

Item No.	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Thursday 7pm 9th October 2025 Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC	Action
1.	<p>Present: Sheila Cooper (Chair), Michael Orlik, Vaughan Owen, Neil Benison (Coventry City Council), Craig Williams, Ken Thomas, Simon Storey, Cllr Chris Kettle, Vaughn Owen, Sarah-Jane Cash, Roger Waring</p> <p>Apologies: Gina Rowe, Robin Hicken, Richard Fenwick (Director of Highways, Warwickshire County Council)</p> <p>Guests and Members of the Public: Peter Norris, Liz White, Jonathan Cooper</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Shail Chohan (County Highways, Warwickshire County Council)</p> <p>Notes: Emily McFadyen (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Introductions and apologies for absence There were no objections to the meeting being recorded.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes from meeting on 17th July 2025 & matters arising Notes were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.</p> <p>Clarifications were made regarding previous attendance and comments attributed to members.</p> <p>Member's session from July meeting deferred to today's meeting</p>	
4.	<p>Opportunity for Public participation All members of the public who were present were welcomed.</p> <p>Update on SD228, confirming contact with 2.5 of the 5 landowners. (Contact with 2 and partial contact with another landowner) Currently still not passable as you need all 5 landowners to agree to the diversion and one remains unresponsive, which is delaying progress. Forum discussed whether to intervene as the LAF. Legal enforcement may be necessary if the landowner remains unresponsive.</p>	
5.	<p>Reports from the Warwickshire and Solihull Rights of Way Teams.</p> <p>1) Warwickshire (Shail) – Updates covering the period from June – Sep 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) upgrade – feedback from users has been positive, praised for usability and efficiency, with a hope that the new additional features can save officer's time. Case loads are being reviewed 	SC

	<p>to ensure the system is working as effectively as possible. The URL to the reporting system to be sent round with the notes. https://rightsofway.warwickshire.gov.uk/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S106 funded improvement works – Shakespeare's Avon Way FP SD29a – Recycled plastic handrails have been installed with step maintenance to follow. • Maintenance work in the period includes regular upkeep around the county i.e. Surface repairs vegetation clearance and signage updates. Specific examples include Priors Marston Parish FP SM53d Bridge Maintenance works carried out in September. • The forum acknowledged the essential role of volunteers in maintaining and improving countryside access. Recent contributions included installing self-closing gates to the R66 Bridge at Churchover and repairing bridges such as the contribution of the Rugby Ramblers repairing a bridge on R144 at Wolston. • Whichford Parish – Macmillan Way FP SS193 – The Cotswold Volunteer Wardens - tasked to address a waterlogged footpath including vegetation clearance, excavation of drainage channels, creation of a dead hedge and installation of sleeper bridge and signpost. • Other maintenance work from volunteers included the Coventry Ramblers repairing steps on N57a at Galley Common, Nuneaton and Bedworth volunteer group installed gates on M245 in Over Whitacre. • The Volunteers give their time and are supported in the sense that there is funding available, their training, kit and materials is paid for by the county council. It was discussed about information about becoming a volunteer being posted onto the LAF webpage. • Maintenance work was also carried out on the Priors Marston Parish – Millennium Way FP SM108 which involved bridge replacement, a new 6m Bison Bridge was installed complete with gates, signage and a cable tray system. • In the North of the County volunteers contributed 8 days between the 9th of July and the 26th of September. In the South 570 hours were logged by volunteers in the same period. • DMMOs (in the last 12 months): 3 determinations have been reached and 1 order made. • Diversion Orders: 32 applications have been received for Public Path Orders to be made under the Highways Act 1980 and in the last 12 months 2 creation agreements were made but no orders made. • The team will look ahead to fully embed the CAMS Pro System and utilise all its functionality, officers are continuing to put together a list of structures in need of maintenance or replacement and although the team is still not fully staffed there 	
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	<p>is now in a place a Technical Administration Officer to provide extra support to the team.</p> <p>2) Report received from Solihull (Paul)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoming service requests includes a variety of topics including: signage and waymarking, planning, overgrown vegetation, improvement requests, cropping, broken street furnishings. Relying on the two volunteer group to help carry out some of these requests. There are 20 outstanding service requests from the whole quarter none of which are classified as the most urgent and are mainly broken furniture which is in progress. • Improvement works include repairs to boardwalk, bridges, gates, stiles and marker posts. Also looking to reopen several closed footpaths soon. • Impact of schemes on Network: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 HS2 – 15 PROWs affected with closures and diversions and open pathways safe around the site. 2 M42 Jct 5A – Work has now begun to reopen some of the pathways affected by the junction works, with some pathways looking to be reopened in November. 3 Working with Roger Waring to replace some styles with gates in Hampton parish • The Solihull Road bridge over the motorway is currently closed for repairs and is due to reopen at the end of January 2026 (Weather/Temperature dependent). The Catherine-De-Barnes Bridge is under the same project that is currently closed to undergo repairs. 	
6.	<p>General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Chesterton Gardens</u> - The approval was sold on to a third party developer, they have varied two conditions. Traffic calming on the existing estate and the active crossing of the bridleway and public footpath by all the construction traffic (this was going to be put in place when the first house was occupied) They have now changed it to when the last house is occupied. So at the moment construction traffic is going down through an existing narrow road estate. The temporary crossing of the bridleway that has been made is not safe for any use as the public right of way and certainly not safe for horses. So on the permission Sheila got some time ago the LAF have sent in another objection and are asking for review the variation of those two conditions. The foul water pumping station that they are now proposing to build was not part of the original planning application, only mentioned as a small aside on the latest variation application mentioned above, this is despite the fact that it is a new construction with groundworks and a connection into the sewer, while being alongside Nash Brook and the conservation area/nature reserve, so the public have had no opportunity to ask questions. It was suggested about going to 	

