NOTTINGHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

M I N U T E S

of meeting held on **14th April 2010** at the Committee Room - Council House from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

✓ - indicates present at meeting

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

Also in attendance

John Lee, Public Rights of Way, (Nottingham City Council Advisor)
Matt Leek, Traffic Management, (Nottingham City Council Secretary)
Chris Carter, Transport Strategy, Nottingham City Council).
Rasita Chudasama, Transport Strategy, (Nottingham City Council).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Councillor Jane Urquhart, Angela Cooke, Roger Codling, Trevor Muxlow, Don Cameron.

1.2 John Boland welcomed Chris Thompson of the Nottinghamshire Ramblers Association as a new member of the NLAF.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 In relation to item 2.8 of the previous minutes, Councillor Grocock advised that he was awaiting a response to his enquiry but will chase this matter up. Councillor Grocock

2.2 In relation to item 3.2 of the previous minutes, John Lee advised that it was for efficiency reasons that one operator drives the cleansing vehicle to scoop leaves whilst the second operator can deal with dog bins.

2.3 Chris Thompson explained the role of the Police in terms of designing out crime and enquired as to how the NLAF could link up with them. John Boland advised that this could be put on the agenda for the next NLAF meeting. To add to this, Councillor Grocock advised that the last two/three meetings had made inroads with the Planning Department. Ideally, the NLAF should have an input at the planning application brief; however, caution should be used as it would not be desirable to design

footpaths out.

2.4 In relation to items 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7, of the previous minutes, John Lee advised that information had been distributed to those members who volunteered to be on the Planning Application and Gating Order sub groups.

2.5 In response to item 6.6 of the previous minutes, John Lee advised that a letter had been sent to Di Banks to terminate her membership.

2.6 In response to item 6.7 of the previous minutes, John Boland advised that in response to Bill Clarke's resignation, he had sent a letter to thank him for his time on the forum.

3 PRESENTATION: THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3) (CHRIS CARTER AND RASITA CHUDASAMA, TRANSPORT STRATEGY.

3.1 Chris Carter delivered a presentation regarding the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and explained its background and future aims. Chris then responded to questions from the NLAF.

3.2 John Boland: The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a separate document aligned with the LTP. It now seems that delivery will be integrated. Will this be the case for the next ROWIP?

3.3 Tom Huggon: The NLAF was previously involved in producing the ROWIP and it should remain a separate document from the LTP. In this way, the ROWIP has more status. By combining the ROWIP with the LTP, there is a danger that the contents of the ROWIP may be lost. Tom referred to the Core Strategy as only having two references to walking and cycling.

3.4 Chris Carter explained that it is relatively easy to prepare documents but difficult to implement what is in them. The NLAF are to be involved in producing the next ROWIP.

3.5 Councillor Grocock thanked Chris and Rasita for the presentation and asked how Councillors could assist with the Area Capital Fund in terms of cycling and walking schemes.

3.6 Chris Carter advised that the stronger the references are in planning documents, the better the case will be to resist/protect these. The current Area Capital Fund is very much focused on maintenance and has now moved on with more money available to Area Committee. The scope of the Area Capital Funding will be broadened.

3.7 Chris Thompson: From a ROWIP point of view, nationally there has been no financial support from government to implement the plan. It is Important to link the ROWIP with the LTP to secure funding.

3.8 Diane Moore: Supports integration but the ROWIP should be a separate document within the LTP.

3.9 Diane Moore: There is a big recognition in the importance of linking urban development with sustainable transport systems. Diane then asked Chris Carter how his section assesses the physical experience of travelling to and from public transport services safely and healthily.

3.10 Chris Carter: In response, Chris Carter advised that the 5 objectives of LTP3 look at this issue with the first two having the most weight. He is still undergoing consultation with stakeholders but walking and cycling is up on the agenda. In terms of integration, when both the LTP and ROWIP are drawn up, they should both be updated in parallel and must make sure that the two documents are properly referenced.

3.11 Malcolm Bescoby asked if any plans had been made to manage the collection and delivery of pupils to schools.

3.12 In response Chris Carter advised that Nottingham has one of the highest numbers of pupils walking to school in the country. The challenge lies with Building Schools for the Future (BSF) because pupils don not necessarily go to their nearest school. However when new schools are designed measures should be implemented to make walking and cycling a safer and more attractive option.

