

Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 03 April 2019
at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall.

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Ken Hawkins – Vice-Chairman
Chris Allhusen
Andy Brazil
Victor Cocker
Bethan Edmunds
Mike Edwards
Brigid Fairman
Cllr John Fisher
Simon Fowler
Phoebe Gale
David Hissey
Cllr Andrew Jamieson
Suzanne Longe
Elizabeth Meath Baker

Paul Rudkin

Representing:

Motorised Vehicles
Walking
Land ownership
Voluntary Sector
Walking
Nature Conservation
Land Ownership
Equestrian
Norfolk County Council
Walking
Youth / Education
Cycling
Walking and Cycling Champion
Equestrian
Rural / local business / economy
Tourism
Walking

Officers Present:

Sarah Abercrombie	Green Infrastructure Team Leader (Projects)
Diana Curtis	Natural England
Andrew Hutcheson	Environment Manager (Green Infrastructure, Advice and Strategy)
Su Waldron	Project Officer (Green Infrastructure)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer (Infrastructure)
Matt Worden	Area Manager (South)
Nicola LeDain	Committee Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Geoff Doggett, Donna Gibling, Cllr Andy Grant and George Saunders, Louise Rout, Cllr Andy Grant

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

4. Urgent Business

- 4.1 There was no urgent business.

5. Public Question Time

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

6. Feedback from Events

- 6.1 Ken Hawkins reported that he had attended meetings of the Broads LAF and Suffolk LAF. It had been discussed at the Broads LAF that Worcester LAF had raised the issue with the Secretary of State about the backlog of the map modification orders. There had been positive enthusiasm expressed for joint working with whoever was interested. The Suffolk LAF had different priorities compared the NLAF mainly around level crossings and Network Rail, and Sizewell C; a proposed new nuclear power station in Suffolk.
- 6.2 The Chairman had attended a site visit to Brettenham Heath as discussed at the last meeting, along with two former members of the NLAF; Ann Melhuish and Jean Stratford.

7. NLAF's subgroups' report (Ppermissive Access; PROW; NAIP)

- 7.1 The NLAF received the annexed report (7) which summarised the activities since the last NLAF meeting by the NLAF's three subgroup: The Public Rights of Way (PROW) subgroup; the Permissive Access subgroup and the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) subgroup. 3 members asked to join the PROW subgroup: Brigid Fairman; David Hissey; Simon Fowler
- 7.2 The Forum heard from the Chairman of the Public Rights of Way subgroup that they were recommending the NLAF send a formal letter to the Legal Team at NCC asking why the Pockthorpe Lane case was taking so long and if they could provide an update.
- 7.3 The Parish Seminar would be held on 29th May 2019 at North Walsham. More details would be circulated to the NLAF in due course.
- 7.4 The Permissive Access subgroup reported that the focus had been around stewardship. There had been significant progress made by the subgroup and the NLAF expressed their thanks to the members for putting it together. It was suggested that lobbying should be done to bring back a permissive scheme once the Brexit dust had settled
- 7.5 The Forum heard that the Environment, Transport and Development Committee had approved the NAIP on 8th March 2019.
- 7.6 **The NLAF;**
(i) **AGREED** to request an update on the Greenways project at the July meeting as recommended by the PROW subgroup
(ii) **AGREED** to send a formal letter to the Legal Orders and Registers Team requesting an update on the Pockthorpe Lane, Thompson case as recommended by the PROW subgroup
(iii) **NOTED** the date for the first parish council seminar

(iv) **AGREED** that the NAIP subgroup delegate authority to work with NCC officers outside NLAF meetings on the annual delivery plan 2019 / 2020 and monitoring mechanism.

(v) **NOTED** progress with permissive access schemes.

