

## NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### Public Rights of Way Subgroup Minutes

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 **Time:** 2pm - 4pm

**Venue:** County Hall

<b>Present</b>	
Neil Cliff (NC)	U3A
Vic Cocker (VC)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ken Hawkins (KH) (Chair)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Keith Bacon (KB)	CPRE and Broads Local Access Forum
Ann Melhuish (AM)	Pathmakers
Ian Mitchell (IM)	The Ramblers
Martin Sullivan (MS)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
<b>Officers in attendance</b>	
Andy Hutcheson (AH)	
Sarah Abercrombie (SA)	
Michelle Sergeant (MSg)	
Matt Worden (MW) (from 5.1)	
Su Waldron (SW)	
<b>1 Introductions and apologies for absence</b>	
The following were absent from the meeting: Ian Witham and Helen Leith.	
<b>2 Minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>	
The minutes were approved as a correct record.	
<b>3 Matters arising from the minutes, not otherwise on the agenda</b>	
3.1	Re previous minutes 3.1 The NAIP had been approved by the Environment, Development and Transport committee on 8 <sup>th</sup> March.
3.2	Re previous minutes 4.3. AH updated the meeting on plans to develop a 25 year plan for the environment. The intention is for the plan to be developed jointly with Suffolk CC. Draft plan to be available by December 2019. Plan has split responsibility across 2 areas: baseline information on the environment (to enable gains in biodiversity to be measured) and policy drivers from central and local government. VC asked if landowners were involved – yes, FWAG and NFU are involved There will be another public seminar asking for feedback probably in December 2019. Draft to could come back to the NLAF in the summer. <b>SW to add to meetings forward plan.</b>
3.3	Any other matters. VC had attended the Fakenham consultation on the Greenways project and felt this project should also report back to the NLAF again. <b>AH agreed to ask M Hayward to attend the July NLAF.</b>
<b>4 LAF Minutes of the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January.</b> The minutes will be circulated shortly.	
4.1	A joint communications group for NLAF/Pathmakers will be set up – report

to go to NLAf meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to agree members and terms of reference.

#### 4.2 NLAf recruitment

**Details of full membership to be circulated shortly by SW/ Nicola LeDain (Committee Officer)**

### 5 Partnership and Community Working

#### 5.1 Volunteer Co-ordinator role

SA said that a bid had gone into the HLF to develop organisational resilience by Pathmakers but a volunteer co-ordinator role had not yet been identified by Pathmakers.

NC requested an update of Pathmakers' achievements to date. MS said that key things were: the development of a 600m boardwalk at Burgh Castle; disability audits; Community Friends Walks at Marriott's Way; Geovation.

#### 5.2 Vision and ideas group

**Will be taken forward at the April NLAf meeting** when the new members were present.

#### 5.3 Parish Council seminars

Proposals (circulated) were discussed, including timing and venue.

It was agreed that the first seminar (north / east countryside officer patch) would take place from 2 to 4 mid week at North Walsham (Atrium, half term, 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019) and would be treated as a learning exercise for the other 2 seminars.

**ACTION: SW to book Atrium. KH/ SW to work on fine-tuning for agenda.**

#### 5.4 To consider any issues from represented organisations (CPRE, OSS, The Ramblers, U3A).

NC reported that the U3A had noted a great improvement in signage and footpaths in good order and thanked MW and RW.

KB said that the BLAF was due to meet on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

AH said that Martin Caplin would be attending from Norfolk Trails to give an update on Weavers Way issues (Reedham, Hardley Flood). KB said it would be helpful to have clarity over responsibility for floodbank maintenance when the BESL flood alleviation programme ends next year.

It was believed that the Environment Agency were ceasing cutting on flood banks next year, which would have implications for rights of way along the banks. A question was raised about their no longer protecting river banks, but this was thought to be related to the recent transfer of responsibility of short lengths of inland waters to other bodies, and of no major significance.

**MS said he had arranged a visit to the Brettenham BOAT to view Natural England plans for a diversion and would report back.**

### 6 Countryside Access arrangements

#### 6.1 General update

MW / RW had circulated a report ahead of the meeting which included visuals from the Power BI system (visualises information from the CRM defect reporting system). The Mayrise CRM system can directly order work for faults under specific criteria from the contractor saving time and money

('job management system'). It was also noted that Power BI was a standard Microsoft application, potentially enabling people outside NCC to analyse the data. The meeting was impressed with the visuals and the defect journey graphic played during the meeting.