3.13 Chris Thompson advised that he was pleased with the way in which the LTP links with area boundaries and enquired as to whether this would also happen with the ROWIP.

3.14 John Lee advised that preparation of the ROWIP would involve working with the County Council as rights-of-way do not respect local authority boundaries and need to be looked at collectively.

3.15 John Boland thanked Chris Carter and Rasita Chudasama for the presentation.

4 THE ROLE OF THE NLAF: PROMOTING THE NLAF TO COLLEAGUES AND OTHER PARTNERS

4.1 Diane Moore enquired about a letter that was previously sent around 4 years ago to Senior Managers within the City Council to raise the profile of the NLAF and went on to suggest whether a repeat of this practice would help. Diane then asked the group what kind of information they would like to see in this.

4.2 John Boland advised that the group needs to clarify between its practical and consultation roles.

4.3 Diane Moore: It’s very important to be practical and we need a clearer vision on what improvements can be made. We need to include positive

case studies such as Hurts Yard or choose another project like that.

4.4 John Boland: How do we set about it?

4.5 Councillor Grocock: Send documents to senior managers. It's important that we regurgitate this and keep our foot on the pedal.

4.6 John Lee: As the majority of members now have access to email, I can draft a letter for comment. If members email back their comments, these can be incorporated into the final letter. **John Lee**

4.7 Tom Huggon: Can Councillor Grocock help? Should we be making presentations to the Planning Department / Senior Managers / Cabinet Portfolio Holders? One of the most practical examples is when the NLAF intervened to get the unlawful obstruction at Lees Hill Footway removed. Having said this, will listeners be enlightened?

4.8 Brian Grocock suggested that the NLAF look towards Katrina Bull in her capacity as the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change.

4.9 Chris Thompson: Could the planning sub group look at the weekly planning list? (This will now be emailed to the planning sub-group).

4.10 Tom Huggon: Supports the comments made by Councillor Grocock. The issue is about influencing the design of the development before the application is approved.

4.11 Councillor Grocock made reference to the fact that he was unaware that Tesco were building over the River Leen in Bulwell.

4.12 Tom Huggon: This illustrates the importance of the River Leen as a corridor to open space within the core strategy.

4.13 Diane Moore: During the EMLAF, members spoke of issues specific to the countryside. The NLAF are unique as we cover a largely urban area and we should promote this uniqueness.

4.14 John Boland asked if John Lee still had a copy of the letter that was sent out to senior managers. (Reference to item 4.1) John Lee

4.15 Malcolm Bescoby: Could an advert be placed in the Nottingham Arrow? Members agreed to this with John Lee and John Boland to discuss. John Lee, John Boland.

4.16 Diane Moore: Do we see ourselves as movers and shakers?

4.17 Councillor Grocock: This is an important issue. Tesco and the culvert is only 1 development but what about others. The NLAF needs to keep a check on these and we don't want to lose areas that are precious.

4.18 In relation to Tesco and the culvert, Chris Thompson advised that the Environment Agency were involved with diverting the river.

4.19 Tom Huggon: In relation to a separate application made by Morrisons, there was a condition to keep the river open.

4.20 Bill Wright advised that the group should write to Morrisons to remind them of this.

4.21 Diane Moore suggested looking into planning applications / design statements for loopholes.

4.22 Tom Huggon: The River has not been used by people for 150 years but it should have been made a feature of.

5 <u>UPDATE FROM GATING ORDER AND PLANNING APPLICATION SUB GROUPS.</u>

5.1 Chris Thompson declared an interest in items 5 & 6 as he is a regional consultee on gating orders for the Ramblers Association.

5.2 John Lee: From the last meeting, efforts have been made to get both the Gating Order and Planning Application sub groups more co-ordinated. This will enable the Gating Order sub group's comments to be incorporated into the final report to Area Committee for their consideration. In relation to the Planning sub group; two applications were given to members which represented small and large scale developments. This was to enable the group to gain insight into the complexities of planning applications.

5.3 Nick Hynes: The complexity of planning applications is overwhelming. Could training be given? John Lee agreed to organise training. **<u>John Lee</u>**

5.4 John Lee: In terms of the Gating Order at Brewsters Road, Malcolm Bescoby, Don Cameron and Diane Moore agreed that based on the evidence, the statutory criteria to gate Brewsters Road had been satisfied.

