

Item No.	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Thursday 7pm 18th January 2024 Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Present:, Sheila Cooper, John Hall, Kenneth Thomas, Mike Murray, Sarah Jane Cash, Diane Smith, Vaughan Owen Via Teams:, Gina Rowe, Roger Waring, Cllr Andy Wright, Michael Orlik</p> <p>Apologies: Byron Melia, Mike Patrick, Craig Williams, Robin Hickin, Claire Sangster, Joe Carroll, Alex Le Marinel (CCC), Marion Borman (WCC), Paul Tovey (SMBC)</p> <p>Members of the Public: Luke Rolls, Peter Norris, Elizabeth White, Wendy Bannerman (BHS),</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Charles Barlow (WCC)</p> <p>Other attendees: Sharon Bayne (Consultant) Teams</p> <p>Notes: Alistair Rigby (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Introductions and apologies for absence There were no objections to the meeting being recorded. Sheila Cooper, Chair confirmed the meeting was being recorded and opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Michael Orlik was welcomed back as a member of LAF</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from meeting on 23rd November 2023 & matters arising Notes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting. Matters arising: For clarity, comments within WCC RoW report referring to the bridge on the Radford Road, Leamington was not part of the officer's report. It is not a public right of way and Warwickshire County Council has no responsibility for its repair or closure.</p> <p>In response to Country Parks & Green Spaces Team, WCC comment that the Team was unaware of a barrier at The Grand Union/Greenway junction, Kenneth Thomas will send in a photograph.</p>	
4.	<p>Opportunity for Public participation All members of the public who were present were welcomed. Elizabeth White, Whitnash resident raised concerns over Whitnash bridleway W119 (Via Regia). Planning applications are with WDC for 2 housing estates at Chesterton Green and Chesterton Gardens, Whitnash with a single vehicular access point. A third estate is proposed breaching the bridleway.</p>	

	<p>The historic walk to Whitnash Holy Well (exact location unknown) is not included in planning documents.</p> <p>It was agreed for Sheila Cooper, Chair to write to WDC on behalf of LAF to enquire further.</p> <p>Wendy Bannerman, BHS said a holding objection to the scheme had been submitted by BHS.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Reports: Rights of Way teams (WCC, CCC & SMBC) <u>Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)</u> No report forthcoming. Steve Hawley has now left his job at SMBC. Paul Tovey, Head of Highway Management, SMBC will cover while the post is recruited to.</p> <p><u>Coventry City Council (CCC)</u> No report forthcoming. Currently no officer is available</p> <p><u>Warwickshire County Council (WCC)</u> Due to the weather and the Christmas break there has been limited opportunity for volunteer work to be undertaken. However, 115 hours have been logged and includes inserting signposts and clearing vegetation.</p> <p>Severn Trent have reopened the bridge in Rugby but repairs still need to be undertaken.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement: Warwickshire ROWIP – Sharon Bayne, Consultant Sharon Bayne, Director, Blackwood Bayne Ltd presented on Teams.</p> <p>500 survey responses have already been returned by the public. Sharon is keen for LAF to support and provide advice to help prepare the ROWIP.</p> <p>Sharon shared a 3 phase approach for completion of the ROWIP</p> <p><u>Phase 1: Gathering evidence (January to Spring / Summer 2024)</u> This would involve signposting the public, Parish Councils, stakeholders to the online survey form. https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/warwickshire-rowip/ This would help to provide an understanding of the current and likely future needs of the public in using the network. In support it was suggested LAF could advise on what worked well / what didn't work well in previous ROWIP. LAF could advise on how to future proof the network for next 10 years. As well as highlighting needs of particular user groups to improve their experience.</p>	

	<p><u>Phase 2: Review of Evidence (Summer to Autumn 2024)</u> A thorough analysis would be undertaken of all the returned surveys. Workshops would be held to share headline findings and conclusions. LAF could advise on workshop content and how to engage with harder to reach audiences as well as how the ROWIP itself could be implemented</p> <p><u>Phase 3: Drafting, consultation & publication of ROWIP (Autumn 2024 onwards)</u> A draft ROWIP would be produced and formally consulted on, where LAF could make representation</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is currently being progressed, which will include promoting access to green spaces. Agreed to explore links to ROWIP • Mixed user group workshops suggested to support networking and open discussion • LAF to be notified of workshops • LAF members to individually complete initial online survey • Sharon to request outcomes / targets from previous ROWIP • Sharon to explore links with active travel routes eg National Cycle Network (Sustrans), inter-urban routes <p>John Hall to respond to a DMMO query received from Mr Richard Hawker regarding the monitoring of an application made decades ago at Packington Park, North Warwickshire where circumstances and events may have changed over time. Mr Hawker could put in a claim himself.</p>	
7.	<p>Presentation: The Definitive Map and Statement – John Hall John presented his report of April 2023 and update of January 2024, outlining the history of the Definitive Map and Statement and associated acts of Parliament.</p> <p>Defra has agreed to extend the deadline for ‘Discovering Lost Ways’ project from 2026 to 1st January 2031 giving more time for applications to be made before determination and inclusion on the Definitive Map.</p> <p>Local Authorities with PRow responsibilities have a huge task on their hands to even meet this deadline with many hundreds of claims being submitted LAF could lend support to RoW teams if reports were more factual in addressing Definitive Map queries; in highlighting the backlog of claims for historic ways; and the resources and budgets that the teams are expected to work within.</p>	

	<p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwickshire needs more bridleways • WCC RoW Team has been reduced from 16 to 8 staff. There aren't enough officers to speed up DMMO claims • Steven Wallsgrove (ex-LAF member) did a good job of recording all routes for determination • Urban routes can be included as a 'list of streets' <p>Luke Rolls commented that he is Ramblers UK Area Co-ordinator for 'Don't lose your Way' project https://www.ramblers.org.uk/support-us/dont-lose-your-way Currently working on over 2500 routes across Warwickshire and Coventry</p> <p>Wendy Bannerman, BHS highlighted Project 2026 to save historic routes https://www.bhs.org.uk/support-us/our-campaigns/project-2026/</p>	
8.	<p>Update: Coventry City Council's planning application PL/2023/0001062/FULM – Sheila Cooper</p> <p>Sheila to speak at Planning Committee, Coventry City Council on 25th January. Sheila has written to Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to call-in the application.</p>	
12.	<p>Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Bayne, Director, Blackwood Bayne Ltd is available to provide Rights of Way training • National Planning Policy Framework – approach for training opportunities • CPRE – approach for training opportunities 	
13.	<p>AOB</p> <p>LAF Membership – it was resolved 'with best endeavours to fill vacancies within 3 months'. Targeted recruitment was suggested by approaching eg Trammer groups, BHS etc. It was proposed that interviews conducted by the 3 Appointing Officers should also include a LAF member</p> <p>Sheila to request meetings with Heads of Highways and Planning at all 3 local authorities to request LAF is included as either statutory or non-statutory consultees on planning issues. And request RoW officers use LAF to consult and disseminate information. LAF can then, in response, give timely advice as and when appropriate.</p> <p>LAF members agreed for Sheila to follow up enquiries with SBMC on the reinstatement of Kenilworth Greenway.</p>	

	<p>LAF members agreed for Sheila to follow up objection with WDC on Chesterton Gardens development</p> <p>Members were reminded to update their profiles on LAF website by sending a brief paragraph to Alistair to put on the webpage.</p> <p>Diane Smith reported that Stratford Ramblers are doing an excellent job of maintaining the footpaths</p> <p>Roger Waring reported that a property developer is putting in a permissive path from Hampton in Arden to Bickenhill. A volunteer group is to be set up.</p>	
14.	<p>Suggested agenda items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline of Rights of Way provision by each local authority • ROWIP – Sharon Bayne • Speaker from Planning Inspectorate • CPRE – national office 	
15.	<p>Date and venue for next meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th April Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC 	ALL