

Item No.	<u>MINUTES</u> Of the LOCAL ACCESS FORUM meeting that took place on Thursday 17 October 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, Warwick. N.B. 30 minutes of the meeting was lost due to evacuation of the building through a faulty fire alarm.	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence, and declarations of interest.</p> <p>Present: Sheila Cooper (Chair), Ken Thomas, Roger Waring, Simon Storey, Mike Murray, Gina Rowe, and Sara-Jane Cash.</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Chris Kettle, Luke Rolls, Vaughan Owen, Steven Dyson, Michael Orlik, and Robin Hickin.</p> <p>Guests and Members of the Public: Andy Hyndman (Ampyr Solar), Scott Johnson (Ampyr Solar), Liz White, and Peter Norris.</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Paul Tovey (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council), and Charles Barlow (Warwickshire County Council) (Secretary)</p> <p>Minutes: Emily McFadyen (Warwickshire County Council)</p> <p>There were no objections to the meeting being recorded for minute-taking purposes.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2024 and any matters arising.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge at Radford Road has not been re-opened work planned to finish the end of October has been extended through to November. <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follow-up to be made on the following action: Luke Rolls confirmed he was looking at a baseline for future content of RoW reports.</i> 	LR
3.	Opportunity for public participation.	

	All members of the public were welcomed, and public participation was welcomed throughout the meeting at the Chair's discretion.	
4.	<p>Election of Forum Chair and Vice-Chair.</p> <p>Due to matters outside of the control of the Forum, the Chair confirmed that the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair were being deferred until the January 2025 meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>Forum members.</p> <p>Confirmation of new members, Luke Rolls, and Simon Storey.</p> <p>Acknowledgement and thanks to retiring members John Hall and Mike Patrick.</p> <p>Equalities member being sought. Contact made with the Equality and Inclusion Partnership and the Rural Hub.</p>	
6.	<p>Reports from the Warwickshire, Solihull, and Coventry Rights of Way Teams.</p> <p>No reports received from the Warwickshire and Coventry teams.</p> <p>Apologies from the Warwickshire team and commitment to provide a report after the meeting.</p> <p>Paul Tovey in attendance to give a verbal update for Solihull, but item unfortunately cancelled because of insufficient time arising from the building evacuation.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>WCC Rights of Way Team to circulate report at the earliest opportunity.</i> • <i>Paul Tovey to circulate update at the earliest opportunity.</i> 	
7.	<p>Presentation: Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Gina Rowe, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Natural England – setting out most of the guidance for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Lost a lot of nature and wildlife over the last 60-70 years. For example, some species of fish are going extinct, and this is a plan to rebuild from the soil upwards. Part of the initial work will be to map out the existing bio-diversity areas we have local and how we can recover, enhance, and improve on these areas. The report will be evidence based as we have habitat data that has been produced since 1998 as well as satellite images etc. Farmland will also be included in the strategy and how their farmland is comprised will be looked at in the report such as verges, wildflowers etc.</p>	

	<p>Isolation is bad for biodiversity and nature is being cut up by roads, railways, housing development etc. For example, ancient woodland in Warwickshire is often built or farmed right up to the edge and giving the woodland more room would help it be in a much stronger position.</p> <p>The LNRS will be used to achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain to identify any gaps to focus on. The National Habitat Map will show areas that are important to biodiversity. It will provide a key initiative to help deliver environmental improvement plans.</p> <p>It was discussed about having an LAF representative attend the Local Nature Partnership Conference.</p> <p>The Chair mentioned a Cambridge University paper recently released around biodiversity net gain. Will forward onto Gina.</p> <p>Mike Murray asked about the figure of 13% of land being managed and how this compares to the rest of Europe, and if as suspected this is much lower than other countries could this be used to as a way to put pressure on Government as evidence that we need to improve nature management/recovery.</p> <p>Simon Storey – Asked if Local Authority will have the ability to enforce the suggestions of the Strategy. The answer is that they should as it is a legal/statutory requirement from the Environment Act and the council will need to proactively enforce/monitor/respond on it.</p> <p>Liz White – Mentioned the Warwickshire Local Nature Partnership is referred to in Warwick District Council Plan, it was decided that someone from WDC should liaise with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust/Gina regarding the Partnership.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles to follow up with WDC on suitable contact. • Chair to forward on the Cambridge University paper to Gina. 	<p>CB</p> <p>SC</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Presentation: Camp Farm Solar proposals, Scott Johnson, Camp Farm Solar, and Andrew Hyndman, Ampyr.</p> <p>Ampyr is joint venture between Hartree Partners, AGP Sustainable Real Assets and NaGa Solar.</p> <p>Invested in their solar farms long term as ‘owner operators’ and committed to leaving a positive legacy in the community. In the UK they have 34 solar sites in the UK with 568 MW of assets with land and grid. 10 MW of assets under construction.</p>	

	<p>A lot of elements are considered in the site selection of Solar farms for example: landscape, environmental impact, if a grid connection is viable, if it interacts with other committed developments etc.</p> <p>Discussion around the Diversion of the Right of Way WK 200 T56/1 which is proposed to divert to the southern perimeter of the Ampyr site rather than cut through the middle as it currently does and planting of a new hedgerow and tree belt. The diversion would offer 10m of running width/350m increase in footpath. 2m wide gravel 'crusher run' off-road cycle path proposed based off feedback. The meeting discussed increasing the proposed width of the realigned Right of Way.</p> <p>As discussed by the group, battery storage is inland of the edge of the site to mitigate any noise for the village (Hurley). The site will connect to Lea Marston Substation.</p> <p>3.5m maintenance buffer between the hedge and the solar panels. 25m buffer from the woodland as it is a local wildlife site.</p> <p>It was discussed about the woodland and whether the rate of failure of the trees (their height etc) was being factored into the creation of the buffers.</p> <p>Peter Norris asked if the pathway could be made into a bridle way.</p> <p>Scott can send around a 3D model of the designs for anyone who is interested.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>General updates.</p> <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals on changes to NPPF, including CPRE response. • IM Properties Employment Park / Thrive Development, North Warwickshire (Including feedback from drop-in session, Curdworth, 20 September 2024.) • A46 Walsgrave junctions upgrade. • HS2 Public Rights of Way Working Group • Network Rail, Accessible Travel Policy, and Passenger Assist. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Planning updates:</p> <p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick District W/23/01766, Land on the south side of Chesterton Gardens, Leamington Spa, Approved. • Coventry PL/2023/0001205/FULM, Alderman's Green Road Coventry, Refused. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry PL/2023/000106/FULM, Lentons Lane, Update. 	
11.	<p>Future meeting agenda items</p> <p>IM Properties attending to brief us on the Thrive proposals at Wishaw, names and company positions to be confirmed.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 Public Rights of Way Group to be held in Solihull on Tuesday 12 November. Sheila Cooper and Roger Waring to attend. • A46 Walsgrave Improvement Plan • Land South of Chesterton Gardens W/23/1746 - Appeal on Grounds of Non-Determination by Warwick District Council - 27 November 2024. 	
12.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
13.	<p>Date and time of next meeting.</p> <p>16 January 2025, 7.00pm to 9.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick</p>	
14.	<p>Close</p>	