

Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 07 February 2018
at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Chris Allhusen – vice-Chairman
Tim Bennett
Julie Brociek-Coulton
Victor Cocker
Mike Edwards
Seamus Elliott
Ken Hawkins
David Hissey
Kate MacKenzie
Paul Rudkin
George Saunders
Jean Stratford

Representing:

Motorised vehicle access / cycling
Land ownership / management / farming
Walking / Conservation
NCC
Walking
GI and planning / conservation / sustainability
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling
Walking / cycling
Cycling / public transport
Voluntary sector / walking
Walking / GI and planning
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector
Youth and education / walking / voluntary sector

Officers Present:

Andrew Hutcheson
Su Waldron
Matt Worden
Rachel Stewart
Emily Capps

Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects)
Project Officer Environment Team
Area Manager (South)
Waste Reduction Officer, NCC
Senior Community Protection Officer, SNC

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from David Ansell, Helen Chester, Geoff Doggett, Cllr Fabian Eagle, Pat Holtom, Ann Melhuish and Cllr Simon Eyre.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Matters Arising

- 2.2a 4.2.2 The Forum expressed that they would not want to lose track of adding pressure onto Westminster and other LAFs had exchanged plans and concerns. External organisations had also circulated joint documents. The Chairman was meeting his MP before the next meeting. The NLAF had received an unsatisfactory response from the minister to their enquiry about permissive access. The NLAF agreed that it would continue to pursue a more satisfactory response through the office of Mr George Freeman, MP.
- 2.2b 4.4.1 It was reported that further information on the Community Infrastructure Levy had not yet been made available but would still be reported to a future meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

4. Items received as urgent business

- 4.1 The Countryside Manager (Trails and Projects) announced that at the recent Policy and Resources meeting, a proposal had been passed to undertake a feasibility study for unused railways to potentially become cycling, walking and equestrian routes. A significant proportion of these railways were owned by the Council. Initially £350k capital funding had been invested.

5. Public Question Time

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

6. Remit and Relationship between the NLAF (Norfolk Local Access Forum) and Pathmakers

- 6.1 The NLAF received the report which outlined the ways that there would be a closer working relationship between Pathmakers and the NLAF subgroups going forwards, in order to take full advantage of proactive opportunities offered by Pathmakers.
- 6.2 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- The revised membership of the subgroups as outlined in the report and that in future any changes to their membership would be delegated to the Chairman and reported back to the NLAF at the next following meeting.
 - That the NLAF requests that each subgroup reviews its Terms of Reference.
 - That each subgroup had a standing agenda item at NLAF meetings.
 - That trustees engage directly with relevant members of the NLAF to strengthen the relationship between the two groups taking account of NLAF members' areas on interest of particular relevance to Pathmakers.
 - That the NLAF organises an 'away day' for Pathmakers trustees and NLAF members to launch the new way of engagement between the 2 groups.
- 6.3 In addition to the membership changes outlined in the report, it was **AGREED** that Victor Cocker join the PROW subgroup.

7. Building Resilience for Pathmakers

- 7.1 The NLAF received the report which updated them on continuing work to improve opportunities for safe and sustainable ways to access the countryside in Norfolk through the Charitable arm of the Local Access Forum, identified as Pathmakers.
- 7.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

