NOTTINGHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (NLAF)

DRAFT M I N U T E S

of meeting held on **11th January 2012** Loxley 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 (Chair)	✓
Angela Cooke (Vice Chair)	✓	Trevor Muxlow	✓
Councillor Brian Grocock		Councillor Jane Urquhart	
Tom Huggon	✓		

Also in attendance:

John Lee, Public Rights of Way (Nottingham City Council Advisor)
Matt Leek, Traffic Management (Nottingham City Council Secretary)
Fiona Groves, (Natural England LAF Regional Coordinator)
Elizabeth Barnicott, (Natural England)
Mary Mills, (Nottinghamshire LAF)
Dennis Reeson, (Nottinghamshire LAF)
Peter Hilliers, (Nottinghamshire LAF)
Hugh McClintock (observer and interested in becoming a NLAF member)

1.1 UPDATE FROM NATURAL ENGLAND, ELIZABETH BARNICOTT AND REGIONAL LAF CO-ORDINATOR FIONA GROVES

1.2 Elizabeth Barnicott explained that she was the contact for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils, whilst Fiona Groves advised that as East Midlands Co-ordinator she covered Northants, Lincs etc. It was then explained that pressures on staff resources has meant that Natural England are no longer able to sustain the level of support that Local Access Forums (LAF's) currently experience. Huddle (an online network) allows users to upload useful documents, share best practice ideas, or start discussions with other LAF's. Natural England would like all LAF's to nominate up to 3 Huddle Champions who will receive training to ensure that it's used to its full potential. **ALL**

1.3 Tom Huggon expressed concerns about the amount of data that users would have to sieve through in order to find information and enquired whether Natural England's own Huddle Champions would be able to help. In response, Fiona and Elizabeth explained that there is a "search" facility on the website, but if there are any specific queries / problems Champions are on hand.

1.4 Diane Moore concluded that Huddle was a useful tool, but expressed

concerns about the amount of time users will have to spend on it.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr Brian Grocock (on Council business), Cllr Jane Urquhart (on Council business) and Don Cameron.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

3.1 Trevor Muxlow: In relation to item 2.2 of the previous minutes – lack of progress on the River Leen scheme. John Lee advised that work started mid November but was taking longer than anticipated. John Lee to chase and update at next meeting. **HOW CAN TREVOR GET INVOLVED IN THIS – COULD HE UPDATE THE MEETING?** **JL**

3.2 Minutes of the previous meeting agreed.

4. PROGRAMME FOR DEFINITIVE MAP / MODIFICATION ORDER WORKING GROUP: (CHRIS THOMPSON).

4.1 Chris Thompson would like the NLAF to get more involved with registering public rights of way on the Definitive Map and Statement. The Forum could set up a group to progress this. **HIGHLIGHT CT TO LEAD ON THIS** **ALL**

4.1 Nick Hynes: good idea; Chris Thompson: we first need to know how the process works. **HIGHLIGHT CT TO LEAD ON THIS - NEXT STEPS FOR ADDING TO THE DM&S**

DIANE MOORE AND TREVOR MUXLOW HAVE COMPLETED

4.2 Mary Mills: this idea already proposed at a previous meeting but wasn't progressed. John Lee advised that the delay was due to the Council undergoing a re-structure including redundancies and it was considered appropriate to put project on hold until this had been completed.

4.3 Members that have shown an interest in the Definitive Map Working Group are: John Boland, Diane Moore, Chris Thompson, Malcolm Bescoby, Nick Hynes, Don Cameron, Trevor Muxlow and Mary Mills. First training session will be February / March 2012. **JL**

5. JOINT PROJECT WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LAF – COLWICK PARK FOOTBRIDGE (JOHN LEE).

5.1 At a previous meeting, Malcolm Bescoby proposed a joint project with Nottinghamshire County Council LAF and suggested a new footbridge at Colwick Park across the Loop. Peter Hilliers advised that he had raised it with the County LAF. Site meetings to be arranged and feed back at the next LAF meeting. **JL**

5.1 Malcolm Bescoby: The City Council used to have access to a budget under the title "Bridge Estate" – could that money be spent to install the footbridge? Tom Huggon: the Bridge Estate was set up in medieval times for the maintenance of highways carried by bridges, although bridges are now maintained by statutory powers.

EVERYONE INVOLVED TO GIVE AN UPDATE

6 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2012/2013 (DIANE MOORE):

6.1 In order to set the scene for April's meeting and the 2012/2013 work programme, we need to think about what we've achieved over the years and what we want to achieve in the future. The Aspirations Forms show a diverse range of interests, and we should be looking at how member's interests can be taken forward. Members who have not completed their Aspiration Form please send them in. **ASPIRATIONS FORM – DC, H MC, 2 x Cllrs, Malcolm Bescoby – NEED THESE TO KEEP MEMBERS INTERESTS ON THE AGENDA** **ALL** **ALL**

Members should also think about a topic or issue that can be put on the agenda after April's meeting i.e. can we do more to encourage young people to contribute?

7 UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY - IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2011/12, GATING ORDERS, MODIFICATION ORDERS, PUBLIC PATH ORDERS (JOHN LEE).

7.1 Whenever a Gating Order is made, we agreed at a previous meeting that to compensate a route should be added to the Definitive Map. 1 Gating Order has since been made and to compensate for this, 2 new routes have been added to the Map which equates to a loss of 7m for a gain of around 100m.

7.2 The Council has been approached by Network Rail with proposals to replace the rights of way over the level crossings at Meadow Lane and Trent Lane with foot / cycle bridges. Tom Huggon proposed that the Forum provide a formal response to the bridges. All agreed. John Lee to coordinate meeting to draft response. **JL**

7.3 John Lee: the Council has received a request for a Gating Order at Portland Road. The area has narrow alleys to the rear of terraced houses which are being used to commit crime and ASB.

A request and report went to Area Committee 6 for an Order to close a short section of stepped footpath at Lorne Walk, St Ann's which duplicates the adjacent pavements.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP 2). Further discussion is needed with Legal Services regarding formal adoption and consultation

as set out under CROW Act regulations. Update at the next meeting.

"Help Shape Your City" includes around 50 sites; some have existing public access which could be improved and others may provide opportunities for creating new public access. The Planning sub group advised that these issues should be included at design stage and not as a bolt on.

Footpath No.28: following the Inquiry, the Inspector concluded that the Order was necessary, but the alternative route was not appropriate or sufficient to cope with expected increase in rail passengers following the redevelopment of the Hub.

7.4 Tom Huggon: With regards to Norfolk Place, the Police wanted to Gate it off because of anti-social behaviour. The NLAF suggested other options to improve the situation. Following this, John Lee advised that work to enclose the specific areas that attracted the drug dealing/taking has now been completed and is proving successful while the through route is open to the public.

7.5 Chris Thompson: Should we start to look at encouraging and promoting use of the PROW network by groups that are hard to engage. Could we set up a programme of city based walks? Fiona Groves offered to provide information / contacts to get started. **USE THE ATTACHMENT TO CT's EMAIL** **FG**

8 AOB:

8.1 Peter Hillier advised that the pressure to reduce costs at Nottinghamshire County Council has meant that the Rights of Way section has lost 10 members of staff and there was a recent article in a local paper about funding rights of way work.

NEXT MEETING

11th April 2012, Room LH1.31, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham.