

Item No.	<p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Thursday 13th October 2022 at 7pm WCC Northgate Conference Centre, Warwick</p>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Present: Mike Patrick, Claire Sangster, Cllr Andy Wright, Sheila Cooper, John Hall, Elizabeth Birtley, Kenneth Thomas, Byron Melia, Mike Murray, Crawford Davidson Via Teams: Gina Rowe</p> <p>Apologies: Vaughan Owen, Roger Waring, Diane Smith, Michael Orlik, Joe Carroll, Robin Hickin, Sarah Jane Cash, Alex Le Marinel (CCC)</p> <p>Members of the Public:</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Marion Borman (WCC); Shail Chohan (WCC); Steve Hawley (SMBC); Richard Barnard (WCC)</p> <p>Other attendees:</p> <p>Notes: Alistair Rigby (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Opening remarks Vice Chair, Claire Sangster chaired the meeting following Michael Orlik's decision to step down as Chair.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from meeting on 7th July 2022 & matters arising Notes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. No matters arising</p>	
4.	<p>Objects of the Forum. The Forum was established by The Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000</p> <p>Members took the opportunity to look over and comment on LAF Terms of Reference (2006).</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.5 <i>As a statutory consultee, to comment on proposed Gating Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.</i> <p>Proposed to also be a consultee under Public Spaces Protection Orders 2019 and Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.2a <i>The Secretary may call an extraordinary meeting of LAF members in the event that</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>the LAF is a Statutory Consultee AND</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>where the deadline for a Statutory Consultation e.g. Gating Orders is before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the LAF AND</i> ○ <i>where the Chair or, in their absence, the Vice-Chair of the LAF is in agreement.</i> <p>Proposed under second item that an additional example is included: Public Space & Protection Orders</p> <p>A discussion followed on whether LAF is a statutory consultee for planning applications where PRoW network is affected. Currently statutory notification is given to WCC and BHS when a planning authority picks up that a PRoW is impacted. PRoW officers do get the opportunity to comment when notified.</p> <p>It was noted that currently LAF is not a statutory consultee.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>WCC Budget for Rights of Way Shail Chohan, Service Manager, WCC presented WCC Rights of Way team lead by Marion Borman has 9 staff and sits within County Highways. 2021/22 budget = £26K plus additional funds giving a total expenditure budget of £30K There is no provision for capital funding. This is sourced by applying to grant funders eg Biffa Award fund</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WCC only has a statutory obligation to keep PROW surfaces clear for access. It works closely with landowners to ensure above surface encroachment of path / bridleways is addressed if necessary through enforcement ● To help maximise the limited annual budget the team supports volunteer groups to help with the maintenance of the network. There are up to 15 volunteer groups active on the network. (Solihull has 1 active volunteer group). Each of the groups is signed up to WCC volunteer scheme and automatically has appropriate insurance cover ● Currently looking at resurrecting 'Lengthsman Scheme' with Parish Councils which have the scope to raise a precept towards local network maintenance costs ● Copy of the presentation to go out with the minutes 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Update: The local bridleway network Lizzie Birtley followed up on her report given at the last meeting.</p> <p>Lizzie thanked Marion's team for WCC's written response, to the</p>	

