

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Monday, 13th September, 2010 at the Mayor's Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

Laurie Tucker (Chair)
Toby Evans
Margery Hitchman,
Ian Houghton,
Councillor David J Munkley
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Ken Wright

Observers

Bea Tucker

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Esther Deacon, Alex Deans, Bruce Hicks, Jacqui Wheeler

1. Election of Chair

Resolved – That Laurie Tucker be appointed Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Parmar advised in respect of agenda item 6 – Gating Order Proposals, Mildenhall to Lerwick Drive, that he was a local resident but he would approach the matter with an open mind.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May 2010

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)

Stoke Poges Lane – Elliman Avenue Junction – JW advised that a response had been received from the Traffic Department which advised that they had expected the works to be completed by the end of the summer holidays. A further response had been received which stated that cabling had been completed but there were some financial issues with the sub-contractor. Members raised concerns that this had still not been completed and requested further clarity from Traffic and an estimated completion date.

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Cinder Track – A letter had been drafted and was due to be sent out to the head of highways, however it has come to light that it would be more appropriate to address the letter to the head of transport. Members agreed for this to be changed and the letter sent.

Ditton Park – According to the agreement with Computer Associates any closure of the route needed to be reported to the Council and publicly displayed 21 days beforehand. AD advised that if this was not carried out Computer Associates could be notified that their obligations were not being met and enforcement action could follow if required. The planning contract was with Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council and JW agreed to contact them on behalf of the LAF. Furthermore it was suggested that Enterprise wardens would check the status of the gate when they were in the park and then report back to BH.

5. Membership Update

The Forum was advised that there was currently only seven LAF members and new members were needed. Members whose term of office had recently expired had been reappointed or would be shortly. JW advised that she hoped to place an article in the Citizen magazine in October. A member advised that Time FM had a community slot which would be ideal for promotion of the LAF. A further suggestion was made to place an article in the local newspapers. This had been attempted previously but had not attracted any new members. A member further recommended placing an advertisement on the screens in the customer service centre.

Resolved – That the suggestions as detailed above to attract further members be implemented where possible.

6. Gating Order Proposals Updates

Mildenhall Road – Lerwick Drive – As there had not been any recent reports of anti-social behaviour in connection with the path JW advised that the Council did not intend to make a gating order at present.

Resolved - That the situation should continue to be monitored.

Shaggy Calf Lane to Borderside – ED advised that there had been a number of issues reported by residents; However following the erection of a CCTV to monitor the path it was noted that approximately 600 people use the path daily. The current proposal was to erect high fences on housing land and not to gate the footpath. There were further proposals to erect 'k barriers' or staggered railings to prevent motorbikes use of the path.

Resolved - The forum recommended that no further action be taken on any gating options for the alleyway.

Salt Hill Park Tunnel – The Forum were informed that since the erection of a CCTV camera on the entrance of the tunnel there had been no recorded

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incidents. There was an action plan in place to look at how to improve the tunnel. The Council was working in partnership with Network Rail and the police to address several issues including lighting. There was no proposal at present for a gating order.

Footpath 35a – Members were advised of a proposal, that was in the early stages to gate this footpath due to the significant volume of antisocial behaviour. There was also an option to block the footpath under section 118 of the Highways Act (1980). The footpath was unregistered but was currently utilised by Shopmobility customers as the alternative footpath was too narrow. Officers advised that this was due to be widened as part of a nearby development.

Resolved - That the situation be monitored pending the outcome of the proposed development.

7. Regional & National Update

JW advised the forum of a review of the effectiveness of the English Access Forum which sought the views of local access forums. MH reported that the EAF provided a good opportunity to meet with members from other LAFs. However MH advised that further interaction between Berkshire LAFs would be beneficial. JW advised of some of the other responses that had already been received, some of which supported Natural England contributing funding for the EAF. The deadline for the consultation was 30th September.

Resolved - That JW draft a response to the consultation to be circulated to LAF members for comments and approval.

