

**Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 10th September, 2009 at the Mayor's Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough**

**Present:-**

**LAF Members**

Laurie Tucker, (Chair)  
Malcolm Hellings  
Margery Hitchman  
Margaret Innis  
Councillor Parmar  
Ken Wright

**Officers, Slough Borough Council**

Savio DeCruz, Team Leader Integrated Transport  
Bruce Hicks, Community Parks Project Officer  
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer  
Vinay Vyas, Community Safety Projects Officer  
Jacqui Wheeler, Rights of Way Officer

**Observers**

Les James

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor May Dodds, Toby Evans

**35. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Parmar advised that in respect of item number 6 – Update on Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Road Gating Order, he was a resident of Mildenhall Road but would approach the matter with an open mind.

**36. Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13th May, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

**37. Matters Arising**

Letter to Eton College

JW advised that there were plans to put signage up on Bridleway no. 17. Eton College had confirmed that they were not in favour of widening the footpath.

Canal - Site meeting with British Waterways

JW reported that a letter had been sent to Slough BC outlining the Council's support of the Canal Basin Regeneration Scheme.

Cinder Track linked to Farnham Royal

The Forum noted that a letter had been received from Bucks County Council confirming their support for the proposal to upgrade the Farnham Royal footpath linking to the Cinder Track to a Bridleway as well as the Cinder Track.

**38. Membership Update**

There were no changes to the current membership to report. Les James indicated that he was happy to become a member of the Forum and it was agreed that JW would send him the necessary application form. **Action: JW**

**39. Update on Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive Gating Order**

Vinay Vyas advised the Forum that the initial questionnaire that had been sent to residents had been redrafted because it was felt that the original one was not clear in its purpose. Following objections received from Toby Evans and Ian Horton, Local Access Forum Members, the Council's Legal Team had decided that the Gating Order could not be made. Therefore a new questionnaire had been designed. The Officer asked the Forum to forward any comments regarding the questionnaire to him. An assessment of the relevant costs for the works was being considered at present and the questionnaire would then be sent to residents and a decision made on whether or not the Order should be pursued. It was noted that when previously circulated the questionnaire had been sent to 534 houses and 138 completed forms were received.

Councillor Parmar suggested that the same format should be used for future Gating Order questionnaires.

**Agreed** – That Forum Members would consider the detail of the revised questionnaire and forward any comments to Vinay Vyas.

**40. Meeting with Transport Planning Consultants regarding SEGRO proposals for Slough Trading Estate- Update Report**

JW advised that she had attended a meeting with Toby Evans, Ian Houghton and Dan Jenkins, Senior Consultant Development and Regeneration, Atkins. Possible improvements had been identified which included a cycle hire scheme between the railway stations and a surfaced pathway through Fenner Brockway to link with Whittaker Road and Littlebrook Avenue. The off road route from Pentland Road to Wentworth Avenue across Kennedy Park was discussed and it was thought that this was a good candidate for improvement. Dan Jenkins had advised that at present SEGRO was in the process of resolving technical disagreements and these needed to be resolved before specific schemes could be considered. It was thought that the applicant could be asked to contribute a sum of the money towards certain

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pedestrian/cycle schemes and the detail would be covered when the funding was received. JW was awaiting further information from the Consultant.

**Agreed** – That the current position be noted and that an update be brought to the next meeting in January 2010. **Action JW**

### 41. Cinder Track- new action plan- Environmental Visual Audit (EVA)

The Forum noted the Cinder Track Action Plan – June 2009 and was advised that a site visit had taken place on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 attended by Jacqui Wheeler, Slough BC Officers, Ken Wright and other local residents. A number of outstanding issues were highlighted relating in particular to lighting and the new surface of the pathway. The Forum discussed the history of the Cinder Track and it was accepted that the track was a high priority for residents in the area. JW advised that she visited the Cinder Track regularly and there was a small budget available for use where necessary.

