

**Norfolk Local Access Forum**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18 April 2018**  
**at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall**

**Member:**

Martin Sullivan - Chairman  
Chris Allhusen – vice-Chairman  
Geoff Doggett  
Mike Edwards  
Seamus Elliott  
Ken Hawkins  
David Hissey  
Pat Holtom  
Ann Melhuish  
Paul Rudkin  
George Saunders  
Jean Stratford

**Representing:**

Motorised vehicle access / cycling  
Land ownership / management / farming  
Conservation / voluntary sector / water-based activities  
GI and planning / conservation / sustainability  
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling  
Walking / cycling  
Cycling / public transport  
Rural and local business / walking / tourism  
Equestrian / all-ability access / sport and recreation  
Walking / GI and planning  
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector  
Youth and education / walking / voluntary sector

**Officers Present:**

Sarah Abercrombie  
Andrew Hutcheson

Su Waldron  
Matt Worden  
Russell Wilson

Green Infrastructure Team Leader (Projects)  
Environment Manager (Green Infrastructure, Advice and Strategy)  
Project Officer (Green Infrastructure)  
Area Manager (South)  
Norfolk Trails Team Leader

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Tim Bennett, Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Victor Cocker and Seamus Elliot.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

**4. Items received as urgent business**

- 4.1 There had been no items of urgent business received.

**5. Public Question Time**

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

## **6. NLAF Subgroups' updated Terms of Reference**

- 6.1 The Forum received the report which included the terms of reference for the sub-groups of the NLAF; Public Rights of Way subgroup, NAIP subgroup, Permissive Access subgroup). The change reflected the closer working relationship between the Pathmakers (CIO) and the NLAF.
- 6.2 The Forum **AGREED** the terms of reference for each of its sub-groups and **NOTED** Pathmakers terms of reference.

## **7. NLAF Response to DEFRA Consultation**

- 7.1 The Forum received the report which contained a draft response from NLAF to Defra on its consultation paper 'Health and Harmony; the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit'.
- 7.2 It was noted that County Councillors had been invited to an event the following week to express their views on the Defra consultation. The NLAF agreed that there was a need to submit a separate consultation to NCC as the needs and views would be slightly different.
- 7.3 The NLAF agreed to display their comments on Huddle to encourage other organisations to respond.
- 7.4 The Forum had a short discussion regarding the phrase 'public access' and 'public rights of way' as there had been confusion in a previous consultation. It was hoped that it would be clarified in the current consultation.
- 7.5 The NLAF **AGREED** that the draft response as noted in the report would be the final response sent to Defra.

## **8. Countryside Access Arrangements Update**

- 8.1. The NLAF received the report which addressed the concerns raised by the Local Access Forum with regards to Public Rights of Way Management and delivering the service in an economic and cost-effective way.
- 8.2 The Area Manager for the south region reported that there had been improvements made to the web form which now gave context around the enquiries received. There were still some improvements to be made which would be carried out.
- 8.3 The Norfolk Trails Team Leader informed the members that a procurement exercise was currently underway for tablets which would be given to cutting contractors. This would give live information how cuttings were progressing. It would likely to increase reported issues but there would be more people who would be able to rectify the issues. It was also hoped that the parish councils would be able to see what stage the cuttings were at.

- 8.4 Members asked if the statistics could be more detailed, such as paragraph 2.1, to give a clearer picture as the timescale of a year was too wide. Some banding would be useful and this was agreed to be added.
- 8.5 The NLAF **NOTED**:
- The progress made to date since the countryside access posts were introduced.

## **9. Community Friends' Walks**

- 9.1. The NLAF received the report from the chairman which reported that Pathmakers, the charitable arm of the Norfolk Local Access Forum had been awarded £10,000 through the Ordnance Survey's 'Geovation' Fund, to develop a business idea to develop an innovative pilot walking scheme referred to as "Community Friends' Walks".
- 9.2 The Forum heard that more grants could be available through this means as the scheme was developed. The initial £10k was awarded for the pilot project which was estimated as taking approximately 6 months, with further monies available for an additional year. Eventually it was hoped that it would be a buy in scheme with individuals paying through their personal budgets.
- 9.3 The geographic area was decided due to health inequalities; Mile Cross had stark and numerous health inequalities whereas Drayton had amount of cancer and heart disease. It was hoped that whereas Mile cross would be a 'push' approach, Drayton would be a 'gentle nudge' approach.
- 9.4 Members suggested applying to the heritage Lottery Fund for larger amounts as they were keen to fund walking for the community.
- 9.5 The NLAF **AGREED**:
- To offer continuing support for Pathmakers as it continued to develop "Community Friends Walks."

## **10. England Coast Path – Weybourne to Hunstanton**

- 10.1 The NLAF received a presentation from the Norfolk Trails Team Leader explaining Natural England's proposals concerning the Weybourne to Hunstanton stretch of the England Coastal path.
- 10.2 It was explained during the presentation that any comments regarding the proposal needed to be fed back to Natural England as it was their process. Any comments should be about the reasonableness of the proposed route, not the legislation under which the process had been carried out.
- 10.3 Cllr Marie Strong expressed concern for some of the proposed changes concerning access on behalf of her constituents.
- 10.4 Some members of the Forum expressed the need in the consultation for terms to be public friendly in order for members of the public to be able to give their feedback.
- 10.5 The NLAF **AGREED**:

- To convene a working group to submit a response to Natural England on behalf of the NLAF by the deadline of 16 May 2018. The working group members would be Geoff Doggett, David Hissey, Martin Sullivan, Ken Hawkins. Cllrs Marie Strong, Hilary Cox and Andrew Jamieson would attend meetings of the subgroup.

## 11. Recycling the Railways

- 11.1 The NLAF received the report which updated them with progress of the feasibility project to bring disused railways, and other un-used parts of the transport network back into full-use as cycling and walking routes.
- 11.2 The Environment Manager informed the NLAF that current proposals would keep the land open (and not preclude the potential to reinstate train track in the future).
- 11.3 The intention was to publish the outcome of the feasibility project in March 2019.
- 11.4 The stretch through Hunstanton would take people from the Coastal Path inland to key visitor attractions.
- 11.5 The funding received as outlined in the report was being spent on three specific stretches with a fourth aspect of looking at the network as a whole.
- 11.6 The NLAF;
  - **AGREED** to endorse the feasibility project and that the members would take up opportunities to become involved with the project as it progressed.

### Dates of future meetings:

18 July 2018	10:30	Cranworth Room, County Hall
24 October 2018	10:30	Edwards Room, County Hall

The meeting closed at 11:25pm

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



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