

Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 30 January 2019
at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall.

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Chris Allhusen
Tim Bennett
Victor Cocker
Geoff Doggett
Mike Edwards
Ken Hawkins
David Hissey
Andrew Jamieson
Ann Melhuish
Kate Mackenzie
Pat Holtom
Paul Rudkin
George Saunders
Jean Stratford

Representing:

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

Officers Present:

Sarah Abercrombie
Andrew Hutcheson

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

Su Waldron
Matt Worden

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Cllr Fabian Eagle and Russell Wilson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

4. Urgent Business

- 4.1 The Chairman accepted two pieces of urgent business as they were time sensitive.

- 1) Proposed Diversion of the Brettenham Byway Open to All Traffic under Highways Act 1980 s116/117

The NLAF had a few concerns regarding this proposal, one being that the grid references were not correct and the type of proposed fencing that would be used. The Chairman suggested a site visit, and this would be organised with those who were interested after the meeting.

- 2) Greenways

The Chairman had attended an event for this. NLAF had raised in the consultation that it hadn't mentioned horse riders. It was confirmed by Officers that that it was key that the Greenways included use by horse riders as it was important to get horses off the road.

5. Public Question Time

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

The agenda order was amended as follows;

16. Coastal Access In Norfolk

- 16.1 The NLAF received the annexed report regarding the England Coast Path which is Natural England's responsibility for implementing.
- 16.2 The Forum heard from Diana Curtis via teleconference that Natural England were taking on board points regarding the consultation process and the report writing made by the NLAF regarding the consultation on the Coast Path between Hunstanton and Weybourne.
- 16.3 The NLAF felt that members of the public that were not represented by a statutory group were disenfranchised from the consultation and this was a flaw.
- 16.4 The NLAF agreed to invite Natural England to the next meeting of the NLAF in April.

6. Sub-Groups (Permissive Access, PROW, NAIP)

- 6.1 The NLAF received the report which summarised activities since the last NLAF meeting by the NLAF's three subgroups.
- 6.2 The NLAF expressed considerable disappointment at the response of the County Council regarding the Transport Management Plan.
- 6.3 Parish Councils should be engaged regarding permissive paths to increase user pressure.
- 6.4 It was also suggested that a working group would be set up and that it was discussed at the next meeting along with the new 'visions and ideas' subgroup.

- 6.5 The Forum **RESOLVED**;
- (i) that the NLAF considers a proposal from the PROW subgroup to set up a working group to explore the value of the PROW network to Norfolk (health, economy etc.)
 - (ii) that details of a new permissive access scheme developed in Bradenham are noted and promoted by the NLAF.
 - (iii) that the NLAF endorses the NAIP which has now been completed with timely and helpful assistance from the NAIP subgroup.

7. NLAF Annual Report

- 7.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined the annual report of its activities.
- 7.2 The NLAF **AGREED** the report.

8. Pathmakers Update

- 8.1. The NLAF received the report which provided them with an update on the work of Pathmakers since the last NLAF meeting.
- 8.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the update from Pathmakers and offered support for their ongoing work.

9. NLAF Recruitment Update

- 9.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined the recruitment process that the NLAF were undertaking.
- 9.2 There was a short discussion about the requirement to include skills suitable for Pathmakers into the NLAF specification. After putting it to the vote, it was **AGREED** that it should be included.
- 9.3 The NLAF **NOTED** progress to recruit and review membership of the Norfolk Local Access Forum.

10. Proposals to set up an NLAF Communications Subgroup

- 10.1 The NLAF expressed concerns about the rebranding of the NLAF to become Pathmakers as they felt they were separate bodies. It was suggested that Pathmakers needed to be independent and not be blurred through the identity of the NLAF. However, they could have the same communications group.
- 10.2 A communications strategy could be written on a page of A4 and Geoff Doggett offered to put something together to make a start.
- 10.3 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- (i) set up a communications group which will operate for Pathmakers and the NLAF;
 - (ii) identify NLAF members and Pathmakers trustees who would sit on the new

communications group to develop a joint communications plan;