	<p>incident log, in the report to help improve equestrian access across the network</p> <p>Action: Solihull and Coventry to respond</p>	AM / SH
7.	<p>Discussion: Cycling in Warwickshire</p> <p>Mike Patrick presented his findings on WCC's current and planned activity to improve cycle safety and the experience of cycling around the county.</p> <p>Most information can be found at: <i>Safe and Active Travel website</i>: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshire-safe-active-travel</p> <p>In his research Mike highlighted the consultations undertaken by WCC in 2022; the prominence of National Cycle Network and the different types of support available to encourage more people to take up cycling including: comprehensive cycle route maps for Warwickshire; cycling apps and the many local cycling clubs.</p> <p>He concluded by commending the Safe & Active Travel website whilst challenging the local authority to put all the actions that it has identified in place, as well as having an effective communication strategy and measurement process in place.</p> <p>Comments on the report from members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad driving is putting off more people from cycling – 131 cyclists were killed last year in England (mainly in the countryside) • Northants police follow up bad driving when evidence is submitted. Warks police also investigate via Operation Snap https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/ • Safe Active Travel scheme is a government initiative creating new routes for cycleways <p>Action: Ask Philippa Young and Alison Kennedy, Transport Highways, WCC to comment on WCC actions in plan</p>	AR
8.	<p>Rights of Way team updates (WCC, CCC, SMBC)</p> <p><u>Warwickshire County Council (WCC)</u></p> <p>Richard Barnard, RoW Officer (South Warks) presented his report. Over 360 volunteer hours have been logged maintaining the network since the last LAF (July to the end of September). Larger construction works are carried out by contractors eg £20K bridge at Sawbridge. Next planned project is the bridleway at Brailes, Shipston.</p>	

	<p>ROWIP (Rights of Way Implementation Plan) is in early stages of development led by a consultant. The Plan will tie in with Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, & Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>LAF will be consulted as well as Ramblers Association and schools.</p> <p>The consultant will look at funding opportunities to support the plan, including health funding.</p> <p><u>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)</u> Steve Hawley presented. Solihull's ROW budget is £40K per year although the area coverage is a lot smaller than Warwickshire's. Maintenance relies more on paid contractual work than a volunteer support programme. A significant proportion of the budget goes on the strimming contract currently held by Idverde.</p> <p>Most of the work is reactive eg repairing finger posts, styles etc with little time for inspection of the network. Landowner issues are minimal usually around cropping over paths.</p> <p>Currently there are 30 service requests for team (1 person 3 days per week) 7 live diversion orders 1 DMMO, Oak Lane, Barston with Planning Directorate for final decision</p> <p>The Solihull Bramblers volunteer group is working on the network. The Coventry Way volunteer group has now disbanded.</p> <p>There have been productive meetings held with HS2 Ltd around Berkswell station and M42 scheme.</p> <p><u>Coventry City Council (CCC)</u> No update</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Presentation: PROW - Who is responsible for what Richard Barnard, RoW Officer (South Warks) shared his presentation.</p> <p>Richard gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the County Council, as the local Highway Authority, and landowners in managing the Public Rights of Way (PROW). The network includes 1,442 miles of footpath; 303 miles of bridleways</p> <p>The core roles of the County Council are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain and protect PROW by maintaining the surface inc. surface vegetation and bridges over natural watercourses 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring compliance with the law, by undertaking highway authority's actions (duties) and by dictating the actions of others (enforcement) <p>The core roles of the landowner/occupier are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep PRowS visible and not to obstruct or endanger users ensuring compliance with the law maintain structures, stiles, gates, fences and hedges <p>PRowS team oversees the delivery of the above responsibilities through education – which it does by providing advice & information to land owners and public; co-operation – which it does by working with landowners, volunteers, contractors; enforcement – which it does by protecting the network and accessibility</p> <p>Public can report all PRowS issues in Warwickshire using 'Report It' on WCC website https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem</p>	
10.	<p>Training & site visits for Forum members</p> <p>The LAF requested some basic training on responding to enquiries from planning authority. Action: District / Borough planner to be asked to present</p> <p>19 November - National Access Conference 'The Planning System & Equestrian Access' a workshop on what to look for and how to respond to planning applications</p>	
11.	<p>Suggested agenda items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections Chair / Vice Chair Kenilworth Greenway update, WCC Greenspaces Team Adam Tranter, Bicycle Mayor of Coventry Transport for West Midlands – encouraging cycling across the West Midlands <p>https://www.tfwm.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/encouraging-cycling-in-the-west-midlands/</p>	
11.	<p>Date and venue for next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 7pm 26th January 2023 Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC 	ALL