**Agreed** –

- (a) That JW would chase the progress on lighting with the relevant engineer. **Action JW**
- (b) That JW contact Kam Bhatti to discuss whether the community pay back scheme could be involved with necessary works on the Cinder Track. (It was also noted that Laurie Tucker was meeting with Kam Bhatti in the very near future and would approach this subject).  
**Action JW**
- (c) That the subject of the Cinder Track be added to the Forum agenda as a standing item. **Action JW**

### 42. Regional and National Update including:

The Forum noted the content of the minutes of the England Access Forum meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 and a report on the Defra Consultation on Coastal Change Policy and Natural England's Coastal Paths Audit Report. JW highlighted that there were concerns that the surfacing of shared use public rights of way were becoming a national problem due to the urbanisation of the countryside. It was felt that providing a hard surface for one category of user, cyclists, was forcing other legitimate users off the route. JW felt that as an urban Borough Slough was continually looking at routes to access rural areas out of the urbanised area.

**Agreed** – That JW would write to Natural England to advise that the issue was one that affected Slough and was concerned that action should be taken to address this. **Action JW**

In relation to the Defra consultation on the Coastal Change Policy, JW advised that she had considered the document with the assistance of Margery Hitchman and it was felt that the only part that was relevant to Slough was the section relating to Natural England's work with others to develop ways of

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managing access to the coast, its amenity and landscape value while allowing for the inevitable changes that coastal erosion brings about.

**Agreed** – That the Local Access Forum note the current position.

### 43. Feedback on meeting with John Coombe, Bucks LAF Member

JW tabled the notes of the meeting with John Coombe held on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**Agreed** –

- (a) That a letter would be drafted on behalf of the Forum and forwarded to Parish Councils', Healthy Eating Groups etc. to advise that the Forum would be looking at issues to improve boundary links so that a connection between the local authorities areas bordering on Slough would be established. **Action JW**
- (b) The subject of boundary issues be considered by the Forum as a standard agenda item. **Action JW**
- (c) That work be done by the LAF to record details of the relevant routes. **Action JW**

### 44. Garrard Road to Long Furlong Drive Diversion Order

JW tabled details of a diversion order that was currently under discussion and it was noted that the Access Forum would be asked to comment on this in the near future.

**Agreed** – The Access Forum note the current position.

### 45. Any Other Business

It was noted that the South East LAF Members Newsletter had been received by Members.

**Agreed** – That the Slough Local Access Forum would explore ways in which it could have more input into the Newsletter.

#### Dog Waste Bags in Cippenham

JW referred to the problems caused in Cippenham whereby an individual was throwing bags containing dog waste into trees. Bruce Hicks reported that this same problem was occurring in other locations. Members were asked to consider ways in which this issue could be resolved.

**Agreed** – That the Local Access Forum would endorse any action necessary to resolve the issue.

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### Beechwood Gardens – Modification Order Update

It was noted that the objection to this order lodged by the landowners had not yet been withdrawn, but that attempts were being made to persuade them to do so. JW was working on this at present.

### Slough International Freight Exchange

Laurie Tucker advised the Forum that the Goodman Property Group was developing proposals for a new freight exchange facility on land to the north of the A4 in Colnbrook. This would be subject to a planning application and if approved would become one of the three to four new intermodal exchanges that were required to serve London and the South-East. The project had previously been refused on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate and was an enormous site, having 1600 lorry movements each day. He was particularly concerned about the public rights of way that ran through the subject site and understood that there would be a proposal to reroute these public paths which would involve the diversion of bridleways. He advised the Forum that it would be involved in future debate with regard to access issues.

**Agreed** – That the current position relating to the Freight Exchange be noted.

Ken Wright advised that a member of the public who lives in Quinbrooks had asked whether a path could be installed in the location for cyclists. JW commented that she would look at the site in question and discuss this with the relevant Officer but it very much depended on the ownership of the land.

**Action: JW**

## 46. Next Meeting Date

The Forum noted the dates of future meetings:

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

8<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

(Chair)

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.55 pm)