

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th February, 2008.

Present:- LAF Members

Councillor David Munkley (Chairman), Slough Borough Council
Margery Hitchman
Councillor L Khan
Laurie Tucker (Vice-Chair).

Observers

Toby Evans
Les James, (Chair) Slough and District Civic Society
Malcolm Hellings, Slough and District Civic Society
Ken Wright

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Teresa Clark, Democratic Services Officer
Alex Deans, Highways
Ann Farmer, Project Officer
Bruce Hickman, Community Parks Projects Officer
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer
Jacqui Wheeler, LAF Secretary

PART 1

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dave Coe, Ian Houghton and Margaret Innis.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Munkley advised that the Gating Order for Western Road, under agenda item 6 was situated in his ward.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th October, 2007 were approved as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Bridleway

Jacqui Wheeler advised that the Creation Order had now been finalised and the route was now a bridleway. She advised that it was now necessary to review the project plan and asked for volunteers to visit the Bridleway in the near future. It was agreed that JW would e-mail an invitation, route map, and an assessment form to Members. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

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Road Safety and Cycle Training

Toby Evans advised that the cycle supplier he had contacted previously in relation to the development of a road safety scheme was awaiting further contact from the Council. **Clare Robinson to note.**

Jackie Wheeler advised that a new Bike It Officer was in post – her name was Clair Robinson. The Council had submitted a bid for funding to the Department of Transport but this was not successful. It was noted that the successful bids were allowed in cases where the relevant Council was already undertaking and providing cycle training to national standards.

Councillor Munkley advised that Clare Robinson was employed on a 50/50 basis jointly with South Bucks Council and would share her time between the two Town Halls. He advised that 'Bikeability' was a national on-road training scheme, whereas 'Bike It' was an off-road training scheme. It was hoped that now there was a dedicated Officer in place that more volunteers would be encouraged to assist with the cycle training scheme.

Cinder Track

Jackie Wheeler advised that Community Wardens had sent out letters to all properties that were affected by graffiti and a quote had been received for the painting over of the graffiti. Members discussed the option of covering the graffiti with art work. Councillor Munkley advised that a pot of money per Ward was recently approved at Cabinet for one-off schemes and it was noted that suggestions for using the funds should be submitted by local groups or Ward Members. It was agreed that Councillor Munkley would discuss this with Ann Farmer. **Councillor Munkley to note.**

Jackie Wheeler advised that a further inspection of the track would be required in the near future and it was agreed that the possible dates would be e-mailed to Members. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

Checking Accessibility – Canal Tow Path

Councillor Munkley advised that a letter commenting on the accessibility audit of the canal tow path had been forwarded to British Waterways but no response had been received. It was agreed that this would be followed up. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

It was also agreed that the rest of the route would be walked in May or June and Jackie Wheeler would send out possible dates to all Members. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

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Discovering Lost Ways

Jackie Wheeler advised that the project was ongoing. Councillor Munkley asked that copies of all the lost ways details be forwarded to him.

Jackie Wheeler to note.

Laurie Tucker advised that he had made contact with a resident in Colnbrook with Poyle Parish and he would assist him to complete the required document.

5. **Membership Update**

It was confirmed that Malcolm Hellings, Slough and District Civic Society, would register to become a Member of the Forum. It was anticipated that Ken Wright and Toby Evans would also become Members and complete the necessary documentation.

6. **Gating Orders for Stratfield Road, Weston Road and Aldborough Spur-Update**

Anne Farmer advised that the Gating Order for Stratfield Road was in place and residents were very pleased with this improvement. In the case of the Aldborough Spur Gating Order it had been confirmed that the location was not a right of way so a Gating Order was not needed. A visit had taken place to the site of the Western Road Gating Order and it was noted that two residents were in favour. A wider consultation would be needed and this would be sent to affected residents. Toby Evans commented that he was concerned rights of way were being lost through the installation of gates and Ken Wright was against Gating Orders in principle because he felt that the anti-social behaviour problem was not being sorted out but moved on to another area. It was agreed that an update on the Western Road Gating Order would be provided at the next meeting and that the Forum would be consulted on all Gating Orders in future. **Anne Farmer and Jackie Wheeler to note.**

It was also agreed that a map showing the location of the Orders be presented to future meetings.

Ken Wright was unhappy about the state of a path leading from Myrtle Crescent to Lismore Park and it was agreed that Ann Farmer would look at this. **Ann Farmer to note.**

7. **Healthy Walking and Cycling Initiative**

Gerald Pleace advised that the healthy walking initiative was in its seventh year and continued to be successful. The cycling initiative had not done so well once the NHS involvement had ceased and more finance was needed. Two leaflets on guided cycle rides in and around Slough and Windsor and a programme for lead walks 2008 were circulated to Members. It was suggested that these could be placed on Parish Council notice boards and also on the Council's website. **Gerald Pleace and Clare Robinson to note.**

8. ROWIP Implementation- Walking and Cycling Interactive Map

Jackie Wheeler had had a meeting with an IT Consultant and was advised that a global mapping company would need to prepare the map for the website. She was advised that the Council would not be able to use Virtual Earth or Google systems. Alex Deans was concerned that there could be a problem when using the Council's maps for footpaths etc, because these maps were only updated every three years. It was agreed that JW would discuss this further with IT an update would be brought to the next meeting. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

Members were referred to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan- putting into action document and Jackie Wheeler advised that a column had been added to show priorities and progress made. Jackie Wheeler asked for comments over the next three weeks on the priority of actions. **All Members to note.**

9. LAF Member Training Event

Councillor Munkley advised that he had not attended the training as he had a prior engagement. Jackie Wheeler advised that she would obtain feedback from the meeting and also asked whether Members would consider attending future events. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

10. Future Work Programme

Jackie Wheeler advised that the annual report had been drafted but this required a foreword from the Chair. **Councillor Munkley to note.**

In relation to building working relationships with partners and the Appointing Authority, Jackie Wheeler asked whether a Sub-Group would be helpful in this area. It was agreed that this would not be required at present but was a possibility for the future. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

In relation to the review of safety of all routes within the Borough, Councillor Munkley asked whether there would be a programme of walks for Members to undertake. Jackie Wheeler commented that walks had already been scheduled and there would be little time to hold others. Members were asked to provide details of any routes they would like to walk in future. **Jackie Wheeler to note.**

11. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next two meetings would be held at the end of May, beginning of June and September, 2008. **Teresa Clark to note.**

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 10.15 am)