meeting

Malcolm Bescoby	✓	Nick Hynes	✓
John Boland	✓	Chris Thompson	✓
Don Cameron		Diane Moore	✓
Roger Codling	✓	Trevor Muxlow	
Angela Cooke	✓	Councillor Jane Urquhart	
Councillor Brian Grocock		Bill Wright	✓
Tom Huggon			

Also in attendance

John Lee, Public Rights of Way (Nottingham City Council Advisor)
Matt Leek, Traffic Management (Nottingham City Council Secretary)
Mary Mills, (Nottinghamshire County Council LAF)
Dennis Reeson (Nottinghamshire County Council LAF)
Dave Ablitt (submission of a letter regarding the temporary closure of Footpath 28 Midland Station - item 3 below)
Malcolm Goodall (as above)
Mr Glover (observer)
D. Gibson (as above)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

1.1 Councillor Brian Grocock (on Council business), Councillor Jane Urquhart (on Council business), Don Cameron, Tom Huggon, Trevor Muxlow.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

2.1 In relation to item 4.12 of the previous minutes, Diane Moore advised that she had contacted Kevin Brown (Police Architectural Liaison Officer) to arrange a visit of the High Pavement development which will take place on 18th February 2011.

2.2 John Lee: as a follow on from item 4.15 of the previous minutes, a letter has been sent to Jennifer Dearing asking for the Forum to have greater involvement with Planning Applications at pre-application stage. A letter has also been sent to John Pattinson (Head of Development Management) to progress this.

3 AMENDMENT TO AGENDA – MR DAVID ABLITT, REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MIDLAND STATION AND FOOTPATH NO.28

3.1 Prior to the meeting taking place, Mr Ablitt submitted the following question:

When the City Council consented to the temporary closure of footpath No.28, did Members and Officers concerned satisfy themselves that:

a) The station operators are not using a temporary closure as a step towards permanent closure by stealth.
b) Did they (The Council) ascertain that the works which allegedly necessitate the temporary closure would be completed within six months, thereby avoiding the need for an extended closure?
c) If the station operators did not assure the Council that the work necessitating closure would be completed within six months, what date did they give for the re-opening of the footpath?

Mr Ablitt informed the Forum of the historical importance of footpath 28 (Trent Bridge Footway), and advised that in order for the redevelopment on the station, allegedly, it is necessary to close the footpath. Mr Ablitt has objected to the permanent stopping up of footpath 28, and was surprised to see Notices on site for a temporary closure.

3.2 John Lee: under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 the history of the footpath is not relevant to the closure of the footpath to enable the development to take place. The Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is to enable construction of the multi-story car park to commence, due to its proximity to the footpath and safety. The closure of the footpath and inconvenience to users must be weighed against the benefits of the development.

3.3 John Lee (in response to paragraph a) above): the stataion operator is not using the temporary closure order to circumnavigate the permanent closure order made under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. The permanent closure order along with the objections will be referred to the Planning Inspectorate in due course and an Inquiry will be held.

3.4 John Lee (In response to paragraph b) above): for footpaths, TTRO's are made for 6 month periods and for a maximum of 18 months (i.e. 3 x 6 months). If the construction of the MSCP extends beyond the current 6 month period (January 2011 to June 2011) the developer may apply for a further 6 month order.

3.5 John Lee (In response to paragraph c) above): the application is for a 6 month closure (January 2011 to June 2011). We will not know until nearer the end of this period whether a further order is required.

3.6 In terms of the temporary closure, Mr Ablitt was surprised that the Council did not ask the question whether the works will be finished on time, and was disheartened that the Council are closing footpath 28 to build a car-park.

3.7 John Lee: the temporary closure is for the MSCP only. Between now and the Inquiry, the development cannot be put on hold and needs to be progressed so the timeline for the other elements of the development is met, and it is therefore necessary to place a temporary closure for the MSCP.

3.8 Mr Ablitt advised that as a member of the Civic Society, he was surprised that he did not get a formal response from the Council to the recommendations that he made to the planning application but stated that the improvements to the Station are generally welcomed, but not at the expense of footpath 28.

The day after the meeting Mr Ablitt advised John Lee that he had received a formal response to this and apologised for any confusion this may have caused.

4 LTP3 UPDATE – RASITA CHUDASAMA (TRANSPORT STRATEGY)

4.1 Rasita Chudasama: full public and partner consultation on the LTP Strategy and Implementation Plan will run to 24th January 2011.

An LTP summary and response form has been placed in the Nottingham Arrow which went out in the December edition to all City residences.

A draft Implementation Plan is being prepared alongside the LTP Strategy covering 2011-2014. A draft 3-year programme will be prepared once the Government Comprehensive Spend Review affecting transport schemes is announced, with consultation following in January 2011.

4.2 Dave Gibson: are the Council submitting a bid to widen the Ring Road?

4.3 Rasita Chudasama: the bid received programme entry. However, under the rules made by the new government, all Local Authorities have to resubmit such schemes as an expression of interest. The Council have taken the view to pursue the scheme.

4.4 Roger Codling: some solicitors firms have been leafleting residents along the Ring Road about compensation claims, is there a City Council response?

4.5 Dave Gibson: does the Department for Transport (DfT) have to consider traffic flows, if the volume of traffic has not increased?

4.6 Rasita Chudasama: yes, there may be economic reasons why traffic has decreased, and a cost / benefit analysis will be undertaken to establish whether a scheme should take place.

