

Item No.	<p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Thursday 7pm 27th April 2023 Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC</p>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Present: Mike Patrick, Cllr Andy Wright, Sheila Cooper, John Hall, Elizabeth Birtley, Kenneth Thomas, Mike Murray, Roger Waring, Byron Melia, Sarah Jane Cash, Vaughan Owen, Via Teams: Robin Hickin</p> <p>Apologies: Diane Smith, Claire Sangster, Gina Rowe, Joe Carroll</p> <p>Members of the Public: Richard Moorhouse, Steve Dyson, Richard Lloyd</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Alex Le Marinel (CCC), Steve Hawley (SMBC), Marion Borman (WCC), Thomas Crawford, Rachel Baconnet, Craig Earl, Charles Barlow (WCC)</p> <p>Other attendees: Adam Tranter,</p> <p>Notes: Alistair Rigby (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Introductions and apologies for absence Lizzie Birtley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Individual name plates were handed out to members to keep and bring with them to future meetings. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>It was confirmed Crawford Davidson had resigned as LAF member.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from meeting on 26th January 2023 & matters arising Notes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. Matters arising: Alex Le Marinel (CCC) raised the outcome of the discussion to amend LAF Terms of Reference (2006) by removing reference to Gating Orders and replacing with Public Spaces Protection Orders, saying that LAF is not empowered to do so. Responsibility in this case lies with the Appointing Authorities.</p> <p>Following discussion Alex agreed to seek advice from CCC Legal Services and report back to LAF.</p>	
4.	<p>Presentation: WCC Parks Team - Rachel Baconnet, Lead Commissioner – Country Parks & Green Spaces, WCC Rachel shared her presentation and introduced the Team which has 40 staff and manages 5 country parks and 3 greenways across the county. Around 1 million visits are made per year to the sites.</p>	

	<p>The Team has also taken management of Ufton Fields Nature Reserve from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>The Team generates income from leases and concessions on site eg bike hire, cafes and now employs a marketing manager to support the sector.</p> <p>Tom Crawford, Operations Manager highlighted the work by the Team on Kenilworth Greenway which had been in WCC ownership since 1970s, but is now under the ownership of HS2. HS2 is currently building the Burton Green tunnel. https://mediacentre.hs2.org.uk/news/new-video-shows-how-hs2-is-building-burton-green-tunnel-in-warwickshire</p> <p>Half the length of the Greenway is closed due to the construction.</p> <p>Regular maintenance is undertaken on accessible sections of the route with weekly checks and volunteer working parties. Also working on conservation projects to support mini-meadows; slow worms, bats.</p> <p>Access work is going on to repair undercut to Coventry Road and to improve bridleway from Hollis Lane.</p> <p>Future works are being planned to improve connectivity around the route and maximise user experience for when the Greenway is fully open again. HS2 planting schemes need to be low maintenance so the Team can effectively manage the route for visitors and wildlife.</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lizzie to speak to Tom about noticeboard on Common Lane entrance to Kenilworth Common which does not clearly show that horses are permitted • Tunnel booming when a train enters / exits a tunnel is a concern to horse riders • Country Parks & Green Spaces team keen to have joined up thinking with LAF to help with future meetings with HS2 • Kenneth to pass details to Tom of vandalised barrier at Offchurch greenway / Grand Union canal junction • Rachel to get response from HS2 about repurposing of haul roads <p>Presentation to be shared with minutes</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>User point of view: The Kenilworth Greenway HS2 diversion - Richard Lloyd Richard shared his presentation showing his walk along the temporary diversion route of Kenilworth Greenway.</p>	

	<p>Photographs showed examples of: waterlogged sections; 90 degree bends in the route; highly engineered road intersections; paths and fencing running parallel to the original pathway; benches sited directly on the route.</p> <p>Richard summed up by saying the route appeared to be well used by cyclists and equestrians but lacked amenity value. He suggested that ‘street furniture’ with no functional purpose could be removed to improve user experience and reduce impact on wildlife</p> <p>Richard was thanked for his presentation.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Presentation: West Midlands Cycling & Walking Commissioner - Adam Tranter, WMCA</p> <p>Adam shared his presentation. He was appointed in December 2021. The role has a vision to develop a 500 mile network of safe routes for active travel across WMCA by working with DfT and the seven local authorities which are responsible for delivery and maintenance of highway infrastructure projects</p> <p>By 2041 targets include: 100% increase in public transport use 700% increase in cycling 36% decrease in car travel distance</p> <p>Adam is keen to work with LAF to help reduce barriers to access and promote active travel schemes. For example improving access to greenways for disabled users</p> <p>He is keen to find out if HS2 has an active travel legacy.</p> <p>Adam asked for LAF members to complete the survey on West Midlands Walking Trail. Survey link: https://bit.ly/WMWTCCommunitySurvey</p> <p>Funding available from WMCA Community Green Grants scheme https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/environment-and-energy/community-green-grants/</p> <p>In response to questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Midlands Way is well used and looking to improve connectivity • Cycle routes need to be well designed by providing safe and continuous routes away from traffic – learning lessons from previous schemes eg Meriden cycle way which is plighted by rubbish • Walking baseline is quite high at 45% of people compared to 1% who cycle • Supporting bicycle parking / hubs at train stations 	

7.	<p>Reports: Rights of Way teams (WCC, CCC & SMBC) <u>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)</u> Steve Hawley presented his report which included photos of recent bush clearance work in Hampton in Arden by Solihull Brambler volunteers and new steps in Meriden by contractor.</p> <p>Contractor to start summer strimming on 22 May – 3 week programme repeated again in late Summer. 131 sections of paths are strimmed.</p> <p>30 service requests made. DMMOs – 15 current requests. 7 live Diversion Orders</p> <p>Coventry Way volunteers now have a new co-ordinator and aim to start up again soon on the network</p> <p><u>Coventry City Council (CCC)</u> Alex Le Marinel did not have a report as there is nothing currently in the public domain for CCC to report on, but will report back at the next meeting. He is working with Adam Tranter on active travel schemes in Coventry.</p> <p><u>Warwickshire County Council (WCC)</u> Marion Borman presented her report highlighting the programme of work for next 3 months and activity of volunteer groups across the county network.</p> <p>Tools, equipment, machinery have been serviced ready for use over the summer.</p> <p>ROWIP consultation is reaching its final stages and will be circulated when complete. The consultant had to take time off due to ill health.</p>	
8.	<p>Working groups (Planning; Rights of Way; Conservation) to report to LAF Suggestion to pilot 3 sub groups to enable LAF to respond quicker to consultations and initiatives Looking for volunteer to lead a group with 3-5 members per group Contact Lizzie or Sheila if you are interested</p> <p>Item to be discussed at the next meeting</p>	
9.	<p>AOB The Definitive Map & Statement – John Hall. Item deferred to next meeting</p> <p>Upgrading A46 Walsgrave junction – Sheila Cooper. Report to be circulated to members</p>	

	<p>Planning Inspectorate ROW/3295978 – Robin Hickin Robin shared his objections to DMMO statement for Wolfhampcote Lane, E2289 to be recorded as BOAT. It was agreed further discussion should be arranged outside of the meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>Suggested agenda items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals to encouraging more people to make use of the countryside – Craig Williams, Member 	
11.	<p>Date and venue for next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd August Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC 19th October 	ALL