	<p>the local government ombudsman about raising concerns over this application and if correct procedure has been followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Thrive Project, Wishaw and Curdworth</u> – 3.5 million square feet of warehouse to be built on that land that is currently pristine agricultural land that can be/is used for UK food production. • <u>Fivefield Road, Keresley, 17 September 2025</u> • <u>Response to the West Midlands Local Recovery Strategy Consultation, 17 September 2025</u> • <u>A46 Coventry Junctions (Walsgrave, 12 September 2025)</u> • <u>HS2 Public Rights of Way Working Group slides, and notes and actions 9 September 2025</u> – to review at next meeting, it was noted that the documents were related to BBV which is HS2 south going north. There effectively seems to be no input from EKFB, which is a much shorter stretch up the county boundary but there is a number of footfall and rights of way issues. Slides talk about solution of getting Kenilworth Greenway onto station road which has been agreed by HS2 and Network Rail but at the expense of the flood plain on M196. • <u>Lentons Lane Solar Farm, 08 September 2025</u> • <u>Hawkhurst Moor Farm, 11 August 2025</u> – 600 houses and a multi-faith burial ground. Comments have been made from the environment agency about building a burial ground on a flood zone • <u>Thrive Logistics Project, 26 July 2025</u> • <u>Benton Green Lane, 23 July 2025</u> 	
7.	<p>Recruitment of Chair and Vice Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be left with Shail in terms of the plan of the nominations and voting procedure. Getting a third party to help with the process. 	
8.	<p>Member update and recruitment (to include interview panel for application received 23 August 2025).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibility of the appointing authorities. • Footfall through Shire Hall and Libraries across the county perhaps could create banners/posters/leaflets to advertise membership. • Linking to this it was suggested that there be a refresh of the LAF webpages, to make them look a little more inviting. 	

9.	<p>Review and refresh of Terms of Reference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to Countryside Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 which is a statutory element however the terms of reference haven't been looked at since 2006, so perhaps it is time for a refresh. It was noted that the membership list was out of date. Terms of reference need to be reviewed to ensure the forum operates openly and effectively. The discussion included the roles of the local authorities and the criteria for member selection, aiming to strengthen governance and accountability. Any existing selection criteria to be found to share with members. To go away and look at what the roles and responsibilities of the appointing authorities and see what works and what needs to potentially change. The logistics of meeting venues were discussed, with a view to rotating locations to better accommodate members from different areas. The importance of face-to-face meetings was emphasised, alongside the potential for remote participation to increase accessibility. The team discussed the importance of claiming expenses. Simplifying the expense claim process and providing additional support were identified as priorities to encourage participation and recognise members' contributions. 	SCH All LAF Members
10.	<p>Date and venue for next meeting 29th January 2026 Shire Hall, Warwick, WCC</p>	
11.	Close	