

**Milton Keynes Local Access Forum**  
**18.30, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, 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), Gail Dunn (GD), Mike Bowley (MB), Stephen Hobbs (SH), Terry Smith (TS)</p> <p><b><u>MKCC LAF support:</u></b> James Walsh (JW) Rosie Armstrong- (RA)</p> <p><b><u>Guest:</u></b> John Martin</p> <p>NB: DC left the meeting at 7.45pm</p>	
2.0	<p><b><u>Apologies:</u></b> John Franklin, Geraint Green</p>	
3.0	<p><b><u>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</u></b></p> <p>3.1 There were no matters arising from the previous meeting and the minutes were accepted.</p>	
4.0	<p><b><u>Rights of Way Section Report</u></b></p> <p>4.1 <b><u>ROWIP: Highway Verge Discussion</u></b>  RA outlined an issue that has been identified through the Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation relating to highway verges. Routes where users must utilise a grass verge alongside a road to access other RoW have been identified as a key potential improvement that would encourage more usage of the network. RA enquired whether the LAF had any thoughts or ideas in relation to this.</p> <p>DC described available width on a verge, vegetation such as brambles and road drainage as being issues for walkers. SM described that litter on verges would pose a hazard to horses who could be spooked. PF described the ‘refuge principle’ as being a good idea and could be tied in with nature conservation verges.</p> <p>SM said the speed of cars rushing past is a concern for horse riders and the option of having a verge is far better than not having than option. GD outlined two locations in Little Linford and Moulsoe where looking at this as a way forward would be helpful.</p> <p>SC outlined a route that was created on the verge between Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands which is well used. MB mentioned about how in certain places pedestrians may have their back to traffic, and this should be avoided where possible.</p> <p>4.2 <b><u>Parish Council Partnerships</u></b>  JW outlined that following the last LAF meeting TS had produced a document explaining the process North Crawley Parish has undertaken as</p>	

	<p>regards RoW. This document had been shared with all the other parish councils within MK and outlined key lessons learnt as regards parishes getting involved with and improving RoW.</p> <p>TS explained a parish had been in contact with him regarding this. JW explained there had been interest from various rural parish councils in relation to this. JW outlined to one parish the concept was more than just a reporting of issues to MKCC and that North Crawley had taken ownership of many issues 'in-house' using local knowledge and requested support as required.</p> <p><b>4.3 <u>Bletchley Footpath 28 Public Path Order</u></b></p> <p>JW outlined a unique specific path order diversion application associated with the Bletchley Landfill site. The application relates to a section of public footpath that travels from the Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve to the new housing area of Newton Leys (MK3 5RT) within Milton Keynes.</p> <p>The route is required to be diverted due to a historical issue relating to the current landfill site which was formerly the site of a claypit/brick works. The current footpath alignment was previously temporarily diverted on a long-term basis through Minerals Working Act legislation which was not reinstated. The proposed new route would allow for formal connectivity between the new housing areas to the Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve.</p> <p>A pre-order consultation is currently on-going, and the proposal has been welcomed by all stakeholders who have responded so far.</p> <p><b>4.4 <u>Petsoe DMMO Case</u></b></p> <p>RA outlined she has been in contact with the external consultant (Sue Rumfitt) hired to investigate the case and serve as an expert witness in any potential inquiry. Sue has been ill for a few months, so progress had ceased, but she is back working on the case now and progress is anticipated soon.</p>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p> <p><b>5.1</b></p>	<p><b><u>Members Items</u></b></p> <p>DC requested an update on the MK East project and Western Expansion Area. JW outlined that from previous discussions with the developer regarding temporary RoW closures, the proposals to start the new grid road were due to start anytime now.</p> <p>SM provided some further information on the progression of the site and indicated there may be lengthy delays due to challenges facing the project more generally. JW outlined the RoW Team will continue to undertake regular checks and monitor the RoW across the site.</p> <p>JW provided some details on new diverted routes in the Western Expansion Area which Calverton Footpath 50 and Calverton FP55.</p>	

6.0	<b><u>AOB</u></b>	
6.1	SM asked about Broughton Grounds Farm. JW explained the Central Bedfordshire RoW team had been in touch regarding the claimed route on their side of the border which they were looking into.	
6.2	SC made a general comment that the LAF membership was at a certain end of the age spectrum and it would be great to have younger people also represented within the forum. It was also mentioned that MK is a very diverse wide-ranging community and the LAF membership does not necessarily reflect this. SC asked members to reflect on this and think of any ideas that might help with this regard. GD spoke about an initiative known as 'Hike MK' which was a younger group for members of the Ramblers.	LAF
6.3	SC asked if anyone had any experience or knowledge of utilising the track that leads to Quarry Hall Farm in Lathbury to contact him in relation to this.	
	Meeting closed at 8.45pm	
	<b><u>Next meeting</u></b> – 6.30pm, Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	

These minutes are a true record of the event.

Signed.....

Date.....