8. Joint Action to Tackle Fly-Tipping (illegal dumping of waste, IDOW)

- 8.1. The NLAF received a presentation from the Waste Reduction Officer, NCC and the Senior Community Protection Officer from South Norfolk Council (members of the Norfolk Waste Enforcement Group (NWE)), to update the NLAF on work being carried out in Norfolk to prevent illegal fly-tipping on private (and public) land.
- 8.2. Members expressed concern that the current system of making landowners pay for the removal of fly-tipping on their land was unfair for landowners and was a disincentive to dispose of the waste in the correct manner. If, for example, the fly-tipping occurred on a restricted byway within their land they had a duty to keep it open for users and therefore clear it. It is known that some landowners move fly-tipping to the highway so it has to be picked up by the Local Authority. It was suggested by members that there could be a form of licensing introduced for landowners.
- 8.3. It is vitally important for fly-tipping to be reported so that data can be collated and used. However, it is known that not all fly-tipping is reported and landowners often undertake their own research to detect who is responsible rather than report it. Touching such waste is discouraged by the Local Authorities on health and safety grounds, and because the evidence is then 'tampered with'. Original evidence is needed for a successful prosecution. Large quantities of, or hazardous, fly-tipping should be reported to the Environment Agency.
- 8.4. It was highlighted that there is a current consultation by Defra looking at ways to tackle waste crime.
- 8.5. NWE has a new workplan to educate and inform people as to how to dispose of rubbish in the correct manner and not leave it for someone else to deal with. The biggest way to reduce fly-tipping would be to prevent it, and ways to do this will be promoted by all Local Authorities working together with the Environment Agency and other partners, including NLAF. As there are limited resources, it is important that NWE targets these where they would be most effective.
- 8.6. Members suggested that campaigns should be aimed at visitors to the area as well as residents.
- 8.7. The NLAF **AGREED**:
- To note the report and presentation
 - To actively contribute to tackling the problem of fly-tipping on private land through online reporting and the use of any resources shared by NWE.

9. PROW Sub-group Report – Definitive Map Modification Orders

- 9.1. The NLAF received the report
- 9.2. The NLAF felt that some analysis needed to be carried out so that when the deadline date was reached, quick wins hadn't been missed.
- 9.3. It was agreed that some analysis should be carried out to ensure that nothing had been missed.
- 9.4. The NLAF **AGREED**:

- To ask the County to review its policy of taking a neutral stance on the majority of definitive map modification orders;
- To indicate the criteria by which it decides which orders it would promote;
- To provide statistical information since the change of policy in 2011 to show how many orders have been made, how many promoted, how many opposed and on how many it had taken a neutral stance.

10. PROW Sub-Group – Parish Council Seminars

- 10.1 The NLAF received the report which updated the NLAF on the Parish Council seminars.
- 10.2. It was reported that a proposal to combine the seminars with the consultation process for the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan had been decided against and the Parish seminars would now be arranged for later in the year.
- 10.3 The NLAF **AGREED**:
- The approach taken by the sub-group that there would be three parish seminars, each held at a location within each of the three Countryside Access Officers' areas, rather than one countywide seminar.

11. Countryside Access Arrangements Update

- 11.1 The NLAF received the report which addressed the concerns raised by the NLAF with regards to Public Rights of Way Management. The report highlighted the work in terms of the volume of customer queries received and responded to and other key areas of work.
- 11.2. The NLAF asked if eventually names of staff could be added to the positions. This would be possible once the current review was completed.
- 11.3 The trails team would include work on rights of way.
- 11.4 The NLAF;
- **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

12. Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018-2028 Consultation

- 12.1 The NLAF received the report which included the draft Norfolk Access Improvement Plan.
- 12.2 It was noted that any comments regarding the content could be addressed in the meeting of the NAIP sub-group following the NLAF meeting, and the NLAF accepted that as a result content could alter slightly.
- 12.3 It was suggested that the consultation could be advertised in 'Your Norfolk' and as many other places as possible to enable as many people as possible to comment on the consultation. All Parish Councils would receive the document via email but it would be necessary to emphasise the importance of the document as it could easily be dismissed.

- 12.4 The author of the executive summary and the foreword was to be confirmed.
- 12.5 It was noted that the questionnaire associated with the plan assumed that the whole plan had been read which might pose some difficulties.
- 12.6 It was suggested that there could be scope to use the plan to help re-introduce permissive rights of way as it touches on the loss of connectivity of the network.
- 12.7 The NLAFF **AGREED**;
- That the NAIP document and supporting statement of Actions and Delivery Plan was ready for consultation with stakeholders.
 - That the revised timetable for the consultation shall run between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018.
 - That public consultation will be via a 'Citizen Space' with one structured stakeholder event (invitees only) for stakeholders and organisations not members of the NLAFF taking place at County Hall during mid to late April 2018. NAIP subgroup members to assist with the stakeholder event and with the collation of survey responses. Posters to be sent to all parish councils with paper copies of the report and notices will be placed in the press to promote the public consultation.
 - The questions that will be used in the survey.
 - That Keith Bacon (Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum) is co-opted onto the NAIP subgroup.

Dates of future meetings:

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

The Meeting closed at 12:25pm

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



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