

**Milton Keynes Local Access Forum**  
**18.30, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, MK Council Civic Offices Room 1.01**

Item		Action
1.0	<p><b><u>Present:</u></b> Steve Crowther (SC), Suzanne Martin (SM), Phill Fox (PF), Deborah Cooper (DC) John Franklin (JF), Gail Dunn (GD), Mike Bowley (MB) Geraint Green (GG), Stephen Hobbs (SH)</p> <p><b><u>LAF support (MKCC):</u></b> Rosie Armstrong- (RA) James Walsh (JW), Jeanette Melbourne - (JM)</p> <p><b><u>Guest:</u></b> Cllr Terry Smith (TS)</p> <p>NB: RA left the meeting at 7.30pm</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>Apologies:</u></b> None</p>	
3.0	<p><b><u>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</u></b></p> <p>3.1 DC asked for an update on Rights of Way staffing for 2023. JW advised that RA has now returned from leave and PF has an extension to his contract until March 2023. It was noted by all that having a team with more staff was appreciated by the LAF.</p> <p>3.2 JF pointed out a few minor typing errors in 4.1 and 5.1 which would be corrected accordingly</p> <p>3.3 JM reported that she has inspected Moulsoe Bridleway 3. It was reported that the current gateway is suitable for horses and walkers. Whilst cyclists would need to dismount there is no current legislative requirement to factor in specific cyclist needs as regards bridleway usage.</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Rights of Way Section Report</u></b></p> <p>4.1 <b><u>ROWIP Action Plan</u></b>  JW presented an update on the comments submitted to in the ROWIP consultation. A specific action plan has now been drafted based on this and these points were outlined and discussed which covered the themes of management, people and connectivity.</p> <p>JW outlined the range of responses received including from the public, landowners, parish councils and interest groups. DC asked if there had been any input from the Parks Trust, JW advised they were provided with an opportunity to comment but no response was received.</p> <p>SC suggested that wording in the action plan should be amended to read that footpaths should be suitable for all users where possible. TS suggested wider gates be installed for disabled users. JW advised that not all landowners are keen on this but that this could work on specific routes. SH said that from a farming perspective kissing gates are better than a gate.</p> <p>GG discussed whether the usage of apps was being investigated as this method of navigation has increased and not all people now use a printed map. JW outlined the intention to have promoted routes in some type of format on the website. It was noted more generally that there have been</p>	

<p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>problems with the accuracy of app data which then sends people off the correct footpath and onto private land.</p> <p><b><u>Parish Council Partnership with North Crawley</u></b></p> <p>JW introduced Cllr Terry Smith and explained the benefits of working in close partnership with a Parish Council. Cllr Smith explained he is the Footpaths Officer for North Crawley Parish Council and has been able to use local knowledge and links to improve the RoW network in the locale. North Crawley Footpath 15 was given as an example where there were issues with contacting the landowner as land registry was unclear. TS used local knowledge to speak to relevant farmers and the problem has been resolved with a new kissing gate being installed. TS now has a full list of all landowners in the area and looks after all issues in the area. A recent independent Rambler parish inspection highlighted big improvements within the parish over the last few years. JF suggested that steps should be taken to inform other Parish Councils of the success of North Crawley and to follow suit. The contact for Shenley Church End Parish Council is Jane Munn.</p> <p><b><u>Definitive Map Modification Orders</u></b></p> <p>JW gave some clarification on what a DMMO is and the processes involved. MKCC have received ten applications by the British Horse Society since September. BHS has a dedicated project led by leading RoW professional Will Steel which has received National Lottery funding specifically for the purposes of identifying relevant routes for consideration. The recent applications received have put a large amount of pressure on the RoW team. This will increase if the De-Regulation Act comes into place in April 2023 as DMMO's will need to be processed within a tight deadline period.</p> <p>JW gave an example of a current DMMO application for land in Blue Bridge on unregistered land. The evidence suggested the route has been used 'by right' and a delegated decision has been sought to make an order to make a footpath. GG asked if the path is only used by walkers or whether it could be used as a bridleway. JW advised that this is more of a dog walking route and PF advised that the application itself was for a footpath not a bridleway.</p> <p>Another discussion took place regarding a BHS application for Broughton Grounds. It was noted that another application has been previously made by the BHS on the other side of the county Boundary to Central Bedfordshire. It was discussed that this route has significant strategic value, particularly with Cranfield University in the vicinity.</p> <p>JW explained that the Modification Consent Order (MCO), when the De-Regulation Act comes into force, will be a great way of finding a solution to disagreements on routes in these types of scenarios.</p>	
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p><b><u>Members Items</u></b></p> <p>JW gave an overview on the current situation with the MK East project. Grahams, the construction company have almost finished their current enabling works project. The next stage is to begin to build the new grid road infrastructure across the site. A new contractor, Laing O'Rourke, has been</p>	

	<p>appointed to complete this. These large-scale works will inevitably cause a lot of disruption in from a RoW point of view. The RoW team will need to do regular checks as there is potential for things to go wrong quite quickly with such a big project. An example was provided where a fence had been erected right across Moulsoe Bridleway 19, an obstruction which now been removed.</p>	
5.2	<p>Castle Meadow Footpath in Newport Pagnell was discussed. MB advised that there is a grass public footpath which runs from the old Friary to Tickford Street. Another path through the park also exists which has recently been resurfaced by the Town Council, which is not a Public RoW. MB suggested whether it would be worth the existing RoW being extinguished, and the newly surfaced route becoming the formal Public Footpath. JW said the RoW should be kept as it is and it is part of a historic line and the process to change it would have no guarantee of success. A Section 25 Creation Agreement would be an option should MKCC want to adopt the other route formally. Given that the newly surfaced route travels through a public open space and is accessible for the public, a formal designation of a footpath isn't felt to be all that necessary but could be a consideration in the future.</p>	
6.0	<b><u>AOB</u></b>	
6.1	<p>GD suggested that the bank on Moulsoe BW19 was too steep for a horse and improvements need to be made. SM advised that this was not the case and that a horse could manage the incline easily which JM agreed with.</p>	
6.2	<p>SM wanted to discuss issues with MK East. The bridleway was supposed to be completed first. JW advised that the area was to be kept open for as long as possible and that there was no point in installing the new Conipave surface until the large ground works have been completed. This will avoid any unnecessary damage with heavy machinery onsite. SM advised that there are currently problems with crossroads and ditches for drainage. A lack of communication exists as there is no signage on diversions. JW has offered to arrange a meeting with SM and the contractors to have a walk through and discuss. SM was happy with this suggestion.</p>	JW
	Meeting closed at 8.55pm	
	<b><u>Next meeting</u></b> – 6.30pm, Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	

These minutes are a true record of the event.

Signed.....

Date.....