8. Cinder Track Action Plan

The LAF considered the latest Cinder Tack action Plan. Regarding the sweeping of the path members were informed that community payback had completed some work cutting back the vegetation along the path but had not done the sweeping and were unable to do the weeding as the spraying had not yet been completed. It had been requested that they return to complete these tasks, a date for which was yet to be agreed. With regards to 'Slough sheds' housing had visited the area and several occupied outbuildings have been identified. Letters had been sent out to request the removal of bathrooms and kitchens. It was thought that the issues concerning gating could be removed from the action plan as this was on a spur section and not part of the public highway.

Resolved: - That the action plan be noted and that a date for a future visit to the Cinder Track be circulated by JW.

9. Updates on planning applications

The Forum was informed that on the outline planning application from SEGRO the S106 agreement was still to be signed. The plans for Kennedy

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Park were not progressing at present due to the Council's financial situation. AD advised that the level of detail on the SEGRO plan could not be agreed at this stage as the developments would be taking place across the next 20 years. SEGRO had been asked to achieve a modal shift in terms of transport use or they would incur penalties. TE commented that he felt an overlying vision was required in order to ensure that measures for transport were not disjointed.

JW provided the draft plans for three highways developments taking place. The Heart of Slough development plans included removal of the Brunel Roundabout and subway and the addition of pedestrian crossing points on the A4. The traffic signals would be linked to improve traffic flow. AD agreed to provide a cross section of the area. Members were asked to email any comments on the plan to JW as soon as possible. Plans were also provided for the Copthorne Roundabout which was in the initial stages and the Co-op/Sainsbury's roundabout which was shortly due to come to completion. Members were advised that they could retain copies of the plans if they so wished.

Resolved -

- (a) That the continue to be updated on the ongoing process for the SEGRO planning application.
- (b) That any comments on the plans be emailed to JW as soon as possible.

10. Britwell Loop / Evergreen Trust - Update

JW advised that a number of Members had been unable to access the report due to the large file size of some of the attachments. Therefore it was proposed and agreed that any comments on the report should be sent to JW and an update would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Resolved – That comments on the report be sent to JW and a further update be brought to the next meeting.

11. LTP 3 - ROWIP Integration and Walking and Cycling Strategies update

The Forum was advised that, at present the draft walking strategy supplementary document and draft cycling strategy were not ready to be consulted on but Members would be kept update on progress.

A demonstration of an interactive map of Slough was made to the Forum and comments were sought from members. TE asked what the arrangements were for updates with the private company hosting the website. JW advised that with an upgrade the Council would be able to make any required updates. At present a search could be conducted for facilities within a 1k distance from any address in Slough. A Member suggested that it would be useful for Members of the public to be able to report problems, e.g. potholes as this would help the Council identify locations more easily. Members commented

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that the watermark on the map made it very difficult to view the details on the map. It was thought that this was a requirement for every map hosted but changes to improve visibility would be looked into. AD suggested that it would be useful to have road works added to the map.

JW requested that any further comments on the map be emailed to her. The Council were still looking into securing the upgrade for the system but it was noted that this would address some of the suggestions made by the Forum.

Resolved – That any suggestions regarding the map be submitted to JW.

12. Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey FP33 and 32 - Action Plan

Details of the action plan for Jubilee River had been circulated to the Forum. It was noted that the footpath in Chalvey along the edge of the tip required improvements. A member advised that there did not appear to be cycle access along a section of the route in Whitehart Road. Regarding a section of wall by the tip local schools had been approached and were keen on developing a mural for the area. However Chalvey partnership Board had requested that it be painted a plain white. The Board was of the opinion that a mural makes an area appear to need regenerating.

Resolved – That the Local Access Forum supports the current action plan including the mural proposal.

13. Any Other Business

Members were provided with a copy of the LAF annual report.

It was reported that the Biffa Landfill site in Colnbrook had a two year extension in order to bring the land up to a certain level to finish off. Permission was being sought to divert a footpath that runs through the site for a further two years. A new consultation letter and plan would be circulated.

14. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was provisionally agreed as 10th January, 2011.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.52 pm)