MW was not planning general media release to promote use of CRM at this stage. Nevertheless, MW emphasised that reporting through the online system was very efficient, whereas reports received through other means (eg by phone or through *FixMyStreet*) took considerable additional staff time. VC said that KH had written a piece in the local Ramblers magazine to ask people to use CRM to report issues which was very much welcomed.

Under 2.2 of MW's report, KH asked for more details on the numbers of S130/56 legal notices served on NCC (very high levels reported for Norfolk against lower levels elsewhere). MW later sent details through which are as follows: "The data was from IPROW surveys of local authorities. I am not a member so do not have access to them but from what I have been told the information was collated from about 50+ local authorities across the Country with many receiving no notices. The average worked out at 2."

**Thanks were expressed to MW and RW for their report.**

#### 6.2 Major infrastructure projects

AH said that he had arranged a meeting with David White (who heads the Green Infrastructure Projects team that deals with planning application responses) and Stephen Faulkner to discuss a protocol to engage the NLAF in a timely manner with projects that impact PROW, including the timescales needed for responses to be made.

VC welcomed this: he is concerned that without this, then the NLAF could lose the opportunity to comment. He requested maps of where schemes are, and good narrative to enable the NLAF understand the implications. He felt it was very important to the credibility of the NLAF to enable them to input.

**Action : AH to report back on meeting with David White and Stephen Faulkner.**

#### 6.3 Online reporting system See 6.1

#### 6.4 Earsham footbridge

AH reported back on progress to date. Bridge removal and replacement will be very expensive but costs will be shared with Suffolk CC. Re-routing the path had been considered but the landowner was not in favour and enforcement (of this option) could fail. He further noted that the design is challenging and access difficult, and thought it would take until summer 2020 to resolve.

#### 6.5 TAMP

The PROW subgroup was disappointed with the response not to review criteria for responses to PROW issues.

#### 6.6 England Coast Path.

Diana Curtis to return to the 3<sup>rd</sup> April NLAF to update the NLAF on progress.

#### 6.7 Pockthorpe Lane

NC had been in contact with Lawrence Malyon at Legal Orders team (and is on the email list to receive updates on the case directly). He felt that a considerable time had elapsed between the last communication and wanted

to know what was happening. NC requested that the NLAf wrote to NCC to find out what the delay is with progressing the case.

**SW to ask Legal Orders and Registers Team for an update and to forewarn them that the NLAf may send in a formal letter requesting an update on the case.**

6.8 Cley FP4

NC was unhappy that the footpath does not lie on the definitive line on the map (which is on top of the flood defences – a 6 foot high wall). NC was unhappy that the practical route which is in use is along the highway at Cley. MW said the issue was for the Environment Agency to resolve, and it was noted that the Agency had provisionally scheduled work here for the coming financial year.

6.9 Beachamwell

In addressing concerns raised about obstructions on paths in Beachamwell, MW said that landowners had been given incorrect information by NCC and a DMMO was underway to correct the line of the path on the definitive map. KH noted the need to ensure that steps needed to be taken to prevent wrong information being given in any other cases.

6.10 TTRO

Advance notice was requested by MS concerning Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. MW said that although it would be good for the NLAf to be informed of any necessity to close routes in advance, in practice, it would be too difficult to circulate this to the NLAf in all cases: all TTROs are on the NCC website. Nonetheless, AH agreed to discuss with colleagues whether this could be done in significant cases.

6.11 Any other issues

KB – Honing and Dilham. It was reported that a member of NCC staff had indicated that work would be of low priority as this was a dead end path, but the path in fact provided a route to access land (a common).

AM – Redhill Lane, Watton leading to Bodney Camp. Issues about blockages. **MW to investigate**

**7 Claims for lost paths ('2026')**

NC expressed concern that there would be inadequate resources (at NCC) to deal with 2026 cases

**8 Reports from NCC Officers**

MSg reported good recent results through her post and Gemma's, with 2 proposed large developments now including public footpaths. If planning applications affect PROW, NCC will comment on them.

GH and MSg will provide firm information from the highway authority (NCC) to the relevant planning authority.

Meetings due to be set up with planning authorities to ensure they have access to best practice (with respect to PROW) so they can include this in planning responses (includes the Broads Authority)

**MSg offered a written report to the next PROW s/g on her activities, which was welcomed.**

**9 Any other business - none**

**10 Dates of next meetings**

1400 on Mondays 24 June and 23 September 2019.