NOTTINGHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

M I N U T E S

of meeting held on **17th February 2010** at the Committee Room - Council House from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

	Di Banks	✓	Tom Huggon
✓	Malcolm Bescoby	✓	Nick Hynes
✓	John Boland (Chair)	✓	Diane Moore
✓	Don Cameron	✓	Trevor Muxlow
✓	Mary Myles		Bill Wright
✓	Roger Codling	✓	Councillor Urquhart
✓	Mary Collison		Chris Thompson
✓	Angela Cooke (Vice Chair)		
✓	Councillor Grocock (for items 1 to 3.7; left to attend another meeting)		

✓ - indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance

John Lee, Public Rights of Way, Nottingham City Council (Advisor)
Matt Leek, Traffic Management, Nottingham City Council (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bill Wright & Chris Thompson

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 In relation to item 4 of the previous minutes, John Lee advised that should objections be made to the stopping up order for Footpath No. 28 Nottingham Midland Station, the planning inspectorate which would conduct the Public Inquiry to consider the opposed order and objections does not have the power to revisit the merits of the planning permission.

2.2 Item 4: Councillor Grocock asked whether planning permission prevents other avenues from being explored in terms of pedestrian access.

2.3 Item 4: John Lee advised that public access would be available to and through the station but would be permissive as opposed to public.

2.4 Item 4: Tom Huggon stated that even though the development had been given planning permission, conditions should be made for another footpath, but not a concessionary one. Tom also asked John Lee to keep the LAF up to date with the development.

2.5 On the standard planning application form there is a question about whether the proposed development affects a public right of way. There are many unregistered public paths used by the public daily but because

they are not registered on the definitive map and statement, they may be overlooked and this is one reason why such paths needs registering on the map and statement.

2.6 Discussion took place regarding the formation of a sub-group to look at planning applications so that the LAF can provide comments on future developments (see item 5 below).

2.7 Trevor Muxlow – Clifton Suspension bridge is now open; however the grass along the embankment is in bad repair.

2.8 Councillor Grocock advised that he would speak to Councillor Trimble to discuss the condition of the embankment. Cllr Grocock

3 <u>PRESENTATION: MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAYS IN NOTTINGHAM (CHRIS KEANE, TEAM LEADER, HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE.</u>

3.1 Chris Keane gave a presentation regarding the remit and responsibilities of the section he works for. This included how the City is broken down into 10 areas and how highway inspectors associated with these areas perform their duties. The presentation also included information on how maintenance issues are reported, recorded, assessed and rectified. Chris Keane then responded to questions from the floor which included: Cleansing of leaves from the carriageway but not the footway; gritting of footways; the February/March spending spree; insensitive tree works; City and County Council cross boundary maintenance agreements; and policy regarding retention of York stone & granite paving.

3.2 In response to the issue of leaf cleansing and why it takes two members of staff to clear leaves; Chris Keane would liaise with colleagues at City Services who undertake cleansing work and will provide a response to the next LAF meeting. Chris Keane

3.3 In response to the issue of footway gritting; Chris Keane explained that the gritting teams are not able to grit every pavement and they have to prioritise these accordingly. Gritting to key public buildings should be increased during periods of prolonged icy weather. He also explained that sooner than reduce the numbers of roads and footways gritted, a mixture of sand with salt had been used which enabled them to continue gritting throughout the icy weather.

3.4 In response to the question why there is always increased highway works taking place during February / March and whether this had anything to do with spending budgets before the end of the financial year? Chris Keane advised that the nature of some of the works means that they can only be carried out at certain times of the year and there is no excess of money to be used February / March, but acknowledged that the perception is often otherwise.

3.5 In response to insensitive tree works; Chris Keane advised that these

works are carried out by qualified staff to set protocols and was surprised that they would be undertaken without due care.

3.6 In response to location of maintenance boundary lines between the City and County Council's; Chris Keane advised that cross boundary agreements exist so their responsibilities are highlighted which avoids any ambiguity or duplication of works.

3.7 In response to the retention of York stone and granite paving following maintenance or construction works; Chris Keane advised that if these are situated within an conservation area, where York stone existed these sets would be retained although it is sometimes more expensive to replace damaged or missing stones than to remove them. If not in conservation area, the sets would be removed and replaced with concrete but stored and reused in other areas. Consultation may also be undertaken within the locality to establish local preferences.

4 STATUTORY ROLE OF THE NLAF, ENGLISH NATURE AND NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL: HOW TO DEAL WITH CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND HOW TO AVOID THEM (DIANE MOORE).

4.1 Diane Moore - explained that the LAF is a statutory consultee but are often overlooked, for example at the recent LTP3 workshop for One Nottingham, there was no mention of the LAF. Diane Moore also believes that public inquiries are a good way to see both sides of an argument and members should try and attend relevant ones. Concerns were also raised about the lack of progress and cited the gating order at Holland Street, Radford as an example, where the LAF were asked to look at the gating order but then nothing has happened since. The Tram was used as an example of how access to the Tram in some isolated areas could be improved and the LAF should be more proactive in finding out about access issues. Diane also explained that she felt frustrated regarding a lack of timescales being stipulated for gating orders and other rights of way work.

4.2 Tom Huggon explained that quite often it is difficult to work to precise timescales because there are a lot of inter-dependencies that cannot always be controlled and legal orders affecting rights of way often take years to complete.

4.3 John Lee explained that the Council are still waiting for residents from Holland Street to submit their information. The persons who requested the gating order had not submitted their evidence and until they do so this cannot be progressed. Diane will be informed as soon as any information is received.

4.4 John Lee also advised that colleagues from the Councils LTP team will be giving a presentation on LTP3 as part of their consultation and there will be many opportunities for the LAF to get actively involved in refreshing the ROWIP. John Lee confirmed that the new ROWIP will not

be an annex to the LTP3 mainly because the ROWIP covers issues such as the Council's statutory duties to assert and protect rights of way which are not really relevant to the LTP. The next ROWIP will concentrate on reviewing what we achieved in the ROWIP and then set out actions, deadlines etc sooner than repeat all the background information. The next ROWIP will be a user friendly document with clear targets and objectives.

5 IMPROVING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL OFFICERS AND NLAF MEMBERS: GATING ORDERS, PLANNING APPLICATIONS ETC (JOHN LEE).

Planning applications

5.1 John Lee advised that Grant Butterworth, Head of the Council's Planning, Transport and Intelligence Strategy, had sent the LAF a consultation letter on the Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies which looked at development across Nottingham over the next 15 - 20 years. Each member was provided with a copy of the letter.

5.2 John Lee asked members how they would like to be consulted on planning applications.

5.3 Tom Huggon advised that a sub group would have to be formed to discuss planning applications as this would take too long during LAF meetings.

5.4 Diane Moore raised training for planning applications. John Lee advised that training may overly influence how the LAF sub group responds and he wanted to encourage fresh ideas. Most members agreed that training was not necessary.

5.5 The following members agreed to sit on the LAF planning sub group: Roger Codling, John Boland, Diane Moore, Nick Hynes and Trevor Muxlow. Agreed that John Lee / Matt Leek will write to these members with details of how this will be progressed. — John Lee / Matt Leek

5.6 Tom Huggon volunteered to review the Nottingham Aligned Core Strategies. — John Lee / Matt Leek

Gating Orders

5.7 The following members agreed to sit on the LAF gating order sub group: Diane Moore, Malcolm Bescoby and Don Cameron. Agreed that John Lee / Matt Leek will write to these members with details of how this will be progressed. — John Lee / Matt Leek

5.8 John Lee advised that a Gating Order at Brewsters Park, St Ann's has just been authorised by the Council's Mapperley and Sherwood (Area 5)

Committee, which is supported by the Police drug action team.

6 LAF TERMS OF REFERENCE: MEMBERSHIP 2010 AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR AND RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

6.1 Discussion took place regarding the re-election of members and it was agreed that this should be tidied up, especially when the forum submit representations on planning applications or to the inquiry for the Nottingham Park Estate. It was decided that members who have served on the LAF for three or more years could put themselves forward if they wanted to continue.

6.2 Tom Huggon, Roger Codling, Nick Hynes, Trevor Muxlow, John Boland and Angela Cooke put themselves forward for reappointment.

6.3 John Boland (Chair) and Angela Cooke (Vice Chair) agreed to continue in their current roles for a period of one year.

6.4 There was a show of hands by members who wished to be reappointed. To formally reappoint members it was agreed that a form should be sent out to all members and those who wished to be reappointed can then be ratified by Councillor Urquhart in her capacity as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Area Working.

6.5 Mary Miles indicated that she would like to resign and will send her formal resignation in due course.

6.6 It was also agreed that those members who have not attended meetings for a one year period will be advised that their membership has been terminated in line with the LAF Terms of Reference. Matt Leek / John Lee

6.7 John Lee advised that Bill Clark had sent in a letter of resignation due to ill health and that Bill had wished the forum best wishes and success in the future. John Lee/ John Boland

7 UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WITHIN NOTTINGHAM: PUBLIC PATH ORDERS, CREATION AGREEMENTS, GATING ORDERS AND MODIFICATION ORDERS.

7.1 Gating Order for Brewsters Park had been published and is currently going through the consultation process (see item 5.8 above). The Nottingham Park Estate opposed modification order was on course to progress to public inquiry.

7.2 Roger Codling asked about progress with Creation Orders. John Lee explained that progress is rather slow and other matters have taken priority such as the Nottingham Park Estate.

7.3 Don Cameron asked when the gates at the Nottingham Park Estate

were open. John Lee advised that the gates were open at 06:00 and closed at 23:00.

7.4 Tom Huggon enquired as to whether there had been any news regarding the through route in the Broadmarsh Centre. John Lee advised that as far as he was aware this proposal was not being progressed and colleagues in Transport Strategy would oppose this proposal as it forms part of a primary pedestrian route.

8 INVITE TO EAST MIDLANDS LAF WORKSHOP.

8.1 Matt Leek advised members that forms were available at the end of the meeting should members wish to attend the East Midlands LAF Workshop on 23rd March 2010 and to advise natural England direct if they wish to attend.

8.2 Roger Codling enquired about expenses. John Lee advised that expenses will be met as long as they are reasonable, which is covered by the LAF Terms of Reference.

9 AOB

9.1 Angela Cooke advised that the Police were developing a plan to restrict unauthorised vehicle access to Colwick Woods. John Lee advised that some improvements had been made to Colwick Road access point and that a motorcycle inhibitor barrier would be installed as part of this work.

9.2 John Lee informed the group of the draft document 'Stepping Forward' covering the Discovering Lost Ways project that sets out the stakeholder's proposals to speed up the process of recording unregistered public paths and the need to amend primary legislation for example the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This document is published March 2010 for consultation.

9.3 John Boland explained that the East Midlands LAF and England Access Forum have withdrawn their co-operation with Natural England, due to a lack of support from NE.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 7th April 2010 in the Committee Room.