11. Countryside Access Arrangements

- 11.1 The NLAF received the report which summarised the work undertaken by the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams. It highlighted the work in terms of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlighted other areas of work.
- 11.2 The Area Manager reported that 'Fix my Street' was being used frequently instead of the Norfolk County Council application when reporting problems with public rights of way etc. This required the data to be manipulated in order for it to be put into the CRM which added extra work.
- 11.3 The Forum heard that there was disparity of variances in the report which had to be managed. One of the causes was the that districts were unevenly distributed with public rights of way, the south-east having the greatest number and more smaller public rights of way.
- 11.4 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

12. Major Infrastructure Projects

- 12.1 The NLAF received the report which identified the major infrastructure projects planned in Norfolk, their current status and their implications for the Public Rights of Way.
- 12.2 The NLAF suggested that the public rights of way (PROW) sub-group could be a better forum for detailed discussion about the infrastructure projects.
- 12.3 The NLAF suggested that there should be a written protocol for response to the consultations. This was **AGREED** by the Forum and taken forward.
- 12.4 Comments made by NCC to planning applications were available on the Planning Inspectorate website and the relevant planning authority website.
- 12.5 The NLAF **NOTED** PROW implications associated with current major infrastructure projects and plans and requests a protocol (and sufficient detail) from NCC Environment Team to allow the NLAF to make timely comments on projects.

13. Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) signoff)

- 13.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which requested the NLAF to sign off the NAIP. The NAIP replaced the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007-2017.
- 13.2 Thanks were expressed to the NAIP sub-group and Officers who had worked on the NAIP.

- 13.3 It was hoped that the NAIP would now be publicised appropriately and the Communications department would be approached.
- 13.4 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- (i) To sign off the plan and recommend to the EDT Committee approval of the plan.
 - (ii) To thank the members of the NAIP subgroup for their involvement with production of the plan;
 - (ii) That the NAIP subgroup would become a monitoring group for the Statement of Actions and Annual Delivery Plan

14. Greenways Project

- 14.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which updated on the Recycling Norfolk's Disused railways, now known as the Greenways Project. There was also an update on the public consultation on the pilot route proposals.
- 14.2 The NLAF heard that as part of the feasibility study, access was being reviewed. It was agreed that horses needed to leave the highways, and hopefully the project would incorporate either bridleway or restricted byway if the width allowed.
- 14.3 The consultation had been well received and the proposals had met people's expectations. As part of the consultation, other routes were being looked at. £350k had been agreed for this financial year and the same had recently been agreed for the following year.
- 14.4 The heritage along the routes had been included as part of the feasibility studies. Officers were in touch with heritage organisations and it was hoped to replicate what had been achieved along Marriott's Way and Weavers Way.
- 14.5 There was huge support for the project and it would be possible to leave the possibility open for rail use at some point in the future.
- 14.6 The NLAF **NOTED** opportunities presented in the feasibility studies (Weavers' Way – Aylsham to Stalham; King's Lynn to Fakenham; King's Lynn to Hunstanton) and feasibility review of the whole disused railway network across Norfolk.

15. Green Infrastructure Team Introductions

- 15.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined the two new roles that had been developed at NCC. The Officers were present at the meeting.
- 15.2 There was a short discussion about how the roles could help and work alongside the NLAF. The NLAF also heard from the Officers about their day to day roles and the practical side of the role.
- 15.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the remit of the new officers who would develop a protocol to permit greater involvement by the NLAF with filtered planning applications involved public rights of way.

17. Events Attended

- 17.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined events attended by members of the Forum.
- 17.2 As a result of members attending these events, the following resolutions were made.
- 17.3 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- (i) That the NLAF is kept informed by NCC Environment Team of development of the Norfolk 25-year plan for the environment and invited to input to plans where appropriate
 - (ii) that the NLAF notes new advances in digital technology that could have a bearing on the business of the Forum.

18. Meetings Forward Plan

- 18.1 The NLAF received the forward plan which suggested items for agendas for the forthcoming meetings.
- 18.2 The NLAF **AGREED** the report.

Dates of future meetings:

17 July 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room
16 October 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room

The meeting closed at 12:45pm

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



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