

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Local Access Forum National Conference</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>19 April 2017</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Tracy Jessop, Assistant Director, Highways and Transport</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b>  This provides an opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn from DEFRA/ Natural England about their plans for LAFs</li><li>• Contribute to national discussions on LAF issues</li><li>• Network with other LAFS</li></ul>	

## Executive summary

The new date for the 2017 LAF national conference is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX and will run from 10:30 – 16:00. They are asking for suggestions in reference to speakers / workshops / content.

Martin Sullivan is able to attend as chair and there is one more place. Martin is offering to run a workshop about the Pathmakers Burgh Castle Project.

Ken Hawkins suggested a workshop topic on how authorities manage reducing budgets for PRoW maintenance

### **Recommendations:**

**To agree two representatives to attend the conference.**

## 1. Proposal (or options)

1.1. To agree two representatives to attend the conference.

### 1. Evidence

NA

### 2. Financial Implications

NA

### 3. Issues, risks and innovation

NA

### 4. Background

After consulting LAFs, Natural England organised 2 national LAF conferences for 2016 in Bristol and Leeds. The Bristol 'South' conference was held on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at Natural England's Bristol office and the Leeds 'North' conference was held on 1st March 2016 at the Oxford Place Centre. All LAFs were asked to nominate a representative to attend a conference (in addition to members doing talks or running workshops) and around three quarters (72%) of LAFs were represented with 111 delegates in total attending both conferences. In the online consultation we invited LAF members to suggest the topics of most

interest to them and this resulted in a programme with a range of speakers and workshop facilitators from the LAFs, Defra and from other organisations with an interest in public access.

The 2016 presentations included:

- an update from Defra on the Deregulation Act
- the Disabled Ramblers on barriers to disabled access
- the British Horse Society on creating new rights of way and influencing local authorities
- alternative funding for access projects from John Dennis.

Workshops were held on the subjects of:

- recreational vehicles
- Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park's Naturally Healthy project
- charitable status for LAF sub-groups
- 2026
- registering white roads
- disability access
- dementia inclusive walks
- the Sandstone Way
- access prioritisation
- cycling on footpaths
- Nottinghamshire guided walks.

The lively discussions within workshops, and informally in the margins of the conferences, along with positive feedback from delegates, clearly demonstrated that the events were worthwhile and appreciated

Further information and downloads of presentations and workshop documentation:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5560243957268480>

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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