

**Norfolk Local Access Forum**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held on 05 October 2022**  
**at 10.30am at County Hall, Norwich**

**Member:**

Martin Sullivan - Chair  
Chris Allhusen  
Paul Baker  
Karen Davidson  
Simon Fowler  
Kevin Grieve  
Ken Hawkins – Vice Chair  
Anne Killett  
Maxine Webb

**Representing:**

Motorised Vehicles / Pathmakers  
Land Ownership  
Cycling  
Walking  
Voluntary Sector  
Health and Wellbeing  
Walking  
Equestrian  
Norfolk County Council

**Officers Present:**

Matt Hayward	Lead Project Officer, Community and Environmental Services (CES)
Daniel Voisey	Geospatial Data Analyst – Natural Norfolk
Rocio Salado-Egido	Project Manager – Natural Norfolk
Cherry Harper-Jones	Geospatial Data Analyst – Natural Norfolk
Nicola Ledain	Committee Services Officer, Democratic Services
Jason Moore	Area Manager West, CES
Su Waldron	Project Officer (Environment Team)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer (Infrastructure)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Cllr Penny Carpenter, Cllr Lana Hemsall, Rebecca Durant, Ruth Goodall, Sarah Morgan and Niall Pettitt.  
Apologies were also received from Andrew Walters from the Broads Authority.

**2. Election of Chair**

- 2.1 Martin Sullivan was duly elected Chair for the ensuing year.

**3. Election of Vice Chair**

- 3.1 Ken Hawkins was elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

**4. Chair's Announcements**

- 4.1 The Chair informed the Forum that future meetings would start at 10am.  
4.2 The meeting schedule for 2023 would be circulated in due course.

**5. Minutes**

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **6. Declarations of Interest**

- 6.1 There were no interests declared.

## **7. Urgent Business**

- 7.1 There was no urgent business.

## **8. Public Question Time**

- 8.1 No public questions were received.

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

- 9.1 There were no member questions received.

## **10. Feedback from Events**

- 10.1 The Vice Chair reported that meetings of the Broads LAF and Suffolk LAF had not been attended since the last meeting of the NLAF. No other meetings had been attended by any other members of the NLAF.

## **11. Meetings Forward Plan**

- 11.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined agenda items for the forthcoming meetings.
- 11.2 Although the list looked substantial, it was always useful to add extra items on to the plan which were of particular interest to NLAF members.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 The NLAF **NOTED** the Forward plan.

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

- 12.1 The NLAF received the annexed reports which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAF.
- 12.2 The Vice Chair highlighted that item 6.4 of the minutes of the prow subgroup which highlighted that NCC were making a firm line on enforcement of obstruction of public rights of way and this was welcomed by the Prow subgroup and in turn by the NLAF.
- 12.3 The need for a pedestrian crossing on Bure Valley Path had been identified. A design

was currently being worked through with planners and a bid for CIL funding had been submitted. It was agreed that more information would be brought to the NLAF at a future meeting.

- 12.4 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- a) To note the minutes of the PRoW subgroup meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September (Appendix 1)
  - b) To note the minutes of the NAIP subgroup meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September (Appendix 2)

### **13. Subgroups' Terms of Reference**

- 13.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined the terms of reference for the three subgroups; Public Rights of Way, Norfolk Access Improvement Plan and Visions and Ideas.
- 13.2 All members were encouraged to consider joining one (or more) of the subgroups, by expressing their interest to the relevant Chair.
- 13.3 The NLAF **AGREED** the Subgroups' terms of references.

### **14. NLAF Response to the Norwich Western Link Consultation**

- 14.1 The Forum received the annexed report which set out the timeline for responses to the consultation regarding the Norwich Western Link and provided the Forum with a reminder of those comments that they had already compiled through the PRoW subgroup.
- 14.2 The Vice Chair outlined two amendments to the response for the NLAF to agree regarding points 11 and 13 of the report appendix.
- 14.3 It was the view of some members that as the scheme had such a profound impact on the area, it consequentially has a profound effect on access to the countryside and therefore an objection to the scheme should be submitted. Although there was undeniable impact to access to the countryside, it had been agreed at the PRoW subgroup that it didn't warrant an objection to the planning application.
- 14.4 It was hoped that the NLAF would receive a response to their comments on the consultation and it was agreed that one would be requested in the comments.
- 14.5 It was clarified that the initiative was in the pre-planning stage. Officers directed the NLAF to the information on the website to inform them of more information regarding the application.
- 14.6 NLAF **AGREED** to adopt and submit the comments agreed by the PRoW subgroup as its response to the consultation regarding the Norwich Western Link and to include the comments as outlined with the addition "with a suitable

### **15. Pathmakers Projects**

- 15.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which updated the Forum on the activities of Pathmakers.
- 15.2 The Walking Festival was currently underway and members were encouraged to have

a look at the information about it.

15.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

## **16. Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy and Access**

16.1 The Forum received the annexed report and presentation which outlined the development of a Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy that delivered active places for residents and visitors to Greater Norwich whilst ensuring that those natural places were maintained and enhanced.

16.2 The strategy was trying to cover all types of access not just walking.

16.3 There would be the interest to conduct similar analysis countywide, but the practicalities and funding of this were unclear.

16.4 There were various data sources which could be accessed on permissive paths despite the recent decisions from Defra.

16.5 It was suggested that wild swimming clubs were added to consultee list.

### **16.6 The Forum**

1. **NOTED** main sources of geospatial data to develop a baseline map that could inform areas of deficiency and opportunity areas

2. **NOTED** the new approach that NCC geospatial team has developed to make better informed choices about access to GI

## **17. Countryside Access Arrangements update**

17.1 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.

17.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced and hoped that staffing resource could be increased to meet the additional demand.

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

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

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

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

19.1 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.

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

The meeting closed at 12.20am

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



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