5.5 John Lee: Plans of 4 Gating Orders (2 City Centre, 2 St Ann's) were given to members. Supporting evidence is being collected for the applications. In this way, comments from the NLAF can be inserted into the report to Area Committee before any decisions are made.

5.6 Tom Huggon: There is no justification for the Gating Orders at the two city centre locations as the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) will be displaced elsewhere.

5.7 Councillor Grocock declared an interest in the Gating Orders in the city centre due to his position as Chair of the City Centre Area Committee.

5.8 Chris Thompson: Gating Orders have been around for 2 / 3 years. Is there any analysis of their impact, are they assessed?

5.9 John Lee: As part of the Gating Order process, the City Council undertakes a monitoring/evaluation process covering 12 months before and after their implementation. The most recent figures for Smedley Close show a 54% reduction in recorded crime.

5.10 Councillor Grocock quoted a similar figure of reduction for crime within the city centre.

5.11 Diane Moore: Gates introduced to Brewsters Road Park as part of a Gating Order are experiencing vandalism. John Lee used Bulwell Hall Park as an example and explained that it was not unique for a structure such as gates / motorcycle inhibitor barriers to be vandalised shortly after they have been installed.

5.12 Tom Huggon: In relation to the planning application for a Tesco at the former Boots on Island Street, there is a public footpath that goes through this site. In addition to this, a scheme has been devised to go through the low level train station, Manvers Street and the warehouses. If Tescos are going to build on the site, they should make sure the towpath isn't fenced off.

6 UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WITHIN NOTTINGHAM: PUBLIC PATH ORDERS, CREATION AGREEMENTS, GATING ORDERS AND MODIFICATION ORDERS (JOHN LEE).

6.1 Public Path Creation Agreement: Tesco have signed on the dotted line (Hucknall Road disused rail corridor).

6.2 An application has been received for a modification order at the Victoria Embankment.

6.3 Currently dealing with a Public Path Extinguishment Order under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980 for subways at Beacon Hill Rise and Gordon Road as they will no longer be required for public use following the construction of the at-grade crossings.

6.4 In relation to the Park Estate, monies have been secured to seek professional expert opinion leading up to the public inquiry.

6.5 LTP Schemes: Works to take place to upgrade the footpath from Stockhill Circus to Nuthall Road.

6.6 Following a number of objections to a proposed new foot and cycle path at Bader Road, an existing safer route to school into Gresham Park Playing fields in Wilford Village has been upgraded instead.

6.7 A budget of £95k is available for small scale improvements such as foliage or signage on walking and cycling routes.

6.8 Diane Moore: Could part of the £95k be used in areas that haven't had maintenance? These could then be used as examples of success stories for the Forum.

7 **AOB**

7.1 Chris Thompson: What work has been done to register lost ways within the city boundary. Should the NLAF involve the local community more?

7.2 Tom Huggon: Area Committee should decide whether they want to re-instate lost ways.

7.3 Councillor Grocock: It would be better if this were to go to the Neighbourhood Manager and not Area Committee.

7.4 Chris Thompson: What work has been undertaken to protect footpaths that existed before 1949?

7.5 John Lee: We have a file showing a number of footpaths that existed pre 1949, however, time and resources dictate when these are recorded on the definitive map and statement.

7.6 Chris Thompson: The "Stepping Forward" document needs to be led by professionals. How do we carry policies out within it?

7.7 John Lee: Agrees with simplifying the process to get unrecorded rights of way registered on the definitive map and statement.

7.8 Tom Huggon: Would the £95k be available for someone to register pre 1949 rights of way?

7.9 John Lee: Unfortunately, the money is capital spend only and is allocated for walking and cycling schemes.

7.10 John Lee: Stepping Forward, Natural England and NLAF minutes will now be emailed to members.

7.11 John Lee: There is an organised clean up of the canal on 12th May 2010 if anyone is interested. Members need to advise John Lee ASAP so the organisers can make sure there are enough trained leaders.

7.12 Chris Thompson: Nottinghamshire County Council have suspended the reinstatement of the guided work programme which will now start in March.

7.13 Diane Moore: The England Access Forum is a big issue. Can this be put on the agenda for the next meeting? John Boland explained that he has the minutes / notes to these and advised that they are available should forum members require them.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7th July 2010, Tea Room, The Council House.