

**Norfolk Local Access Forum**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on 06 July 2022**  
**at 9.30am at County Hall, Norwich**

**Member:**

Martin Sullivan - Chair  
Karen Davidson  
Rebecca Durant  
Birgit Griem  
Ruth Goodall  
Ken Hawkins  
Anne Killett  
Rob Lodge  
Elizabeth Meath Baker  
Niall Pettitt  
Maxine Webb

**Representing:**

Motorised Vehicles / Pathmakers  
Walking  
Landowners  
Walking  
Land at the Water's Edge  
Walking  
Equestrian  
Nature Conservation  
Rural / local business / economy / tourism  
Youth / Education  
Norfolk County Council

**Officers Present:**

Hollie Adams	Committee Services Officer, Democratic Services
Andrew Middleton	Green Infrastructure Team Leader
Su Waldron	Project Officer (Environment Team)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer (Infrastructure)
Lee Cozens	Outreach officer (Greenways to Green Spaces)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Kevin Grieve, Simon Fowler, Paul Baker, Chris Allhusen, Sara Morgan, Fraser Bowe and Cllr Penny Carpenter. Apologies were also received from Officers Matt Hayward, Jason Moorse and Andrew Walters from the Broads Authority and Cllr Lana Hemsall.

**2. Chair's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed the newly appointed members.

**3. Minutes**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair. The Vice Chair asked for an update on point 10.6 regarding NLAF reporting to NCC Committee. It was confirmed that a report centred on Norfolk Access Improvement Plan progress would be taken to the Infrastructure and Development Committee in November 2022

**4. Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 There were no interests declared.

**5. Urgent Business**

5.1 There was no urgent business.

## **6. Public Question Time**

6.1 No public questions were received.

## **7. Local member Issues / Questions**

7.1 There were no member questions received.

## **8. Feedback from Events**

8.1 The Vice Chair reported that the Broads LAF on 8th June had been cancelled. He had not been able to attend the Suffolk LAF meeting which took place in April and the next meeting was scheduled for end of July. The regional LAF meeting was taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **9. Meetings Forward Plan**

9.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined agenda items for the forthcoming meetings.

9.2 The Chair had spoken to Norfolk Constabulary at the recently attended Norfolk Show and had asked them if they were willing to give a presentation about 'Operation Randall' (tackling rural crime) at the next NLAF meeting.

9.3 It was clarified that the Forum receives updates on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) at every meeting (see report 14 of today's agenda). When time permits, NSIP projects are discussed by the NLAF's Public Rights of Way subgroup first which drafts a consensus view to present to the whole NLAF membership. When time does not permit prior detailed discussion, the NLAF uses its protocol regarding decision making between meetings to arrive at a Forum response which is that:

- (i) Consultations to which the NLAF is invited to respond (or wishes to respond to) are circulated to NLAF members as received;
- (ii) NLAF member responses are sent to the Chair and Vice Chair (cc Co-ordinator) to arrive no later than one week prior to the consultation deadline;
- (iii) The NLAF Chair/ Vice Chair and Co-ordinator compile and submit the NLAF's response.

9.4 It was suggested that the Forum gave consideration as to how disadvantaged communities could access the countryside in Norfolk affordably (such as through better bus connections). Whilst that might be bigger than the Forum's remit, NLAF members could nonetheless bring attention to the issue through the Forum's involvement in an advisory capacity with delivery of the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) [www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip) .

9.5 The Vice Chair suggested all members of the Forum reviewed the NAIP with the intention that it generated some ideas and suggestions to address issues such as better bus connections and brought any thoughts to the NAIP subgroup.

9.6 The Chair reminded NLAF members to put forward further agenda items for consideration at any point either by contacting him, the vice chair, or the officers.

9.7 The NLAF **NOTED** the Forward plan.

## **10. NLAF Subgroups' report (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas; Joint Communications)**

10.1 The NLAF received the annexed reports which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAF.

10.2 With reference to the points made in the report regarding the online reporting system, Officers clarified that users were encouraged to report using the CRM system (rather than using other methods) to streamline the process and that much improvement had already been made, with ongoing training in place which would hopefully resolve issues longer term.

10.3 The NLAF **AGREED**;

- i. To express concern to NCC that it seemed inevitable that statutory obligations regarding rights of way maintenance were not being met; arguably more importantly, the state of the rights of way network was preventing people from securing the health and well-being benefits of access to the countryside.
- ii. To request that NCC be asked to investigate whether its reporting system was providing timely and accurate information to those reporting issues.
- iii. To request that NCC be asked to increase the staffing responsible for work on Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) in order to ensure that rights of way are not permanently lost to the county merely because of a lack of allocated resource.

## **11. Pathmakers Projects**

11.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which updated the Forum on the activities of Pathmakers.

11.2 The Chair reported that a cycling and walking festival was being planned for October 2022 and a website was being developed.

11.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

## **12. Countryside Access Arrangements update**

12.1 The Forum received the annexed report which highlighted this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper highlighted 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 Officers reassured Forum members that all projects were agreed by Natural England who took into consideration any impact on the nearby habitats and wildlife. Depending on the project there could also be other agencies that oversee any work on protected landscapes.

12.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

### **13. NCC Member Sustainable Transport update**

13.1 The Forum received the annexed report which provided a summary of the key walking and cycling projects relevant to the Local Access Forum.

13.2 Officers highlighted that work was being carried out with regards to the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) and this work would be brought to a future NLAF meeting.

13.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress of the walking and cycling projects as outlined in the report.

### **14. Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning**

14.1 The Forum received the annexed report which updated them on the major infrastructure projects that were currently underway in the County which impacted on Public Rights of Way.

14.2 The Chair highlighted that the information given in the report was for the information of the NLAF and for them to make representations about how it impacted public rights of way. It was noted that Norfolk County Council opposed the Wisbech Incinerator project.

14.3 It was noted that the recent Norwich Western Link consultation started in August and would run for eight weeks. Comments on PROW had been submitted by the NLAF in response to an earlier consultation on the scheme.

14.4 It was noted that the East Anglia Green consultation <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/east-anglia-green> had now closed, but that the NLAF would sign up for updates to enable it to respond to any future consultations

14.5 The NLAF **NOTED** the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

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