4.7 John Boland: is the Ring Road part of Local Transport Plan (LTP3)?

4.8 Roger Codling: yes, it was included in LTP1 and was carried over to LTP2 but could not be delivered.

4.9 John Boland: how does the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)2, differ from ROWIP1

4.10 John Lee: ROWIP1 is a standalone document with links to LTP2. ROWIP2 is also a standalone document that makes reference to LTP3, The Local Plan, Council Plan 2009 – 2012 and Nottingham Plan to 2020 (Sustainable Communities Strategy).

5 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE: JOHN LEE

5.1 John Lee: there have been two meetings over the last few months to prepare ROWIP2. Members of the group decided to omit the demographic data within ROWIP1 so that the new document is easier to digest. Common themes for ROWIP2 included: how the ROWIP supports LTP3 and the Council's key priorities, looking at the current PROW (public rights of way) provision, discussing the increase in the network, establishing public satisfaction with existing PROW so that Nottingham can be shown in a good light, looking at case studies such as The River Leen, looking at what the LAF has achieved.

5.2 Chris Thompson: it would be a good idea to have a policy in the ROWIP for unrecorded paths that need registering in the definitive map and statement so they are legally protected.

6 UPDATE ON THE EAST MIDLANDS LAF CHAIRS MEETING HELD 4th JANUARY 2011 (JOHN BOLAND & JOHN LEE).

6.1 John Boland: unfortunately, The England Access Forum is no longer operational.

6.2 John Lee: there is a backlog of paths that need to be added to the definitive map and statement. Unfortunately, few local authorities will meet the 2026 cut-off date due to losses of staff and other resources.

6.3 John Lee: the Forestry Commission is now proposing to charge people to park on their land.

6.4 John Boland: there will be a reduction of staff across Natural England; approximately 400 will be lost this spring and another 400 by 2013/14.

6.5 John Lee: provided leaflets for LAF members regarding "LAF's and the Planning System". The course is due to take place on 1st February 2011.

6.6 John Lee: after a recent meeting with other Rights of Way managers at ADEPT, emphasis was placed on making the most of a bad situation. The meeting looked at the Big Society and how it was an ideal

opportunity to raise the profile of the LAF.

John Lee: some members have expressed an interest to attend Area Committee meetings. Area Committees have been given impetus and are now responsible for Area Capital funding to deliver locally identified neighbourhood improvements. How do members feel about the Forum attending Area Committee meetings?

6.7 Roger Codling: how often do they meet?

6.8 John Lee: bi-monthly. If items are raised and no progress has been made between meetings, the Committee can investigate this and hold others to account. John Lee to provide link to date and times. **John Lee**

6.9 Mary Mills: Mary was very interested in getting involved in drafting LEMO's which would help with the backlog of these orders in Nottingham.

7 UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: JOHN LEE.

7.1 An email was received from a Mr Rose with a question to be asked through the Chair - why is Blenheim Lane (the section in Nottingham) recorded as a Bridleway? John Lee advised that its status was based on public use and because it links to an historic bridleway in the parish of Hucknall, which was most likely recorded during the first rights of way surveys in the 1950's, it would follow that equestrian use would be along the whole length of the Lane.

7.2 The scheme to construct a new section of foot/cycle path from Basford to Bulwell is being progressed. Discussions have taken place with the Wildlife Trust to reinstate part of the route as a nature walk and improve habitats for water vole, dragon flies etc.

7.3 Works are being undertaken to improve cycle signing in the Meadows, including Victoria Embankment and the Big Track.

7.4 Nottingham Park Estate: the Councils supporting Statements are being drafted. It is anticipated that there will be a Public Inquiry later this year or early 2012.

7.5 An additional £40k has been given to progress the Hucknall Road disused rail corridor.

7.6 Two requests for Gating Orders (GO) from the St Ann's area have been turned down due to not meeting the statutory criteria. In addition, the local Police would not support it.

7.7 An application for a GO has been received for Norfolk Place which experiences a number of issues such as drug use and general anti-social behaviour.

7.8 Roger Codling: would it be a 24/7 closure or part time?

7.9 John Lee: it would depend on the evidence.

7.10 Dave Ablitt: have you received an application for a Modification Order for the footpath through Greenwood School site to Colwick Woods, as the gate has been locked?

7.11 John Lee: no application or supporting evidence has been submitted.

7.12 Dave Ablitt: the longer it goes on the more difficult it becomes.

7.13 John Lee: this is the reason why we are keen to progress the Nottingham Park Estate disputed footpath.

7.14 Diane Moore: in the case of the two Gating Orders that were turned down in St Ann's, did anyone monitor the process?

7.15 John Lee: information received from the Police Community Support Officers suggests that a Gating Order would not resolve the type of issues that were being experienced.

7.16 Mary Mills: who can apply for a Gating Order?

7.17 John Lee: the City Council has a different process to Nottinghamshire County Council. The City Council accepts all applications and starts the process to establish whether there is a problem. If the statutory criteria is met, a report is taken to the Area Committee who decides whether to authorise the order, based on the supporting evidence and the criteria.

8 <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS.</u>

8.1 Are there enough members on the Committee?

8.2 John Lee: there are 13 members but additional members are welcome.

8.3 Diane Moore: could we amalgamate with the County Council? The benefit would be that there would be more involvement in cross boundary issues.

8.4 John Lee: how would that work politically?

8.5 Dennis Reeson: we could combine meetings between the two LAF's.

8.6 Bill Wright: is the footbridge at Colwick Park across the old part of the River Trent the responsibility of the City or County Council and could this be a joint project between the two LAF's **John Lee**

8.7 John Lee: Joint responsibility as it links Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

8.8 Roger Codling: Has there been any progress with the river path to Stoke Bardolf? **John Lee**

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th April, The Tea Room, The Council House.