8. Coastal Access

- 8.1. The Forum welcomed Diana Curtis from Natural England to the meeting to answer queries regarding the coastal access report for the Norfolk coast between Weybourne and Hunstanton. The NLAF had previously made a number of concerns on the report including the consultation process, access restrictions and route establishment budget.
- 8.2. The report compiled by Natural England was at the determination stage. The Secretary of State would consider the proposals and representations and approve or approve it with conditions. Natural England were in the process of responding to all objections submitted.
- 8.3. In response to questions, Natural England acknowledged the difficulty of accessing the reports and submitting comments.
- 8.4. The final costings were unknown as the final proposals had not been finalised so the infrastructure needed was unknown.
- 8.5. The NLAF asked Natural England that there were kept informed of the progress between NLAF meetings, especially regarding the funding.
- 8.6. Since the original report was compiled, changes had been made such as the access restrictions on the salt marsh at Wells. It had been appreciated that the area was used locally and manged and therefore signage would be used rather than going through a formal process to manage the public safety.
- 8.7. The NLAF **NOTED** the updates provided by Natural England.

9. Pathmakers Project

- 9.1. The Forum received the annexed report (9) which updated the NLAF on recent activity by the Pathmakers.
- 9.2. The NLAF suggested speaking to the respective Forums of neighbouring counties of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire as it would be courteous to inform them that the geographical area of the Pathmakers had been widened. The NLAF were also informed that they worked with closely on any specific issues that affect them.
- 9.3. The NLAF:
 - (i) **NOTED** changes to the Pathmakers constitution (charitable purposes, number of trustees)
 - (ii) **NOTED** updates on LIFT OFF, Paving the Way and Community Friends Walks and offers support for Pathmakers ongoing work
 - (iii) **AGREED** that members adopt a simple online time recording system to record their time volunteered for the NLAF and Pathmakers. A link would be circulated each month e.g. www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TIME_APRIL2019 etc

10. Recruitment of Pathmakers Trustees

- 10.1 The Forum received the annexed report (10) which outlined the details of the recruitment of trustees to Pathmakers.
- 10.2 Officers encouraged anyone who was interested to either speak informally to Officers / Chairman or apply directly.
- 10.3 The NLAF:
 - (i) **AGREED** the protocol drafted by Pathmakers regarding the NLAF's recruitment of trustees to Pathmakers
 - (ii) **AGREED** to promote the recruitment and to make personal approaches to those they feel would make good Pathmakers trustees

11. New NLAF Subgroups (Communications and Vision and Ideas)

- 11.1 The Forum received the annexed report (11) which outlined the need for improved communication and awareness raising of the NLAF and Pathmakers and therefore the need to create new subgroups.
- 11.2 The Chairman explained the idea of the new subgroups and the reason behind the creation of them. If any members of the NLAF were interested in joining the groups they should let Officers know. Meetings would be arranged in due course.
- 11.3 The NLAF **AGREED** the creation of two new subgroups. The terms of reference would be brought to the July meeting.

12. Countryside Access Arrangements Update

- 12.1 The Forum received the annexed report (12) which outlined the work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlighted other key areas of work.
- 12.2 The Forum heard that online reporting system is the most efficient and effective way of reporting problems. However, users often use other means such as 'fix my street' which can therefore cause problems as NCC had to manipulate that data to put it into the one application.
- 12.3 The Local Access Forum **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

13. Major Infrastructure Projects

- 13.1 The NLAF received the annexed report (13) which informed them of any major infrastructure projects including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) which impacted on public rights of way.

- 13.2 It was suggested that the protocol for informing the NLAF on planning matters was explored. The NLAF could apply to be statutory consultee on a number of applications but this would need further discussion.
- 13.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the PROW implications associated with current major infrastructure projects and plans and agrees which schemes it wishes to be formally be consulted on.

14. Meetings Forward Plan

- 14.1 The NLAF received the annexed report (14) which set out the Forum forward plan for future meetings.
- 14.2 It was suggested that communication was an ongoing agenda item.
- 14.3 Promoting equestrian riding in Norfolk from an economic point of view was suggested to be a future agenda item.
- 14.4 It was suggested that volunteer time was looked at in a future meeting as there was considerable time being invested into trails and rights of way by local communities.
- 14.5 The NLAF **AGREED** the forward plan and considered items for future inclusion.

Dates of future meetings:

9th July 2019	10:30am	Oddfellows Hall, Sheringham
16 October 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room

The meeting closed at 12:32pm

**Martin Sullivan, Chairman,
Norfolk Local Access Forum**



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