

## SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2007**, at Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, Berkshire.

### In attendance

<b>Councillor David Munkley</b>	LAF Member (Chairman), Slough BC
<b>Margery Hitchman</b>	LAF Member
<b>Ian Houghton</b>	LAF Member
<b>Margaret Innis</b>	LAF Member
<b>Councillor Latif Khan</b>	LAF Member, Slough BC
<b>Dick Sable</b>	LAF Member
<b>Laurie Tucker</b>	LAF Member (Vice Chair)
<b>Toby Evans</b>	Observer
<b>Ken Wright</b>	Observer
<b>Jacqui Wheeler</b>	LAF Secretary, Slough BC
<b>Teresa Clark</b>	Democratic Services Officer, Slough BC
<b>Bruce Hicks</b>	Community Parks Project Officer, Slough BC
<b>Matt Davey</b>	Head of Highways Engineering, Slough BC
<b>Aamina Zafar</b>	Slough Observer Newspaper

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> None.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2007, were approved as a correct record.	TC to file.
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p><b>Cycle Training</b> J Wh advised that the cycle training scheme had ceased in September 2005 and at present the Council could only offer off road training. Volunteers were needed to operate this scheme and they were required to undertake training.</p> <p>J Wh advised that Tina Housego, the Council's Road Safety Officer was the best person to advise the Forum on how this could be taken forward. It was agreed that she would be invited to attend the next LAF meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It was also requested that Joe Carter, Head of Transport, provide a report detailing the arrangements for cycle training in the Borough for the next Forum meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JW to note</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joe Carter to note</p>

AB- Audrey Barratt; DB-David Blinco; PC- Penny Church; TC- Teresa Clark (SBC); DC-David Coe; AD- Alex Deans (SBC); Anne Farmer (SBC); BH-Bruce Hicks (SBC); MH- Margery Hitchman; IH- Ian Houghton; MI-Margaret Innis; LK- Cllr Khan; DM-Cllr David Munkley; GP-Gerald Pleace (SBC); DS-Dick Sable; JS-Jean Sellars; LT-Laurie Tucker; DT- David Turner; JWh- Jacqui Wheeler (SBC); KW-Ken Wright; IW-Ian Woods; JW -Jean Woods; JY-Jackie Yokota

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	<p><b>Cinder Track Inspection</b> Members were advised that J Wh, KW and IH walked the route of the cinder track on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007. KW was pleased that rubbish had been cleared and it was suggested that the inspection should be carried out on a frequent basis. It was hoped that environmental services could attend so that problems could be resolved quickly.</p> <p><b>Baylis Park</b> BH advised that the lottery funding bid had not yet been submitted but this would be done in the near future.</p> <p><b>Safety of Paths and Parks</b> LT referred to the problem caused by people occupying seats in Crown Meadow, whilst drinking alcohol. Signs had been requested to deter people from doing this but he had not yet heard from Anne Farmer. He would follow this up.</p>	<p>J Wh to note.</p> <p>LT to note.</p>
4.	<p><b>Forum Membership</b> DM advised that there were now 9 LAF Members in place and 3 potential Members. He had been contacted by the 'Friends of Slough Canal' group who were interested in enhancing the towpath, and it was possible that the group would be interested in membership of the LAF. Jean Woods had resigned from the LAF, due to other commitments but it was agreed that future agenda would be sent to her. MH asked how an individual could become a full LAF Member and DM advised that the LAF Regulations required the ratification of Members by the 'Appointing Authority'- this would be done at Council meetings. DM advised that at the Council meeting, he would move on Standing Orders that the Highway Authority could appoint at any time rather than waiting for a specific Council meeting. It was anticipated that all Members would be ratified in the near future.</p> <p>J Wh advised Members that their names and area of interest could be added to the LAF Website (with their approval). The photograph of Members had not yet been posted on the Website.</p>	<p>JWh to note.</p> <p>TC to note.</p> <p>DM to note.</p> <p>Members to note.</p>
5.	<p><b>Bridleway Update</b> J Wh advised that the creation order on the new bridleway was imminent. The section that bordered the motorway had been widened to 5 metres and new 'dismount' signs were in place at either side of the M4 bridge. The surface of the bridleway needed raising in places and a quote had been requested for the work. The adjacent wooded areas were being cleared of brambles etc. J Wh advised that a draft letter</p>	

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	<p>exploring funding from the Council would be brought to the next meeting. DM advised that a costing would be needed if the Council approved the funding in principle.</p> <p><b>LAF Funding</b> In response to a question by LT, DM advised that there was no dedicated budget for the LAF within the Council's annual budget. Funds were being drawn from the Highways and Transport budget.</p>	J Wh to note.
6.	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)</b> J Wh advised that the ROWIP would be in place for 10 years before being renewed. By the year 2010, it would be incorporated with the Local Transport Plan and would require comment and approval by the LAF. The ROWIP would have a 12 week public consultation period, commencing June/July 2007. LAF Members were requested to submit any comments by the end of May 2007.</p> <p>DM asked that a report on precise deadlines be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested that a Sub Group could be created to consider and comment on walking and cycling routes that the Council is due to implement. Toby Evans, Bruce Hicks, Margery Hitchman, David Munkley, and Dick Sable agreed to participate and JWh would arrange a meeting date.</p> <p><b>Off Road Cycleway next to Uxbridge Road (A412).</b> DS advised that he had received a leaflet regarding the pathway and in his opinion the cycleway did not need funds spending on it. He was concerned about the location of the bus shelter and felt that the pathway should run behind the shelter. DS advised that the pathway continued to Uxbridge and part of this section required work. He suggested that the London Borough of Hillingdon should be contacted to discuss this.</p>	<p>J Wh to note.</p> <p>JWh to note.</p> <p>JWh to note.</p>
7.	<p><b>New LAF Regulations and Guidance</b></p> <p>Members were referred to the booklet, 'Guidance on Local Access Forums in England', which outlined the role of LAF's, their working arrangements and procedure regarding appointment of Members. There was a requirement to send copies of LAF Minutes and other related papers to Natural England. It was noted that the LAF would now advise the Council and other bodies on issues such as functional access. Members were advised that under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the LAF had the statutory function of providing advice to bodies including the appointing authority, the Secretary of State, Parish Councils and Sport England.</p>	

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	<p>LT asked whether a Parish Council Member could be a LAF Member and was advised that apart from the two Council Members allowed within the regulations, other Member were appointed to represent specific groups such as users of local rights of way. JWh advised that the LAF was now a statutory Consultee on 'gating orders'. (LT advised that there would be a gating order to the rear of Crown Meadow).</p> <p>Members discussed ways in which changes to the role of the LAF could be publicised and it was suggested that the website could be expanded and that an article could be placed in the 'Citizen' newspaper.</p>	J Wh to note
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME AND ANNUAL REPORT</b></p> <p>The programme was noted and Members were asked to email details of future items to J Wh. DM asked that J Wh circulate the work programme to Members.</p>	J Wh to note
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Joined up Working</b> DS suggested that the LAF should liaise more with neighbouring authorities, so that in particular, access to bordering areas could be discussed. He felt that more 'joined up' working was needed and it was agreed that this idea should be added to the future work programme to consider. It was agreed that some neighbouring LAF Members should be invited to a future meeting.</p> <p><b>Fennerfest</b> Toby Evans advised Members that he hoped to build a model of the solar system in Slough and a long pathway was needed to do this. If anyone was interested in helping with this project they could contact him through J Wh.</p>	J Wh to note.  All Members to note
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting on <b>25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 5.30 p.m</b> was noted.  (The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m. and ended at 8.20 p.m.)</p>	